



# What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research

By Paul Courbin

Download now

Read Online ➔

## What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research

By Paul Courbin

Paul Courbin puts forward a penetrating and eloquent critique of the New Archeology, a movement of primarily American and British archaeologists that began in the 1960s and continues today. The New Archeologists dropped the "ae" spelling, symbolizing their intent to put the field on a modern and scientific footing. They questioned the bases, the objectives, and consequently the methods of traditional archaeology.

Courbin examines this movement, its latent philosophy, its methods and their application, its theories, and its results. He declares that the record shows a devastating failure. The New Archeologists, he contends, may have developed scientific hypotheses, but in most cases they failed to carry out what is necessary to test their theories, thus contradicting the very goals they had set for the discipline.

Reevaluating the field as a whole, Courbin asks, What is archaeology? He distinguishes it from such related fields as history and anthropology, emphatically arguing that the primary task of archaeology is what the archaeologist alone can accomplish: the *establishment* of facts—stratigraphies, time sequences, and identification tools, bones, potsherds, and so on. When archaeological findings lead to historical or anthropological conclusions, as they very often do, archaeologists must be aware that this involves a specific change in their work; they are no longer archaeologists proper. The archaeologist's work, Courbin stresses, is not a humble auxiliary of anthropology or history, but the foundation upon which historians and anthropologists of ancient civilizations will build and without which their theories cannot but collapse. *What Is Archaeology?* was originally published in French in 1982.

↓ [Download What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Ar ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of ...pdf](#)



# What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research

By Paul Courbin

## What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin

Paul Courbin puts forward a penetrating and eloquent critique of the New Archeology, a movement of primarily American and British archaeologists that began in the 1960s and continues today. The New Archeologists dropped the "ae" spelling, symbolizing their intent to put the field on a modern and scientific footing. They questioned the bases, the objectives, and consequently the methods of traditional archaeology.

Courbin examines this movement, its latent philosophy, its methods and their application, its theories, and its results. He declares that the record shows a devastating failure. The New Archeologists, he contends, may have developed scientific hypotheses, but in most cases they failed to carry out what is necessary to test their theories, thus contradicting the very goals they had set for the discipline.

Reevaluating the field as a whole, Courbin asks, What is archaeology? He distinguishes it from such related fields as history and anthropology, emphatically arguing that the primary task of archaeology is what the archaeologist alone can accomplish: the *establishment* of facts—stratigraphies, time sequences, and identification tools, bones, potsherds, and so on. When archaeological findings lead to historical or anthropological conclusions, as they very often do, archaeologists must be aware that this involves a specific change in their work; they are no longer archaeologists proper. The archaeologist's work, Courbin stresses, is not a humble auxiliary of anthropology or history, but the foundation upon which historians and anthropologists of ancient civilizations will build and without which their theories cannot but collapse. *What Is Archaeology?* was originally published in French in 1982.

## What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin Bibliography

- Rank: #4310928 in Books
- Published on: 1988-10-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 6.50" w x .75" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

 [Download What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Ar ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of ...pdf](#)



## **Download and Read Free Online What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin**

---

### **Editorial Review**

Language Notes

Text: English, French (translation)

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Sheri Furlong:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book particularly book entitled What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a e-book then become one form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get ahead of. The What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research giving you yet another experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful information for your better life on this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

**Willette Bickel:**

The book untitled What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author provides you in the new time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice go through.

**Patricia Meyer:**

You can spend your free time to see this book this book. This What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research is simple to bring you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not get much space to bring the printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save the actual book in your smart phone. And so there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

**Bonnie Gallup:**

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to bring the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research which is finding the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's find.

**Download and Read Online What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin  
#I4KQLY08ZD3**

## **Read What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin for online ebook**

What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin books to read online.

### **Online What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin ebook PDF download**

#### **What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin Doc**

**What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin Mobipocket**

**What Is Archaeology?: An Essay on the Nature of Archaeological Research By Paul Courbin EPub**