

**Archaeology terminology
for
fire practitioners**

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Cultural Resources deal with Human History


Cultural Resources is an overarching term for all types of resources attributed to Humans. It is not a legal term and it is not even defined by merriam-webster or dictionary.com.

It's a catch all term.

Forest Service also has used Heritage Resources as a catch all term

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

archaeology noun

ar·chae·ol·o·gy | \,är-kē-'ä-lə-jē  \

variants: *or* **archeology**

Definition of *archaeology*

- 1** : the scientific study of material remains (such as tools, pottery, jewelry, stone walls, and monuments) of past human life and activities
- 2** : remains of the culture of a people : ANTIQUITIES
// the *archaeology* of the Incas

Merriam-Webster.com

1. the scientific study of historic or prehistoric peoples and their cultures by analysis of their artifacts, inscriptions, monuments, and other such remains, especially those that have been excavated.
2. *Rare* . ancient history; the study of antiquity.

Dictionary.com

Archaeology is not:



Indiana Jones: Raiders of the
Lost Ark.
Paramount Pictures, 1981

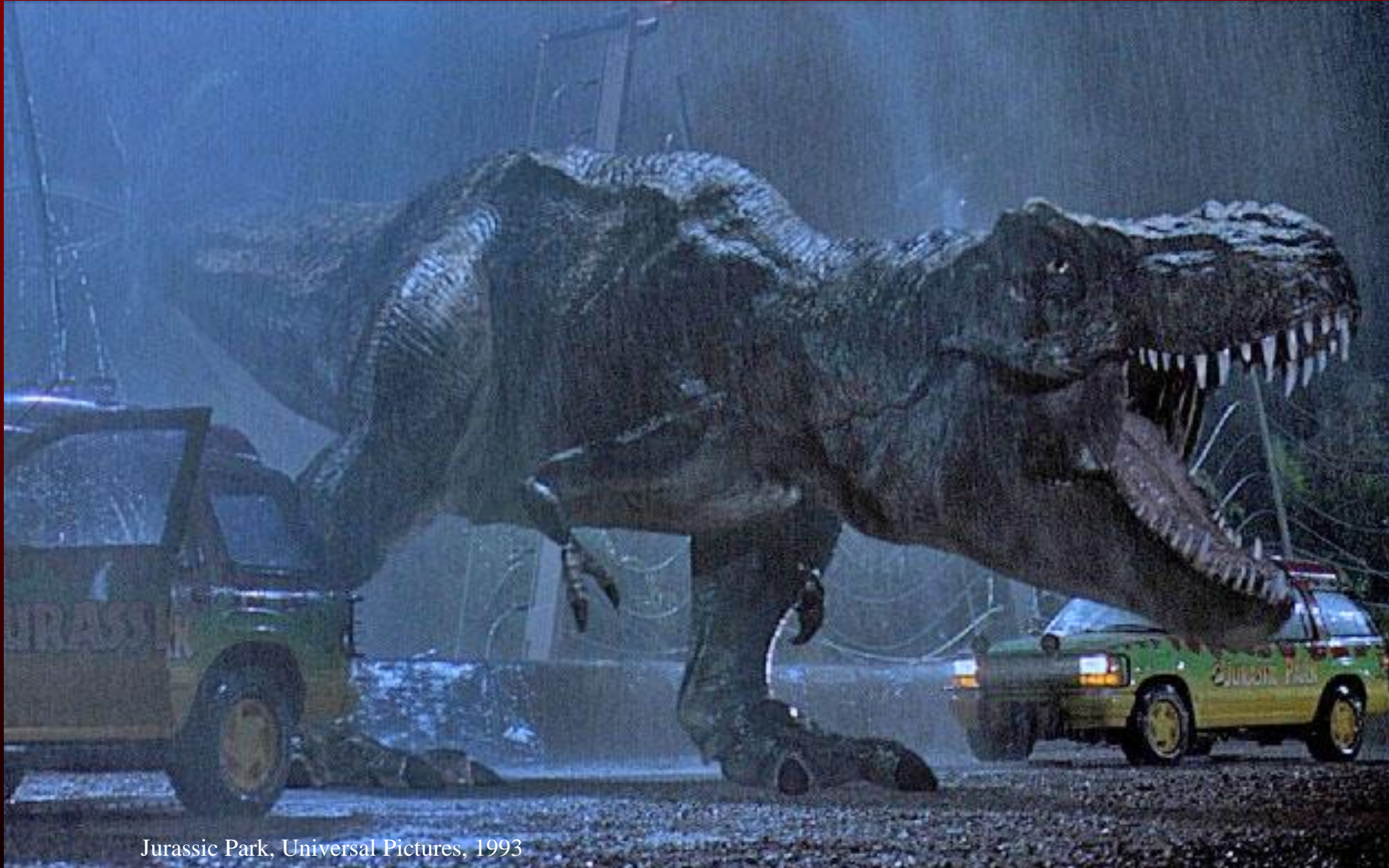
It's also not:



Tomb Raider Anniversary
Eidos Interactive 2007

DEFINITELY

Archaeology is not:




Jurassic Park, Universal Pictures, 1993

So what IS “Archaeology”?

