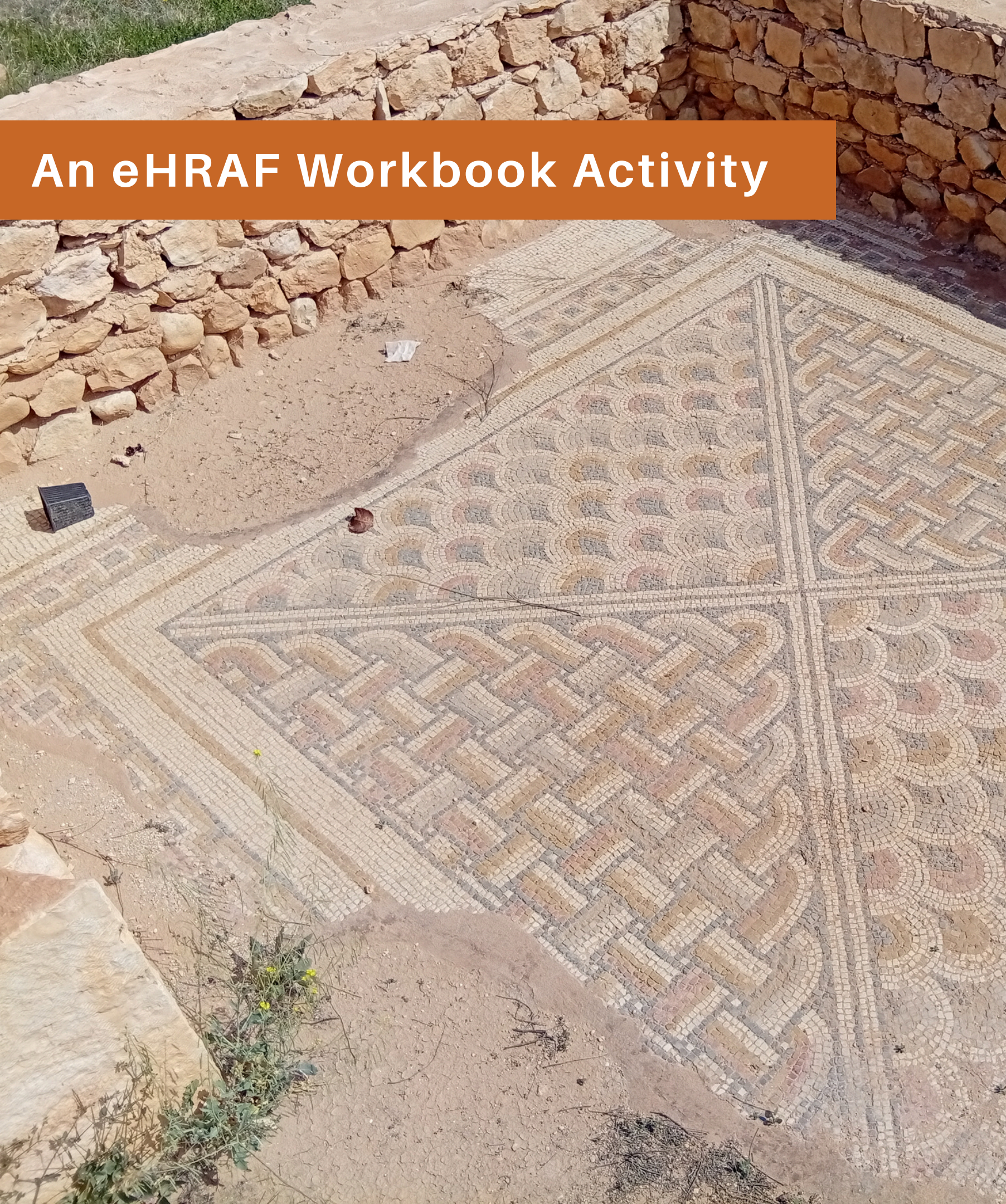




An eHRAF Workbook Activity

# Introducing eHRAF Archaeology



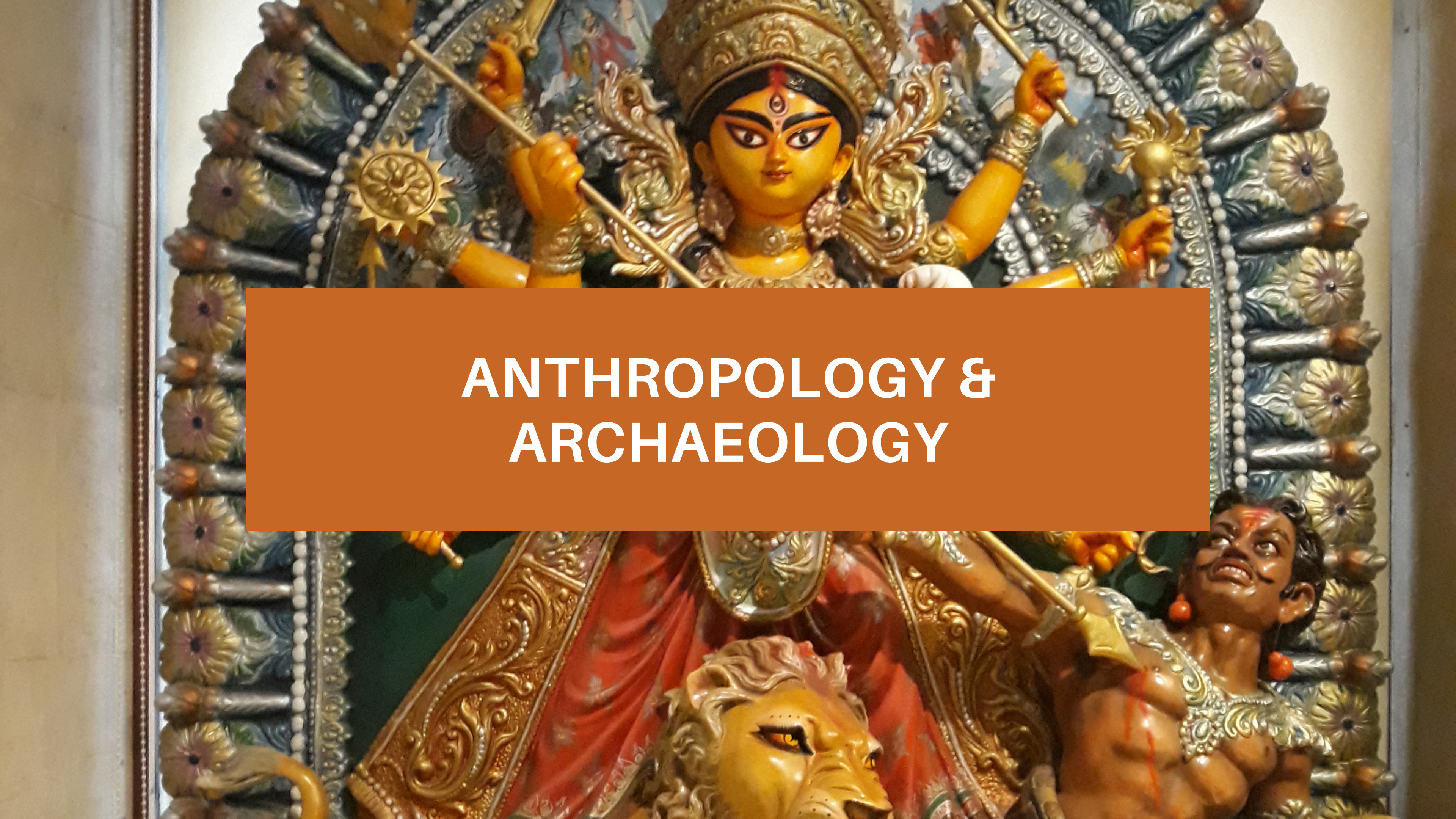


# In this activity

## Topics We'll Cover

- Learn about eHRAF Archaeology
- Discover Tradition Summaries
- Conduct an Advanced Search
- Compare and contrast two archaeological traditions



A highly detailed Hindu sculpture of Lord Durga, the goddess with ten arms, seated on a golden lion. She is adorned with a large, ornate golden crown and jewelry. Her hands hold various weapons and symbolic objects. The sculpture is set against a backdrop of a garland of flowers and is flanked by attendants, including a figure on the right and a figure on the left. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border.

# ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY



# Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of humankind, past and present. Anthropologists believe that the best understanding of the human condition arises from a comparative, holistic, and global approach. There are **four** major subfields of anthropology:

- Archaeology
- Biological anthropology
- Cultural anthropology
- Linguistic anthropology





# Archaeology

According to the Society for American Archaeology (SAA):

"Archaeology is the study of the ancient and recent human past through material remains. Archaeologists might study the million-year-old fossils of our earliest human ancestors in Africa. Or they might study 20th-century buildings in present-day New York City. Archaeology analyzes the physical remains of the past in pursuit of a broad and comprehensive understanding of human culture."







