

## THE GETTING OF MATERIALS FROM THE SEA AND ATTITUDES ABOUT IT

Responses to animals being hunted and killed for food: Many peoples respect living things that are non human and ritualize the killing of animals in terms of their response.

The Inuit for example treat a captured whale as a respected guest with the harpooner's wife bringing offerings to the whale.

Japanese traditionally named whales they caught and inscribed their names on Buddhist memorial plaques and read them off during the memorial services along with the people who died in the villages that year.

### GREEK SPONGE DIVERS

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oANxVmgc9E>

Problems of diving. Pressure – One atmosphere increase for every 33 feet (10 meters).

Kinds of diving:

Free diving – no equipment

Snorkel – can keep face in water and breathe through tube not possible at any great depth

SCUBA – self contained breathing apparatus – air (not oxygen) carried on diver. Limited time – tanks only hold so much air. The deeper you go the faster you use it..

Hard Hat or commercial diving: Stay under long periods of time.

Dangers of Scuba and Hard hat is rapid ascension which can cause decompression sickness or disease aka "bends" or "caissons disease" which has to do with

Decompression **sickness** (DCS; also known as divers'**disease**, the bends, aerobullosis, or **caisson disease**) describes a **condition** arising from dissolved gases coming out of solution into bubbles inside the body on depressurisation.

Decompression tables

Film is about history of diving and development of disease as a result,  
JAPANESE AMA

The Japanese like the Greek sponge diving areas, have little arable land, hence they use the sea the way the Americans use the prairies and the Great Plains. There is a great deal of dependence on food from the sea.

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZbRTI-SpHM>

Non fiction films are sometimes called documentary films, but they are biased in favor of what the director wants to say. Think about the films about the Greek sponge divers and the Japanese AMA The first stress history and economy, the second cultural tradition and ecological concerns.

Japanese dive for food, but found pearls in them on occasion. Pearls are caused by certain shellfish having an irritant appear inside the shell (often a sand grain). The animal secretes a material over it, which becomes the pearl. Different shellfish may produce pearls with different shapes and colors.

This also spawned a whole development of Pearl diving, Development of cultured pearls.

Men are in most countries, the divers. So Japan is unusual in that it is the women who dive. Note the comments about pearl diving at the exhibit in the Hall of Ocean life on the lower level that shows the men diving for pearls.

Archaeology is that discipline which studies cultures from the past through their material culture. Archaeology is largely a set of techniques that involve looking at materials that people from the past have been left behind.

Archaeologists are often historians, (often specializing in areas like the classicists who deal with ancient Greek and Roman times or Egyptologists who are interested in ancient Egyptian cultures. They are also found in anthropology and are involved in studying cultures from prehistoric times to the recent past. Archaeologist can excavate sites where there have been pre humans and even battlefields of recent wars. Archaeologists do not ignore written materials if they are there, but they are generally associated with "digs". The development in the field has largely been in terms of techniques.

In all archaeology though, the basic tenets are the same. Sites need to be excavated carefully. Usually a grid is constructed and careful records are kept and every object found has to be documented not only as to what it is (if known) but also where it was found and any other information about it.

Sites also have to be protected against vandalism and theft. Many artifacts (anything made or unmade by people) may have monetary value and so there are people who take artifacts and sell them. The problem is that the thieves of the stolen goods do not document where they were found not only in latitude and longitude, but also in depth and in association with other materials. This is in a sense a different problem on an underwater site than one on the land.

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There is a great deal of "interpretation" about the material. In some cases interpretations have been completely wrong and have been reinterpreted later on. There were stones with holes in them, which were called "banner stones". They were thought to be stones which were group markers. Later it was determined they were "shaft straighteners". Comparative work led to the finding similar items in other cultures. If no such item can be found, the problems become greater. Proving the symbolic part of culture is often close to impossible. Typically archaeologists have used the term "religious" for objects which seem to have no "practical" or "utilitarian" value. But in more recent times, there has been a tendency to avoid such designations unless there is strong evidence. There is a field of archaeology that deals with "maritime archaeology". Some of maritime archaeology deals with "underwater archaeology" which is the "sexier" part of the field in that the archaeologists here deal with sites underwater, such as sunken ships. The archaeologists have to be trained as divers as well as archaeologists. Not all "maritime archaeology" deals with underwater digs. Many archaeological sites are on the land and deal with areas around maritime centers.

