### Chapter 1 Project

### Thinking About the History of Archaeology

### Background:

As you learned in Chapter 1, the discipline of archaeology has changed quite a bit over time. While archaeology is the structured study of the human past, archaeologists themselves are not immune to the society that they live in or the tools available to them. In other words, as society and science advance, so too does archaeology. Understanding the different theoretical phases of archaeology’s past is essential to understanding archaeology now and in the future.

### Your Project:

You are on the organizational committee of the first Annual Archaeology All-time All-star Conference and it is your job to plan the conference dinner party. You’ve sorted out the venue, the menu and the entertainment. All that is left is to assign the dinner guests to their tables. To minimize the amount of arguing and to ensure everyone has a nice time, you wisely decide to place guests at tables that correspond to the phase of archaeological theory they belong to. Please place the archaeologists below at the correct theoretical tables:

### The Archaeologists:

Lewis Binford

V. Gordon Childe

Grahame Clark

Marija Gimbutas

Ian Hodder

Alfred Kidder

Flinders Petrie

Julian Steward

Mortimer Wheeler

### The Tables:

Table 1: Early Modern Archaeology

*(The salad fork is a product of cross-table migration)*

Table 2: The Ecological Approach

*(The salad fork is a result of cultural adaptation to our environment)*

Table 3: The New Archaeology (Processual Archaeology)

*(Don’t just observe the salad fork, EXPLAIN the salad fork)*

Table 4: Postprocessual Archaeology

*(There is no correct fork at this table. Use a spoon to eat your salad if you want!)*

### Questions:

1. At which table would you expect to hear an archaeologist arguing that objectivity is unobtainable, or discussing the symbolic or cognitive aspects of the past?

2. Which archaeologist would you expect to hear talking about the “Neolithic Revolution” and the “Urban Revolution” and the application of Marxism to archaeology?

3. At which table would you expect to hear archaeologists discussing quantitative and statistical approaches to studying the past?

4. Of the 4 tables, which would you prefer to sit at and why? What might the archaeologists at this table discuss? What might they argue about? What might they all agree with?