

SECTION J

Glossary

Note: The Glossary contains terms found in the text and on the Student CD.

absolute dating The determination of chronological age based on a specific time scale or calendar; compare **relative dating**.

accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) dating A method of obtaining radiocarbon dates that measures carbon isotopes directly, by means of a particle accelerator and a mass spectrometer, and thus can date a sample containing very little carbon.

achieved status A position within a society and the associated rights and responsibilities that result from an individual's actions, talents, and accomplishments; compare **ascribed status**.

Adena An Early Woodland mound-building culture or ceremonial complex centered in the central and upper Ohio River valley (ca. 2500–1900 BP); Adena mounds are conical burial mounds often surrounded by ditches and covering postholes.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) The independent federal agency that promotes historic preservation in the United States, advises the president on preservation policy, and administers the **Section 106** process.

adze A woodworking tool that, unlike an axe, has its working edge at a right angle to the long axis of the tool's handle.

akchin A term that refers to the mouth of an arroyo, where Hohokam and other Southwestern farmers often planted their crops to take advantage of runoff and floodwaters.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) U.S. law that gave Native Alaskans title to vast tracts of ancestral lands around the state through the establishment of regional native corporations; passed in 1971 and paved the way for the Alaska oil pipeline.

Aleutian tradition A marine-based hunting and gathering cultural tradition that developed in the area of the Aleutian Islands and western Alaska beginning about 5000 BP and had a chipped stone rather than ground slate tool industry.

- alluvial fan** A fanlike or cone-shaped deposit of sediment and loose rock left by a stream as it enters a valley; changes the terrain from a steep to more level slope.
- Alta California** “Upper California” formed in 1804 by the Spanish north of Baja (Lower) California; the line between these colonies separated the area of the Franciscan missions in the north from the Dominican missions in the south.
- altimeter** An instrument for measuring altitude with respect to sea level or another fixed level, generally by using pressure gradients.
- Altithermal** The second period (7000–4500 BP) of Antevs’s tripartite scheme for postglacial climate during which climate was warmer, and drier than it is at present; this term generally isn’t used in the East, where archaeologists are more likely to reference the longer **Hypsithermal Interval**.
- AMS dating** See **accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) dating**.
- anadromous fish** Fish species (e.g., various species of salmon) that have the ocean as their habitat but spawn and hatch in freshwater rivers.
- Anasazi tradition** The archaeological tradition of the northern Southwest that was ancestral to contemporary Puebloan people; this name is disliked by many Native Americans today because of its Navajo meaning: enemy ancestor. (See also **Ancestral Pueblo**.)
- Anathermal** The first period in Antevs’s tripartite scheme for postglacial climate in the North American West, when the climate was cooler and moister than at present (9000–7000 BP).
- Ancestral Pueblo** An alternative name for the archaeologically known Puebloan people of the northern Southwest. Some people argue that this term is preferable to **Anasazi** because it is not offensive to the descendants of these people.
- annealing** The process of heating and cooling glass or metal to make it less brittle and more workable; used to work copper in North America.
- Antelope Creek phase** A Late Prehistoric archaeological culture of the **Southern Plains Village tradition** in the Texas panhandle known for its stone slab, multiroom house structures, which may suggest influence from the Southwest.
- anthropogenic sediments** Sediments introduced or created as a result of human activities as opposed to natural processes.
- anthropology** The study of humans including the physical, cultural, and social aspects in the past and present. In North America, this field traditionally is divided into biological, cultural, archaeological, and linguistic subdisciplines.
- Apfalaya chiefdom** A chiefdom encountered by the de Soto expedition in AD 1540; may correspond to the archaeologically known chiefdom centered at Moundville in Alabama.
- arborglyphs** A carving also known as aspen art on the aspen trees of the Sierra Nevadas and the Rocky Mountains; apparently made by Basque sheepherders in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- archaeological deposits** A term that refers to the cumulative nature of human-derived sediments in an archaeological landscape; more general than **archaeological site** because it recognizes continuous variation in the intensity of the **archaeological record**.
- archaeological record** The artifacts and other physical remains of past human activities that document the past and are interpreted by archaeologists.

- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA)** A U.S. law designed to prevent destruction of archaeological resources; its enforcement component imposes penalties, and its permitting component may allow recovery of cultural resources.
- archaeological site** Any location at which there are material remains, including artifacts, features, or ecofacts, proving evidence of the human past.
- archaeological site survey** The systematic process archaeologists use to locate, identify, and record the distribution and nature of archaeological sites on the landscape.
- archaeology** The study of past human behavior and culture through the analysis of material remains.
- Archaic period** A period from approximately 10,000 BP to 3000 BP that is recognized in most North American culture areas except those of the West Coast and the Arctic; the Archaic is not a general developmental stage, as originally thought.
- Arctic culture area** The most northerly of the North American culture areas, defined largely by the tree line on the south; from Alaska's Yakutat Bay to the Aleutians and the Bering Sea as well as the Arctic coast east to Greenland and northern Labrador.
- Arctic Small Tool tradition** A microlithic stone tool tradition associated with the first foragers to utilize North America's Arctic coast; originally called the **Denbigh Flint complex** and found in both Siberia and the North American Arctic after about 4000 BP.
- artifact** Any portable object used, manufactured, or modified by humans that includes stone, ceramic, metal, wood, bone, or objects of other materials. (See also **ecofact**.)
- artifact use life** The trajectory an artifact takes from manufacture to discard. Events in the use life of an artifact (e.g., breakage, repair) can alter the form of the artifact.
- ascribed status** A position within a society and the associated rights and responsibilities, determined without individual initiative or choice (e.g., by being born into a particular family or being female); compare **achieved status**.
- aspartic acid racemization (amino acid racemization)** A dating method based on changes in the structure of amino acids after death; results can be difficult to translate into absolute dates, but the technique is applicable to bones up to 100,000 years old.
- aspect** In the **Midwestern taxonomic system**, this unit grouped one **focus** with others that were similar based on formal characteristics in material culture; in turn, aspects were grouped into **phases**, but time and space were not incorporated; rarely used today.
- asphaltum** Natural asphalt such as found in seeps like the La Brea Tar Pits near Los Angeles. This natural petroleum product was used as a mastic and to caulk the plank canoes of southern California.
- assemblage** A collection of artifacts and/or ecofacts from the same archaeological context (e.g., a feature, a house, a site component). Term may refer to all the materials or simply to one material class. (See also **subassemblage**.)
- atlatl** A spear-thrower or throwing board that increases the thrust of a spear by increasing the length of the lever arm; made by many groups in North America and all over the world.

- Augustine pattern** A cultural pattern evident in Late Prehistory in central California; intensive fishing and hunting and gathering, dense populations, burial ceremonialism, possibly associated with movement of Wintuan people into the area.
- avocational archaeologists** People who lack formal education in anthropology and archaeology and are not paid for work that they do in the field.
- Avonlea phase** A Late Woodland Plains bison hunting culture (1500–950 BP) that used the bow and arrow; found in southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, southwestern Manitoba, North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, and northern Wyoming.
- baidarka* A term derived from Russian that refers to a hunting boat made from skins and propelled by one to three paddlers using single- or double-bladed paddles; type of a kayak.
- ball court** A structure with flat courts and walls reminiscent of Mesoamerican ball courts but built by the Hohokam (oval with sloping walls) and Casas Grandes people (I-shaped with straight walls) in the Southwest; integrative and ritual in nature.
- band** A small mobile group of related people, usually hunter-gatherers, among whom there is relatively little social differentiation; leadership is by consensus and group membership is fluid.
- bannerstone** A polished stone piece with a central drilled hole and bilateral symmetry that is presumed to have been an **atlatl** weight but is often found in Archaic burial contexts, especially in the East.
- Basketmaker** In the **Pecos classification** of the Southwest, this term denoted the pithouse portion of the sequence before people built aboveground, multiroom pueblos (Basketmaker I–III); the specific definition has been modified and is used only in the Ancestral Pueblo area today.
- Baytown period** The early Late Woodland period (1650/1550–1250 BP) in the central Mississippi River valley; Baytown ceramics are clay tempered and cord marked, and the people used small notched and stemmed arrow points.
- bedrock milling feature** A feature for grinding of seeds, acorns, and other plant foods located within an outcrop of bedrock; mortar cups, bedrock metates, and other features related to food grinding or crushing may occur in clusters.
- behavioral archaeologist** An archaeologist who has adopted an approach to archaeology formulated in the mid-1970s by Michael Schiffer and focusing on the behaviors involved in the production, manipulation, and disposal of material culture.
- Beringia** The land area of northwestern North America and northeastern Asia that was exposed when the sea level dropped during the Pleistocene.
- Berkeley pattern** A cultural pattern that follows the **Windmill pattern** in central California (4000–500 BP); intensive use of coastal resources and acorn processing.
- Besant phase** Bison hunting culture of the northern Great Plains beginning about 1850 BP; associated with pottery and burial mounds and in the Dakotas with the **Sonota burial complex**; considered Archaic by some archaeologists and Woodland by others.
- biface** A chipped stone tool that has been worked extensively on both surfaces or faces rather than merely being retouched at the edges; bifaces can

- be tools themselves, serve as cores for flake production, or be **preforms** for specific tools such as **projectile points**.
- big men** Individuals in some tribal societies who enjoy higher status and power owing to personal entrepreneurship and skillful use of social obligation rather than to inheritance of wealth.
- bioarchaeological analysis** The analysis and interpretation of human biological remains such as skeletons found in archaeological contexts.
- biological anthropology** The study of the biological aspects of humans, including human biological evolution and past and present human biological diversity.
- biome** A macrolevel biological community of interacting plants and animals, as exemplified by tundra or coniferous forest.
- bipoint** A bone or stone artifact that is pointed at both ends; interpreted as a type of fish gorge.
- bipolar technology** A technique of percussion flaking in which a stone core is placed on an anvil and struck from above; practical for breaking up small pebbles.
- birdstone** A stylized bird effigy in polished stone commonly found in Late Archaic and Early Woodland contexts in the Midwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast; commonly interpreted as an atlatl weight.
- Birnik culture** The archaeological culture that immediately preceded the **Thule culture** itself (northern Alaska, 2200–1250 BP) with a sophisticated maritime hunting technology including a distinctive flat toggling harpoon head.
- Blackduck culture** An archaeological culture and ceramic style beginning about 1450 BP and continuing until European contact in the boreal forests of northern Ontario, northern Minnesota, and southern Manitoba; ancestral to Historic Ojibwa.
- Black Rock period** An eastern Great Basin period from 6000 BP to 1500 BP in which the uplands, sparsely used before, began to be utilized; Elko and Gypsum Cave points mark the beginning, while Rose Springs and Eastgate points were introduced near the end.
- blade** A flake at least twice as long as it is wide and more than 1.2 centimeters (0.5 in.) long, with bladelets or **microblades** being shorter; several North American archaeological cultures, including **Clovis**, developed blade industries.
- blast furnace** A furnace in which iron is extracted from its ore by means of blasts of hot air in the presence of a **flux**, like limestone; more productive than a bloomery forge; common in North America between the late seventeenth and nineteenth centuries.
- blister steel** An alloy of iron and carbon produced by early iron makers by keeping wrought iron packed with charcoal red hot for up to two weeks; surface texture is blistered, hence the name.
- blood residue analysis** The study of traces of blood adhering to tools; differences in the hemoglobin in blood among animal species provide a means of identifying the source of a specimen, which may retain its signature characteristic for thousands of years.
- bloom** The product of a bloomery forge; ore heated to a spongy state so that impurities can be hammered out of it.
- blowing tubs** In iron making, a pair of tubs with water-powered pistons used to pump air into the **tuyere** of the furnace; this innovation replaced bellows as iron-making techniques developed.

- Bonneville period** This period (11,000–9500 BP) in the eastern Great Basin is seen at only a few sites; stemmed points suggest a possible affiliation with the **Western Pluvial Lakes tradition**.
- Borax Lake tradition** A Middle to Late Archaic tradition of the North Coast Range in California; Borax Lake points, millingstones, and manos indicating generalized foraging.
- borrow pit** An excavated area, the material from which has been used as fill in another place.
- bosh** The widest part in the interior of an iron furnace through which molten iron and slag descended to the **crucible**.
- BP** A date designation that means “before present,” or more precisely before AD 1950, the date from which calculations in radiocarbon years are made by archaeological convention.
- Broadpoint tradition** A Late Archaic tradition in the Eastern Woodlands that is marked by the appearance of broad-bladed and stemmed points (e.g., Susquehanna point) after about 4000 BP; associated with the adaptive changes of the Transitional Archaic along the Atlantic Coast.
- Buffalo Soldiers** Name given to two regiments of African American cavalry established by the U.S. Congress in 1866 and posted throughout the West to help protect the frontier.
- bullboat** A boat made of skins by Plains Indians; shallow and saucer-shaped.
- bundle burial** The gathering up, or bundling, of disarticulated, defleshed remains into a **secondary burial** context; the deceased were sometimes exposed to the elements until the soft tissue had decayed, and the bony remains reburied later.
- burin** A small tool created when a blow is struck transversely to one of the edges rather than into the interior of the tool, creating a sturdy chisel-like tip, useful for working antler, ivory, and bone.
- burin spall** The flake that results from making a **burin**; sometimes used as graver tips in the Arctic.
- $^{12}\text{C}/^{13}\text{C}$** The ratio between two stable isotopes, carbon-12 and carbon-13, which are retained after death in bone collagen; since various food categories have different isotopic signatures, values of this ratio can indicate dietary composition.
- calcined** Describing bone that has been so thoroughly burned or highly heated that all moisture and grease have been removed and the bone has been reduced to a white or blue chalky or crumbly state.
- California culture area** The culture area that includes most of the modern state of California and the northern portion of Baja California, where a diverse group of Native cultures including complex coastal hunter-gatherers once existed.
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** A state law enacted in 1970 for the purpose of monitoring land development in California by requiring review and permitting of proposed projects.
- California Native American Burial Act** A state law passed in 1982 requiring notification of the California Native American Heritage Commission when Native American skeletal material is encountered; the most likely descendant consults on the disposition of the remains.
- Calusa culture** A non-Mississippian Late Prehistoric culture of the west coast of Florida that focused its subsistence on the sea rather than agriculture; characterized by shell platform mounds and shell middens.

