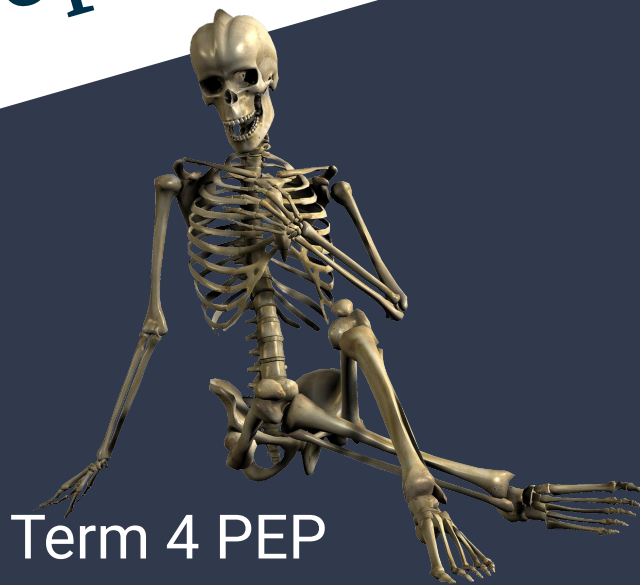


What Is Forensic Anthropology??



“Anthropology is the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behaviour, human biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics, including both the present and past, including past human species. ”

Anthropology is divided into four main subfields:



Cultural
Anthropology

Linguistic
Anthropology

Archaeology

Physical
Anthropology

Cultural

- The contact between Europeans and various cultures and societies around the world led to studies producing many ethnographies that covered a range of topics, including:
 - RELIGION
 - RITUAL
 - MYTH
 - USE OF SYMBOLS
 - DIET
 - TECHNOLOGY
 - GENDER ROLES
 - CHILD-REARING PRACTICES

Anthropology

Cultural (or social)
Anthropology is the study of
cultures and societies as
well as their development.



Linguistic

- Because the spontaneous acquisition and use of language is a uniquely human characteristic, it's an important topic for linguistic anthropologists to study the process of language acquisition in infants.



Anthropology

Linguistic Anthropology focuses on the relationship between human speech and language and different aspects of culture, such as the role of symbols in society, social identity, and cultural beliefs.

Archaeology

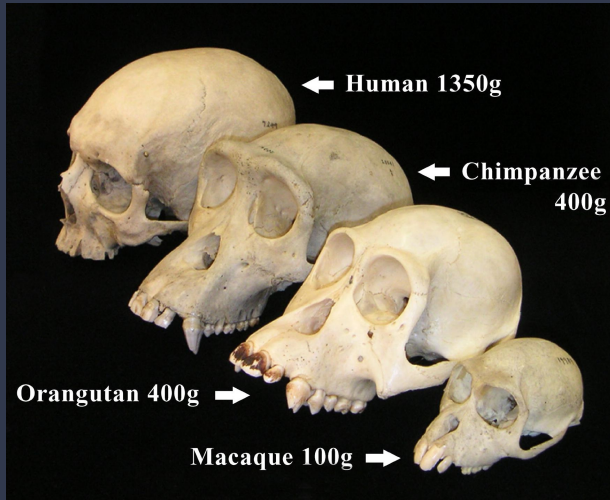
- Archaeologists obtain information from artifacts and structures left behind by earlier cultures.
- Tools, structures, art, eating implements, fragments of writing, food refuse, and so on are all examples of artifacts which reveal many important aspects of a society, such as religion, social structure and subsistence practices.

Archaeology is the study of earlier cultures by anthropologists who specialise in the scientific recovery, analysis, and interpretation of the material remains of past societies.



Physical

Physical Anthropology is the study of human biology within the framework of evolution with an emphasis on the interaction between biology and culture.



Anthropology

- There are many important studies and subfields within the branch of physical anthropology. These include:
- PALEOANTHROPOLOGY
- NUTRITIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY
- MOLECULAR ANTHROPOLOGY
- OSTEOLOGY
- PALEOPATHOLOGY
- BIOARCHAEOLOGY
- **FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY**
- PRIMATOLOGY

Forensic Anthropology

- **Forensic Anthropology is the application of anthropological techniques to legal issues.**
- **Forensic anthropologists help identify skeletal remains for law enforcement agencies as well as in mass disasters or genocide investigations**



Potential Investigation

AS A FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST

1

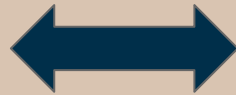
Identify if the remains are human or nonhuman.

