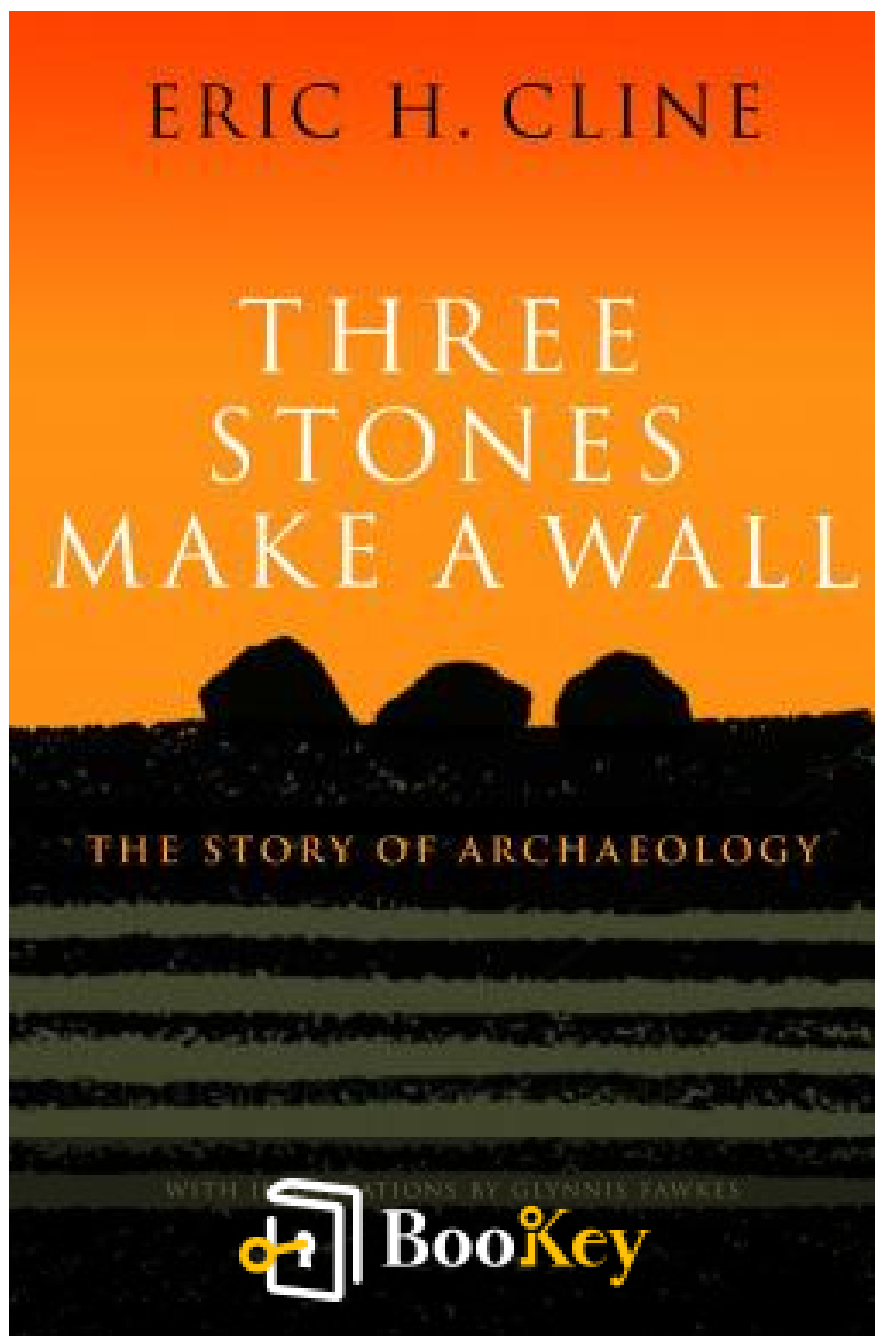


Three Stones Make A Wall PDF (Limited Copy)

Eric H. Cline



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Three Stones Make A Wall Summary

Exploring the Intersections of Archaeology, History, and Myth.

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About the book

In "Three Stones Make a Wall: The Story of Archaeology," Eric H. Cline masterfully unfolds the captivating narrative of archaeology, blending personal anecdotes with historical insights to explore how our understanding of the past has been shaped by the discovery of ancient artifacts and ruins. Cline invites readers on a journey through time, revealing that each find—whether a simple stone or an entire lost civilization—holds the key to unraveling the mysteries of human experience. With humor and clarity, he emphasizes that archaeology is not just about digging in the dirt but about constructing a bridge between the ancient world and our modern lives. This compelling read not only ignites curiosity about the past but also challenges us to consider our own role in preserving history for future generations.

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About the author

Eric H. Cline is a prominent American archaeologist, historian, and professor known for his engaging and insightful analyses of the ancient world. With a Ph.D. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania, Cline has spent over three decades researching and excavating archaeological sites across the Eastern Mediterranean, particularly in regions that were central to the development of early civilizations. As a prolific author, he has written extensively on topics ranging from historical archaeology to the interplay of archaeology and biblical texts, making complex subjects accessible to general readers. His works, including "Three Stones Make a Wall," blend rigorous scholarship with a narrative style that captures the intrigue of historical inquiry and the lessons it holds for contemporary society.

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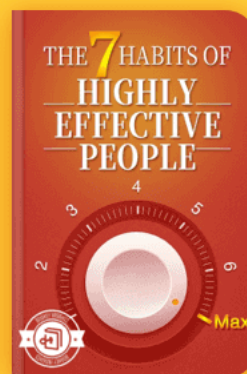
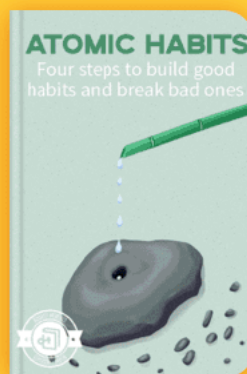
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Chapter 1 Summary: Prologue: “Wonderful Things”: King Tut and His Tomb

Prologue: "Wonderful Things": King Tut and His Tomb

On November 26, 1922, British archaeologist Howard Carter made one of the most momentous discoveries in Egyptology: he peered into the tomb of King Tutankhamun for the first time, illuminated only by the flickering light of a candle. Behind him stood his patron, the eager Earl of Carnarvon, who had financed their five-year search in the Valley of the Kings, a site rich with the tombs of ancient Egyptian pharaohs. Carter's awe-struck words, "I see wonderful things," marked the beginning of a historic excavation.