# What do archaeologists do?

Whereas cultural anthropologists study learned and shared behaviors, or culture, by conducting fieldwork amongst living people, archaeologists study the tangible results of such patterns of behavior and the evidence of human activity through excavations and surface surveys.



# Cross-Cultural Research

Cross-cultural researchers use ethnographic and archaeological records to discover and explain patterns and variation in human cultures past and present.

They ask questions such as:

- Which aspects of culture are constant across human societies and which vary?
- What accounts for these similarities and differences?







# Cross-Cultural Archaeology

According to archaeologist Peter Peregrine, there are three major types of cross-cultural comparison:

- comparative ethnology
- comparative archaeology
- archaeoethnology





# eHRAF ARCHAEOLOGY





# Archaeological Traditions

eHRAF Archaeology contains hundreds of documents describing archaeological traditions from around the world. The list of traditions is drawn from the Outline of Archaeological Traditions (OAT) and is then incorporated into HRAF's Outline of World Cultures (OWC), a classification system for the world's cultures. An archaeological tradition is: "a group of populations sharing similar subsistence practices, technology, and forms of socio-political organization, which are spatially contiguous over a relatively large area and which endure temporally for a relatively long period."



# eHRAF Archaeology

The eHRAF Archaeology database includes both a random sample of traditions and selected tradition sequences. These traditions are organized by region, subregion, and subsistence type.

eHRAF Archaeology currently contains over 100 traditions, with new traditions added to the database each year.







# Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM)

Using the Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM), a classification system for anthropological subjects, HRAF anthropologists have subject-indexed each document at the paragraph level. The OCM is an ethnographic classification system on human behavior, social life and customs, and material culture.

It contains over 90 major subjects with over 700 subcategories.



# Browsing Traditions

Traditions in the database can be found via the **Browse Traditions** tab. Use the A-Z Index or search for traditions by typing into the Filter Index. Traditions can also be browsed by region and by current country. Access the Tradition Profile by clicking on the tradition name.

For each tradition, there is a **Tradition Summary**, **Collection Description**, and a **List of Collection Documents**.





# Browsing Traditions

[Browse Traditions](#)

## Traditions

eHRAF Archaeology contains over 100 indexed traditions. The tradition names correspond to an identifier from the *Outline of World Cultures (OWC)*. Use this page to explore the tradition collections by searching the tradition index below and/or filtering by region, subsistence type, or samples. Each culture file contains a comprehensive *tradition profile* including a collection description, tradition summary, list of documents, and indexing notes from HRAF analysts. New tradition collections and documents are added annually.



Search Tradition Index





# Browsing Subjects

Every paragraph of text in eHRAF Archaeology has been subject-indexed by a HRAF anthropologist.

Subjects or OCMs can be found under the Browse Subjects tab. They can be browsed using the A-Z Index or searched for by typing into the Filter Index. You may also choose to browse subjects by using the Major Subjects (hierarchy) tab or by OCM identifier.



# Browsing Subjects

Browse TraditionsBrowse SubjectsBrowse Documents

 EDIT

Subjects

The documents in the eHRAF databases are indexed according to the *Outline of Cultural Materials* (OCM), an ethnographic subject classification system designed to cover all aspects of cultural and social life. Use this page to browse the OCM Subjects found in eHRAF World Cultures, to read a description of each subject, and to view related subjects. Learn more about the OCM here.

Subject Index

A-Z INDEX

MAJOR SUBJECTS





# Example Subject: Architecture

Suppose we are interested in learning more about **architecture** in eHRAF Archaeology. Using the A-Z Index, we can click on the letter A to find the relevant subject codes, or we can begin to type "architecture" into the Filter Index box.

Review the subjects listed to select the most relevant OCM(s) for your query. Later, we will see how to add these subjects to an Advanced Search.



## Subjects

The documents in the eHRAF databases are indexed according to the *Outline of Cultural Materials* (OCM), an ethnographic subject classification system designed to cover all aspects of cultural and social life. Use this page to browse the OCM Subjects found in eHRAF World Cultures, to read a description of each subject, and to view related subjects. Learn more about the OCM [here](#).

