

Early Humans and Societies BEGINNINGS TO 5,000 YEARS AGO



THE STUDY OF THE PAST

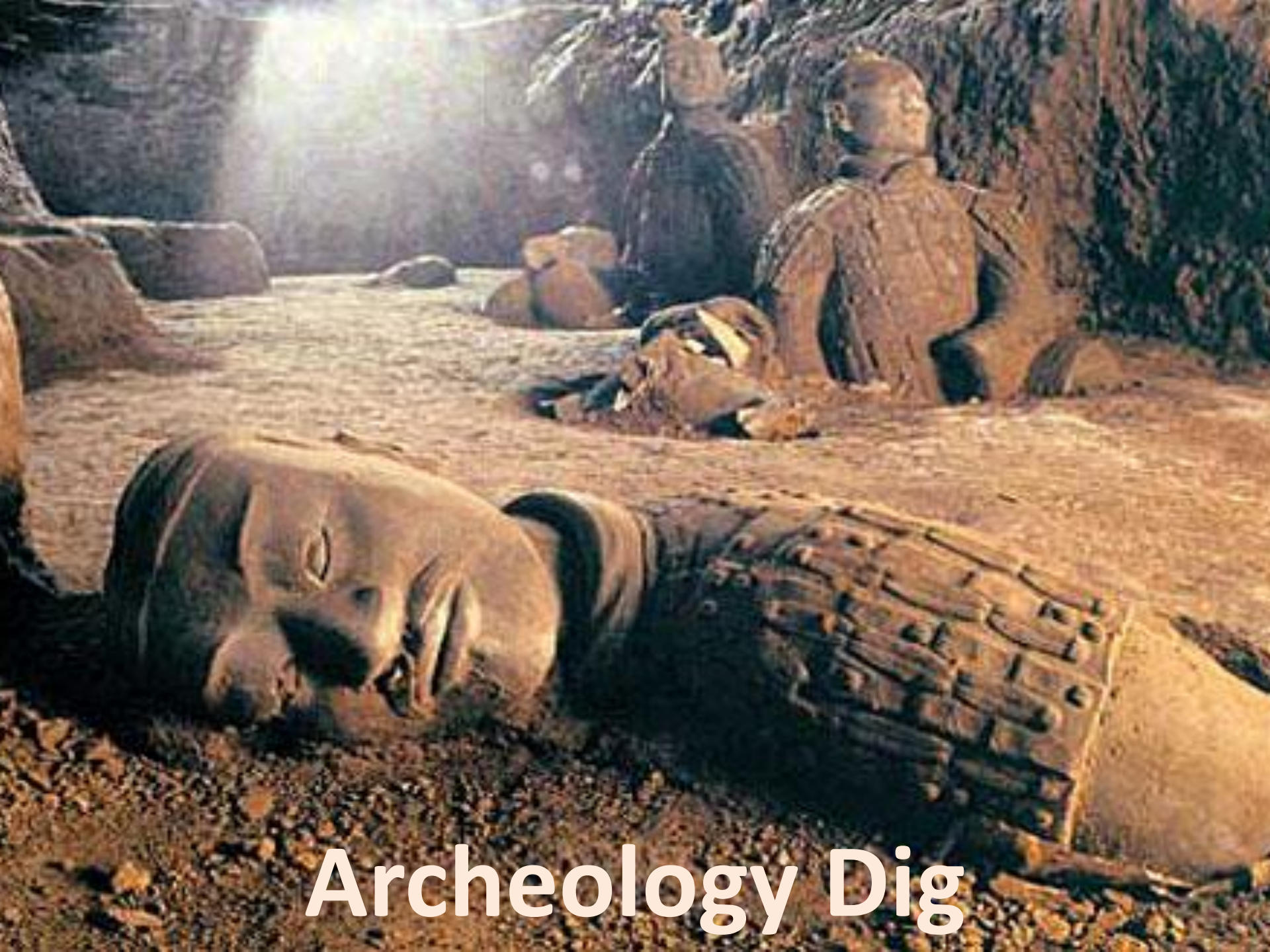
- **History** is the study of the past. Historians are people who study history. Historians want to know how people lived and why they did the things they did. They try to learn about the problems people faced and how they found solutions. They are interested in how people lived their daily lives. They study the past to understand people's culture.

Stonehenge



THE STUDY OF THE PAST

- **Culture** is the knowledge, beliefs, customs, and values of a group of people.
- The study of the past based on what people left behind is called **archaeology**.
- **Archaeologists** explore places where people once lived, worked, or fought. They examine the things that people left in these places to learn what they can tell about the past.



Archeology Dig

UNDERSTANDING THROUGH HISTORY

- Understanding the past helps you understand the world today. History can even teach you about yourself. What if you did not know about your own past? You would not know what makes you proud about yourself. You would not know what mistakes you should not repeat. History is just as important for groups. What would happen if countries had no record of their past? People would not remember their nation's great triumphs or tragedies. History shapes our identity and teaches us the **values** that we share.

UNDERSTANDING THROUGH HISTORY

- History also teaches about cultures that are unlike your own. Learning other people's stories can help you respect and understand different opinions. You also learn to understand how today's events are shaped by events of the past. History encourages you to ask important questions.

USING CLUES

We learn about history from a variety of sources.

- **Fossils**, such as bones or footprints preserved in rock, give us clues to life very long ago.
- **Artifacts**, such as tools, coins, or pottery, also give us information. Writing has taught us a great deal.



Fossils

Artifacts



USING CLUES

Writing can be:

- a **primary source** (by someone who took part in or witnessed an event) or a
- **secondary source** (information gathered by someone who did not take part in or witness an event).

Primary data collected by observation, interview, focus group, survey

Primary sources

Secondary data in the form of records left by people of their activities

Secondary data collected with a particular research design

Secondary sources

Secondary literature which critically analyses data