Sometimes maritime material becomes available in "digs" which may give clues to trade routes. Archaeologists digging in the Ohio Valley for example

in cultures from the Adena (circa 1000 BC to 200 BC) and Hopewell (circa 200 BC – 500 AD) periods These are mound builders and built such cities as Cahokia (from 800 to 1400)



At some sites in the Ohio Valley have abalone shells in them. This implies there was some contact with cultures are the west coast which have access to abalone.

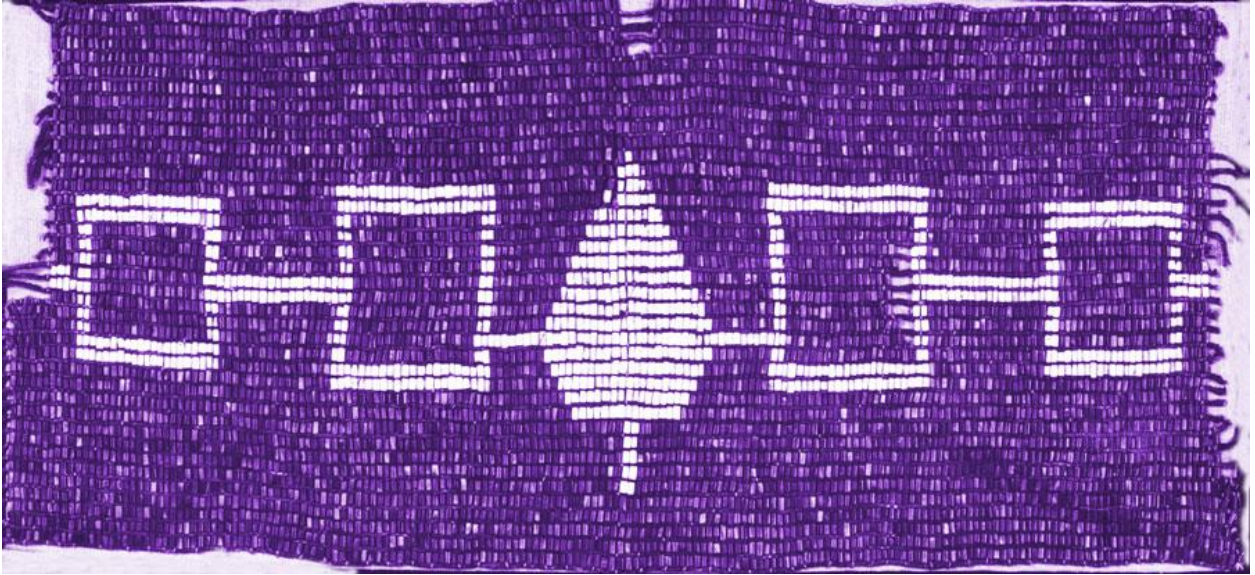


Abalone shell

Shells have many uses in addition to eating the creatures in them

NE Woodlands Indians made a kind of bead known as "wampum" from shells.





The purple from the quahog



Quahog: *Mercenaria Mercenaria*

White beads were made from the North Atlantic channeled whelk shell:  
*Busycon carica*.

This gastropod is used as food and can also be used as a musical instrument



The conch shell can be used same way in the Pacific and other parts of the world where the shell is found. The Inca used them and in the picture below the shell is used to announce the arrival of the queen



On occasion, the shell is used as a musical instrument in symphony orchestras. (La Noche de los Mayas by Revueltas)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuQoYY5Cv8o>

at 1:09

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tilj0iNz1\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tilj0iNz1_g)

at about 20:10

Rattles are also possible, made by either arranging shells so they hit one upon the other as happens with these from the NW Coast





Turtle shell rattles are made by using the "shell" of turtles (although not sea turtles). These are typical of the Iroquois). This one is mounted on a deer hoof.



Shells are also used for decoration on clothing sometimes for decoration and sometime for the sound they make.

This calabash rattle is decorated with cowrie shells



These are dentalium shells on a dress from the North Plains



Dentalium is a large genus of tooth shells or tusk shells, marine scaphopod molluscs in the family Dentaliidae. Like wampum, which served as a kind of money, dentalium shells were used as a kind of money among the Chumash on the NW Coast. The shells were used in Europe as a source of alkali. Shells, aside from the animal within them, have many uses as money, decoration and musical instruments.