



# Archaeology, a Tool to Know History

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## Underwater Archaeology

Archaeology, also spelled archaeology, the scientific study of the material remains of past human life and activities. These include human artifacts from the very earliest stone tools to the man-made objects that are buried or thrown away in the present day: everything made by human beings—from simple tools to complex machines, from the earliest houses and temples and tombs to palaces, cathedrals, and pyramids. Archaeological investigations are a principal source of knowledge of prehistoric, ancient, and extinct culture.

## TYPES OF ARCAHEOLOGY

**Classical Archaeology** The examination of ancient Greek and Roman civilisations is known as classical archaeology. The two ancient cultures of Greece and Italy form the basis of classical investigation. The Grecian Empire, the Roman Empire and the transitional period between the two, the Greco-Roman Period, together permit a 2000 year era of classical history.

**Historical Archaeology** Historical archaeology pays great attention to the everyday world of all people. It is a conjunction of history and anthropology whereby the archaeologist seeks to understand the cultural processes and human experiences that produced the world we live in today through examination of the forms of writing and recording of information by past cultures.

Underwater archaeology employs special techniques to study shipwrecks and other submerged archaeological sites such as water-buried cities. Archaeologists who work under water rely on sophisticated diving and excavating equipment and employ special methods to preserve perishable materials that have been waterlogged for long periods.

## Ethno-Archaeology

Artefacts such as weapons and tools along with human and animal fossils indicates that past cultures lived by hunting and gathering until relatively recently. A branch of archaeology has sought to understand these activities by studying today's living groups of hunter-gatherers in Australia, Central Africa and even in the Arctic.