- Campbell tradition** A cultural tradition of the Santa Barbara region in coastal California at the onset of the Pacific period; intensive use of marine and shoreline resources and various artifacts suggest that these are the ancestors of the Chumash.
- Canaliño** The Late Prehistoric occupants of the Santa Barbara region and California's Channel Islands. Canaliño sites show a focus on marine resources, and the culture is thought to be similar to that of the ethnographic Chumash.
- Carabelli's cusp** A small tubercle located on the lingual surface, or tongue side, of some people's upper molars, most often the right first molar; occurs in higher frequencies in European populations than in other populations.
- carrying capacity** The number of organisms (human or other) that an area can support; estimated on the basis of characteristics of the natural environment and, in the case of humans, the available technology.
- Cascade phase** An archaeological culture recognized in assemblages from the Snake River in Washington State and adjacent areas; leaf-shaped Cascade points date from 9000 BP to 7800 BP, after the **Windust phase**.
- Cashie phase** A Late Woodland culture of North Carolina, found inland from the coast, that extends to the Historic period and has affinities with the Iroquoian societies further north; the people made quartz-tempered, stamped, incised, and plain ceramics.
- cast arch** The arch at the bottom of an iron furnace, where the molten iron was tapped.
- castellation** A projecting or raised section on the rim of a pot that gives the vessel a squared opening.
- cataloging** The systematic recording of artifacts and other items that includes information about the items' **provenience** and a basic description; this step precedes analysis but is essential for future retrieval and research.
- celt** A kind of axe or chopping implement hafted to a bone or wooden handle; sometimes celts are so finely made that ceremonial uses are suspected.
- cenote** A sinkhole formed when underground water erodes away limestone, the cavern ceiling collapses, and access to the water is gained; common in regions of karstic topography; term is the Mayan word for such sinkholes that had ritual importance.
- Central Plains tradition** A subdivision of **Plains Village**, grouping sites from the central Plains in Kansas, Nebraska, and western Iowa (ca. 950–500 BP).
- Central Subarctic Woodland culture** Ceramic-using archaeological cultures of northern Ontario and Manitoba dating after about 2200 BP; best known is the **Laurel culture**.
- Ceramic period** An alternative term for **Woodland period** used by some Plains archaeologists and also used in Maine and the Maritime provinces of Canada.
- Cerbat** A regional branch of the **Patayan tradition**, which encompasses northwestern Arizona between the Coconino Plateau and the Colorado River (ca. 1250–750 BP).
- Chaco Branch Anasazi** A regional branch of Ancestral Pueblo archaeological cultures centered at Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico.
- Chaco phenomenon** A term used by archaeologists to refer to the unique developments associated with the regional system associated with Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico; characteristics include great houses, roads, and exchange items (900–650 BP).

- Champlain Sea** An inland sea created in the lowlands of the St. Lawrence River as the glacier retreated; sea level rose before the valley, having been depressed by the weight of the glacier, could rebound; as a result, parts of Quebec, Ontario, New York, and Vermont were flooded.
- chaparral biome** Biome consisting of the various communities of arid-adapted plants and animals found in southern California, Baja California, and portions of southern Oregon.
- charmstone** A ground stone artifact in various shapes and sometimes with a drilled hole found in central California after 4000 BP; often associated with burials and believed to have been a ritual item.
- check dam** A small rock feature constructed to retain water from rainfall runoff; useful in arid areas of the Southwest that receive rainfall in sudden cloudbursts but often lack permanent streams that can be diverted by more permanent irrigation features.
- Chesrow complex** An early, possibly Pre-Clovis archaeological complex represented by sites in southeastern Wisconsin; modified bone and lithics dated before 11,500 BP.
- chiefdom** A kin-based, ranked society in which access to resources and political power, as well as social status, are determined by hereditary proximity to the chief, who often controls the redistribution of goods and is wealthy as well as powerful.
- Chihuahua tradition** A poorly understood Archaic tradition of the southeastern portions of the Southwest (ca. 7950–1700 BP).
- Choris culture** The first part of the Norton tradition sequence found in northern Alaska north of the Bering Strait (3000–2500 BP); people made **feather-tempered pottery** that was cord marked, stamped, or incised and is related to pottery from northeast Asia.
- Chumash** A Native American tribe that inhabited the southern coastal regions of California including several of the Northern Channel Islands; known as maritime complex hunter-gatherers both archaeologically and ethnographically.
- chunkey** A game played by Southeastern Indians who rolled a stone disk with concave sides at which opposing players threw poles; the object was to hit the disk or to come close to it where it stopped.
- cinder notch** A notch above the hearth of an iron furnace through which **slag** could be drawn off.
- Civil Works Administration (CWA)** A federal program established as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal during the Great Depression to create jobs for thousands of people who had become unemployed; some of these jobs were in archaeology.
- clan** A social grouping defined by a kin connection in which descent is traced unilineally rather than through both parents; important feature of social organization in tribes.
- Classic Mimbres phase** A Mogollon variant from southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona (950–820 BP) known for exceptionally well-made and beautiful pottery with geometric and animal designs.
- Classic period Hohokam** The culmination of the **Hohokam tradition** sequence in the southern Arizona desert (800–550 BP); compounds, multistory pueblos, and platform mounds were characteristic.

- clay cooking balls Fired balls of clay that could be heated in a fire and placed in earth ovens for indirect cooking of food; used in places where stone was scarce, such as the coastal plains of the Southeast.
- Clemson Island culture An early Late Prehistoric designation for sites of the Susquehanna River drainage; people used cord- or fabric-impressed grit-tempered vessels, practiced maize and native plant cultivation, and constructed burial mounds.
- Clovis culture This Paleoindian culture (11,500–10,800 BP) is associated with the distinctive fluted Clovis point and the hunting of mammoths, although a wider range of resources probably was used, particularly outside the Great Plains.
- Clovis-First The idea that the Clovis fluted point makers were the first humans in the Americas, having followed large game through an **ice-free corridor** as the Ice Age waned; no longer the archaeological consensus, this scenario is still accepted by some archaeologists.
- Colescent tradition A third **Plains Village tradition** subdivision first evident around 650 BP but continuing into the Historic period; fusion of **Central Plains Village** and **Middle Missouri traditions**.
- Cochise tradition The Archaic tradition in the southwestern Southwest (ca. 9450–2150 BP) that includes the Sulphur Springs, Chiricahua, and San Pedro phases; these people were foragers who added maize and other cultigens at the end of the sequence.
- Cody complex A Late Paleoindian archaeological complex known for finely made, unfluted, lanceolate points and the shouldered asymmetrical Cody knife; Great Plains and Southwest distribution.
- Cohonina A regional branch of the **Patayan tradition**, which developed in the area around Flagstaff, Arizona, between about 1250 BP and 750 BP.
- coil-and-scrape technique A pottery-making technique in which vessels are built up by coiling rolled lengths of clay, and then the interior and exterior surfaces are scraped and smoothed with a piece of gourd, a pottery sherd, or other expedient tool.
- coiling A method of basket making in which a bundle of strands or rods is stitched into a spiraling oval or round form; compare **twining** and **plaiting**.
- coke A purified form of coal that replaced charcoal as the fuel for iron furnaces after the mid-nineteenth century in America; hotter fires allowed for more efficient melting of iron ore.
- cold-air drainage The flow downslope of cold, dense air that tends to occur as the ground surface cools on calm nights in steep-sided mountain valleys; a layer of warmer air is found higher up the side of the valley, inhibiting the formation of frost.
- cold desert biome The desert biome of the Great Basin in the western United States, which is very arid but experiences cold winters.
- Colington phase A Late Woodland culture of coastal North Carolina that extends to the Historic period and apparently has affinities with the Algonquian societies further north; characterized by shell-tempered ceramics, ossuary burials, and Algonquian longhouses.
- collar In pottery, a raised and extended vessel mouth that begins above the neck and does not reduce the opening relative to the body diameter.
- collectors Individuals who buy, sell, and collect artifacts and art for personal enjoyment or financial gain rather than to learn about the past; such collecting

- only fuels the illegal acquisition of antiquities and contributes to the destruction of sites. Also used by archaeologists to refer to hunter-gatherers who establish long-term, larger base camps from which foraging parties are sent out; compare **foragers**.
- colluvial fan A fan-shaped deposit of loose sediment that accumulates at the base of a hill owing to erosion and slopewash.
- Colonial period Hohokam The second period (1175–975 BP) in the **Hohokam tradition** sequence of the southern Arizona deserts, characterized by pithouse villages and ball courts.
- Comancheros Multiethnic traders of the Southern Plains who traded in buffalo robes, meat, guns, ammunition, horses, Indian captives, and other commodities from the eighteenth to the nineteenth centuries.
- community In ecology, a group of interacting plants and animals within a habitat; usually named for the most conspicuous species.
- complex hunter-gatherers Human groups who depend on wild resources for their subsistence but have economic surplus, prestige goods, social hierarchies, hereditary leadership structures, settled villages, and other aspects of sociocultural complexity.
- compliance archaeology Archaeological investigation done in response to various **CRM** laws and regulations; this kind of archaeology does not originate with a research question but often contributes important archaeological information.
- component An archaeological unit that includes a culturally homogeneous stratigraphic or spatial unit within a site and is thought to represent a single occupation of the site; components are grouped into **phases**.
- composite fishhook A three-piece fishhook with two pieces of wood lashed together in a V shape and a bone barb attached to one leg of the V; made by Northwest Coast groups.
- conical core A type of flaked rock nodule from which **blades** have been removed from the circumference; usually with a single core platform, which may or may not be prepared, and an end opposite the platform that tapers so that the core is cone-shaped.
- coniferous forest biome Dominated by coniferous trees such as pine, spruce, fir, and hemlock, this large biome stretches across Canada south of the tundra and in the U.S. Rocky Mountains; coniferous forest also occurs in the mountains of northern Mexico.
- conjunctive approach A methodological approach suggested by Taylor in the 1940s as a critique of culture history; argues for the exploration of a full range of cultural variables rather than chronology and spatial and temporal distributions alone.
- conservation archaeology An approach that stresses the conservation of archaeological sites because they are irreplaceable, discouraging excavation except as part of the management of resources for the greatest scientific, historical, and public benefit.
- container revolution The profound changes associated with the introduction of stone and ceramic bowls at the Late Archaic–Woodland boundary in the East; possibly associated with boiling new foods like seeds to make them more palatable.
- context Refers to where an object or a feature is found as well as to what it is associated with; objects found out of context are less useful to archaeologists than objects found in place.

- Copena Mortuary complex** A Middle Woodland burial complex of the Tennessee Valley in northwest Alabama that often is considered Hopewell because of the log and bark burial containers and the many Hopewell Interaction Sphere artifacts they contain.
- coprolite** Human or animal feces preserved by desiccation, fossilization, or being waterlogged; provides evidence of diet.
- cord-marked** Describing a surface texture created by pressing a cord-wrapped paddle into the wet surface of a clay pot before firing; this technique was used widely throughout North America.
- Cordilleran ice sheet** The ice cap that expanded over the northern Rocky Mountains of Canada and the United States during the Pleistocene.
- core tablet** A flake removed from the top of a core to form or rejuvenate the platform; also called a core rejuvenation flake.
- corporate leadership strategy** A type of leadership in which individual displays of power, wealth, and prestige are discouraged because power is shared across sectors of society, although inequalities in ritual knowledge and control may be great; contrast with **network leadership strategy**.
- cortex** The weathered outside surface of an unmodified rock; often a different color from surfaces that have been broken.
- Crab Orchard tradition** The Early and Middle Woodland ceramic tradition of southern Illinois and adjacent areas characterized by cordmarked and fabric-impressed conoidal, flat-bottomed vessels; also used to denote a Middle Woodland culture in the area.
- crescent** A crescent shaped stone tool associated with Paleoindian sites in California and the Great Basin.
- crested blade (*lame à crête*)** A blade bearing bidirectional flake scars on the dorsal surface as a result of a flintknapper's preparation of a ridge to guide the blade.
- CRM** See **cultural resource management**.
- crucible** The narrow chamber at the bottom of an iron furnace below the **bosh**; air was conducted into the crucible via the **tuyere**.
- CUHR** See **cultural unaffiliated human remains**.
- cultural anthropology** The study of the cultural aspects of humans, especially recent and contemporary social, technological, and ideological behaviors observed among living people.
- cultural ecology** A school of anthropological thought that influenced North American archaeology in the late twentieth century; associated with the anthropologist Julian Steward, this approach focuses on the interactions between human societies and their environment.
- cultural process/culture process** The mechanisms inherent in a culture that cause stability, change, or both; beginning in the 1960s, archaeologists argued that exploring these processes was their primary goal.
- cultural resource management (CRM)** An applied form of archaeology undertaken in response to various laws that require archaeological investigations as part of governmental programs.
- cultural resources** Sites, buildings, artifacts, and other remains that compose the nonrenewable and irreplaceable material traces of the past, including archaeological remains and historical records.
- culturally modified tree (CMT)** A tree that has been used in bark stripping or other activity that scarred the surface; there is debate over how many of these trees, which are common in the forests of the West, should be preserved.

- culturally unaffiliated human remains (CUHR) Human remains for which no cultural affiliation or shared group identity with a present day Indian tribe can be determined; there is debate about how these kinds of remains should be treated under NAGPRA.
- culture area A geographical region within which there is general similarity of culture; originally developed to group ethnographically known cultures, but often extended into the archaeological past of indigenous peoples.
- culture history An archaeological approach that emphasizes the ordering of artifacts into a sequence in time and space; most important in North American archaeology in the early to mid-twentieth century, but a baseline for further study of culture.
- culture stage An archaeological construct that refers to a general level of development based on formal attributes presumed to reflect cultural evolution; the Lithic, Archaic, and Formative stages usually are not used by North American archaeologists today.
- curated A term referring to stone tools, that have been maintained by resharpening or reworked into another tool form, possibly indicating concern with the availability or quality of stone; may also refer to the care of collections, as in **curation**.
- curation The professional care of archaeological remains with the goal of best preserving specimens for future research and public education. A crisis exists with respect to the curation of archaeological collections.
- Cuyamaca complex The Late Prehistoric occupation of mountains of the San Diego region, thought to represent the ancestors of the Yuman-speaking Kumeyaay; cremation, small triangular projectile points, and ceramics are characteristics of this complex.
- Darwinian archaeologist An archaeologist who approaches archaeology by trying to explicitly apply the principles of selection and evolutionary theory to the study of archaeological phenomena.
- data recovery program In CRM archaeology, any excavation program designed to recover information about cultural resources that are likely to be destroyed by construction or other development.
- datum point The base point used as the main reference station in setting out a grid at a site or in recording site locations; controls vertical as well as horizontal information.
- Death Valley I An early Holocene complex found in and around Death Valley; generally considered to be part of the Lake Mohave complex and also included in Bedwell's Western Pluvial Lakes tradition.
- debitage The material, including chips, flakes, and other debris, produced when stone is flaked to make tools.
- Denali complex An early archaeological culture of Alaska and the western Yukon (11,000–9000 BP) with clear affinities to the **Dyuktai tradition** of Siberia; core and blade technology including microblades and wedge-shaped cores.
- Denbigh Flint complex The original complex of the **Arctic Small Tool tradition** based on materials from the bottom of the Iyatayet Creek site at Cape Denbigh but eventually found over a much wider area of the High Arctic.
- dendrochronology A dating method that compares the rings in wood to a master sequence of rings for a region; trees add rings annually, but the width of the rings depends on the climate, thus creating a sequence for comparison with archaeological specimens.

