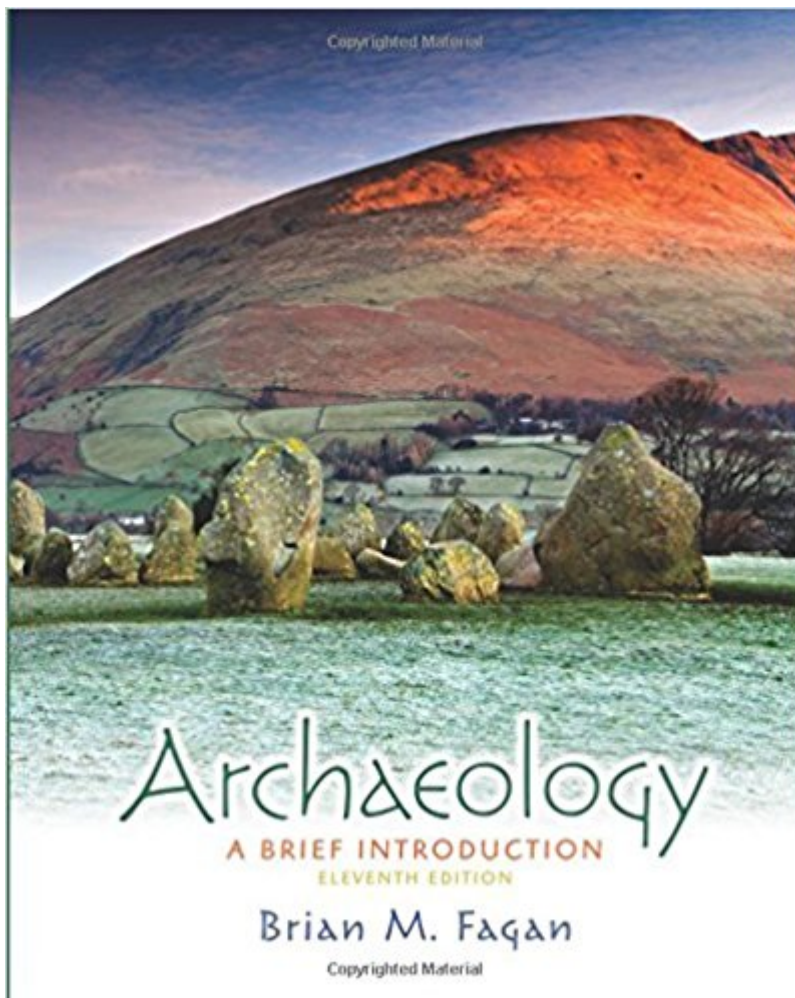


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# Archaeology: A Brief Introduction



## Synopsis

Method and Theory in Archaeology Archaeology: A Brief Introduction is an introduction to the fundamental principles of method and theory in archaeology, exposing students to archaeology as a career. The text begins by covering the goals of archaeology, and then moves on to consider the basic concepts of culture, time, and space, by discussing the finding and excavation of archaeological sites. By providing a distinct emphasis on the ethics behind archaeology, and how we should act as stewards of the finite records of the human past, Archaeology: A Brief Introduction continues to be a book with a truly international perspective, not simply focusing on North America or Europe. Teaching and Learning Experience - Improve Critical Thinking - Archaeology: A Brief Introduction's "Archaeology and You" chapter provides students with career advice in an era when archaeology is transitioning from predominantly academic to professional. Engage Students - Each chapter within Archaeology: A Brief Introduction highlights important finds that have shaped our archaeological perspective, and a global perspective that shows students that archaeology is the most global of all sciences, encompassing all of humanity.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Brian Fagan is a leading archaeological writer and internationally recognized authority on world prehistory. He studied archaeology and anthropology at Pembroke College and Cambridge University. He then spent seven years in sub-Saharan Africa working in museums, monument conservation, and excavating early farming sites in Zambia and East Africa. He was a pioneer of