King Tut ruled during Egypt's New Kingdom period, specifically the Eighteenth Dynasty, bridging a legacy of powerful rulers like Hatshepsut, Thutmose III, Akhenaton, and Nefertiti, who were most likely his parents. Ascending to the throne at the tender age of eight, he ruled briefly before dying mysteriously around 1320 BCE. The location of his demise and burial remained a mystery for over three millennia, obscured by layers of debris from previous excavations, most notably from the tomb of Ramses VI, which had been built nearby.

Carter's journey in Egypt began at seventeen, progressing through years of

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respect as an Egyptologist, albeit facing setbacks that led him to partner with Carnarvon. The two focused on the unsearched grounds near their seasonal campsite, leading to the significant discovery that lay hidden just beneath.

The excavation commenced on November 4, 1922, revealing the first steps to the tomb. By November 23, with Carnarvon's arrival, they confirmed it belonged to Tutankhamun, aided by seals bearing the king's name. The exploration of the tomb was filled with suspense as they unearthed the entrance—an arduous task due to the debris-filled corridor purposely obstructing access. To their relief, upon clearing the entrance and looking through a hole into the Antechamber, they discovered a breathtaking array of treasures, steeped in gold and mystery.

The following months saw careful cataloging of the artifacts, which filled multiple chambers, revealing the opulence with which the young pharaoh had been buried. However, even as they explored, it was evident that tomb robbers had exploited the riches, taking a significant portion of the treasures intended for the king's afterlife.

Carter's eventual entry into the burial chamber in February 1923 brought him face-to-face with Tutankhamun's mummified remains. Surrounded by three coffins, the innermost made of solid gold, Tut's tangible legacy marked a pivotal moment in archaeology and reignited interest in Egypt's storied past. Extensive studies of the mummy over the years hinted at various medical



conditions, spurring debates about the cause of his untimely death, with speculations involving an accident from his chariot, malaria, or even foul play.

The mystique surrounding Tut and his tomb extends beyond the artifacts. Nichols Reeves theorized that some burial items might have originally belonged to other royalty, suggesting that Tut's sudden death necessitated a hurried interment. High-definition scans of the tomb walls in 2015 ignited hopes of undiscovered chambers, potentially holding more treasures or even the remains of Queen Nefertiti.

Despite conflicting evidence from subsequent scans, the quest for knowledge about Tutankhamun endures, showcasing the dynamic interplay between archaeology and modern technology. The story of his tomb remains a testament to the enduring allure of discovery and the intricate narrative woven into the tapestries of ancient Egypt.

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Chapter 2 Summary: PART I EARLY ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Part 1: Early Archaeology and Archaeologists

Chapter 1: Ashes to Ashes in Ancient Italy

In the world of archaeology, few stories are as captivating as that of Heinrich Schliemann, an amateur archaeologist who dedicated himself to proving the existence of ancient Troy, a city immortalized in Homer's *Iliad*. In May 1873, while excavating in northwestern Turkey, Schliemann's determination paid off when he and his wife, Sophia, uncovered a treasure trove that they believed belonged to Priam, the king of Troy. Amidst the debris, they found an array of gold jewelry, including diadems, necklaces, and hundreds of ornaments, alongside weapons and household items, a collection now known as Priam's Treasure.

The story of the Trojan War, rooted in myth and oral tradition, recounts how Greek forces, led by Agamemnon and Menelaus, besieged Troy for ten years over the abduction of Helen, Menelaus's wife, by the Trojan prince Paris. Scholars debate the historicity of the war, and whether Schliemann's findings provide tangible evidence of the events described by Homer. While many educators in the 19th century dismissed the possibility of a real Troy,

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Schliemann's work ignited a wider discourse on the intersection of history and myth.

Chapter 2: From Egypt to Eternity

Egyptology is a field steeped in fascination and fascination often leads to misunderstandings. The general public's perception of ancient Egypt, from the pyramids to the mysteries of hieroglyphics, is often clouded by myths, such as the unfounded belief that slaves built the pyramids or that extraterrestrials were involved in their construction. Early archaeologists in Egypt, such as Giovanni Battista Belzoni, who began his career by showcasing engineering tools, exemplify how the field evolved. Despite his notoriety for tomb raiding, he initiated significant explorations like Ramses II's temple at Abu Simbel.

Key figures such as Karl Lepsius and Auguste Mariette pioneered the systematic study of ancient Egypt, contributing vital documentation and preservation efforts. Lepsius's thorough illustration of monuments in the 1840s established foundational methodologies, while Mariette's institution-building efforts, such as the establishment of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, solidified Egyptology as a respected discipline.

Chapter 3: Mysteries in Mesopotamia

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The connection between literature and archaeology is highlighted through Agatha Christie, the famed mystery novelist whose marriage to archaeologist Max Mallowan intertwined her life with the world of ancient excavation. Mallowan's work at the vital archaeological site of Ur during the 1930s, especially amidst the sensational findings of the "Death Pits," captured Christie's imagination and inspired her writing.

Ur, an ancient city in Mesopotamia, historically significant for its continuous habitation since 6000 BCE, is located near the Ziggurat and offers insights into one of the world's earliest civilizations. The discoveries made here not only enhanced our understanding of Mesopotamian culture but also mirrored the intrigue found in Christie's mystery novels.