- dental caries The disease associated with tooth decay or cavities; evidence of dental caries can be used to draw conclusions regarding the health of a population.
- dentalium shell A tubular, tusk-shaped shell from the Pacific Coast, but traded into the interior of North America; used for ornamentation.
- Deptford tradition An Early and Middle Woodland cultural tradition of South Carolina, Georgia, and northern Florida defined by distinctive checked and simple stamped vessels and possibly associated with the somewhat later **Swift Creek tradition**.
- Desert Archaic A term applied to the hunting and gathering adaptations of the Great Basin and adjacent arid areas that are now known to have been variable over time and space.
- Desert culture The name for the hunting and gathering adaptations in the Great Basin and adjacent arid areas assumed to have been basically uniform for 11,000 years into the Historic period; this idea has been abandoned as variability over time and space has become clearer.
- dew claw A vestigial or nonfunctional toe in a deer, antelope, or other animal reflecting the reduction in the number of functional toes from the five per foot of the earliest mammalian species.
- diagnostic artifact An artifact that allows archaeologists to identify a particular archaeological culture or time period; in effect it allows one to “diagnose” who made and left the item where it was found.
- Dinéah phase An archaeological phase of the upper San Juan River drainage that some archaeologists have argued represents pre-Pueblo Revolt (AD 1680) Navajo presence in the northern Southwest; other archaeologists reject assertions that the Navajo can be associated with this phase.
- discoïdals A round stone with slightly concave or flat sides, apparently used in the game of **chunkey** played by Southeastern Indians.
- Dismal River phase A Protohistoric archaeological culture from southern Nebraska, central and western Kansas, and southeastern Colorado thought by many to represent proto-Apache Indians; characterized by garden plots, hunting and gathering, and large villages.
- distolateral scraper A scraper that has a steep working edge on the sides and on the ends.
- domestication The selective breeding of plants and animals to render them more beneficial to humans; domesticated species have been altered by human control of reproduction for generations.
- dorsal surface This term, used in lithic analysis, refers to the outer surface of a flake that prior to detachment was the face of the core.
- Dorset tradition A cultural tradition of the Eastern Arctic between 2500 BP and 800 BP that may have been displaced by the Thule; sea mammals, especially seals, were important for subsistence, and the people used closed-socket harpoon heads, had substantial sod winter houses, and created highly developed portable art.
- Driftless area An area in southwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa that was never glaciated, though glaciers advanced around it at various points in the Ice Age; the topography here is more highly dissected than in surrounding areas.
- Dyuktai tradition A Paleolithic tradition of western Beringia dating from approximately 35,000 BP to 10,500 BP; associated with a bifacial technology generally similar to that of early sites in Alaska.

- Early Agricultural period** A term for the Late Archaic in the Southwest that defines the period from the introduction of maize cultivation at approximately 3500 BP to the beginnings of the regional sequences such as Hohokam, determined on the basis of ceramics.
- Early Horticultural period** The term sometimes used in New England for the Early and Middle Woodland because there is less distinction between these Woodland subperiods than elsewhere in the Eastern Woodlands; people made limited use of horticulture.
- Early period** In the Plateau culture area, this refers to the archaeological period at the Pleistocene–Holocene boundary between approximately 11,500 BP and 8000 BP; Clovis and Old Cordilleran assemblages date to this period; sometimes used in the Chumash area of California (ca. 6800–2500 BP).
- earspool** An ornamental earplug, usually a flat and round copper or pottery piece worn in the earlobe, sometimes big enough to stretch the earlobe greatly; common among the **Hopewell** and also the **Mississippians** of the Eastern Woodlands.
- earthlodge** A common house structure on the Great Plains, considered a **Plains Village tradition** trait and still built by Historic period tribes; square or circular earth-covered dwelling with post supports and covered entrance passage.
- Eastern Agricultural complex** A group of plant cultigens and domesticates of the East first cultivated in the Middle and Late Archaic; included are species of native gourds, marsh elder, chenopodium, sunflower, maygrass, little barley, and erect knotweed.
- Eastern Eight-Row corn (also called **Northern Flint corn**)** A variety of corn developed between 1050 BP and 950 BP; this variety was more cold tolerant than earlier varieties and possibly is responsible for the spread of maize agriculture across the Great Lakes and Northeast.
- ecofact** An unmodified natural item, such as part of a plant or animal, that is recovered from an archaeological site and provides information about human interaction with past environments. (See also **artifact**.)
- ecotone** A community of plants and animals found at the transition between biomes or other large biotic units; characterized by a mixture of species that may attract predators, including humans.
- effigy mounds** Burial mounds whose outline resembles that of an animal or, rarely, a human; these features were most common between 1250 BP and 900 BP in the upper Mississippi River valley and nearby areas; usually found in groups with linear and conical mounds.
- Effigy Mound culture** An early Late Woodland culture of the upper Mississippi valley in southern Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Minnesota which is characterized by complexes of effigy and other mounds and dated between approximately 1250 BP and 800 BP.
- egalitarian society** A society without marked differences in wealth, power, and prestige; status differences are largely based on age, gender, or an individual's achievements.
- electrical resistivity survey** A geophysical technique that measures differences in the way soils transmit an electric current, which may indicate varying retention of water and compactness between subsurface feature and non-feature areas.
- Emergent Mississippian** A term used, particularly in the Midwest, for the period from approximately 1150 BP to 950 BP when the first hints of the

- Mississippian tradition** begin to be archaeologically apparent; other scholars include this time in the Late Woodland.
- end scraper A tool with a steep working edge on one end, usually made by unifacial retouch or flaking of part or all of the edge of a flake or core; perhaps most often used to scrape hides.
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) A document produced as a result of required assessment of the environmental effects or impacts of a proposed federal project; the impact on cultural as well as natural resources must be assessed.
- estuary A part of a river such as its mouth, a bay, a salt marsh, or a lagoon where the river meets the sea and fresh water is mixed with the salt waters of the ocean tides.
- ethnicity Membership in an ethnic group based in part on the circumstances of one's birth and in part on one's own identification with that group's cultural traits, in contrast to those of other perceived ethnic groups.
- ethnoarchaeology The ethnographic study of living people to learn how material items are used and discarded as the archaeological record is created.
- ethnobotanist A person who investigates how plants are used in various cultures; often ethnobotany is an interdisciplinary subfield within archaeology that identifies and interprets plant remains recovered from archaeological sites.
- ethnohistory A multidisciplinary field allied with archaeology that reconstructs the past history of human groups, especially nonliterate ones, based upon a combination of indigenous or foreign written sources, oral traditions, and linguistic and archaeological data.
- evolutionary ecologist An adherent of the school of thought within the evolutionary sciences that explicitly focuses on the current and historical interactions among species; some archaeologists have adopted this ecological perspective in studying the human past.
- experimental archaeology The controlled reproduction of human activities (e.g., toolmaking, structure building, pottery firing) to understand how archaeological remains were produced and used.
- extended burial A burial in which the deceased has been placed with legs extended and arms to the side; variation in placement of deceased may be culturally significant.
- extended family A family group in which at least three generations are represented in a single household or in closely situated households.
- fabric-impressed ceramics A type of pottery in which fabric has been pressed into the wet clay surface during finishing, either to help meld the coils or to roughen the surface.
- Fairchance phase A Middle Woodland phase of southwestern Pennsylvania between 1900 BP and 1550 BP that participated in the Hopewell Interaction Sphere.
- fall line The boundary between the Piedmont section of the Appalachian Mountain system and the Coastal Plain in the Southeast, often marked by waterfalls as rivers flow toward the ocean.
- feather-tempered pottery Pottery made from clay mixed with feathers; found in **Choris culture** sites in the Alaskan Arctic.
- Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) The first step in the economic relief programs of Franklin Roosevelt established in 1933; its programs

- included the **Civil Works Administration** programs under which archaeology was done.
- fiber-tempered pottery Pottery made from clay mixed with various plant fibers; the first pottery on the Great Plains and in the Eastern Woodlands often was fiber tempered.
- fire-cracked rock (FCR) Cobbles and other pieces of rock that have been heated to the point of fracturing; common by-products of cooking in open fires and found at many sites.
- flexed burial A burial in which the deceased has been placed on its side with the legs drawn up to the chest and the arms bent; in a fetal position.
- flintknapper A person who flakes or knaps stone by striking it in order to make tools.
- flotation A process by which small **ecofacts** and **artifacts** are collected by suspending or floating the lighter materials in agitated water and collecting the heavier items that fall to the bottom; may be done in a handheld tub or with a machine.
- flux A substance used in the processing of metals; limestone was a common flux that helped remove impurities from iron ore.
- focus In the **Midwestern taxonomic system** as originally proposed, components could be grouped together into a “focus” based on formal similarities; this term is less commonly used today.
- foragers Often treated as a synonym for hunter-gatherer, this term should refer only to hunter-gatherers who live in bands that move as residential units to utilize seasonally and spatially restricted resources; compare **collectors**.
- Fort Ancient tradition A Late Prehistoric cultural tradition of the central Ohio River valley (950–250 BP); these people were settled agricultural, tribal villagers who made shell-tempered pottery with some Mississippian stylistic elements and may have been ancestral Shawnee.
- Fort Walton Mississippian A Mississippian tradition regional development or chiefdom of the Florida panhandle and adjacent areas; **Southeastern Ceremonial complex** involvement and elaborate mound building in the Middle Mississippian period.
- Fremont culture An archaeological tradition with several regional variants of the eastern Great Basin (1600–700 BP) associated with maize agriculture and baskets made through coiling, as well as pithouses and surface architecture.
- Fremont dent corn A drought- and cold-tolerant variety of corn whose kernels become indented at maturity.
- frequency seriation A form of **seriation** and relative dating that orders assemblages by the percentages or frequencies of different artifacts within them based on the idea that artifact styles first will be rare, then more important, and finally will decline in popularity.
- Full-fluted horizon A term used for Paleoindian points with deeply indented bases and lengthy flutes including Folsom, Redstone, Gainey, Barnes and Cumberland varieties; flutes on these points may have been struck by indirect percussion or pressure.
- functionalism A school of thought that sees social phenomena in terms of their function either in integrating society or in meeting the needs of the individuals that make up the society; influenced North American archaeologists in the mid-twentieth century.

- Gadsden Purchase** Land purchased by the United States from Mexico in 1854 to assure U.S. possession of practicable railroad routes west; negotiated six years after the end of the Mexican War, this acquisition gave the United States much territory in the Southwest.
- galena** A soft blue-gray mineral that was widely traded prehistorically; when galena is crushed, a silver glitter is produced, and the powder can provide a white pigment when oxidized; smelted into lead for shot by Mississippi Valley tribes in the Historic period.
- garden hunting** The practice of trapping or otherwise procuring the animals attracted to gardens and fields; for farmers this practice allows the acquisition of meat with relatively little energy expenditure while reducing competition for planted crops.
- general theory** The broadest level of archaeological theory that contributes to anthropology; theoretical frameworks that describe and attempt to explain cultural behaviors and processes that operated in the past, as opposed to **middle-range theory**.
- geoarchaeologist** An archaeologist also trained in geology who evaluates sediments and stratigraphy to reconstruct the depositional history of a site or other geological questions about a site and its contents; one of the interdisciplinary methods that helps archaeologists reconstruct past environments.
- Geographical Information System (GIS)** A computer program designed to retrieve, store, and manipulate geographic information; used to manage and analyze site locations, environmental attributes acquired from maps and images, and distributions within sites.
- geophysical prospecting/survey** The use of geophysical techniques to investigate subsurface features without excavation; the most common instruments employed are **ground-penetrating radar (GPR)**, **magnetometers**, and **electrical resistivity survey**.
- glacial** The cold part of the warm-and-cold alternation within a major period of glaciation during which ice expands. (See also **interglacial**.)
- glacial kame** A mound or ridge that formed when glacial meltwater deposited poorly sorted gravels and sands; often associated with kettle holes.
- Glacial Kame Mortuary complex** Late Archaic complex found in the Midwest and Upper Great Lakes and characterized by red ocher burials placed in glacial deposits; also recovered are copper and marine shell artifacts, bone pins and awls, and **birdstones**.
- Glades culture** Coastal South Florida societies that were not Mississippian, although they coexisted with this tradition in time; subsistence was based mostly on marine resources including whales, sharks, crabs, rays, sailfish, and marlin.
- Glen Meyer complex** An early Late Woodland complex located in southern Ontario that follows the **Princess Point complex** and has figured in arguments about the development of the Ontario Iroquoian tradition.
- global positioning system (GPS)** A system of satellites that allows one's position to be calculated with great accuracy by the use of an electronic receiver; used widely by contemporary archaeologists to acquire precise locational information.
- glottochronology** A method of linguistic analysis that compares two languages and estimates the time of probable divergence from a common language;

- somewhat controversial within linguistics but sometimes yields useful additions to archaeological data.
- good gray cultures A label for the Late Woodland of the East that characterizes these cultures as drab in comparison to Middle Woodland and Mississippian; misses the importance of the variable cultural reconfigurations and changes that occurred during this period.
- gorget A large ornament of shell, copper, wood, or stone worn suspended on a cord from the neck.
- GPR See **ground penetrating radar**.
- GPS See **global positioning system**.
- graver A chisel-like tool, often a flake with an edge worked into a sharp point, that can be used to score incisions and grooves in relatively soft material; characteristic of Paleoindian assemblages.
- gray literature Unpublished archaeological reports, most often produced as part of a CRM project and submitted in compliance with CRM laws and regulations; these reports often contain important information but are not readily available and the data they contain can't be utilized easily.
- Great Basin culture area The large internally drained area between the Sierra Nevada of eastern California and the Rocky Mountains in which hunter-gatherer lifeways persisted for millennia, ending only after ranching began in the late nineteenth century.
- great house A term used by Southwestern archaeologists for large, multi-room, or multistoried, aboveground structures that are bigger than average in size or in numbers of the individual rooms and kivas; interpreted as having had integrative purposes.
- great kiva An oversized pit structure or kiva in the northern Southwest that archaeologists understand to have had ritual integrative functions at the community level.
- Great Salt Lake Fremont A regional variant of the Fremont culture found around Great Salt Lake and in southern Idaho; lacking in masonry architecture that made heavier use of wild resources than other Fremont variants.
- grog-tempered ceramics Ceramics that have crushed, pre-fired ceramic pieces mixed with the clay before firing; usually crushed sherds from broken vessels in North America but in some parts of the world such tempering materials are specially fired and crushed.
- ground-penetrating radar (GPR) A geophysical technique that transmits waves of electromagnetic radiation into the ground and records the attributes of the reflected energy, which can reveal subsurface evidence for structures and other features.
- Gulf Formational stage A proposed cultural stage spanning the Late Archaic–Early Woodland boundary in the Southeast's Gulf Coastal Plain; not recognized by most authorities, but makes note of cultural changes that contrast with early forager lifestyles.
- Gulf of Maine Archaic tradition An Archaic tradition of Maine and the Maritime provinces in which ground stone rods, gouges, and adzes predominate; spans 9500 BP to 6000 BP, and its variations are not yet well understood.
- Gypsum period The name for the Middle Archaic in the southwestern Great Basin and Mojave Desert; millingstones as well as projectile points suggest diverse subsistence.