multidisciplinary African history in the 1960s. From 1967 to 2003, he was professor of anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he specialized in lecturing and writing about archaeology to wide audiences. He is now Emeritus Professor of Anthropology. Brian Fagan has written six best-selling textbooks (all published by Prentice Hall): *Ancient Lives: An Introduction to Archaeology and Prehistory*; *In the Beginning, Archaeology: A Brief Introduction*; *World Prehistory*; *Ancient Civilizations* (with Chris Scarre); and this volume – which are used around the world. His general books include *The Rape of the Nile*, a classic history of Egyptology; *The Adventure of Archaeology* *Time Detectives*; *Ancient North America*; *The Little Ice Age*; *Before California: An Archaeologist Looks at Our Earliest Inhabitants*; and *The Long Summer*. He was also General Editor of the *Oxford Companion to Archaeology*. In addition, he has published several scholarly monographs on African archaeology and numerous specialized articles in national and international journals. An expert on multimedia teaching, he has received the Society for American Archaeology's first Public Education Award for his indefatigable efforts on behalf of archaeology and education. Brian Fagan's other interests include bicycling, sailing, kayaking, and good food. He is married and lives in Santa Barbara with his wife and daughter, four cats (who supervise his writing), and last but not least, a minimum of four rabbits.

Brian Fagan is a lively writer with a clear enthusiasm for his profession., an enthusiasm that is in fact quite contagious. The scientific progression of archaeology has historically taken a somewhat circuitous course, with different theories and methods competing for the limelight. With this in mind, one can understand what a difficult task it would be to sum up this history, methodology and theory in one short book. Overall, Mr. Fagan has done an admirable job, and peppers the book with illustrative examples from prehistory. Nonetheless, there are some sections (particularly on archaeological theory) where I found myself reading and re-reading sentences trying to dissect exactly what he was trying to get at. I came away with a solid, though not complete, understanding of archaeological fundamentals and the reality of archaeology -- and for a more complete picture, I will likely move on to longer, and more advanced, books.

I am an undergraduate biology student and have little experience in archaeology. This book was recommended to me by an archaeology/earth sciences professor as a supplement to a class I am taking this summer. The class is an archaeological field lab and aside from some basics taught in a physical anthropology class, I have had no real experience in archaeology. I've read most of the book in my spare time and have found it has really increased my scope of understanding. We had

an orientation for the class about a week ago and our professor introduced us to what kind of work we would be doing with what kind of artifacts and at no time was I lost in technical jargon (there was lots) but would have been had I not read this book. The book itself is extremely well written and is easily understandable for the layperson, such as myself. I will not be re-selling this book. Would also like to mention that the book was sent to me in the same condition as was listed in an adequate amount of time and that the seller was a good one.

This Book fits the Course that I teach At the Easter Shore community college. It is well written, and even though there are latter editions, I use this one as it easier to afford for me. In an attempt to hold the student cost down, I purchase them and allow the students to use them. If at the course end, they want copies, they can buy the latter editions. I have done the same thing with the Underwater Archaeology book by Yves Blot. You guys are most helpful and easy to deal with. Dave Wright Archaeology Instructot at the Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa, Va.

As an educator, I use this text in my intro-level course for students who are not necessarily going to become archaeology majors. It is clearly written in an engaging narrative style with interesting examples placed in special subsections. The students seem to relate really well to it. The only odd thing is the organization, which I sometimes find rather random. There are some chapters that start in one place and end up somewhere unexpected. I suppose that's the narrative, flow-of-consciousness style of it all. But in some places it also seems rather threadbare and chapters end abruptly, almost as if it's been over-edited.

Did as it should, changed the way I think, for the better, and now I have a richer depth of understanding of the subject. Very readable, for what could be a dry subject. Great examples embedded throughout the text, so you can learn theory and famous specific examples together. He points you in the right direction to learn more if needed, and gives great references & "links" in appendices at the end. I am not one to judge the thoroughness of the review, it has been my intro, but I ran it by a reliable buddy with an anthropology degree, and he clearly said this is one of the best books for its purposes. Thank you Dr. Fagan. I enjoyed your book, and it has helped grow my understanding of the world and mankind as well.

Got this book used for an exceptional price. It is quite an interesting read. I haven't chosen my major yet but Archeology would be pretty nice. Unfortunately, like Astronomy ( another subject I would like

to undertake in college) it is a hard path and there aren't quite as many jobs as in the IT industry. Nice book, solid read. Brian Fagan is a very famous archeologist.

Its a good conditioned textbook. But it is a textbook so its not like I read it for enjoyment

Great, thanks!!!!

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