Chapter 4: Exploring the Jungles of Central America

The advent of technology has revolutionized archaeological discovery, as shown by the significant findings in Mayan studies using LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging). In 2009, archaeologists mapped the previously concealed Maya city of Caracol in Belize, revealing an intricate urban layout hidden beneath dense jungle canopies. LiDAR enables researchers to penetrate foliage and unveil the dimensions of ancient civilizations that have remained obscured since their abandonment.

Training a spotlight on past eras, LiDAR technology promises to uncover

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many other lost cities, changing the landscape of archaeology much as prior explorers reshaped our understanding of ancient cultures. Recent discoveries continue to underscore the dynamism of archaeological exploration, highlighting the continued relevance of ancient civilizations in our understanding of human history.

As archaeological efforts advance and technology evolves, the blend of exploration, myth, and historical inquiry continues to enrich our comprehension of past societies.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of perseverance in pursuit of knowledge and truth

Critical Interpretation: Just as Heinrich Schliemann relentlessly sought evidence of Troy against all odds, so too can you approach your own aspirations with unwavering determination. When faced with skepticism or challenges, let his journey remind you that dedication can lead to monumental discoveries in your own life, no matter how elusive your goals may seem. Embrace the spirit of inquiry and tenacity that characterized early archaeology, and you'll find that your persistence can transform myths into your own reality.

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Chapter 3 Summary: Digging Deeper 1: How Do You Know Where to Dig?

The interlude titled “Digging Deeper 1: How Do You Know Where to Dig?” serves as an excursion into the methodologies used in archaeology, focusing on the vital practice of archaeological surveying. After exploring significant archaeological findings from various parts of the world, the author aims to address common queries regarding the discipline's practicalities.

The chapter begins with the essential definition of what constitutes an archaeological "site," which can vary from expansive locations like the Agora in Athens to smaller, less visible spots marked only by dispersed artifacts. Artifacts are essentially objects made or modified by humans, ranging from tools to pottery. Conversely, features are immovable elements, such as ditches or walls.

Archaeological surveys are the primary method employed to locate these sites. These surveys can generally be categorized into ground surveys, aerial surveys, remote sensing, and sample surveys. Ground surveys, for instance, include walking a designated area to identify remains or conducting shovel-test pits in vegetation-heavy regions. The evolution of these practices began gaining traction in the 1960s through the 1980s, primarily due to their cost-effectiveness and ability to cover broader areas without excavation.



Aerial surveys have recently gained prominence, utilizing photographs or satellite imagery to detect sites obscured by natural vegetation or urban development. One of the historical advancements in this area was made by John Bradford, who, during World War II, identified numerous Etruscan burial mounds from aerial images, leading to further investigation using minimally invasive techniques.

The chapter also highlights advancements in technology, such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) and satellite imagery analysis, which enable archaeologists to explore previously undetected sites, such as the lost city of Ubar or numerous ancient structures in Cambodia. High-resolution satellite imagery has led to breakthroughs like discovering new pyramids in Egypt, while LiDAR has unveiled overgrown structures in Central America.

The author recounts a successful collaborative project with Sarah Parcak, who used satellite images to locate a likely Roman camp, ultimately confirming its existence through subsequent excavations. Such proactive surveying techniques have significantly changed the approach of archaeologists, allowing them to uncover ancient paths, walls, and other structures more efficiently.

Ground truthing becomes essential when using remote sensing, as it verifies the findings from drones, magnetometers, and ground-penetrating radar. This entails physical examination or excavation to ensure that the data



derived from technology corresponds correctly with the archaeological features located.

Ultimately, the interlude concludes that the initial step in any excavation project is a comprehensive survey. Various techniques are employed depending on the landscape and expected remains, ranging from thorough pedestrian surveys to targeted revisits of known sites.

Thus, how do archaeologists determine where to dig? It all starts with effective surveying—an exhaustive process that lays the groundwork for successful excavation and discovery in the field of archaeology. Future interludes promise to delve deeper into the intricacies of the excavation process itself.

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Chapter 4: PART 2 AFRICA, EUROPE, AND THE LEVANT: EARLY HOMININS TO FARMERS

Part 2: Africa, Europe, and the Levant — Early Hominins to Farmers

Chapter 6: Discovering Our Earliest Ancestors

In 2015, the importance of prehistoric archaeology was highlighted by a remarkable discovery in a South African cave known as Rising Star. Researcher Lee Berger and his team unearthed more than fifteen hundred bones from at least fifteen individuals, representing a previously unknown hominin species, which they named **Homo naledi**—derived from "naledi," meaning "star" in the Sesotho language. This finding, potentially dating back to 2.8 million years ago, was facilitated by two recreational cavers who alerted Berger to the cave's hidden chamber, accessible only through a challenging route that included aptly named passages like Superman's Crawl.

The excavation team, composed of six experienced women archaeologists aptly dubbed "underground astronauts," undertook extensive efforts over two years to retrieve the remains from the cave's almost insurmountable depths. Berger's hypothesis that these bones could be evidence of deliberate burials provoked significant excitement and debate in the scientific

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community. If true, this could imply early cognitive abilities associated with self-awareness, spirituality, or even primitive religious beliefs, challenging existing narratives of human evolution.

Berger's approach of utilizing young, global anthropologists and swiftly publishing results online was controversial, as some traditional scholars preferred a slower, more deliberate methodology. However, this new model for collaborative research in the field of paleoanthropology signified a shift towards a more inclusive and rapid dissemination of scientific knowledge in the digital age.

