

1.A – Intro to Prehistory

Do Now	What do you know or think Prehistory is? Explain your response in 4-5 sentences
Objective	SWBAT describe the ways we study prehistory today.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Discuss Do Now (:10)■ “Intro to Prehistory PowerPoint and Notes (:25)■ Homework Websites (:10)
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Wiki Log-On■ 3-2-1 Reflection on Wiki

Prehistory

Where do we come from?

- **Prehistory**: the study of history and people before records were kept in written form
- most of our theories are “best guesses” based on scientific evidence
- new evidence will be found that can help change our understandings

How Do We Study Prehistory?

- 1) Archeology**
- 2) Anthropology**
- 3) Radiocarbon Dating**
- 4) Thermoluminescence Dating**
- 5) DNA Testing**

1) Archeology

- the study of ancient societies
- archeologists dig up artifacts

artifact: an handmade object / tool (or the remains of one) that is characteristic of an earlier time

- for example pottery, weapons, paintings, old buildings, and tools



2) Anthropologists

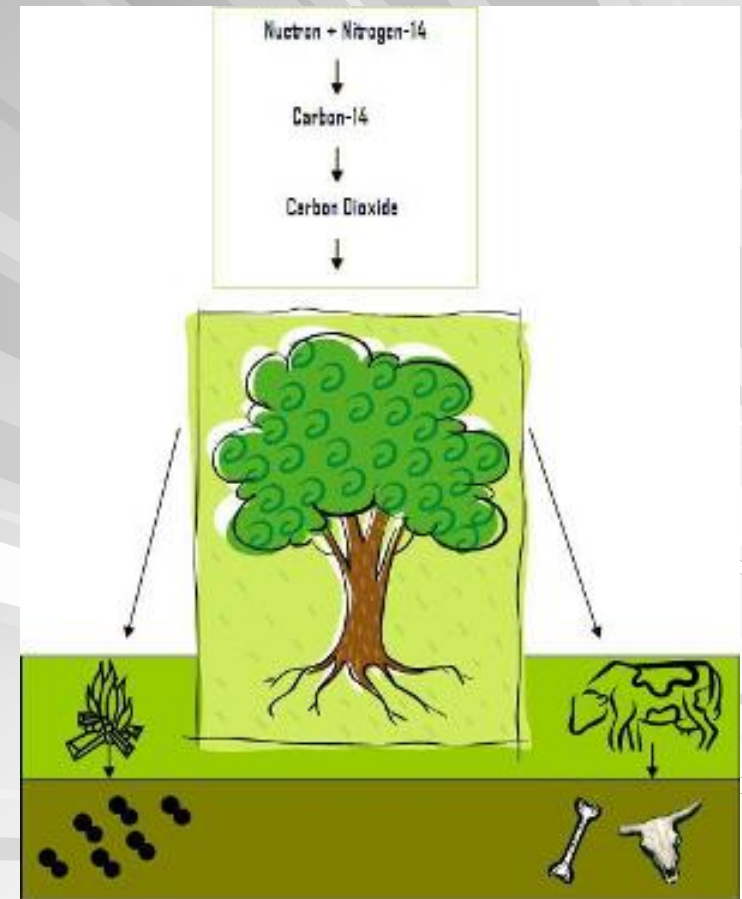


- experts who use the artifacts archeologists dig up to try to figure out how these ancient people lived their lives

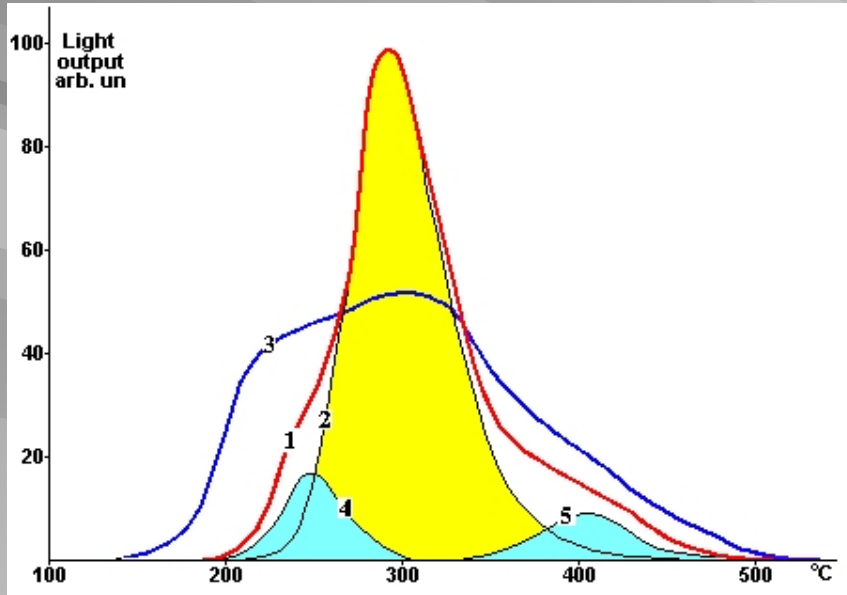
3) Radiocarbon Dating

- a method of figuring out how old an object is
- all living things absorb carbon into their cells
- by testing how much carbon is left in an object we can determine how old it is

more carbon = young object
less carbon = old object



4) Thermoluminescence Dating



- a method of figuring out how old an object is
- all living things have atoms in their cells; the electrons surrounding an atom give off light
- this method of dating tests the light given off from atoms left in the soil

lots of light = young object

little light = old object

5) DNA Testing

- all living things contain DNA – blood, hair, body tissue, and plant cells
- DNA can be used to figure out many things about people, animals, and plants that lived thousands or millions of years ago