2

Determine if the individual is of recent or ancient origin



Skeletal remains discovered in 2008



Skeletal remains of ancient origin

3

Create a skeletal analysis starting with a biological profile.

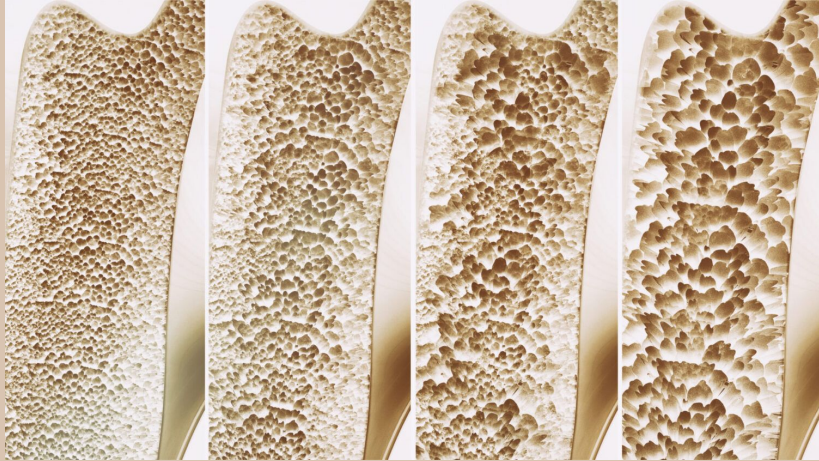
- A biological profile consists of the estimation of the individuals sex, age, ancestry, and stature of the skeletonised remains.



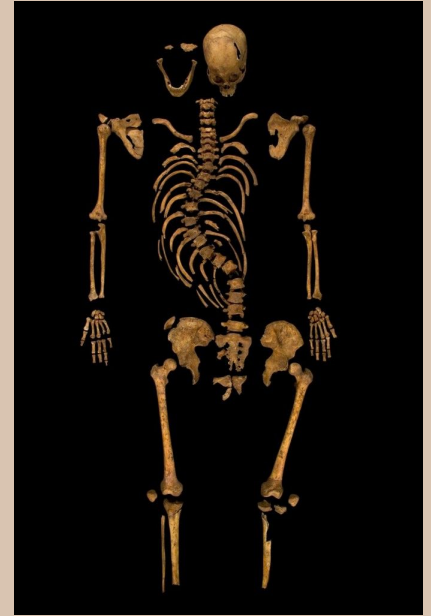
4

Add any trauma and pathology found from analysis onto the profile.

- Any antemortem trauma or pathology found in the skeletal remains can be used to match medical or dental records from that individuals life.



Signs of osteoporosis in the bone



Scoliosis found in medieval skeletal remains

5

Assess the remains for skeletal trauma.

- Trauma can be classified as blunt-force, sharp-force, or projectile.

Blunt-Force



Blunt-force trauma to the left temporal bone.

Sharp-Force



Sharp-force trauma to the parietal and occipital bones.

Projectile



Projectile (or gunshot) trauma to the right temporal bone.

6

Document any and all perimortem trauma.

- Blunt-force, Sharp force and projectile trauma or all types of perimortem trauma.
 - Perimortem trauma is the injuries that are sustained days or even hours before death
 - Perimortem trauma can be detected by looking at any injuries sustained and finding no signs of healing.



7

Differentiate the postmortem alterations from trauma.

- Postmortem trauma occurs after death and helps determine what happened between the death of the individual and the discovery of their remains.
- As a forensic anthropologist it's important to be able to differentiate the postmortem alterations, such as scavenging animals and sun damage to the bones, from trauma caused by violence.



Animal teeth marks from scavenging

LTI:

Interview with Daniella Heil

Top two points I got out of the interview:



1. In order to understand culture you must experience it in one way or another

2. “For me, it was easy to understand that I was into Anthropology because I was exposed to it from a young age. I ended up asking questions that my parents just couldn’t answer. But for you I’d say take your time, don’t rush through it, ask questions, reach out to people, and find your own way to your passion.”

– Daniella Heil