Prehistoric archaeology, the broader field to which Berger's work belongs, examines an expansive timeline from our distant hominin ancestors to the dawn of recorded history. This epoch is conventionally divided into several significant eras:

- **The Paleolithic** (Old Stone Age), spanning from roughly 3.5 million to 20,000-12,000 years ago
- **The Mesolithic** (Middle Stone Age), which continues until about 10,000 years ago
- **The Neolithic** (New Stone Age), lasting until around 4,500 years ago

The Leakey family has become synonymous with modern prehistoric



archaeology, spanning three generations of significant contributions to the field. Louis and Mary Leakey pioneered early research, followed by their son Richard and his wife Meave, and now their granddaughter, Louise Leakey, who, as a child, made notable finds, including a 17-million-year-old primate tooth. Louise's accomplishments and ongoing participation in the Koobi Fora project exemplify the family's enduring legacy in discovering our ancestral roots.

Chapter 7: First Farmers in the Fertile Crescent

The narrative of humanity took a significant turn with the advent of settled agricultural communities, particularly in the Fertile Crescent—a roughly crescent-shaped region in the Middle East known for its rich soils and favorable conditions for farming. This area became the cradle of agriculture, where some of the earliest known farming societies emerged, fundamentally transforming human lifestyles from nomadic hunter-gatherer groups to settled farmers.

The transition to farming, often referred to as the Neolithic Revolution, marked a pivotal shift in human history. Communities began to cultivate crops and domesticate animals, which required new social structures and cooperative behaviors. These changes led to increased food production, enabling population growth and the establishment of permanent settlements, laying the groundwork for the development of complex societies.



Some archaeological sites in the Fertile Crescent have garnered worldwide attention, yielding insights into early agricultural practices and community life. These discoveries, however, sometimes attract both fascination and controversy, leading to various interpretations regarding their significance in understanding human evolution and civilization.

As the chapters unfold, the evolution of humanity from early hominins to farmers illustrates a profound transformation—shaping not only our species' interaction with the environment but also fostering the intricate social complexities that define modern human society today.

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Chapter 5 Summary: PART 3 EXCAVATING THE BRONZE AGE AEGEAN

Part 3: Excavating the Bronze Age Aegean

Chapter 8: Revealing the First Greeks

Heinrich Schliemann is celebrated as the father of Mycenaean archaeology, primarily for his excavations at Hissarlik, believed to be the site of ancient Troy. His groundbreaking work in the 19th century solidified the significance of the Bronze Age Aegean civilization, demonstrating that these ancient narratives were rooted in real historical contexts. Schliemann's discoveries laid the foundation for understanding the Mycenaean culture, including its art, architecture, and commerce, emphasizing the sophistication of early Greek society.

Chapter 9: Finding Atlantis?

The quest for the lost island of Atlantis has captivated imaginations for centuries, often resulting in sensational claims about its location. A 2011 documentary titled "Finding Atlantis" attempted to locate the fabled island

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near Cadiz, Spain. While the search diverted audiences, many skeptics—including seasoned archaeologists—viewed the evidence as unconvincing. Over the decades, similar claims have emerged, identifying potential locations from the Bahamas to Cyprus.

However, the most compelling theory suggests that Atlantis may actually be linked to the volcanic island of Thera, known today as Santorini. This island experienced a catastrophic eruption during the mid-2nd millennium BCE, which had profound effects on neighboring civilizations, possibly inspiring the Atlantis myth. Excavations at Santorini have unearthed remarkably preserved Minoan settlements that provide valuable insights into the cultural and technological advancements of the Aegean peoples during this era.

Chapter 10: Enchantment Under the Sea

In 1982, a chance encounter transformed our understanding of ancient maritime trade when a young sponge diver off the southwestern Turkish coast spotted a "metal biscuit with ears," later identified as an oxhide copper ingot. This led to the discovery of the Uluburun shipwreck, dating to around 1300 BCE. The wreck was packed with an astonishing array of trade goods, including raw materials like copper and glass, and finished items such as pottery from Cyprus and Canaan. The wealth of artifacts found on this ship

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exemplifies the extensive trade networks and international relations of the Late Bronze Age.

The Uluburun shipwreck's excavation was spearheaded by George Bass, who is noted as the father of underwater archaeology. His journey began in 1959 when he undertook the first underwater excavation at the Cape Gelidonya wreck—an earlier ship from around 1200 BCE. This discovery was pivotal; it revealed that such vessels participated in the bustling Mediterranean economy not as grand merchant ships, but as smaller, private endeavors engaged in routine trading activities. The findings from both wrecks, particularly the solid copper ingots, highlight the significant role that metallurgy played in ancient economies, paving the way for the Bronze Age's technological advancements.

Together, these chapters weave a narrative that illustrates the rich tapestry of the Bronze Age Aegean, marked by significant archaeological finds and the profound influence of historical narratives on our understanding of early Greek civilizations. Through these excavations and discoveries, modern archaeologists continue to unravel the complexities of ancient trade, culture, and myth.

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Chapter 6 Summary: PART 4 UNCOVERING THE CLASSICS

Part 4: Uncovering the Classics

Chapter 11: From Discus-Throwing to Democracy

The Olympic Games, originating in 776 BCE, marked a significant event in ancient Greek culture, held every four years at Olympia for over a thousand years. They drew athletes from all corners of the Greek world, furthering the concept of Panhellenism (Greek unity) through sport. The games included events such as footraces, wrestling, boxing, and the pankration—an early form of mixed martial arts—though many ancient contests, such as chariot racing and the armed races, have long since vanished from modern iterations, including the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

Archaeological endeavors have played a crucial role in uncovering the rich history of the Olympic site. The sanctuary of Olympia lay forgotten and neglected after its closure in 393 CE, buried under layers of sediment and debris due to catastrophic floods and earthquakes. Richard Chandler successfully identified its location in 1766 with the help of local knowledge and ancient texts. Subsequent excavations, notably by the French in the 1820s and Germans from 1875 to 1881, uncovered treasures of art,

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inscriptions, and the monumental Temple of Zeus, which housed one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—a colossal statue crafted by the famed sculptor Pheidias.

The Germans formally established the Olympia Convention, setting a precedent for archaeological excavations in Greece that emphasized preserving findings within the country. This partnership ultimately inspired modern Olympic revival efforts, spearheaded by Pierre de Coubertin in the late 19th century.