[A-Z INDEX](#)[MAJOR SUBJECTS](#)VIEW AS:  SORT BY: 

341 Architecture

Broader Term: Structures



351 Grounds

Broader Term: Equipment And Maintenance Of Buildings

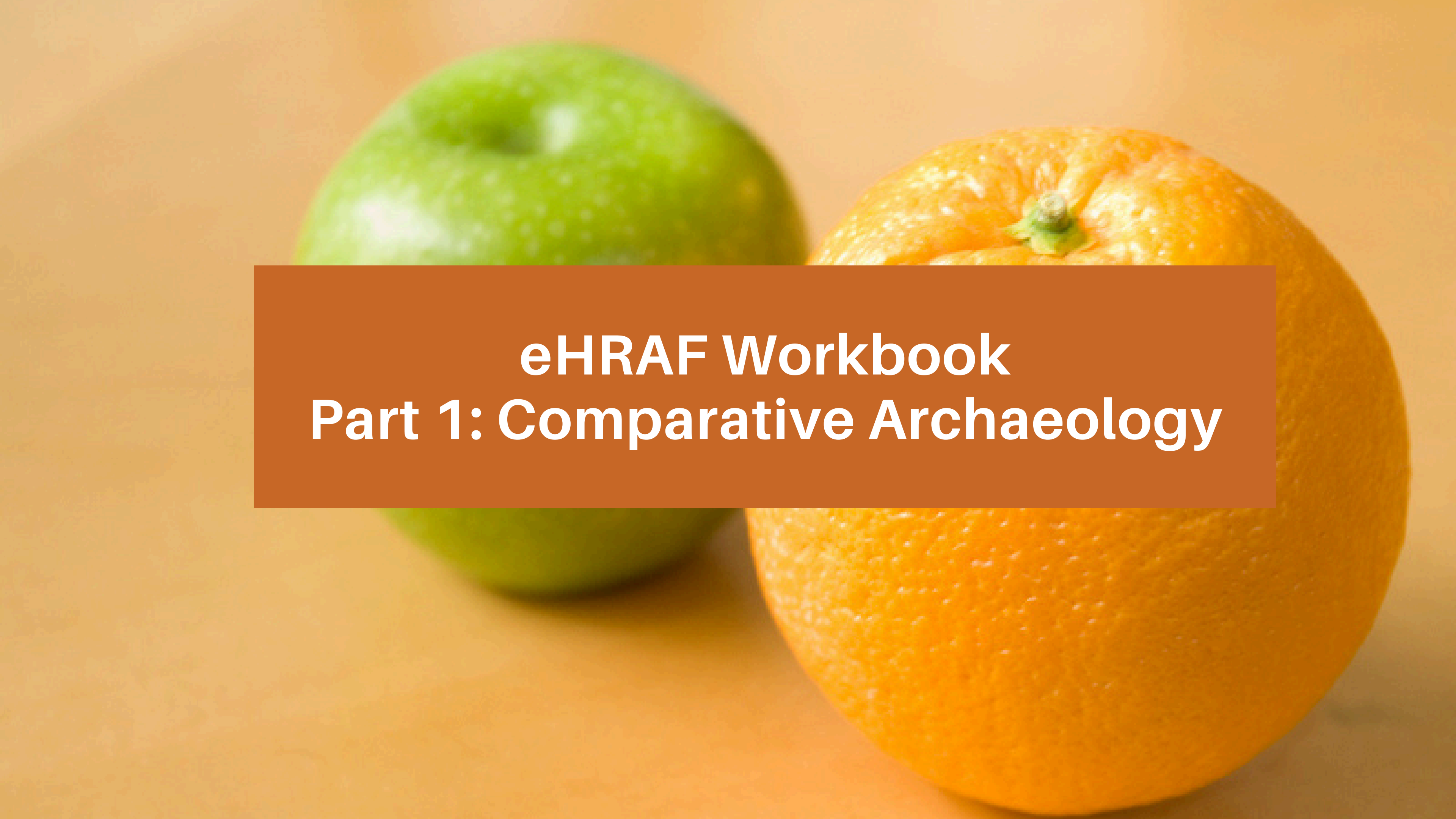


914 Typologies And Classifications

Broader Term: Archaeological Analyses





A green apple and an orange are positioned on a light brown, textured surface. The apple is on the left, slightly out of focus, while the orange is on the right, in sharp focus. A semi-transparent brown rectangular box is centered over the image, containing white text.

# **eHRAF Workbook**

## **Part 1: Comparative Archaeology**





# Part 1: Comparative Archaeology

Comparative Archaeology is the study of social change over time through archaeological research.