- habitat** An area of land with physical characteristics such as minerals, soils, rainfall, and temperature that affect which plants and animals live there; habitats are modified as the plants and animals develop, use resources, deposit waste material, and eventually die.
- Hakataya** A term that is essentially synonymous with **Patayan tradition** and refers to the archaeological tradition of the western Southwest after the Archaic.
- haplogroup** A related group of alleles or lineage found in **mtDNA** analysis that tends to be inherited as a package; useful for tracing ancestry and relatedness.
- haplogroup X** A particular **mtDNA** lineage that is found in roughly 3 percent of modern Native American populations as well as in 4 percent of European populations, raising the hypothesis that some Native Americans have a connection to Caucasian lineages.
- haplotype** A combination of alleles that are linked and are transmitted together on a chromosome; several haplotypes make up haplogroups and can be used to trace ancestry.
- harpoon valve** A part of a composite harpoon head; two valves form a complete head, often with the addition of a stone or metal point or end blade.
- Havana Hopewell** Middle Woodland, **Hopewell** culture of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River valleys in Illinois and adjacent Missouri and Iowa; known for distinctive zoned incised pottery.
- heat treating** The practice of heating chert or flint to temperatures that allow the stone to be more effectively flaked; color changes, sharper edges, increased brittleness, and faster wear may all be results of heat treating.
- Helton phase** A Middle–Late Archaic phase found at sites in Illinois and Missouri; characterized by side-notched and stemmed points, carved bone pins, and channel basin metates; there is evidence for exchange of copper, galena, and other artifacts.
- heritage tourism** The industry that supports the public presentation of the past through reconstructions of sites, buildings, and events; this kind of tourism is a growing part of the economy in some areas of North America.
- heterarchy** A network system in which all the elements share roughly equal positions; contrasts with hierarchies in which positions are unequal and ranked.
- historic district** A section of a city or landscape that is considered to have historical value because of the quality of the buildings or the significance of activities or events that took place there; historic districts may be defined by local ordinance or state and federal laws for the purpose of protecting historic buildings, sites, and other properties.
- Historic period** An archaeological period that begins when written records about the past are available; in North America this is associated with contact with Europeans.
- historical archaeology** A branch of archaeology that uses a mixture of archaeological and historical methods to study literate people who made written records; generally exclusive of the archaeology of ancient civilizations such as Roman or Maya.
- historical particularism** An anthropological school of thought that saw cultures as unique products of specific historical developments; this approach had a strong influence on archaeologists early in the twentieth century, causing them to focus on **culture history**.

- Hohokam tradition A cultural tradition, based on irrigation farming, that developed in the southern Arizona desert area after approximately 1750 BP and persisted through several phases until at least 500 BP.
- Holocene The geologic epoch beginning at the end of the Pleistocene, or roughly the last 10,000 years; this period of relative warmth may simply be an interglacial, but it is the period of most of the human past in North America.
- Hopewell A Middle Woodland mound-building tradition with two main centers, in Ohio and in Illinois; exchange of artifacts and exotic raw materials throughout the East; large earthwork and mound complexes, but few large habitation sites.
- Hopewell Interaction Sphere The intercultural exchange of raw materials, ritual items, and shared symbolism among Middle Woodland people of the Eastern Woodlands; participation at some level is evident from Florida to Ontario, Kansas to North Carolina.
- hopper mortar A shallow mortar on which a conical basket without a bottom is affixed to contain the ground material.
- horizon As defined by Willey and Phillips (1958), an archaeological unit that links phases based on traits of material culture that appear to have spread widely during a relatively short period of time; compare **tradition**.
- hot desert biome The desert biome of southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and many parts of northern Mexico, which is very dry and very hot in the summer and dominated by creosote bush.
- households The smallest social units that live together and cooperate economically as a family; inferred by archaeologists from structures, features, and artifacts.
- Hunters Home phase Supposedly the last Middle Woodland Phase in New York, dating between 1150 BP and 950 BP; the validity of this designation is questioned along with the **in situ hypothesis**.
- Hunting phase The archaeological unit defined as following Oak Grove in the Santa Barbara area; mortars and pestles are a part of the inventory, as are projectile points, suggesting a greater emphasis on hunting than in the **Oak Grove phase**.
- hydration rim (obsidian) A thin layer of hydrated rock, visible under polarized light, that builds up on the surface of obsidian after flaking; if environmental factors and type of obsidian are held constant, the thickness of this layer can be a measure of relative age.
- Hypsithermal Interval A Holocene warm climatic episode from about 9000 BP to 2500 BP; may be treated as the eastern equivalent of the Altithermal but more properly the name of a longer warm climatic regime with variable precipitation.
- ice creeper A flat piece of bone or ivory or, in modern times, other material, with pointed projections carved into one side; when strapped to boots, these devices provide traction on ice and snow; made by Dorset and Inuit people of the Arctic.
- ice-free corridor A strip of land east of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta where the Cordilleran and Laurentian ice sheets parted during warmer parts of the Ice Age; thought to have been a possible route for early hunters and game to enter the continental interior.
- Illinois Hopewell The variant of Hopewell culture found in the Illinois River valley; also called Havana Hopewell.

- Independence phase** An early variant of the Arctic Small Tool tradition found in northern Greenland (4000–3700 BP); the first documented human occupation this far north.
- index fossil** The fossil remains of an organism believed to have existed over a wide area for a relatively short period of time; can be used to correlate strata in terms of their relative age.
- Indian Removal Act of 1830** The law by which Congress ordered the removal of Native people east of the Mississippi River to Indian Territory in Oklahoma; rich farmlands were confiscated for Euro-American use despite some Native resistance. (See also **Trail of Tears**.)
- indigenous archaeology** Archaeology controlled by indigenous people and consistent with native values and goals.
- industrial archaeology** An archaeological subfield that is focused on investigating the nature and development of industry, especially that of the early part of the Industrial Revolution.
- in situ** Unmoved from the original position; describing artifacts that are the best candidates for archaeological study because context and association are known.
- in situ hypothesis** The proposal that Northern Iroquoian culture originated in the Northeast from earlier cultural traditions; now being questioned based on data that could suggest in-migration into the Northeast.
- intaglio** A design or pattern cut into a surface, as when effigy mound builders began by outlining the shape of the mound on the ground surface.
- integrity** The condition of particular remains such as structures and features; the extent to which they have been disturbed/modified, which lowers integrity; this term is used widely in the field of historic preservation to help assess the relative importance of remains.
- interglacial** The warm phase in the warm-and-cold alternation within a major period of glaciation, during which glaciers shrink in size and thickness. (See also **glacial**.)
- Intrusive Mound culture** A Late Woodland archaeological culture of Ohio that postdated the mound-building Hopewell but used the Hopewell mounds to bury their own dead.
- Ipiutak culture** Part of the Norton tradition that begins after 2000 BP in north Alaska; lacks pottery but is known for its elaborate art style, which shows some similarities to Siberian art styles.
- isolated artifact** A single artifact, unassociated with other artifacts or features, usually recovered from the surface during archaeological survey; usually not considered by itself sufficient evidence of an archaeological site.
- isostatic** A term that refers to the pressure equilibrium for layers of the earth's crust that results from gravity, layer thickness, and density; during the Pleistocene the weight of the ice sheets depressed the crust, and following it the crust began rebounding.
- isotopic analysis** Analysis of the isotopic ratios preserved in human and animal bone; these chemical signatures left by different foods are an important source of information on the reconstruction of prehistoric diets (See also **¹²C/ ¹³C ratio**.)
- Issaquena phase** A Late Middle Woodland phase that dated between 1750 BP and 1450 BP in the lower Mississippi River valley; this phase shows less evidence of Hopewell influence than the preceding Marksville phase.

- jacal** A wall construction technique using wooden stakes plastered with mud; can also refer to a building constructed in this manner and roofed with straw.
- Jesuit Relations** A collection of texts about New France and its inhabitants written by various Jesuit missionaries in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- Jornada Mogollon** A regional branch of the **Mogollon tradition** found in south central New Mexico, far west Texas, and northern Chihuahua, Mexico (ca. 1750–550 BP).
- Kachemak stage/period** The second part of the **Kodiak tradition** (3500–1000 BP) of Pacific Alaska; maritime hunter-gatherers who made both chipped stone and ground slate tools including the *ulu*; some archaeologists consider this a separate tradition, rather than a stage of Kodiak.
- Kansas City Hopewell** A Woodland cultural complex that developed in the Missouri River valley north of Kansas City after 2000 BP; pottery similar to Illinois Hopewell pottery in the Midwest; these people built mounds and practiced horticulture.
- Katchina cult** A set of Pueblo spiritual beliefs and ritual practices revolving around katchinas, who mediate with the gods; possibly established 500 years ago as Mogollon and Anasazi peoples integrated in the region of the Little Colorado River.
- Kayenta Branch Anasazi** A regional branch of Ancestral Pueblo archaeological cultures in northeastern Arizona (ca. 1400–650 BP).
- kazigi** A large structure that served both as a ceremonial house and as a men's house among the Eskimo; apparent prehistoric examples come from some Norton tradition sites in the Bering Strait area.
- Keith complex** A Late Woodland complex dating between 1350 BP and 1050 BP evident in western Kansas and Nebraska between the Platte and Arkansas rivers; characterized by Scallorn points and cord-roughened, calcite-tempered pottery.
- Kennewick skeleton** A 9000-year-old skeleton recovered from the Columbia River near Kennewick, Washington, in 1996 that became the center of a major legal controversy over how **NAGPRA** should be implemented in cases of very old skeletal material.
- Kensington stone** A roughly rectangular slab of stone covered in runes found in Kensington, Minnesota, in 1898; originally cited as proof that Viking explorers were in the interior of North America, this object is now considered a fraud of unknown origin.
- kettle hole** A depression in the ground formed by the melting of a buried block of ice within deposits left as glaciers retreated; in formerly glaciated areas, these holes often have filled with water and become lakes.
- kiva** A room used for ritual purposes by both pre-Columbian and modern Puebloan peoples in the Southwest; generally round and subterranean prehistorically, but modern examples are built aboveground and often are square.
- Kodiak tradition** A cultural tradition of Kodiak Island and adjacent areas of Pacific Alaska beginning about 3500 BP; **Takli** and **Kachemak stages**.
- Koniag tradition** The archaeological culture of the Late Prehistoric period on Kodiak Island and in adjacent areas that is clearly ancestral to Historic Alutiiq culture; the people were complex maritime hunters of the last thousand years.

- La Jolla complex** An archaeological culture of southern California and Baja California that is part of the Millingstone horizon and is found at coastal shell midden sites.
- labret** An ornament inserted into an incision in the lower lip or cheek; worn by several different peoples of the Americas.
- ladrillo** A flat, fired tile, used for floors and other construction in Spanish colonial settlements.
- Lake Agassiz** A proglacial lake formed by the meltwater of the Wisconsin ice sheet in the center of North America; at one time this lake was bigger than all the present-day Great Lakes combined.
- Lake Creek focus** A Middle Woodland archaeological complex of the Southern Plains in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles; shows some contact with Southwestern groups, as evidenced by the presence of Jornada Mogollon brownware.
- Lake Forest Archaic** A Middle to Late Archaic archaeological tradition in the Midwest, Upper Great Lakes, and Northeast thought to be associated with adaptations to the transitional or mixed coniferous/deciduous forest; characterized by broad-bladed, side-notched points.
- Lake Forest Middle Woodland** One name given to the group of non-Hopewellian Middle Woodland cultures of the northern part of the Upper Great Lakes (e.g., **Laurel**).
- Lake Mohave complex** An archaeological complex that includes lozenge-shaped, stemmed points found in the Mojave and Colorado deserts of southeastern California (11,000–9000 BP); an example of the Western Pluvial Lakes tradition.
- Late period** The end of the pre-Columbian sequence in the Plateau culture area from 4000 BP to AD 1720; at this time the ethnographic pattern of settlement in large pithouse villages and heavy reliance on salmon developed; sometimes used in the Chumash area of California for the time after about 1000 BP.
- Late Prehistoric period** A period sometimes used by archaeologists working in the Great Plains or the Eastern Woodlands to designate cultural groups that appear archaeologically between about 900 or 1000 years ago and the Historic period.
- Laurel culture** A Middle Woodland culture of the central Subarctic associated with distinctive coarsely tempered conoidal pots and burial mounds; Hopewell ceramics have been recovered from the mounds.
- Laurentian ice sheet** The massive glacier that expanded over much of Canada east of the Rocky Mountains during the Pleistocene; this ice sheet met the Cordilleran during the coldest periods.
- law of association** Items found together in the same stratigraphic unit are associated temporally and culturally; although exceptions are possible, this assumption is a useful working hypothesis in archaeology.
- law of superposition** Layers of sediment or rock are older than layers above them and younger than those below them unless they have been disturbed by some natural or human process.
- League of the Haudenosaunee** The confederacy of the five Iroquois nations in New York, the “people of the longhouse”; apparently established by about 425 BP.
- level** A term archaeologists use for the vertical sections of sediment removed in excavation; a level may correspond to a natural or cultural stratum or be an arbitrary thickness.

