

ANT 309 Lecture Outline February 8, 2010

- IX Classification
 - A Artifacts
 - B Descriptive integration or the classification of Cultures (Culture histories or cultural chronologies)
 - 1 Archaeological terms
 - a Component-- a culturally homogeneous unit within a single site. It refers to actual materials left behind by people at one particular site-- that is it is NOT an abstraction.
 - b Horizontal stratigraphy-- where components are separated horizontally.
 - c Phase: an archaeological unit possessing traits sufficiently characteristic to distinguish it from all other units similarly conceived. Phases are relatively discrete periods of time marked by a small number of distinct artifact types.
 - d Archaeological culture: “ an assemblage of artifacts that recur repeatedly associated together in dwellings of the same kind and with burials of the same rite. The arbitrary peculiarities of implements, weapons, ornaments, houses, burial rites, and ritual objects are assumed to be concrete expressions of the common social traditions that bind together a people.” V. Gordon Childe These are aggregates of closely related phases.
 - e Complex-- sometimes used instead of Culture-- when archaeologists feel that a pattern is less definitive and more tentative-- (also the term Pattern itself is sometimes used- David Fredrickson 1974)
 - f Tradition -- Phases that persisted for a long time. Defined by Willey and Phillips in the 1950s
 - g Horizon-- A style that persists only briefly over a wide area Defined by Willey and Phillips in the 1950s; Examples:
 - i Early or Chavin Horizon in Peru
 - ii Bead Horizons in Central California
- X Contexts for Interpreting Culture and Subsistence: Reconstructing past environments
 - A Non-archaeological studies
 - 1 Climate= temperatures, humidity, rainfall, atmospheric particle count and numerous other meteorological factors in a given region over long periods of time, as opposed to the term weather, which refers to current activity.
 - 2 Paleoclimate= Study and description of ancient climates

- a Physical evidence of climate change
 - i Sea and lake levels
 - ii Extent of glaciers (moraines) and ice caps
 - b Biological evidence of climate change; for example, variation in:
 - i Fauna (fossil bone assemblages)
 - ii Vegetation
 - (a) Plant micro fossils: Pollen (palynology)
 - (b) Plant macro-fossils in peat,
 - (c) Pack rat nests
 - c Chemistry of atmosphere and sea water
 - i Oxygen isotope analysis
- B Environmental reconstruction from archaeological data: Human interaction with the physical and biological environment creates archaeological sites
- 1 "Sampling" of the environment is likely to be strongly biased
 - 2 Mixing of cultural and natural materials can cause problems