According to Ember (2016), "comparisons help us identify both similarities and differences. Even when we describe uniqueness, we are implicitly saying that something differs from all other cases we know about."



# Part 1: Comparative Archaeology

Let's visit eHRAF Archaeology to take a look at the work of two distinguished archaeologists who were contemporaries:

**Dr. Sarah M. Nelson** (1931-2020), author of *The Neolithic of northeastern China and Korea*

**Dr. Michael D. Coe** (1929-2019), author of *Olmec and Maya: a study in relationships*







# Part 1: Comparative Archaeology

Dr. Sarah Milledge Nelson (1931-2020) was Distinguished Professor Emerita from the Department of Anthropology, University of Denver. Nelson was a practicing archaeologist and a leader of feminist perspectives in archaeology. Her comparative work, *The Neolithic of northeastern China and Korea*, can be found in eHRAF Archaeology.



<https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/af45/documents/005>



# The Neolithic of northeastern China and Korea

*Antiquity* • 64 (243) • Published In 1990 • Pages: 234-248

By: [Nelson, Sarah M.](#).

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Abstract                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|  | This study compares some of the earliest Neolithic cultures of Dongbei (Northeast China) and the Korean Peninsula, looking for possible interrelations. There are brief descriptions of the different cultures and their characteristic artifacts. |

SUBJECTS

- Culture summary
- Ceramic technology
- Lithic industries
- Dwellings
- Heating and lighting equipment
- General tools
- Utensils
- Visual arts

TRADITION

- [Yellow River Early Neolithic](#)

REGION

- Asia

SUB REGION

- East Asia

DOCUMENT TYPE

- article

EVALUATION

- Archaeologist-4, 5

ANALYST

- [Sarah Berry](#); 2018

COVERAGE DATE

- 7450-3890 BP

COVERAGE PLACE

- Dongbei, China; Korean Peninsula

NOTES

- [Sarah M. Nelson](#)
- Includes bibliographical references (p. 248)

Table of Contents

Publication Information

FRONT

BODY

The Neolithic of northeastern China and Korea

Early Neolithic in the Korean Peninsula

Early Neolithic in the Dongbei

Cha-hai

Hou-wa

Xiao-zhu-shan

Guo-jia-cun

Zuo-jia-shan

Xin-le

Huang He Neolithic

Late Neolithic

Discussion

BACK

” CITE





# Part 1: Comparative Archaeology

Dr. Michael Douglas Coe (1929-2019) was Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Yale University and a well-known archaeologist and epigrapher who worked in Mesoamerica and in Cambodia on the Maya and Angkor civilizations. His comparative work, *Olmec and Maya: a study in relationships*, can be found in eHRAF Archaeology.



[https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/  
traditions/ny52/documents/035](https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/ny52/documents/035)



# Olmec and Maya: a study in relationships

*origins of maya civilization* • Albuquerque • Published In 1977 • Pages: 183-195

By: [Coe, Michael D.](#).

## Abstract

Coe writes about the relationship between the Olmec and Mayan cultures. The Olmec was the earliest Mesoamerican civilization, first appearing in 1200 B.C. and vanishing by 400 B.C. Coe examines the cultural traits that were unique to each culture and those that were shared by both of them. Among the latter are the personality cults of leaders, ball games, certain deities such as the Maize and Fire Gods, incense burners, ritual bloodletting, importance of jade, and certain glyphs.

## SUBJECTS

- [Comparative evidence](#)
- [Visual arts](#)
- [Spirits and gods](#)

## TRADITION

- [Preclassic Maya](#)