- linguistic anthropology The study of the structure, history, and diversity of human languages as well as of the relationship between language and other aspects of culture.
- Little Ice Age A period of cold climate that began around 650 BP (AD 1300) and did not end until the middle of the nineteenth century; may be associated with cultural shifts in various parts of North America.
- Little Pluvial A period of increased effective rainfall from about 4000 BP that filled some lakes in the Great Basin.
- Llano complex An alternative name for the **Clovis culture**.
- Lochnore phase archaeological culture of the Northern Plateau in Canada representing the beginning of the **Plateau Pithouse tradition**; these foragers utilized anadromous fish, lived in pithouses, and may have been the area's first Salishan speakers.
- loess Unconsolidated, wind-deposited sediment composed largely of silt-sized particles apparently derived from reworked glacial outwash deposits; occurs widely in the central part of the North American continent.
- longhouse A long, narrow house often inhabited by multiple families; such structures were made in various ways by different Native American groups, with the wood and bark Iroquoian longhouse of the Northeast being the most famous.
- macroband A group of related hunter-gatherer families who come together seasonally in large camps but disperse into small family bands at other times of the year.
- Magnetometer The geophysical instrument that measures the earth's magnetic field to identify patterns in intensity and direction that may have resulted from human activities; subsurface features may be detectable in this fashion.
- malacologist A scientist who studies mollusks including snails, which can be particularly sensitive indicators of past environments.
- manifest destiny The opinion common during the nineteenth century that the United States was destined and obligated to expand its territory to the western coast. Displacement of Native populations, often considered inferior, was justified as an inevitable consequence.
- Mann focus A Hopewell culture represented by nearly 100 sites located in southwestern Indiana; named after the large habitation site, the Mann site, and known for high-quality **Hopewell Interaction Sphere** artifacts; the GE Mound is representative.
- mano A handheld grinding stone used with a **metate** to process seeds, nuts, maize, and other items.
- Marginella* bead A bead made from the shell of a marine snail belonging to the genus *Marginella*; the presence of these beads in inland sites indicates long-distance exchange from coastal regions.
- marine reservoir effect The difference in radiocarbon content between marine and terrestrial organisms; marine organisms take in radiocarbon from both the atmosphere and the ocean in which they live, and in calculating radiocarbon dates on marine organisms a correction must be made for this effect.
- Maritime Archaic tradition A maritime tradition of the east coast of the Subarctic (7500–3000 BP); elaborate burials are characteristic; the people used ground slate, bone, antler, and ivory tools; Southern Branch extends into the **Northeast culture area** and Northern Branch along the Labrador coast.

- Marksville phase** A Hopewell tradition phase dating from approximately 2150 BP to 1750 BP in the lower Mississippi River valley; named after the Marksville earthworks in Louisiana, where ceramics with Hopewell iconography and other Hopewell artifacts were found.
- Mast Forest Archaic** Another name for the Middle–Late Archaic **Narrow Point tradition**, which emphasizes the presumed coincidence between this tradition and the oak–hickory deciduous forest of the East; “mast” refers to the nuts produced in this forest.
- matrilocal residence** Describing a social norm in which married couples reside with the wife’s family; this arrangement is common in societies in which descent is through the female line, or matrilineal.
- meat weight estimate** An estimate of how much usable meat is represented by the bone fragments from each animal taxon in a faunal assemblage; potentially useful in determining relative dietary importance of food items.
- medicine wheel** A round surface, stone feature, usually with a central stone cairn and spokes emanating from the center; these features, made on the northern Plains from the Archaic to the Late Prehistoric, apparently had ceremonial significance.
- Medio period** The period in the Casas Grandes (Paquimè) sequence in which Casas Grandes reached its height (ca. 750–500 BP).
- Medieval Warm period** A period of warm climate in the Northern Hemisphere that preceded the **Little Ice Age**, stretching from approximately AD 900–1300.
- Medithermal** The third period of Antevs’s tripartite scheme for postglacial climate in the West (after 4500 BP) during which climate has been essentially modern in character.
- megafauna** The big-game animals that existed during and shortly after the Pleistocene (e.g., the mammoth and the mastodon); there is some debate concerning the role humans played in the extinction of the megafauna.
- memorandum of understanding (MOU)** In CRM archaeology, a formal document between government agencies and/or other parties providing a description of each party’s responsibilities in managing cultural resources.
- Menlo phase** An archaeological culture in the Surprise Valley of northeastern California from approximately 6500 BP to 4500 BP; semisubterranean, multifamily houses suggesting base camps, in contrast to other more mobile Archaic adaptations in the Great Basin.
- Mesa Verde Branch Anasazi** A regional branch of Ancestral Pueblo archaeological cultures from the Four Corners area; named after the cluster of famous sites at Mesa Verde in southern Colorado.
- mezizo** A term of Spanish origin for people of mixed Native American and European descent.
- metate** A flat or shallowly concave stone that serves as the base on which seeds, nuts, maize, and other items are ground with a **mano**.
- Métis** An ethnic category for the descendants of aboriginal women and fur traders in Canada; rebelled unsuccessfully against Canadian sovereignty when **Rupert’s Land** was annexed in 1870.
- microblade** A small, narrow **blade** that is less than 1.2 centimeters (0.5 in.) long, made from **wedge-shaped cores** by means of pressure flaking; diagnostic of early archaeological cultures found in Alaska, western Canada, and northwestern United States, as well as Siberia.

- midden Rubbish or debris resulting from human activities; many permanent sites have specific areas where trash was disposed, and these can be archaeological gold mines because of the **artifacts** and **ecofacts** they contain.
- midden ring A ring of rubbish or occupation debris surrounding structures or other living areas in a site.
- Middle Missouri tradition A second **Plains Village tradition** subdivision centered along the Missouri River in the Dakotas; characterized by earthlodges, mixed horticulture, and bison hunting and exchange networks.
- Middle period In the Plateau culture area, this is the period from approximately 8000 BP to 4000 BP for which various hunting and gathering cultures are known, including some who built pithouses, lived in semisedentary villages and ate large amounts of salmon; sometimes used in the Chumash area of California (ca. 2500–1000 BP).
- middle-range theory Theoretical statements about how specific human behaviors correlate with observed empirical patterns such as in the archaeological record; contrasts with **general theory** about broad cultural processes to which archaeology also contributes.
- Middle Tier Middle Woodland A name sometimes given to non-Hopewellian Middle Woodland groups of the Upper Great Lakes area.
- Middlesex complex A phase designation sometimes used for Early Woodland components with Adena ceremonial objects in the Mid-Atlantic and the Northeast.
- midpassage An area enclosed by parallel rock slab walls in houses otherwise defined by elliptical rings of rock; midpassages apparently served as storage areas for **Independence**, **Pre-Dorset**, and **Dorset** people.
- Midwestern taxonomic system A method of cultural historical classification based on formal similarities and differences in material culture without reference to time and space; developed in the 1930s. (See also **component**, **focus**, **aspect**, **phase**, and **pattern**.)
- Millingstone horizon Coastal southern California sites of Archaic hunter-gatherers contain many millingstones and manos and are interpreted as indicating the addition of seed processing to older foraging lifeways.
- minimum number of individuals (MNI) The lowest number of animals that will account for the collection of bones from an animal taxon; some faunal analysts believe that this statistic provides a better estimate of dietary importance than **NISP**.
- Mississippian tradition The broad archaeological pattern that characterizes much of the Midwest and the Southeast in Late Prehistoric times; variable in nature but associated with platform mounds, agriculture, shell-tempered pottery, and chiefdoms.
- mitigation Measures taken to reduce negative impacts on the natural or cultural environment; in CRM archaeology this can include avoidance but may mean full-scale excavation of a site that otherwise would be destroyed by a construction project. (See also **off-site mitigation**.)
- MNI See **minimum number of individuals**.
- Modern period A term used by archaeologists to refer to the Protohistoric and Historic periods along the Northwest Coast.
- Mogollon tradition An archaeological tradition of the mountainous Southwest in eastern Arizona, southern New Mexico, and the Mexican states of Sonora and Chihuahua after the Archaic; not easily linked with historically known tribes.

- moist temperate forest biome The forest biome of the northern Pacific coast of North America, which receives very high rainfall and is dominated by conifers like hemlock and red cedar.
- monolithic axe An axe made from a single large piece of stone and usually not intended for actual use; associated with the **Southeastern Ceremonial complex** in the Eastern Woodlands.
- Monongahela tradition A Late Prehistoric archaeological tradition of southwestern Pennsylvania; characterized by maize-bean-squash agriculture, shell-tempered pottery, and stockaded villages.
- Moorehead Burial complex A Late Archaic mortuary complex of northern New England once associated with “Red Paint People” because of the use of red ochre in the burials; artifacts and other remains suggest affinities to the Maritime Archaic and the Terminal Archaic.
- moraines The rocks and soil or till carried and deposited by glaciers into mounds or ridges as the ice melts; end or terminal moraines mark the farthest extent of a glacier.
- Moresby tradition An early cultural tradition on the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia (7500–5000 BP); characterized by microblade technology.
- mortuary encampment A special-purpose camp occupied only while rituals associated with cremating, burying, or otherwise processing the dead are conducted.
- mound An artificial pile of dirt or stone that is not the result of natural deposition processes; in pre-Columbian North America, complex mounds of various sizes and shapes were used to bury the dead, to elevate important structures, and to mark territory and ritual spaces.
- Mount Mazama A volcano in the Oregon part of the Cascade Range that erupted between 7000 BP and 6700 BP, leaving a distinctive ash layer in many areas of the West; today Crater Lake is in the collapsed caldera of this volcano.
- Mouse Creek phase A Late Mississippian phase dating from 500 BP to 400 BP (AD 1450–1550) along the Hiwassee River of eastern Tennessee; the Mouse Creeks and Ledford Island sites are representative.
- mtDNA Mitochondrial DNA, found in the mitochondria of a cell; this part of a person’s genetic inheritance is an important tool in tracing lineage because it is passed on only through the maternal line.
- NAGPRA Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; a federal law that requires all public institutions in the United States to inventory and possibly return human remains and culturally sensitive items to the Native American descendants.
- Narrow Point tradition Another name for the **Mast Forest Archaic**, a Middle to Late Archaic archaeological tradition possibly representing adaptation to deciduous forests south of the transition forests of the East; characterized by narrow-bladed and stemmed projectile points.
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) The U.S. act at the center of federal historic preservation policy; set up the **National Register of Historic Places**, and its **Sections 106** and **110** mandate the protection and inventory of cultural resources.
- National Register of Historic Places A list of significant sites, buildings, and historic districts maintained by the secretary of the interior as required by the **National Historic Preservation Act**; these properties are eligible for grants and may be protected from development.

- Neanderthal** Describing a hominin that lived during the late Pleistocene in Europe and Southwest Asia; considered by some to be an Archaic form of *Homo sapiens* and by others to be a species separate from modern humans.
- Nebo Hill phase** A Late Archaic phase known from the Missouri River valley at the Kansas–Missouri border (4500–2600 BP); characterized by lanceolate points, hilltop sites, fiber-tempered pottery, and some burial mounds suggesting Eastern affinities.
- Nenana complex** A blade and biface industry found in the earliest components from sites in central Alaska (12,000–11,000 BP); Chindadn points and other chipped stone tools with general affinities to Paleoindian complexes are found, but no fluted points.
- neoevolutionism** An anthropological school of thought based on the idea that human behavior and cultural change are characterized by distinct patterns and mechanisms that can be explained by evolutionary processes; developed by Leslie White.
- nephrite** A hard, fibrous semiprecious stone that varies in color from green to white and is a form of jade also called greenstone; used to make adzes and other tools.
- Nesikep tradition** An archaeological tradition of the Northern Plateau in British Columbia during the Middle period; the people were foragers to whom hunting of deer and elk apparently was important.
- network leadership strategy** A hierarchical leadership strategy in which the individual leader has a monopoly on power, dominates lesser vassals, and may acquire and display great wealth; contrast with **corporate leadership strategy**.
- New Deal archaeology** Archaeological work done as part of President Franklin Roosevelt’s plan to bring economic relief, recovery, and reform to the country during the Great Depression; several major excavations generated large archaeological collections.
- NISP** See **number of identified specimens**.
- Northeast culture area** The culture area encompassing the northern part of the Eastern Woodlands; divided in this text into the Midwest and the Great Lakes on the one hand and the Northeast proper and the Mid-Atlantic on the other.
- Northern Archaic tradition** A cultural tradition that groups together a number of artifact complexes that include side-notched points, large bifaces, various scrapers, and notched pebbles found in the boreal forests of northwestern North America dating from about 6500 BP.
- Northern Cordilleran complex** A term used to group materials lacking microblades but containing leaf-shaped points and blades in the western Subarctic between 10,000 BP and 7000 BP. (See also **Nenana complex** and **Old Cordilleran tradition**.)
- Northern Flint corn** Another name for **Eastern Eight-Row corn**; probably developed in the Northeast between 1050 BP and 950 BP and perhaps this more cold tolerant form was responsible for the spread of maize agriculture in Late Prehistoric times.
- Northern Iroquoian tradition** The cultural tradition associated with Iroquoian language speakers in the interior Northeast; includes the Iroquois tribes of New York and a number of other ethnic groups, which may be best known archaeologically.

- Northwest Coast culture area** The narrow culture area that stretches along the coast of the Pacific from northern California to southern Alaska; relatively complex native cultures developed here, with economies based on spawning fish and marine resources.
- Northwest Microblade tradition** A term used for early assemblages from the western Subarctic and the Northwest Coast that include microblades; other archaeologists subsume these materials under the **Paleoarctic** or the **Northern Archaic** when notched points are present.
- Norton culture** A culture of the western Arctic that developed out of the **Choris culture** and was found from the Alaska Peninsula southward beginning about 2500 BP; check-stamped pottery, stone lamps, caribou hunting, and sealing were characteristic.
- Norton tradition** A cultural tradition of the western Arctic from 3000 BP to 1200 BP, including the **Choris**, **Norton**, and **Ipiutak** cultures; stone tools similar to Arctic Small Tool tradition tools, but with ceramics and the oil lamp.
- number of identified specimens (NISP)** The count of bone and shell fragments present in a faunal assemblage; comparison of these counts among taxa may be used to determine the nature of past subsistence; compare **minimum number of individuals**.
- Numic speakers** People who speak a Numic language such as Shoshone, Paiute, or Ute; historically, Numic speakers occupied nearly the entire Great Basin.
- Numic spread** The migration of Numic speakers across the Great Basin; the timing of this migration is much debated, as is the archaeological signature of Numic speakers.
- Nunavut** A new Canadian territory created in 1999 in the eastern Arctic as a result of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in 1993; Inuit make up 85 percent of the population.
- Oak Grove phase** An Archaic group in the Santa Barbara area that emphasized millingstones; followed by the **Hunting phase**.
- obsidian** A naturally occurring black volcanic glass that produces some of the sharpest edges known on stone tools; traded over long distances in North America.
- Ocean Bay tradition** The earliest maritime tradition along the northern Pacific coast of Alaska (ca. 7000–4500 BP); originally dominated by chipped stone implements, but ground slate tools became common in later traditions.
- off-site mitigation** The mitigation of deleterious effects on cultural or other resources involving compensation for resource loss by investigating or protecting resources similar to or more important than those actually being damaged.
- Ohio Hopewell** The variant of **Hopewell** found in the southern Ohio center of Hopewell.
- Okvik culture** A culture associated with the earliest part of the **Thule tradition**, known for its elaborate art style that emphasizes zoned geometric patterns more than the related **Old Bering Sea culture**; developed on St. Lawrence Island of western Alaska and the Chukchi Peninsula.
- Olcott** A term used to group heavily patinated material, generally from surface contexts, found in western Washington State (9000–5000 BP); characterized by leaf-shaped points (Cascade points) and pebble tools; part of the Old Cordilleran tradition.