The
RECONSTRUCTION
of
PAST HUMAN BEHAVIOR
from
MATERIAL REMAINS
and their
CONTEXT.

prehistoric adjective

pre·his·tor·ic | \,prē-(h)i-'stôr-ik,  -'stär-\

variants: *or less commonly* **prehistorical** \ ,prē-(h)i-'stôr-i-kəl ,  -'stär-\

Definition of *prehistoric*

- 1 : of, relating to, or existing in times antedating written history
- 2 : of or relating to a language in a period of its development from which contemporary records of its sounds and forms have not been preserved
- 3 : regarded as being outdated or outmoded

// *prehistoric* attitudes

1. human **history** in the period before recorded events, known mainly through archaeological discoveries, study, research, etc.; **history** of **prehistoric** humans.
2. a **history** of the events or incidents leading to a crisis, situation, or the like.

historical adjective

his·tor·i·cal | \hi-'stôr-i-kəl,  -'stär-\

Definition of *historical*

- 1 a** : of, relating to, or having the character of history
// historical data
 - b** : based on history
// historical novels
 - c** : used in the past and reproduced in historical presentations
- 2** : famous in history : HISTORIC sense a
- 3 a** : SECONDARY sense 1c
 - b** : DIACHRONIC
// historical grammar

his·tor·i·cal

[hi'stôrək(ə)] 

ADJECTIVE

of or concerning history; concerning past events.

"the historical background to such studies"

synonyms: actual · existent · nonfictional · nonfictitious · factual · historical · material · physical · tangible · concrete · palpable · corporeal · substantial · unimaginary · veridical

• belonging to the past, not the present.

"famous historical figures"

synonyms: past · bygone · ancient · old · former · prior · from the past · of yore

• (especially of a novel or movie) set in the past.

• (of the study of a subject) based on an analysis of its development over a period.

"for the Darwinians, biogeography became a historical science"

Archaeology

Material Remains –

Site: a place that has physical evidence of patterned group behavior; purposeful behavior rather than accidental. (i.e. Rock shelter, lithic scatter, building, etc.)

Artifact: any material object made, modified or used by humans. (i.e. Projectile point, glass bottle, etc.)

Feature: non-portable artifact and distinctive aspect of a site that is human made (i.e. Rock art, bedrock mortar, fence line)

Specimen: non-artifactual, material object that provides evidence relevant to past human behavior (i.e. Preserved plant material, unmodified animal bone, charcoal, etc.).

Material Remains

Site: a place that has physical evidence of patterned group behavior; purposeful behavior rather than accidental. (i.e. Rock shelter, lithic scatter, building, etc.)

Artifact: any material object made, modified or used by humans. (i.e. Projectile point, glass bottle, nails, etc.)

Feature: non portable artifact or distinctive aspect of a site that is human made and not the result of natural phenomena (i.e. Rock art, bedrock mortar, fence line, etc.)

Specimen: non-artifactual, material object that provides evidence relevant to past human behavior (i.e. Preserved plant material, unmodified animal bone, charcoal, etc.).

Context

Context – spatial arrangement either *horizontally* or *vertically*, of artifacts, features and specimens.

Horizontal context – arrangements of objects on one surface or plane. (i.e. Projectile point was 4m East of the BRM and 6m due North of the large Madrone)

Vertical context – superimposed surfaces or layers buried one over another. (i.e. Shell bead found within a 10cm lens of red abalone shell buried under 20cm of sterile dirt under a 3cm lens of muscle shell containing fishhooks. The bead was deposited before the fishhooks.)

NOTE: Context is extremely important because most past human behavior is reflected not by these material objects by themselves, but by how they are situated in relation to each other.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

(1)(1) Historic property means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

DISTRICT

A district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history.

SITE

A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

BUILDING

A building is a structure created to shelter any form of human activity, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar structure. Building may refer to a historically related complex such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.

Structures

A structure is a work made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization. Constructed by man, it is often an engineering project large in scale.



OBJECTS

An object is a material thing of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical or scientific value that may be, by nature or design, movable yet related to a specific setting or environment.

OTHER

Non-National Register

Cultural Resources

Cultural Landscapes

Intertwined patterns of natural and cultural phenomena created by humans... prehistoric and historic



TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY

SACRED SITES



Photo by Ken DeCamp

*Mt. Shasta Traditional Cultural Property
Shasta-Trinity NF*

Traditional Areas



ETHNOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Tangible and intangible manifestations of an extant cultural system...vegetation, spiritual/ceremonial sites, languages...generally associated with Native Americans/Hawaiians/Alaskans...often poorly understood

(p) National Historic Landmark means a historic property that the Secretary of the Interior has designated a National Historic Landmark.

(q) National Register means the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

(r) National Register criteria means the criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior for use in evaluating the eligibility of properties for the National Register (36 CFR part 60).