Since the extensive excavations in the late 20th century, Olympia has become a UNESCO World Heritage Site, replete with the remains of temples, treasuries, and athletic training facilities. A major discovery during these excavations revealed hundreds of bronze armory pieces originally displayed as war trophies dedicated to Zeus by victorious warriors, showcasing the ceremonial blend of sport and worship in Greek culture.

The growth of the Olympic Games mirrored developments in Greek society, adding events over the centuries and evolving into a critical component of cultural celebration and unity. The competitive spirit, evident from the unique traditions that accompanied the games—like the laurel crowns awarded to victors—continues to resonate today.

Meanwhile, the renowned Oracle of Delphi, situated at the Temple of

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Apollo, symbolizes Greece's spiritual heart. Few tangible remnants of its once-prominent oracle survive, yet the oracle's influence permeated Greek civilization, assisting city-states in making pivotal decisions regarding colonization and geopolitical ambitions.

Delphi's excavation commenced under the French in the 1890s, necessitating the relocation of modern villages built atop ancient ruins. This massive task led to significant archaeological finds, including the famous Charioteer statue and extensive inscriptions, ultimately enhancing Delphi's status as one of Greece's most revered sites.

Moving to Athens, the cradle of democracy, the Agora acted as the city's bustling center for trade, governance, and public discourse. Archaeological explorations here have unveiled the remnants of significant structures like the Bouleuterion and law courts, alongside founding artifacts that tell of Athens's political and cultural evolution. Important discoveries, such as voting ballots and ostraca used in the practice of ostracism, detail the mechanics of early democratic engagement.

The concerted archaeological efforts across Olympia, Delphi, and Athens have unwrapped an intricate narrative of ancient Greek society—its valor, spirituality, and the foundations of democracy—offering us an invaluable glimpse into a world that profoundly shapes our contemporary values and cultural identities.



Chapter 12: What Have the Romans Ever Done for Us?

Using a catchy reference to Monty Python, this chapter reflects on the extensive contributions of Roman civilization. It is both hyperbole and truth: while the Romans did not invent concepts like sanitation or public health, they proficiently disseminated these advancements throughout their vast empire from the first to the fifth century CE.

Roman archaeological endeavors stretch across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, revealing the empire's impactful legacy, from intricate mosaics to public amenities. The author shares personal experiences of excavating at a Roman villa in Cyprus, uncovering a beautiful mosaic of Orpheus, emphasizing the remarkable architectural and artistic ingenuity of the Romans.

Significantly, this chapter also explores the cultural sites within Rome, where legendary tales of the city's origins intertwine with historical development. Each archaeological find serves as a testament to Rome's extensive influence and cultural heritage while raising critical considerations of how nationalistic narratives shape our understanding and interpretation of historical ruins.

Thus, the chapters together highlight how the legacies of both Greeks and



Romans continue to resonate within modern scholarship and cultural identification, illustrating how ancient societies laid the foundational stones of contemporary civilization.

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Chapter 7 Summary: Digging Deeper 2: How Do You Know How to Dig?

Summary of "Digging Deeper 2: How Do You Know How to Dig?"

In this chapter, we delve into the practicalities of archaeological excavation, answering the essential question: "How do you excavate a site?" Contrary to popular belief, the skills required for excavation can be quickly learned, akin to gardening, although the tools and techniques may vary by region.

Tools of the Trade

Archaeologists typically employ both heavy and delicate tools when excavating. Large tools like picks, shovels, and wheelbarrows are used for broader excavation, while trowels and hand picks cater to more intricate work. Dental tools may also be utilized for the careful excavation of fragile artifacts such as skeletons or organic remains. Notably, picking technique is crucial to prevent injury; strikes should be controlled, letting the tool's weight do the work.

While specific tools may differ by region—a preference for Marshalltown trowels in the U.S. versus WHS in Europe—the work often involves a systematic approach. A color-coded bucket system is common, enabling

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archaeologists to separate materials—such as dirt, pottery, and bones—for easier documentation and analysis.

The Importance of Context

A critical aspect of excavation is understanding an artifact's context, which includes its location and the associated finds that provide insight into its history. An item discovered out of context, like a looted artifact, loses much of its archaeological value. Context influences not only the object's significance but also the story it tells about past civilizations. Excavators must take care to reveal artifacts without disturbing their surroundings, documenting the process meticulously.

Artifacts may be found in primary, secondary, or tertiary contexts. Understanding these levels helps archaeologists interpret the significance of their finds. For example, finding plastered skulls during excavations at Jericho allows insights into Neolithic practices related to death and memory. This emphasizes that excavation is about more than treasure hunting; it's about reconstructing historical narratives.

Excavation Strategies

Archaeologists typically engage in either horizontal or vertical excavations. Horizontal excavation exposes entire layers of a site to understand its layout



and historical context, employing this method effectively at sites like Colonial Williamsburg. In contrast, vertical excavation focuses on digging deeply in select areas to reveal chronological sequences, as pioneered by early archaeologist Flinders Petrie at sites like Megiddo.

Petrie's work emphasized stratigraphy, teaching that older artifacts are generally found deeper within a site, leading to the understanding that multilayered mounds contain historical depth. His technique of pottery seriation shows that the styles of pottery can help date excavated layers, associating material culture with specific historical periods.

Innovations in Excavation

Further developments in excavation methodology came from Mortimer Wheeler, who enhanced stratigraphic recording by employing a grid-like excavation pattern with unexcavated balks to aid understanding of the layers. Kathleen Kenyon adapted Wheeler's methods, integrating color-coded bucket systems and changing labels to allow for more nuanced detection of shifts in stratigraphy.

Through meticulous documentation, including Harris matrices and detailed photographic records, the archaeological community ensures that findings are preserved and accurately interpreted. This process emphasizes the notion that archaeology is inherently destructive; while artifacts are uncovered, the



context is lost. Hence, careful record-keeping is vital.