- Old Bering Sea culture** A culture associated with the earliest part of the **Thule tradition**, known for its elaborate art style that is more curvilinear than the related **Okvik** style; found on St. Lawrence Island and adjacent areas, including the Asian coast.
- Old Copper culture** A Late Archaic complex of the Midwest and Upper Great Lakes characterized by burials or caches with copper artifacts that were cold-hammered or annealed before working; copper apparently came mostly from deposits along Lake Superior.
- Old Cordilleran tradition** An archaeological complex including leaf-shaped points, pebble tools, and blades but lacking microblades found in sites in the Pacific Northwest; sometimes called the **Pebble Tool tradition**. (See also **Northern Cordilleran**.)
- Old Women's phase** A Late Prehistoric/Protohistoric archaeological culture found in southern Alberta and Montana; characterized by bison hunting, Plains Side Notched points, and sometimes pottery.
- Olivella* A genus of small marine snails from the Pacific Coast; its shells, made into ornaments, were traded into the interior prehistorically and treated as a medium of exchange.
- olla* A wide-mouthed vessel with tapered sides used as cooking pot or jar.
- Oneota tradition** A Late Prehistoric culture of southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa, with a mixture of Mississippian and Plains Village traits including horticulture and seasonal bison hunting, shell-tempered pottery, and mounds.
- one-rod-and-bundle coiling** A type of basket construction in which a single rod is combined with a fibrous bundle (see Figure 8.15). The sewing elements pass through the bundle and wrap around the rod.
- opal phytolith** A hard silica body within a plant cell that may remain within sediments after the plant has decayed; distinctive shapes allow identification of the plants that once grew in a locality, contributing to environmental reconstructions.
- optically stimulated luminescence (OSL)** A method of measuring age based on time elapsed since the exposure of sediments to sunlight; sediments accumulate ionizing radiation, and optical stimulation causes them to luminesce (i.e., to produce light).
- Orient phase** A phase defined for Long Island and the lower Hudson River valley in New York in which Terminal Archaic people heavily used shellfish; Orient Fishtail points are characteristic, as are cemetery burial with red ocher and grave goods.
- Oshara tradition** The Archaic tradition (ca. 7450–1550 BP) of the northern Southwest including the Jay, Bajada, San Jose, Armijo, and En Medio phases; the people were foragers who added maize horticulture during the last two phases.
- ossuary** A mass human burial in which the bones of many individuals are placed together in a pit or vault; generally cremation has not occurred.
- overshot flaking** A difficult technique used extensively in the manufacture of Clovis points that “thins” a biface by removing a flake that travels across the face beyond the midpoint to the opposite edge.
- Owasco** The name archaeologists have given to the archaeological sites that apparently precede the development of the Iroquois in New York; the validity of Owasco as a cohesive archaeological taxon has been questioned.

- Pacific period** A term for the period after the Archaic on the West Coast, this designation is meant to emphasize the development of complex hunter-gatherers dependent on marine resources.
- Packard complex** A Late Paleoindian or very Early Archaic complex on the Plains–Woodland border and including Agate Basin–like Plano points.
- packrat midden** An accumulation of food remains and debris left by packrats (*Neotoma* spp.) that may be useful in reconstructing past environments.
- paddle-and-anvil technique** A technique of pottery construction in which vessel walls are smoothed and finished by holding a stone or other anvil on the inside and paddling the outer surface into shape.
- Paleoamerican** An alternate term for Paleoindian proposed by some researchers to emphasize that the biological continuity long assumed between the first settlers of the Americas and modern Indians may not have existed.
- Paleoarctic tradition** A term used for early American traditions in Alaska and some adjacent areas that include microblades, wedge-shaped cores, burins, and bifaces.
- Paleocoastal people** An alternative term for the early inhabitants of coastal areas; sometimes used to distinguish such people who depended on ocean and shoreline resources from the big-game hunters evoked by “Paleoindian.”
- Paleoeskimos** A term used for pre-**Thule tradition** people considered the ancestors of the Inuit in the eastern Arctic; some archaeologists apply the term to the **Arctic Small Tool** and **Dorset traditions**.
- Paleoindian period** The beginning of the North American cultural record, which lasts from first settlement to about 10,000 years ago; no longer viewed as a formal Lithic stage, but treated as a period of time within which there was significant cultural variation.
- paleolith** The term given to stone tools dated to the Paleolithic period by early North American antiquarians; these objects resembling European Lower Paleolithic tools that probably were later tool **preforms** somehow mixed into deposits of glacial age.
- Paleolithic** “The Old Stone Age”; this term is used worldwide to designate the period of cultural evolution from the first stone tools (ca. 2.5 million years ago) to the end of the Pleistocene, approximately 10,000 years ago.
- Paleosol** A former soil buried beneath other sediments that formed in association with ancient rather than modern climatic conditions.
- Pallisades complex** The earlier of two archaeological complexes of the Northern Archaic as recognized at the Onion Portage site in Alaska; characterized by side-notched points with convex bases and, eventually, notched pebbles (6000–4500 BP).
- palynology** The field of study that identifies fossil pollen and uses this information to reconstruct past environments; often an interdisciplinary specialization of importance in archaeology.
- Parowan Fremont** A regional variant of the **Fremont culture** found in southwestern Utah and influenced by the **Kayenta Branch Anasazi**; Parowan people lived in settlements with pithouses and surface structures, left distinctive bone artifacts, and practiced maize agriculture.
- passenger pigeon** This North American migratory pigeon, killed in great numbers because it was prized by restaurants, had become extinct by the end of the nineteenth century; passenger pigeons once traveled in huge flocks and the species may have had a population as high as 5 billion birds.

- Patayan tradition** The archaeological tradition of the western Southwest after the Archaic; a number of regional cultures (e.g., **Cerbat**, **Cohonina**, **Prescott**) have been suggested.
- patrilocal residence** A social norm in which married couples reside with the husband's family after marriage; common in societies in which descent is through the male line, or patrilineal.
- pattern** In the **Midwestern taxonomic system**, phases were grouped into patterns based on formal attributes in material culture; the term is not used extensively today.
- Pauma complex** A term applied to Archaic sites in extreme southern California; sites lack shell middens but have millingstones and a variety of flaked stone items.
- Pebble Tool tradition** An alternative name for the **Old Cordilleran tradition** of the Pacific Northwest.
- Pecos classification** A cultural sequence encompassing Basketmaker and Anasazi material from the Southwest, devised by Kidder in 1927 at the first Pecos Conference; still used, with modification, today in the northern Southwest.
- penplain** A gently rolling land surface that results from the advanced erosion of mountains; the Piedmont on the eastern side of the Appalachian Mountain system is such a surface.
- permafrost** Permanently frozen ground underlying a surface layer that thaws and freezes seasonally; found in the Arctic tundra regions of North America.
- phase** An archaeological unit consisting of several components at a number of sites defined by similar artifacts and other characteristics and found in a unique geographical area and time period; phases are thought to loosely represent cultures.
- piece plotting** An excavation technique in which the three-dimensional positions of all artifacts and ecofacts are plotted; time-consuming but produces detailed information about context.
- pig** In iron making, the name given to the bars of cooled iron (thought to resemble little pigs nursing from their mother's belly) formed in the sand floor in front of the **cast arch**; pig iron contains impurities such as carbon and needs further refinement.
- Pinto period** The name given to the Early Archaic period in the southwestern Great Basin; comes from the triangular-bladed Pinto point form and is related to the Pinto tradition in the Southwest.
- Pinto tradition** The Archaic tradition of the western Southwest from approximately 8000 BP to 1450 BP; the people were broad-based foragers who made Pinto points, various millingstones, and other tools.
- Pioneer period Hohokam** The beginning (1750–1175 BP) of the **Hohokam tradition** sequence in the southern Arizona desert; characterized by wattle and daub houses in shallow pits.
- pithouse** A semisubterranean structure built by various areas of North America, the lower walls were earthen or lined with rock while a wooden superstructure supported the upper walls and roof.
- Pithouse-to-Pueblo transition** The change in the northern and mountainous Southwest from settlements consisting of pithouses and surface storage rooms to multiroom surface structures; occurs between 1250 BP and 950 BP as people settled into villages.

- Plains culture area** The vast culture area encompassing the grasslands of North America's midcontinent that stretch from southern Canada to central Texas; bison hunting was important in this area, although many later groups also farmed in the river valleys.
- Plains Village tradition** Plains cultures from about 1150 BP to Historic times in which bison hunting and horticulture were combined by people living in **earthlodge** villages in river valleys; subdivisions are Central, Middle Missouri, and Southern Plains.
- Plains Woodland** The term used for cultures that began to develop on the eastern margins and in the river valleys of the Great Plains after 2500 BP as pottery was adopted and, in some cases, horticulture, and burial mounds began to be constructed.
- plaiting** A method of weaving in which two or more elements are interwoven; compare **twining** and **coiling**.
- Plano complex** A general term for Late Paleoindian on the Great Plains; subsumes a number of phases such as Hell Gap and Agate Basin in which unfluted lanceolate projectile points were made; points of these types sometimes are found farther east.
- Plateau culture area** The interior culture area that lies between the Rocky Mountains and the mountain ranges along the Northwest Coast; native hunter-gatherers of this area relied both on salmon in the rivers and on land resources.
- Plateau Pithouse tradition** A cultural tradition in the Fraser and Thomas river drainages of the Canadian Plateau that first appeared between 5500 BP and 5000 BP; believed to be associated with the northward migration of Salishan-speaking people who fished for salmon.
- platform** The surface that receives the blow in flaking a piece of stone; a platform surface may be prepared or naturally occurring.
- platform mound** A mound that is flat on the top and more or less resembles a truncated pyramid; the **Hohokam** built this type of mound of rubble and refuse, but the platform type of mound is best known from the East, especially among **Mississippians**.
- platform pipe** A smoking pipe with the bowl centered on top of a curved or flat platform; may be made in the form of an animal effigy and is diagnostic of the **Hopewell Interaction Sphere** in the Eastern Woodlands (see Figures 11.18 and 11.19).
- Pleistocene** The geologic epoch known as the Ice Age lasting from 1.8 million years ago to 10,000 years ago; the earlier part of the Quaternary period during which glaciers alternately expanded and retreated across northern North America and Eurasia.
- plow zone** The uppermost soil level composed of soil that has been disturbed by plowing; artifacts found within the plow zone also have been disturbed, making them potentially less significant than items found in undisturbed contexts.
- Plum Bayou period** The terminal Late Woodland in the central Mississippi River valley (1250–950 BP); grog-tempered and some shell-tempered ceramics were made, and large towns with mounds were built, suggesting the emergence of Mississippian.
- pluvial lakes** Pleistocene lakes that formed in closed basins of the West as a result of locally wetter conditions combined with colder climate worldwide.

- pochteca* Long-distance traders of Mexico; sometimes claimed to have traded with North American societies.
- Point Peninsula tradition The Middle Woodland cultural tradition of New York and southern Ontario dating from 2200 BP to 1300 BP; distinct from the Hopewell tradition and possibly ancestral to the development of Iroquoian cultural phenomena in the Northeast.
- polyculture A term that refers to the practice of growing multiple crops together in one plot or field, as in maize-bean-squash agriculture.
- Portage complex The second of two Northern Archaic complexes recognized at the Onion Portage site in Alaska (4500–4400 BP).
- positivism A school of philosophy according to which objective reality can be known through empirical testing of hypotheses; influenced much of modern science, including archaeological **processualism**, but is questioned in the postmodern era.
- postmodernist A person whose philosophical position opposes the emphasis in modern thought on scientific method, stresses that reality is a social construction, and deconstructs totalizing systems of knowledge.
- postmold A hole that at one point held an upright post and now gives a negative impression of it; often the sediments filling the hole can be differentiated from those surrounding it, allowing one to plot the pattern of posts that once existed.
- Post pattern An archaeological complex of California's North Coast Ranges in the vicinity of Borax Lake (12,000–11,000 BP); characterized by Clovis points with single-shouldered points and crescents as well as evidence of generalized foraging.
- postprocessualism A series of theoretical approaches critical of **processualism**, especially its materialist and positivist aspects; stresses the social aspects of interaction in society, especially human agency, and often incorporates Marxist and feminist ideas.
- pothunter A term archaeologists use for individuals who disturb archaeological sites to gain access to artifacts without concern for investigating the culture that produced these artifacts. (See also **relic hunter**.)
- Poverty Point tradition Various Late Archaic sites including the Poverty Point site itself that were located in the lower Mississippi River valley between 3700 BP and 2500 BP spanning the Woodland transition; characterized by extensive trade, earthworks, and stoneworking.
- Prairie Peninsula An area of tall grass prairie habitat intermixed with deciduous forests that extends from the states of Missouri and Iowa into Indiana today; the extent of this Illinoian biotic province has varied with past climatic changes.
- Pre-Clovis Early North American material that is dated prior to the well-documented Clovis culture (11,500–10,800 BP); some archaeologists do not accept the identification of any materials as Pre-Clovis.
- Pre-Dorset phase An eastern Arctic expression of the **Arctic Small Tool tradition** that apparently postdates **Independence** and may be represented by the **Sarqaq culture** in Greenland.
- preform An unhafted **biface** that is roughly shaped but unfinished and unused; suitable for further working or refining into a finished tool.
- Prescott A regional branch of the **Patayan tradition** found in west central Arizona (1100–950 BP).