## HRAF PUBDATE

2001

## REGION

Middle America and the Caribbean

## SUB REGION

Maya Area

## DOCUMENT TYPE

essay

## EVALUATION

Archeologist-5

## ANALYST

Ian Skoggard ; 2000

## COVERAGE DATE

3200-1700 BP

## COVERAGE PLACE

Mesoamerica

## NOTES

Michael D. Coe  
For bibliographical references see document number 1:Anonymous

## Table of Contents

### Publication Information

### FRONT

### BODY

8 Olmec and Maya: A Study in Relationships

Untitled Section

TIME AND SPACE FACTORS

OLMEC-MAYA HOMOLOGIES

THE UNIQUENESS OF OLMEC CIVILIZATION

THE UNIQUENESS OF MAYA CIVILIZATION

CONCLUSIONS

### ” CITE



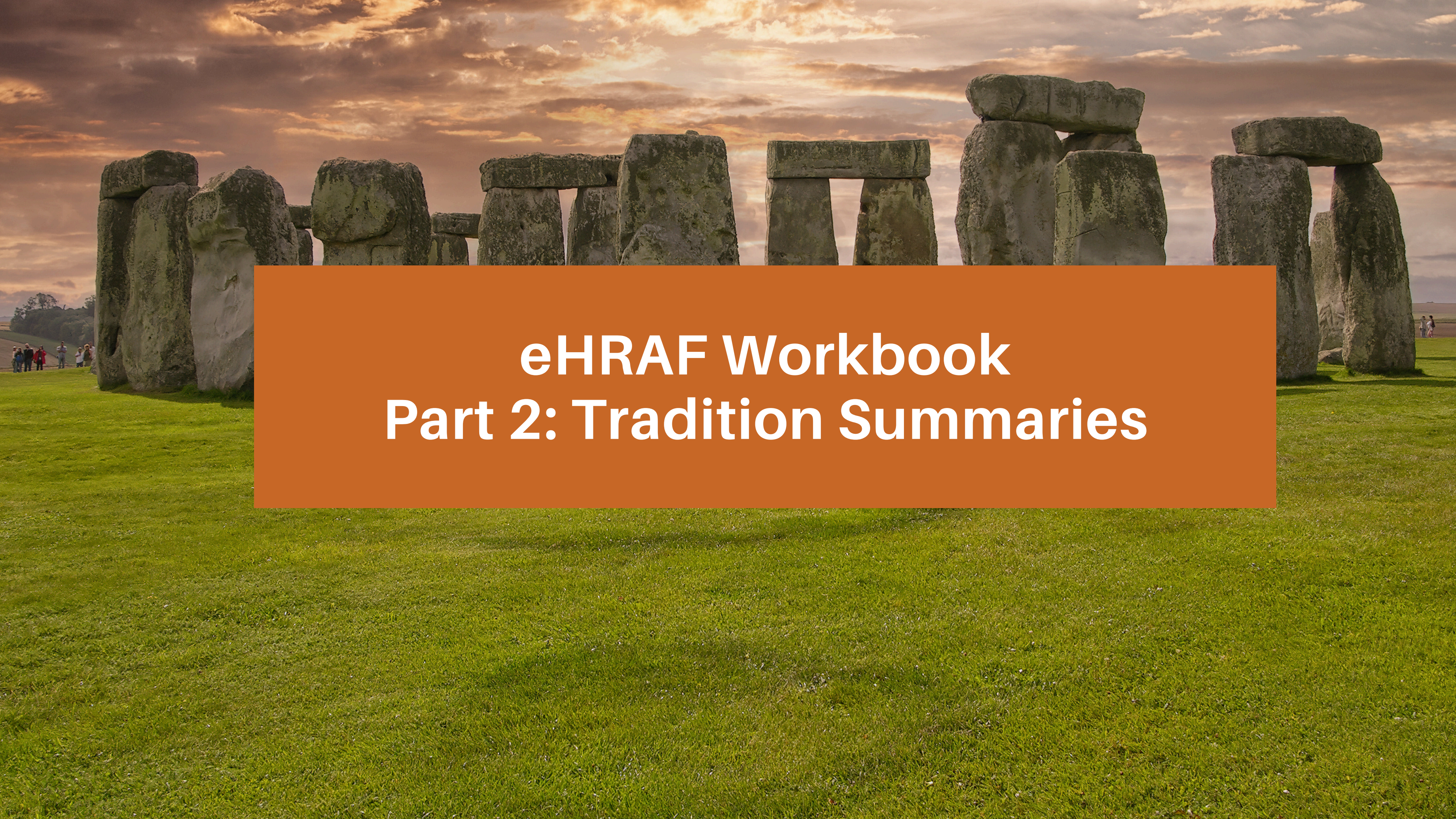


# Part 1: Discussion

After exploring the two examples (Nelson and Coe) of comparative archaeology, answer the following questions:

- 1) How do archaeologists compare and contrast two different traditions?
- 2) Is it important to compare traditions from the same time period (ex: Neolithic) and/or same region (ex: Mesoamerica)?
- 3) Would photographs of artifacts be helpful for side-by-side comparisons?



A wide-angle photograph of the Stonehenge monument in England. The large, grey, moss-covered stone structures are arranged in their characteristic circular formation on a lush green grassy field. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the distance, a small group of people can be seen walking on the left side of the image.