A Day in the Life of Archaeologists

The chapter illustrates what a typical day looks like during excavations in the Mediterranean. Teams often start early, working in shifts to avoid the midday heat. While excavation results largely consist of pottery shards—pieces of ancient dishes—the work also yields animal bones and structural remnants. These finds reflect everyday life in ancient societies, yet the narratives surrounding them require careful examination to distinguish artifacts from natural debris.

Ultimately, the chapter captures that archaeology is both challenging and rewarding, disproving romanticized notions often portrayed in media. The blend of teamwork, careful planning, and rigorous documentation makes each excavation a unique performance, much like a symphony, where success relies upon the contributions and coordination of many. The essence of real archaeology is found in the labor, perseverance, and communal effort that brings ancient histories back to light.

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Chapter 8: PART 5 DISCOVERIES IN THE HOLY LAND AND BEYOND

Part 5: Discoveries in the Holy Land and Beyond

Chapter 13: Excavating Armageddon

This chapter focuses on the archaeological significance of Megiddo, known biblically as Armageddon, located in modern-day Israel. The term "Armageddon" itself derives from the Hebrew "Har Megiddo," meaning "mountain of Megiddo." For over three thousand years, many civilizations have inhabited Megiddo, strategically placed above the Jezreel Valley. The valley's shape and location made it a prime battlefield, accounting for at least thirty-four significant battles over millennia, including those involving historical figures such as Thutmose III, biblical leaders, and various military powers through the ages.

During excavations at Megiddo from 1994 to 2014, the author reflects on the thrill of uncovering layers of history, with the site revealing at least twenty cities layered one atop another, the oldest dating back five millennia. Among the notable archaeological finds at the site are the **water tunnel** and the so-called **Solomon's Stables**—structures leading to debates about their origins and purpose. Early excavations conducted by Gottlieb Schumacher



in the early 20th century revealed a Middle Bronze Age tomb and a famous seal inscribed “Shema, servant of Jeroboam,” believed to belong to one of the biblical Jeroboams.

Later excavations by a University of Chicago team (1925-1939) introduced systematic archaeological methods, such as **horizontal excavation**, allowing for detailed stratigraphic analysis and coffee table-style publications aimed at public engagement. These archaeologists connected structures on site to biblical texts, notably labelling large rooms as stables from Solomon's era, despite later evidence suggesting they are from a later period.

Yigael Yadin's excavations in the 1960s further underscored Megiddo's rich history, unearthing foundations of a large palace and additional buildings. However, debates persisted about the dating of structures and the accuracy of biblical comparisons. Currently, ongoing excavations led by Israel Finkelstein are utilizing modern scientific methods to enhance understanding of Megiddo's complex past.

The narrative also touches on the astonishing archeological finds, including a cache of gold jewelry dated to the 11th century BCE, hidden in a jar among other artifacts. The story culminates with reflections on the significance of Megiddo in understanding not just historical battles and occupations but also the cultural and religious narratives that shape our



understanding of this ancient site.

Chapter 14: Unearthing the Bible

This chapter discusses the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which hold the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Bible, dating as far back as the 3rd century BCE. Found in caves near Qumran, these scrolls include key biblical texts and documents from an apocalyptic Jewish sect during the First Jewish Revolt against Rome. Historians believe the scrolls were hidden to preserve their teachings as the community faced Roman occupation.

The chapter recounts the accidental discovery of the scrolls in 1947 by Bedouin shepherds, which set off a series of events leading to the acquisition of the scrolls by significant scholars, including Eliezer Sukenik, who recognized their immense value. The original texts he acquired included a copy of Isaiah, which showed remarkable textual consistency with later versions of the Bible.

Following the initial findings, further caves were discovered, each yielding additional scrolls—including various biblical texts and community regulations. The chapter emphasizes the scrolls' impact on biblical scholarship, drawing attention to the transition from traditional biblical texts to the manuscripts that inform today's understandings.

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The academic race to piece together scroll fragments, particularly from Cave 4, has been described as chaotic due to thousands of disintegrated pieces. This has led to controversies regarding authorship and interpretation, influencing modern biblical studies significantly.

Overall, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls marked one of the 20th century's most captivating archaeological finds, shedding light on Judaism during the Second Temple period, while also reflecting on the continuing quest to understand ancient texts in our contemporary context.

Chapter 15: Mystery at Masada

The chapter recounts the dramatic story of Masada, where, in 73 or 74 CE, approximately 960 Jewish Zealots allegedly chose mass suicide over capture by Roman forces, as recorded by the historian Josephus. This narrative has been both celebrated and scrutinized in the context of Israeli national identity, especially as Yigael Yadin conducted excavations on the site in the 1960s that sought to authenticate Josephus's account.

Yadin's excavations revealed complexes and artifacts, connecting Masada to the grandeur of Herodian architecture while seating it as a refuge for the Sicarii, a group of Jewish rebels. The chapter discusses the logistics of the excavation, innovative use of volunteer labor, and various structures uncovered, like palatial complexes, storerooms, and bathhouses.



However, Yadin's conclusions about the suicide narrative have been challenged, with modern scholars suggesting alternatives based on the archaeological evidence. The chapter stresses the tension between archaeological interpretation and historical narrative, particularly how it can be influenced by nationalist sentiments.

Masada, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of Jewish resilience, presents not only a tale of valor but also a reflection on the complexities of historical memory as shaped by both archaeology and the narrative constructs of historical figures like Josephus.

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Chapter 9 Summary: Digging Deeper 3: How Old Is This and Why Is It Preserved?

Chapter Summary: Dating and Preservation of Ancient Artifacts

In this chapter, the author addresses a common question posed by both journalists and the general public: how can we be certain of the ages of ancient artifacts and why are they still preserved after so many centuries? Using a combination of methods and scientific techniques, archaeologists are able to establish dates and understand the conditions that lead to the preservation of artifacts.