- presidio A Spanish period military post or garrison.
- primary burial The original interment of an individual; may be only the first step in a complicated burial program; compare **secondary burial**.
- Princess Point complex An early Late Woodland complex (ca. AD 1450–950) of southern Ontario; people grew corn but also fished and utilized other resources and may have relocated seasonally.
- prismatic blade A specialized **blade**, often triangular or trapezoidal in cross section and having several facets or flake scars on the **dorsal surface**; common in Paleoindian lithic assemblages.
- probability survey An archaeological survey in which sample portions of the area of interest are selected based on environmental or other characteristics and surveyed systematically so that the results can be used to estimate overall site distributions.
- processualism An approach to archaeology developed in the 1960s and 1970s that stressed application of the scientific method, took an ecological and systems approach to culture, and sought to explain **culture process**; criticized by the postprocessualists.
- projectile point A bifacial tool that has a haft area and may take a variety of forms; often called an arrowhead, although all projectile points are not used on arrows.
- provenance The region of origin of a raw material such as chert type or shell; also used in collections management in museums to refer to the history of ownership of an artifact or piece of art; compare **provenience**.
- provenience The exact location at which an object is found in an archaeological site; an artifact's location relative to the site's grid system; compare **provenance**.
- pueblo Spanish for town; in the **Pecos classification** Pueblo I–V encompassed the periods in which Southwesterners lived in aboveground, multiroom buildings rather than in pithouses.
- quid A mass of chewed fibers or tobacco; chewed yucca quids have been found in dry caves in the West.
- radiocarbon dating A dating technique that uses the ratio of carbon-14 to the stable carbon isotope carbon-12 as a measure of the amount of time since the death of the organism; must be calibrated to obtain calendar years.
- rain shadow A dry region that is downwind from a mountain barrier; there is little precipitation in this region because moist air masses drop their precipitation on the windward side of the mountain barrier.
- rancherias Dispersed settlements found among Native people in several areas of the Southwest and California during Historic times; contrasts with pre-Columbian nucleated pueblos.
- ranked society A society in which status, power, and access to goods and services is based on an internal system of ranking; rank is often based on the genealogical relationship of an individual or a family to a chief.
- reciprocity Exchange among persons relatively equal in social rank that establishes or reinforces social obligations between the parties.
- reconnaissance A basic form of archaeological survey designed to locate archaeological deposits (or sites) where they were previously unknown may precede more systematic or intensive **archaeological site survey**.

- red ocher A red pigment made by grinding iron-rich rocks like hematite; used around the world by hunter-gatherers and others, often mixed with oil or fat to create paint for decorating the body and numerous inanimate objects.
- Red Ocher Mortuary complex A Late Archaic and Early Woodland complex of the Midwest in which individuals were buried with large amounts of red ocher; characterized by distinctive cache blades and **turkey-tail points**.
- Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) An organization of archaeologists who have agreed to certain standards of research performance and ethical conduct. The RPA designation also indicates certain training and experience in archaeology.
- relative dating Determining the chronological age of a specimen based on its relative position in a stratigraphic or typological sequence, without reference to a specific time scale; compare **absolute dating**.
- relic hunter A term sometimes used for individuals who search for artifacts without regard for investigating the culture that produced these artifacts. (See also **pothunter**.)
- remote sensing A general term encompassing a variety of techniques used by archaeologists to locate subsurface features; includes **geophysical survey** techniques and aerial photography.
- repatriation The return of cultural materials and human remains to the country of origin or descendant population; for example, materials from Native American burials now are routinely returned to tribal descendants, who often reburial them.
- research design The plan of an archaeological project, including a statement of the research problem, background information, methods, and timetable; having a research design is good practice in any archaeological research and is required by granting and contracting agencies.
- ridged field system A labor-intensive technique known to have been used by Oneota and Mississippian groups in the East in which fields were raised by mounding the earth into ridges, possibly to reclaim wetlands, prevent frost damage, or control erosion.
- Rio Grande Branch Anasazi A regional branch of Ancestral Pueblo archaeological cultures in the northern Rio Grande valley of New Mexico; population aggregation took place here after the abandonment of much of the northern Southwest around 650 BP.
- Riverton culture A Late Archaic archaeological culture from the valley of the Wabash River, which flows between Illinois and Indiana; characterized by seasonal movements between base and extractive camps and by the use of freshwater mussels, microperforators, and bone and other tools.
- ruderal plant A plant that grows in disturbed land, rubbish, or waste; may be associated with gardens or fields.
- Rupert's Land A Canadian territory from 1670 to 1869 originally owned by the Hudson's Bay Company and named after Prince Rupert, the first governor of the company.
- S-twist A method of making cordage in which the fibers are twisted up to the left producing an S shape in the finished product; if visible on cord-marked pottery or in actual cordage, may be interpretable in terms of ethnicity.
- Salado tradition An enigmatic Late Prehistoric (after 600 BP) tradition in the Southwest associated with Gila polychrome pottery; some believe it

- represents the migration of new groups into the Hohokam area; others interpret it as indicative of the development of a religious cult.
- salvage approach An approach to archaeology that concentrates on recovery of information from a site that is about to be destroyed; this precursor to **cultural resource management** did not attempt to research questions or to long-term manage cultural resources.
- San Dieguito complex An early archaeological culture of Southern California (ca. 10,000–8500 BP); because of the lack of millingstones and the presence of large leaf-shaped points and knives, San Dieguito is assumed to represent a population of hunters of large game.
- San Luis Rey complex A Late Prehistoric complex found in southern California north of the **Cuyamaca complex** with different kinds and proportions of ceramics; seen as ancestral to the Shoshonean speakers of the area; the people practiced cremation and used small triangular points.
- San Rafael Fremont A regional variant of the **Fremont culture** that developed in southeastern Utah, influenced by the **Kayenta Anasazi**; there are surface storage structures along with pithouses and maize agriculture.
- sandal-sole gorget A gorget that archaeologists think was shaped to resemble the sole of a foot or sandal; made from marine shell often found in Late Archaic burials in the Upper Great Lakes and Midwest; these artifacts are associated with the **Glacial Kame Mortuary complex**.
- Santarosae The large island that connected the Northern Channel Islands off Santa Barbara, California, during the Pleistocene, when the sea level was lowered.
- Saratoga Springs period A time (1500–800 BP) in the southwestern Great Basin when projectile points became smaller, suggesting the introduction of the bow and arrow; as in the preceding Gypsum period, millingstones continued in use.
- Sarqaq (Saqqaq) culture A Greenlandic culture of the later **Arctic Small Tool tradition**; the people were terrestrial and marine hunters who used ground burins and burinlike tools, as well as open-socketed harpoon heads.
- scientific method The systematic investigation of phenomena by identifying a problem, developing hypotheses and test implications, making empirical observations, and reconsidering the original idea in the light of the results obtained.
- scientism The belief that there is only one method of science and that legitimate scientific conclusions can be reached only by using this method.
- SECC See **Southeastern Ceremonial complex**.
- secondary burial A human interment that has been moved and buried again (see **bundle burial**); can be part of a continuing program of mortuary activity and preceded by **primary burial**.
- Section 106 The section of the **National Historic Preservation Act** that requires federal agencies to determine if their undertakings might have any adverse effects on properties eligible for the **National Register of Historic Places**; effects must be mitigated if they are likely to occur.
- Section 110 A section first added to the **National Historic Preservation Act** in 1980s amendments, requiring federal agencies to integrate historic preservation into their activities and responsibly manage the historic properties under their jurisdiction.
- Sedentary period Hohokam A subperiod in the **Hohokam tradition** sequence of the southern Arizona desert (975–800 BP); multiroom pueblos were surrounded by compound walls.

- Selkirk culture** An archaeological culture of Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan from about 1050 BP to the Historic period; the people were boreal hunters and fishers, apparently ancestral to the Cree.
- selvage** The narrow edge of a woven fabric that runs parallel to the **warp**.
- seriation** A method for the relative dating of artifacts based on variations in style and decoration within **assemblages**; uses the theory that artifacts will most closely resemble items that are closest to them in time. (See also **frequency seriation**.)
- Sevier Fremont** A regional variant of **Fremont culture** found in west central Utah and adjacent Nevada; characterized by small sites with pithouses and adobe surface rooms, Sevier gray pottery, and use of marshes with less use of maize than found among other Fremont variants.
- shaft wrench** A bone tool thought to have been used to straighten arrow or spear shafts; an example is illustrated in Figure 3.16.
- Shaman's teeth** A Dorset artifact consisting of a bone mouth with teeth that apparently was clasped in the shaman's mouth during ritual activities.
- Shasta aspect** An expression of the Augustine pattern on California's north-west coast; this is a period of semisedentary lowland villages and seasonal upland camps. Artifacts include Gunther Barbed points, **hopper mortars**, **manos** and **metates**, bifaces of chert, **charmstones**, and spire-topped *Olivella* beads.
- shell midden** A type of archaeological site formed when people discard large quantities of oyster, clam, mussel, and other bivalve shells as food refuse, along with other trash.
- Shell Mound Archaic** A Middle to Late Archaic series of shell middens that have accumulated into mound sites, located in the river valleys of the interior Southeast and the Midwest; shell mounds and rings located along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and in Florida are sometimes considered related to these interior sites, but for all of them there is debate about how intentional their constructions was and about their possible ritual and integrative significance.
- shell-tempered ceramics** Ceramics in which the paste contains crushed shell inclusions; often considered a marker of **Mississippian** and other **Late Prehistoric** peoples in the Eastern Woodlands.
- sherd** A broken piece of a pottery vessel; equivalent terms are potsherd and shard.
- Shield Archaic tradition** A hunting and gathering tradition that developed in the boreal woodlands of the eastern Canadian Subarctic after Plano or Late Paleoindian people migrated into the area; persisted into Historic times.
- Shoshonean period** Dated to after 800 BP, this period is marked by the presence of Desert Side Notched points and ceramics in the southwestern Great Basin.
- shovel-shaped incisor** An incisor in which the lateral borders have a thickening or extension toward the tongue so that in cross section the tooth resembles a shovel; more common among people of Asian descent, including most Native Americans, than among other populations.
- shovel test pit (STP)** A small pit excavation into areas in which the surface is obscured by vegetation or when cultural materials are believed to lie buried in sediments; used to find sites or establish the extent of buried deposits.

- Sicco-type harpoon head** An open-socket harpoon head with a conspicuous central constriction that is associated with the spread of the Thule people in the Arctic.
- side scraper** A tool with a steep working edge on one side, usually made by unifacial retouch or flaking of part or all of the edge of a flake or core.
- significant cultural resources** Cultural resources that meet the criteria for being added to the National Register of Historic Places; a site or structure can be deemed significant even if it is not actually listed.
- Silvernale phase** An Oneota tradition phase (850–650 BP) from the margins of the Mississippi River at the Wisconsin–Minnesota border; possible Mississippian-derived traits include platform mounds, village fortification, and pottery designs.
- Sinagua** A regional farming tradition of the southwest found between Flagstaff and Phoenix, Arizona (ca. 1250–550 BP); this tradition has been variously grouped under other regional traditions but is now best treated separately.
- sinkhole** A circular depression in the ground surface that forms when underlying rock such as limestone is dissolved by water and collapses; sinkholes may contain artifacts and other evidence of human activities.
- Sinodont** A dental pattern including shovel-shaped incisors, three rooted first lower molars, and other dental traits believed to be characteristic of North Asian populations and Native Americans. (See also **Sundadont**.)
- sipapu** A small hole or indentation in the floor of kivas used by the Ancestral Puebloans as well as modern-day Puebloans, symbolizing the portal through which the ancient ancestors first emerged into the present world; may be unaltered or plastered.
- skeletal mass allometry** A method of making **meat weight estimates** that uses a formula for converting bone weight to meat weight; the weight of all bones assigned to a taxon is plugged into the formula, and total meat weight for the taxon is estimated.
- Skraelings** The name Vikings used for the Native people of North America; considered derogatory.
- skreblo** Large Siberian side scrapers often made from cortical flakes; some possible early artifacts from southern California superficially resemble these tools.
- slag** A by-product of smelting iron; the impurities that can be drawn off at the cinder notch above the hearth itself, which when cool have a glassy blue-black appearance.
- slip** A mixture of clay and water applied to a pottery vessel to obtain a smooth finish.
- smoking complex** The group of artifacts, behaviors, and beliefs associated with ritual smoking of tobacco and other substances by the Native peoples of North America; both archaeologically and ethnographically evident.
- Solutrean hypothesis** The idea that Upper Paleolithic Solutrean hunters from Europe migrated across the North Atlantic to become the first settlers of North America; based on similarities in lithic technology and the evidence of Pre-Clovis sites in the East.
- Solutrean culture** An Upper **Paleolithic** culture of western Europe dating between 22,000 and 18,000 years ago; famous for finely made leaf-shaped bifaces.
- Sonota burial complex** A Plains Middle Woodland burial pattern found along the Missouri River in northern South Dakota and southern North Dakota between 1950 BP and 1500 BP; possibly associated with the **Besant phase**.

- Southeast culture area** The culture area that encompasses the southern part of the Eastern Woodlands stretching from East Texas to the Atlantic. Some of the most complex Native American chiefdoms developed among the farmers of this area.
- Southeastern Ceremonial complex (SECC)** A widespread Mississippian complex between 800 BP and 600 BP, also called the **Southern cult**; recognized by motifs such as the hand and eye and the sun circle, and by finely made artifacts of stone, shell, and copper.
- Southern cult** Another name for the **Southeastern Ceremonial complex (SECC)**.
- Southern Plains tradition** A subdivision of the **Plains Village tradition** referring to village people of the Southern Plains in Late Prehistoric times; characterized by horticulture and bison hunting, arrow points, cord-marked pottery, and bone tools.
- Southwest culture area** The culture area of the arid West encompassing most of Arizona and New Mexico as well as portions of southern Utah, Colorado, and northern Mexico; farming peoples developed relatively complex polities in this area.
- Southwest Regional cult** The idea that the distinctive designs of Gila polychrome pottery that was made in the southern Southwest after 600 BP represent the spread of a pan-ethnic religious ideology associated with fertility and water control.
- split-twig figurine** A figurine constructed by splitting willow twigs and wrapping the two half stems around each other to construct an animal; the figure might be pierced with another piece, suggesting use in hunting magic; found in caves in the arid West.
- Squawkie Hill phase** A Middle Woodland phase in New York and western Pennsylvania associated with mounds containing central stone tombs and Hopewell Interaction Sphere objects.
- state** A politically autonomous form of society with a strong centralized government, a large population, substantial settlements, a stratified class system, and a market economy; states did not develop in pre-Columbian North America.
- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)** The government official who has the responsibility for a U.S. state's historic preservation program; usually appointed by the governor.
- steatite** A soft stone, also called soapstone, that can be carved into figurines, beads, and vessels or used in **stone boiling**; widely used by North America's pre-Columbian inhabitants.
- Steed-Kisker phase** A **Central Plains Village tradition** phase from the Kansas City area in which people made shell-tempered, incised ceramics resembling those of the **Mississippians** farther east; probably a result of contact rather than actual migration.
- stone boiling** Heating or cooking by dropping rocks, preheated in a fire, into a pit or basket containing liquid or food to be cooked.
- stone box grave** A burial pit lined with stone slabs to form a coffinlike box; occurs in the Late Prehistoric and Mississippian societies of the Eastern Woodlands.
- STP** See **shovel test pit**.
- stratification** Soil or rock layers laid down in sequence; useful in associating artifacts and establishing **relative dating**.