# **eHRAF Workbook**

## **Part 2: Tradition Summaries**



## Part 2: Tradition Summaries

Taking our inspiration from the work of Professors Nelson and Coe, let's do some of our own comparative research and analysis using eHRAF Archaeology.

To get started, read the tradition summaries for the **Olmec (NU95)** and the **Classic Maya (NY53)**.







## Part 2: Tradition Summaries

Herrera, R. Sergio Herrera and Leon G. Doyon. 2009. "Tradition Summary: Olmec."

 <https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/nu95/summary>

Sharer, Robert J. and Sarah Berry. 2000. "Tradition Summary: Classic Maya."

 <https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/ny53/summary>



## Part 2: Tradition Summaries

Next, take notes on what you find in each tradition summary in terms of three aspects of the archaeological record:

- Social Organization
- Calendars
- Monuments

The following table can be used to organize your notes side-by-side.





|                                                                                                    | OLMEC (NU95) | CLASSIC MAYA (NY53) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>SOCIAL ORGANIZATION</b><br>cultural complexity,<br>social stratification, elites, and commoners |              |                     |
| <b>CALENDARS</b><br>agricultural, astronomical, meteorological,<br>sacred, and the solar round     |              |                     |
| <b>MONUMENTS</b><br>monumental stone sculptures, altars, stelae,<br>and the colossal heads         |              |                     |



The background image shows ancient stone ruins, including a large column on the left and various stone blocks and walls scattered across the ground. The sky is bright blue with large, white, fluffy clouds. A semi-transparent orange rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the title text in white.

# eHRAF Workbook

## Part 3: Advanced Search





## Part 3: Advanced Search

Now that we have found ways to compare and contrast the Olmec and the Maya, let's dig deeper with **Advanced Search**.

This will enable us to find specific passages in documents that have been indexed by HRAF anthropologists at the paragraph level.



# Part 3:

## Advanced Search

In the **Add Traditions** column, select Classic Maya (NY53) and Olmec (NU95). In the **Add Subjects** column type "architecture" into the Filter Index. Select these subjects:

**Architecture (341), Dwellings (342), and Grounds (351).**

When using keywords, make sure to truncate search terms using an asterisk (\*) as needed. For example, truncate the term "pyramid" by typing "pyramid\*" to include variant endings like pyramid, pyramids, or pyramidal.





Advanced Search

Any of these 2 Traditions ▾

🌐 Classic Maya • Olmec



Any of these 3 Subjects ▾

# architecture • dwellings • grounds



AND OR

Any of these Keywords ▾

pyramid\*



RESET FORM

🔍 SEARCH





# Region & Tradition Results

Search results are organized by region, subregion, and tradition. For example:

**Region:** Middle America & Caribbean  
**Subregion:** Central Mexico  
**Tradition:** Olmec (NU95)

**Region:** Middle America & Caribbean  
**Subregion:** Maya Area  
**Tradition:** Classic Maya (NY53)

The search results can also be filtered by subsistence type or sample, and sorted by the number of documents or paragraphs.



## Refine Search

### Subsistence Types

- ☐ Intensive Agriculturalists (46)
- ☐ Other Subsistence Combinations (8)

### Regions

### Published Date

### Tradition Level Samples

### Document Level Samples

### Document Types

### Series

**Results For:** *traditions:("Classic Maya" OR "Olmec") AND (subjects:("archi...*

*Found 54 paragraphs in 14 documents across 2 traditions (0.007 seconds)*

### ▼ Middle America and the Caribbean (54 paragraphs in 14 documents in traditions)

| Subregion      | Tradition Name | OWC  | Subsistence Type               |
|----------------|----------------|------|--------------------------------|
| Central Mexico | Olmec          | NU95 | Other Subsistence Combinations |
| Maya Area      | Classic Maya   | NY53 | Intensive Agriculturalists     |





# Filtering

You can use filtering options to narrow your results by subsistence type or by sample. Search results can be filtered by nine different subsistence types. Hover above a subsistence type for a brief description.

Results can also be filtered by sample. The Simple Random Sample is a non-stratified sample of traditions randomly selected from the OAT. There are over 45 traditions in the Simple Random Sample, with new cases added from time to time.



# Essay Assignment

Write a short paper (2-3 pages) in which you discuss your findings.

- What were the most interesting things you learned about the archaeological record of the Olmec and the Maya?
- What would you describe as the most important archaeological discoveries for each of these traditions?





