



Social Scientists-
Who Are They?

Social Scientists are...

People who study the past. They are like detectives who ask questions, study the evidence for clues, and form hypotheses.

Examples of social scientists include:

- Paleoanthropologists
- Archeologists
- Historians



Paleoanthropologists

Study the past by *examining fossils* to discover and reconstruct the past.



These paleoanthropologists are trying to determine the age of these hominid bones.

Fossils

Fossils are remains of once living things.

- Examples:
 - Petrified Bones
 - Footprints
 - Teeth
 - Claws

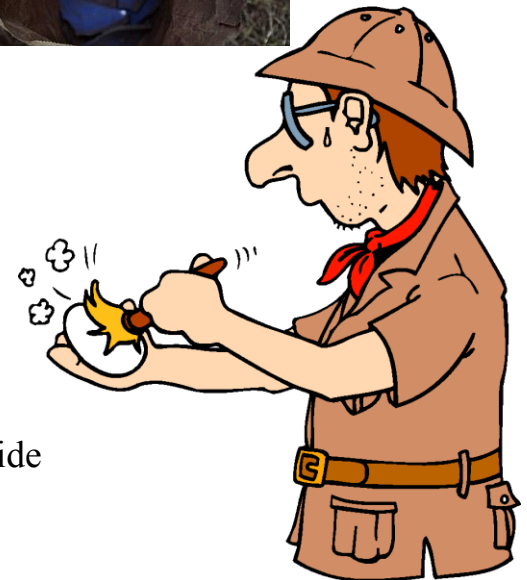


Archeologists

Study the past by *examining artifacts* left behind.



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Archaeologists at “the hill” in Maryland search for artifacts that will provide clues about the people who lived here in the 1850s.

Artifacts

Artifacts are objects that people have made and left behind.

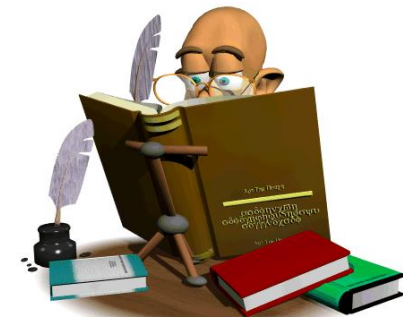
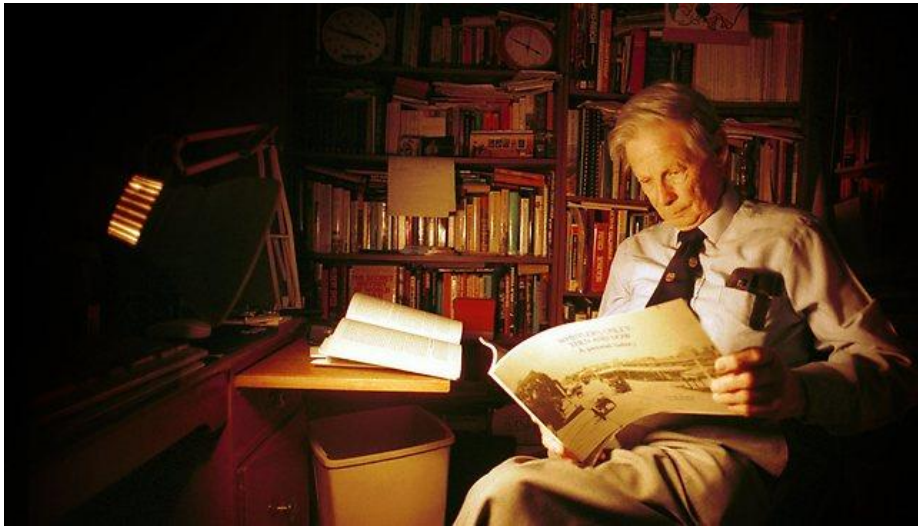
- Examples:
 - Clothing
 - Tools
 - Weapons
 - Coins
 - Pottery



Historians

People who study the records of the past.

A historian may look at artifacts themselves, or he/she may look at what others have written about artifacts.



Primary Sources

First-person accounts that are recorded at the time of an event.

Examples:

- Photographs
- Drawings
- Letters/ Diaries/ Journals
- Speeches
- Government Documents



Secondary Sources

Sources created by someone either not present when the event took place or removed by time from the event.

Examples:

- Textbooks
- Journal Articles
- Websites
- Magazine Articles



What do you think?



If you could be
a social
scientist, who
would you want
to be?