- stratified society** A society in which there are sharp class-based distinctions in wealth, access to resources, prestige, and power; often associated with the state.
- stratigraphy** The description and study of stratigraphic layers; may be used to determine **relative dating** among artifacts and features in a site.
- stratum** A layer of sediment or rock whose characteristics distinguish it from layers above or below it; generally the bottom strata are older than overlying ones.
- Subarctic culture area** The North American culture area that stretches from the tree line southward across the continent; includes most of the Canadian coniferous forests that were inhabited by different groups of Native hunter-gatherers at European contact.
- subassemblage** A collection of associated artifacts thought to represent a particular set of activities by a particular group of people; a subset of an **assemblage**.
- Sundadont** A dental pattern believed to characterize South Asians but generally lacking among North Asians and Native Americans; shovel-shaped incisors, for example, are rare among sundadonts. (See also **Sinodont**.)
- Susquehanna tradition** A Terminal Archaic cultural group of the coastal regions of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic; characterized by soapstone vessels, the broad-bladed Susquehanna point, and possible focus on coastal and riverine resources. (See also **Broadpoint tradition**.)
- Swift Creek tradition** A Middle to Late Woodland cultural tradition of northern Florida, southeastern Alabama, and the Georgia Coastal Plain and Piedmont; defined primarily on the basis of complicated stamped pottery from shell middens and mounds.
- Takli stage/period** The first of two stages of the **Kodiak tradition** in Pacific Alaska, characterized by slate points, the oil lamp, and chipped stone tools.
- Taltheilei tradition** The archaeological tradition of northwestern Canada after 2600 BP; the people were caribou hunters apparently ancestral to the Historic Dené of the area.
- Tchula phase** An Early Woodland phase in the central and lower Mississippi River valley, which dates to the third millennium BP; characterized by temperless pottery, sand and **grog-tempered ceramics**, and small, conical burial mounds.
- temperate deciduous forest biome** The forest biome of the eastern North America, which stretches south from the coniferous forest to central Florida and contains a variety of communities in which deciduous trees dominate or are mixed with some conifers.
- temperate grassland biome** The large area of grassland that spans the midsection of the North American continent from southern Canada to Texas and northeastern Mexico; also includes areas of bunchgrass between the Rocky Mountains and the West Coast.
- temporal type** A class of artifacts, like index fossils in paleontology, that are defined by the consistent presence of key attributes and assumed to have been made and used only for a specific period of time.
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)** Established as a U.S. government corporation in 1933 to control flooding and create electric power in the Southeast; many archaeological excavations have been associated with resultant instances of site destruction and site management.

- tephra** Volcanic ash and other materials that were expelled into the air during the eruption of a volcano and cooled as they were deposited.
- tephrochronology** The dating and stratigraphy of volcanic ash layers (e.g., the Mount Mazama ash in the North American West).
- Terminal Archaic** The period between approximately 3700 BP and 2700 BP in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic; characterized by intensive use of riverine and coastal resources, a greater degree of sedentism, steatite bowls, and pottery. (See also **Transitional period**.)
- Tertiary** The geologic period that extends from approximately 65 million to 1.8 million years ago when the Quaternary, consisting of the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs, begins.
- Three Sisters** In Iroquoian tradition maize, bean, and squash, which are grown together assisting each other; the beans climb the maize stalk while they return nitrogen to the soil and the squash prevents weeds and helps the soil retain moisture.
- Thule culture** The Arctic archaeological culture (pre-Inuit) that developed in northwestern Alaska, spread rapidly across the Arctic all the way to Greenland after 1050 BP, and persisted to Historic times.
- Thule tradition** The archaeological manifestation of ancestral Inuit cultures in the Arctic, including the **Thule culture** itself; the people were sophisticated sea mammal hunters with an elaborate material inventory.
- toggling harpoon** A type of harpoon having a head that detaches from the shaft and turns sideways, or toggles, in the prey animal; used for large sea mammals by the maritime hunters of the North.
- tomol** The plank canoe of the **Chumash** of coastal southern California; made from split redwood planks sewn together and caulked to achieve watertightness, these canoes could travel on the rough ocean waters.
- tradition** As defined by Willey and Phillips (1958), the archaeological unit that links phases and sites based on general attributes of material culture that persist over a long period; compare **horizon**.
- traditional cultural property (TCP)** Place that has special meaning to members of an ethnic group or a community; TCPs may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Trail of Tears** A name given to the forced relocation of Southeastern Indians as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830; specifically the 1838 removal of the Cherokees which resulted in the deaths of many people.
- Transitional period** An alternative term for the **Terminal Archaic** (ca. 3700–2700 BP) in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, may mark a shift toward more sedentary societies and intensive use of key resources; steatite bowls and pottery are characteristic.
- tree line** The edge of the habitat at which trees are capable of growing either in the North or in the high mountains; actually a broad zone in which trees first become sparser and dwarfed and eventually give way to tundra.
- trend surface analysis** The statistical procedure that takes the components of a spatially distributed variable and develops a function to highlight the main features of the distribution, making trends and patterns apparent.
- Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)** A designated tribal official with responsibilities for cultural resources on tribal lands parallel to those of a **State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)**.
- tribe** A social grouping larger than a band that has a steady subsistence base from farming, herding, or a mixed economy but is still largely egalitarian, with social institutions based on kinship and age.

- tribelet** A term applied to autonomous cultural groups with hereditary leaders in California; emphasizes the small size of many of the indigenous groups; although independent, **tribeleets** sometimes confederated.
- trincheras** Terraces or walls constructed of local stone on a hillside to retain soil and moisture; found in the desert Southwest of the United States and in Mexico.
- tumpline** A strap worn across the forehead or the chest to support a load carried on the back; apparently used with large burden baskets.
- tundra biome** The treeless Arctic biome that stretches across North America above latitude 57° north.
- turkey-tail point** A thin, leaf-shaped point with side notches that results in a small triangular base; points like this are found both in the **Red Ocher Mortuary complex** in the Midwest and in the **Western Idaho Burial complex**.
- tuyere** The pipe, often made of copper, that conducted air into the interior of an iron furnace stack so that the fire remained hot.
- twining** A method of basketmaking in which two or more elements are twisted around a base element (**warp**) as they are interwoven; compare **plaiting** and **coiling**.
- type site** A site that is the first or the best example of a particular cultural taxon (e.g., a phase or tradition); reference to the characteristics of the type site helps define the cultural historical unit.
- type specimen** A particular artifact that is the first described or the best example of an artifact type; the formal attributes of the type are based on this artifact's characteristics.
- typology** A classification of material objects that systematically sorts items according to morphological, technological, functional, or other attributes; typologies may be used to construct chronologies for a region or site.
- Uinta Fremont** A regional variant of the **Fremont culture** that developed in the northeastern part of Utah; characterized by small sites, lack of Utah metates, hunting, gathering, and not a great deal of maize use.
- ulu** A semicircular or half-moon shaped knife made and used by various peoples in the North; known archaeologically as early as 6000 years ago in the Maritime Archaic and often made of ground slate; woman's knife among the Inuit of recent times.
- umiak** An open boat, with a wooden frame covered by bearded seal or walrus hide; made by Thule and Historic Inuit people.
- underwater archaeology** The investigation and study of archaeological deposits, especially shipwrecks, that are located beneath the surface of various bodies of water.
- Unfluted horizon** A term used for Late Paleoindian points characterized by various lanceolate, but unfluted points and some notched forms with beveled bases; **Plano complex** points from the Great Plains would be characteristic of this horizon.
- uniface** A chipped stone tool that has been worked on only one face or surface.
- Upper Mississippian** A term for Late Prehistoric horticultural societies on the northern margins of the Mississippian area (e.g., Oneota) that once were thought to be Mississippian regional variants.
- Upper Republican phase** A **Central Plains Village tradition** phase from western Kansas and Nebraska; characterized by square houses, bell-shaped storage pits, horticulture, and bison hunting.

- Utah metate** A distinctive type of metate with a troughlike grinding surface and a shelf at one end. This type of metate is associated with the Fremont occupations of the Great Basin.
- vacant center model** The proposal that Hopewell mound and earthwork centers were primarily seasonal ceremonial centers that served to cement social relations between dispersed farming hamlets rather than large habitations; the evidence is mixed.
- Vacant Quarter** An area in southern Illinois, southern Indiana, northern Kentucky, and central Tennessee centered on the central Mississippi and lower Ohio River valleys, which apparently was depopulated late in prehistory, after 500 BP.
- Ventana complex** The artifact assemblage from Ventana Cave in Arizona that seems to have both San Dieguito and Folsom affinities in manufacturing technique; from the Pleistocene–Holocene boundary.
- ventilator** The ventilation system of a **pithouse** or **kiva**; ventilator shafts are connected to the main structure by a tunnel that lets in fresh air.
- Virgin Branch Anasazi** The branch of the **Ancestral Puebloan tradition** that is located farthest west, found in northern Arizona, southern Utah, and southern Nevada (1450–650 BP).
- Wakulla culture** A Late **Weeden Island tradition** manifestation of northwest Florida for which increasing reliance on agriculture can be documented; precedes **Fort Walton Mississippian**.
- warp** In basketry and weaving, the elements running lengthwise; compare **weft**.
- wedge-shaped core** A type of core or rock nodule commonly flaked in the making of microblades in early North American industries.
- Weeden Island tradition** A Late Woodland tradition (1750/1650–950 BP) of southeast Alabama, northern Florida, and southern Georgia; characterized by complicated stamped and check-stamped ceramics, marine adaptations, mounds, and mortuary ceremonialism.
- weft** In basketry and weaving, the horizontal elements perpendicular to and interlaced with the **warp**.
- Wendover period** The period from 9500 BP to 6000 BP following the Bonneville period in the eastern Great Basin; sites of this period occur in a number of environmental settings and suggest a mobile way of life; millings-stones are part of the assemblage.
- Western Basin tradition** A Middle Woodland cultural tradition of Northern Ohio, southeastern Michigan, and southwestern Ontario apparently not linked to Hopewell.
- Western Clovis** A term sometimes used to refer to fluted points found in the Far West; these points have not been found in kill sites for megafauna, as on the Plains, but have been associated with lake margin sites.
- Western Idaho Burial complex** An enigmatic set of burials from western Idaho with unusual artifacts including **turkey-tail points**; large, thin bifaces, and trade items; dated between 6000 BP and 4000 BP.
- Western Pluvial Lakes tradition** A tradition suggested by Bedwell for early adaptations around the pluvial lakes of California and the Great Basin at the Pleistocene–Holocene boundary; characterized by stemmed points and crescents. (See also **Western Stemmed Point tradition**.)

- Western Stemmed Point tradition** A pre-Archaic, nonfluted point tradition (11,000–7000 BP) in the Great Basin and surrounding areas; characterized by large stemmed points, crescents, and other tools. (See also **Western Pluvial Lakes tradition**.)
- wet site** A waterlogged archaeological site; wet sites often contain unusually well-preserved organic materials, such as wood and bone artifacts, as well as food remains.
- White method** A method for calculating **meat weight estimates** in which the **MNI** for a taxon is multiplied by an average weight estimate; fails to take into account variability in body size or the possibility that entire carcasses were not utilized.
- Whittlesey tradition** A Late Prehistoric cultural tradition of northeastern Ohio (950–300 BP); large, hilltop villages were surrounded by embankments, where the people practiced mixed horticulture and hunting and gathering.
- Windmilller pattern** An archaeological culture found in central California, especially the Sacramento Delta, that marks the transition from the Archaic period to the Pacific; characterized by elaborate burials and exploitation of riverine and marsh resources.
- Windust phase** An early period archaeological culture from the Snake River area on the Columbia Plateau in Washington State, north central Idaho, and parts of northern Oregon; the people were generalized foragers who made stemmed projectile points and other artifacts.
- wing wall** A low wall that often partitions the main chamber of Ancestral Pueblo pithouses; often found in two, nonmeeting segments abutting either side of the main chamber walls.
- Wisconsin glaciation** The last major episode of glacial advance in the Pleistocene of North America; from about 100,000 BP to 10,000 BP.
- woodhenge** A circular arrangement of posts that may have been used for astronomical observations or for aligning buildings and mounds; more than one of these constructions apparently was built at Cahokia.
- Woodland period** A cultural period recognized in areas south of the Subarctic and east of the Rockies in which agriculture, settled villages, pottery, and burial mounds usually were found; usually follows the **Archaic period** and begins 3000 to 2000 years ago.
- Works Progress Administration (WPA)** A work program established in 1935 to help ease the Great Depression; the United States government employed American workers and commissioned large-scale archaeological excavations that generated important data. In 1939 the name was changed to Works Projects Administration.
- World Heritage Site** A site designated by UNESCO as part of the cultural or natural heritage of all people worldwide; UNESCO maintains a list designed to promote conservation; only eight U.S. and five Canadian properties are listed.
- World's Columbian Exposition** The World's Fair held in Chicago in 1893; the exhibits included large archaeological and ethnological collections; millions of Americans visited this fair, stimulating museums to develop collections in these areas.
- Yent Ceremonial complex** A Deptford burial mound complex named after the Yent site in northwest Florida; mounds and burials included Middle

Woodland exchange or ceremonial items like plummets, copper panpipes, earspools, and shell gorgets.

Younger Dryas A cooler period that interrupted postglacial warming trends beginning at approximately 11,000 BP; thought by some archaeologists to mark significant adaptive changes among Paleoindians.

Z-twist A method of making cordage in which the fibers are twisted up to the right, producing a Z-shape in the finished product; if visible on cord-marked pottery or actual cordage may be interpretable in terms of ethnicity.

zooarchaeologist An archaeologist who identifies animal remains from archaeological sites and then investigates their physiology and ecology in relation to cultural activities; this interdisciplinary specialty also is referred to as archaeozoology.