



Archaeology and Humanity's Story: A Brief Introduction to World Prehistory

By Deborah I. Olszewski

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This student-friendly textbook introduces the archaeological past from approximately seven million years ago through later politically complex societies. *Archaeology and Humanity's Story: A Brief Introduction to World Prehistory* does not attempt to discuss every archaeologically important site and development in prehistory and early history. Rather, it presents key issues from earlier prehistory and then organizes the chapters on politically complex societies using a similar framework. This allows students to easily compare and contrast different geographical regions. Each of these chapters also highlights a specific case study in which similar themes are examined, such as the written word; resource networks, trade, and exchange; social life; ritual and religion; and warfare and violence. Each chapter includes several sidebar boxes, a timeline showing the chronology relevant to that chapter, and "The Big Picture," "Peopling the Past," and "Evolutionary Processes" features.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #619946 in Books
- Published on: 2015-11-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.50" h x 1.10" w x 9.20" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 528 pages

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Review

"This is a thorough, engaging, and compellingly illustrated treatment of the human experience as it has played out in material culture around the world. The organization is excellent and the content is covered adequately, but not in too much detail. I will adopt, as it matches perfectly the way I run my course."-- Charles R. Riggs, *Fort Lewis College*

"This text has a refreshing approach and good updated materials with broad coverage of Old and New Worlds. The first chapter provides an excellent start for any introductory course in archaeology. Coverage of elementary procedures as well as clear explanation of theoretical concepts and some of the more complex dating methods, for instance, are executed beautifully."--Ellis E. McDowell-Loudan, *The State University of New York, Cortland*

About the Author

Deborah I. Olszewski is Adjunct Professor and Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. She is coauthor, with Robert J. Wenke, of *Patterns in Prehistory: Humankind's First Three Million Years*, Fifth Edition (OUP, 2006).

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