Dating Artifacts

To accurately date ancient objects, archaeologists use a variety of methods. The most straightforward is utilizing historical texts, such as Egyptian inscriptions that mention specific years of a pharaoh's reign, which can be cross-referenced with other cultures through correspondences, like letters found in Egyptian archives that indicate simultaneous reigns. This cross-cultural synchronization allows for the establishment of chronological timelines.

Several scientific techniques are employed for dating, including:

1. **Radiocarbon Dating (C-14):** Effective for dating organic materials



that are a few hundred to thousands of years old. It works by measuring the decay of carbon-14, a radioactive isotope ingested by living organisms. This method has a “plus-minus” factor that offers statistical probability rather than precise dates.

2. **Dendrochronology:** This method involves counting tree rings to date wood, often fitting it into a master sequence, but is limited to about 12,000 years.

3. **Potassium-Argon Dating:** Useful for dating very old volcanic rock and artifacts as it measures the decay of potassium into argon but is not applicable for artifacts younger than 200,000 years.

4. **Thermoluminescence:** Used to date objects made from clay by measuring trapped electrons released when the material is heated, indicating when it was last fired.

5. **Obsidian Hydration:** This method measures the water absorbed by obsidian, a volcanic glass, allowing for dating based on a consistent absorption rate over time.

In addition to these methods, relative dating techniques such as stratigraphy and pottery seriation are employed when precise absolute dates cannot be established. For instance, an object found alongside a known artifact can provide a relative timeframe.

Case Studies in Dating

The chapter highlights two notable examples:



- **Terracotta Warriors** Discovered in 1974 near Xi'an, China, the Terracotta Army was associated with Emperor Qin Shihuang, buried around 210 BCE. Thousands of life-size figures, along with chariots and horses, were crafted to accompany the emperor in the afterlife. The craftsmanship reflects the sophistication of the era, involving assembly line production techniques.
- **Uluburun Shipwreck:** Dating methods used here included radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, and pottery analysis, which collectively indicated an approximate date for the shipwreck in the Late Bronze Age around 1300 BCE.

Preservation Conditions

The second part of the chapter discusses how artifacts can survive for thousands of years. Factors affecting preservation include:

- **Environmental Conditions:** Organic materials, such as textiles and wooden items, decay rapidly without certain environmental protections. Conditions of extreme dryness (like in King Tut's tomb), cold (as in the case of Ötzi the Iceman), or waterlogging (in bogs and underwater sites) offer exceptional preservation.
- **Notable Discoveries:** Ötzi, found in the Alps, dates back to approximately 3200 BCE and provides significant insights into ancient life, including diet and health based on analyzed remains. His well-preserved artifacts, including clothing and tools, showcase the technologies of his time.
- **Bog Bodies:** Preserved through acidic and anaerobic conditions in



wetlands, these bodies, such as Lindow Man and Tollund Man, provide a glimpse into ancient rituals and lifestyles, revealing well-preserved hair and skin.

- **Shipwrecks:** Underwater archaeology has uncovered preserved artifacts due to low oxygen levels below certain depths, allowing organic materials to survive for millennia, exemplified by discoveries in the Black Sea.

In conclusion, the chapter encapsulates the interplay between dating methods and preservation, emphasizing that understanding the age of artifacts is an evolving science subject to ongoing advancements and discoveries. By deducing how artifacts endure over time, archaeologists can connect with and learn from ancient civilizations, broadening our knowledge of history while acknowledging the uncertainties inherent in their work.

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Chapter 10 Summary: PART 6 NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PART 6: NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY

Chapter 17: Lines in the Sand, Cities in the Sky

In the 1920s, aviators flying over southern Peru's high desert uncovered the Nazca Lines, remarkable geoglyphs etched into the arid soil—including various animals and a figure resembling an astronaut. These lines captivated the public imagination, especially after the release of Erich von Däniken's 1968 book **Chariots of the Gods?**, which proposed that the geoglyphs were made for or by ancient astronauts. He suggested the lines served as landing strips or signals for extraterrestrial visitors, a theory widely dismissed by archaeologists but still embraced by many.

The Nazca Lines, created by the Nazca culture between 200 BCE and 600 CE, are not alien constructs. Evidence from carbon dating shows wooden stakes associated with the lines date around 525 CE, aligning with the Nazca's historical timeline. The designs reflect motifs found on Nazca pottery, solidifying their cultural roots. Interestingly, the region's geoglyph creation began with the earlier Paracas culture, whose figures, dating further

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back, are located near Palpa.

The Nazca Lines are diverse, ranging from simple lines to complex depictions. Simple alterations of the soil created these remarkable designs, most visible from the air. Contrasting artistic interpretations abound, from bizarre animal renditions to the enigmatic “Astronaut” figure, often referred to as the Owl-Man, which has generated its own theories regarding its meaning and purpose.

Scholarly research over the decades has proposed various interpretations for the lines, from aligning with astronomical events to serving as ceremonial paths or expressing religious significance. More recent excavations have traced a long history of geoglyph creation in the region; many lines correlate with settlements, suggesting their integral role in the cultural and religious life of the Nazca and Paracas peoples.

Turning to the Moche civilization, we learn of its flourishing society from 100 to 800 CE, centered around irrigation and impressive architectural feats. Their artistic and ceremonial advancements peaked in the tomb of the Lord of Sipan, discovered in 1987. This royal burial site revealed extensive wealth and craftsmanship, including gold adornments and complex artifacts that echo the broader Moche cultural narrative of hierarchical stratification and intricate ritual practices.

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Transitioning to the renowned site of Machu Picchu, built around 1450 CE, we encounter a high-altitude marvel thought to be a royal retreat for Inca emperors. Discovered in the early 20th century by Hiram Bingham, albeit not without controversy regarding prior knowledge by locals, it stands as a testimony to Inca engineering and architectural prowess. The site showcases diverse structures, including temples and agricultural terraces, yet also highlights the ongoing debates surrounding its original purpose. With artifacts like ceramics and textiles finally returned to Peru after decades, it's now a focal point for continued archaeological study.