# References

Coe, Michael D. 1977. "Olmec and Maya: A Study in Relationships." In *The Origins of Maya Civilization*, 183–95. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. <https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/ny52/documents/035>.

Ember, Carol R. 2016. *Introducing Cross Cultural Research*. New Haven: Human Relations Area Files. <https://hraf.yale.edu/ccr/>.

Herrera, R. Sergio Herrera and Leon G. Doyon. 2009. "Tradition Summary: Olmec." New Haven, Conn.: Human Relations Area Files. <https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/nu95/summary>.

Nelson, Sarah M. 1990. "The Neolithic of Northeastern China and Korea." *Antiquity* Vol. 64 (no. 243): 234–48. <https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/af45/documents/005>.

Sharer, Robert J. and Sarah Berry. 2000. "Tradition Summary: Classic Maya." New Haven, Conn.: Human Relations Area Files. <https://ehrafarchaeology.yale.edu/traditions/ny53/summary>.



# Image Credits

## Slide 1

BATEN ZAMMOUR Archaeological Site by [Houss 2020](#), [CC0 1.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 2

Great Sphinx of Giza by [Petar Milošević](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 3

Representation of the Hindu goddess Durga in the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge by [Simon Burchell](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 4

Amish children on their way to school by [Gadjoboy](#), [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 5

Flatiron Building in New York City by [Upstateherd](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



# Image Credits

## Slide 6

Archaeology at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina by [anoldent](#), [CC BY-SA 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 7

Cross-cultural interaction between a local woman and tourist in Morocco by [Allen Lubitz](#), [CC BY 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 8

Weaver with her baby alpaca in Chullpas de Sillustani, Puno, Peru by [Carlos Antônio Almeida de Oliveira](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 9

Terrestrial table globe by [Willem Jansz Blaeu](#), [public domain](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 10

Monolith of the Stone of the Sun, also named Aztec calendar stone (National Museum of Anthropology and History, Mexico City) by [El Comandante](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



# Image Credits

Slide 11

Central Mexico, Teotihuacán, Classic Period Mask, Cleveland Museum of Art by [Cleveland Museum of Art](#), [CC0 1.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 12

Aztec Jaguar Warrior by [Jonata Oregón](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 13

Natural History Museum in London, England by [Mdbeckwith](#), [CC0 1.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 15

Lello & Irmão Bookstore in Oporto, Portugal by [Turismo En Portugal](#), [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 17

Merton College Chapel in Oxford, England seen from Front Quad by [Godot13](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



# Image Credits

Slide 19

An apple and an orange by [Michael Johnson](#), [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 20

Woman holding an apple and an orange by [PTPioneer](#), [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 22

Model of Middle Neolithic (5000-3000 BCE) settlement in the Yellow River Valley in northern China by [Mary Harrsch](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 24

Olmec Head San Lorenzo No. 1, sculpted around 1200-900 BCE by [Mesoamerican](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 26

El Castillo, Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico by [Bjørn Christian Tørrissen](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



# Image Credits

Slide 26

Pyramids of Giza in Egypt by [Walkerssk](#), [CC0 1.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 27

Stonehenge at dusk by [Derek Jensen](#), [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 28

Olmec Ceramic Figurine, Olmec and Gulf Coast Gallery, INAH, National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City by [Gary Todd](#), [CC0 1.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 29

Preclassic ceramic Maya figurine of a woman with elaborate headdress 1000 BCE - 100 CE at the Penn Museum by [Mary Harrsch](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Slide 30

Calabazas Archaeology Site Honduras by [Infrogmation](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



# Image Credits

## Slide 32

Ancient town of Kourion near Limassol, Cyprus by [A.Savin](#), [FAL](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 33

Archaeological Structure from Pergamon, Antoloji by [Antoloji](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 34

Tipi at the Plains Conservation Center, Colorado by [Zenhaus](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 36

Compass - Book jacket of "A Treatise on Navigation and Nautical Astronomy" by [NOAA Photo Library](#), [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

## Slide 38

Boiling banana fibers and filtering the ash by [Rogerirakoze](#), [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons / Cropped from original



# Image Credits

Slide 39

Woman holding a laptop on her lap and typing by [Nenad Stojkovic](#), [CC BY 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

NOTE: Images have been slightly cropped to fit the Canva presentation template.





# **Introducing eHRAF Archaeology**

**An eHRAF Workbook Activity**

Produced by  
**Human Relations Area Files**  
at Yale University  
[hraf.yale.edu](http://hraf.yale.edu)