Together, the Nazca, Moche, and Inca civilizations represent a tapestry of human achievement across thousands of years, evolving in a landscape defined by geographic challenges. Their legacies resemble those of ancient cultures worldwide, exemplifying how societies rise and fall, leaving behind rich narratives of their journeys and struggles in the New World.

Chapter 18: Giant Heads, Feathered Serpents, and Golden Eagles

At Teotihuacán, a significant archaeological site near Mexico City, a newly-discovered tunnel beneath the Temple of the Feathered Serpent has shed light on this ancient city, inhabited from approximately 100 BCE to

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650 CE. Following heavy rains in 2003, archaeologists detected this secret passage, leading to extensive excavations led by Sergio Gómez, resulting in the unearthing of thousands of ancient artifacts, highlighting the city's historical significance.

The tunnel, sealed for 1,800 years, contains a rich array of objects, including jewelry, ceramics, and the remains of ceremonial offerings. Its architecture features a dazzling powdered surface to create a shimmering effect in torchlight, culminating in three chambers filled with jade and animal remains, including liquid mercury believed to symbolize an underworld river.

This exploration of Teotihuacán complements our understanding of Mesoamerican civilizations, including the Olmecs, the first known culture in Mexico, flourishing from at least 1500 BCE to 400 BCE. Their iconic colossal stone heads, discovered in the 1930s, brought them to modern attention, but they laid the groundwork for later civilizations like the Maya and Aztecs, shaping the cultural landscape.

As archaeological efforts expand within regions like Tenochtitlán, the exploration of these significant sites adds depth to our understanding of cultural persistence and evolution in the pre-Columbian Americas. The ongoing excavation and study of both monumental and smaller artifacts continue to illuminate the narratives of these ancient societies, with modern

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technology contributing to uncovering the complexities of their histories. Through these discoveries, the multi-faceted legacies of Mesoamerican peoples reveal a rich heritage that remains integral to understanding the cultural foundations of contemporary Mexico and beyond.

In summary, the journey through New World archaeology highlights the vast civilizations that have thrived in challenging terrains, showcasing their accomplishments, belief systems, and interactions with the environment—their stories echoing the universal themes of human endeavor across time and space.

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Chapter 11 Summary: Digging Deeper 4: Do You Get to Keep What You Find?

In the concluding section titled "Do You Get to Keep What You Find?" the author addresses a frequently asked question about the ownership of archaeological finds. The succinct answer is "No," reflecting the strict regulations enforced by nations' antiquities departments. This is a foundational principle in archaeology; valuable discoveries are primarily designated for public institutions, with a substantial portion of artifacts stored for scholarly research.

The discourse extends to the ethical dilemmas surrounding private collecting and its correlation to the looting of archaeological sites. Scholars widely agree that no private individual should collect such items, as demand fuels the illegal trade, evident in ongoing looting across politically unstable regions like Syria and Iraq. Historical context reveals that looting has plagued archaeological sites since antiquity, exacerbated now by global political turmoil and economic desperation.

The narrative includes poignant examples of looting's rampant growth, detailing a delegation to Egypt post-revolution, during which numerous looting pits were identified. Notably, Iraq's antiquities were catastrophically looted during the Iraq War, leading to the disappearance of priceless artifacts from museums. The looting reached a critical scale, with armed groups



engaging in organized theft. In particular, ISIS has been implicated in funding their operations by selling stolen artifacts.

The author recounts instances where looted objects, including clay tablets with vital historical content, enter the antiquities market. The dilemma this creates for archaeologists centers on whether to rescue significant artifacts despite their illicit origins, paralleling the controversy surrounding the handling of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The discussion highlights the role of UNESCO's 1970 Convention, which established guidelines for the legal trade of artifacts to combat looting, though enforcement remains challenging.

The passage also underscores the legislative efforts in the United States aimed at preserving cultural heritage, from early laws like the American Antiquities Act of 1906 to more recent measures like the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act of 2016. These laws reflect a growing recognition of the importance of archaeological sites and aim to reduce the incentives for looting by restricting the entry of stolen artifacts.

Ultimately, the author advocates for an appreciation of ancient artifacts as part of our collective heritage and calls upon all individuals to refrain from participating in illicit antiquities markets. The overarching message underscores the urgency to protect archaeological knowledge and heritage from further loss, amplifying the shared responsibility of humanity to



safeguard our historical narratives for future generations.

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Chapter 12: Epilogue: Back to the Future

In the epilogue titled "Back to the Future," the author emphasizes the importance of archaeology as a means of understanding the layers of civilization, revealing that contemporary cultures are built upon their predecessors and will be studied by future generations. This reflection raises two key questions: how future archaeologists will conduct their work using new tools and techniques, and how they will interpret the remnants of our society.

The author references the impact of Alan Weisman's book **The World Without Us**, alongside thought-provoking television shows such as **Aftermath: Population Zero** and **Life Without People**, which explore what would happen to cities and monuments if humanity suddenly disappeared. Imagining a team of archaeologists investigating our civilization two hundred or two thousand years from now, the author speculates about the interpretations they might draw from finds like the Washington Zoo, Smithsonian museums, or even ubiquitous fast-food chains like McDonald's and Starbucks. A humorous yet poignant consideration is the potential misinterpretation of these sites; for instance, a Starbucks could be mistaken for a religious temple, with its signage and branding misread as worship practices.

The chapter also illustrates how our digital age complicates future



archaeological assessments, as many online interactions and records may vanish, leading to gaps in understanding our culture, literacy, and communication technologies. Drawing a parallel to David Macaulay's satirical book **Motel of the Mysteries**, the author highlights the amusing yet cautionary tale of archaeological misreading, where everyday items such

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