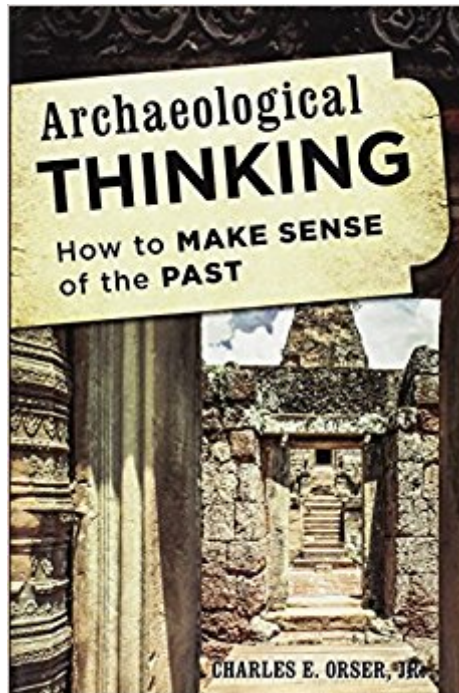




Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Archaeological Thinking: How To Make Sense Of The Past



Synopsis

How do archaeologists think? How do they use the scattered and often-fragmentary remains from the past—both historical and excavated—to create meaningful, sensible interpretations of human history? In *Archaeological Thinking*, Charles E. Orser Jr., provides a commonsense guide to applying critical thinking skills to archaeological questions and evidence. Rather than critiquing and debunking specific cases of pseudo-archaeology or concentrating on archaeological theory, Orser considers the basics of scientific thinking, the use of logic and analogy, the meaning and context of facts, and the evaluation of source materials. He explains, concisely and accessibly, how archaeologists use these principles to create pictures of the past and teaches students to develop the skills needed to make equally reasoned interpretations.

Book Information

Paperback: 190 pages

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (October 30, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442226986

ISBN-13: 978-1442226982

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #128,936 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in *Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Reference* #86 in *Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Archaeology* #189 in *Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Methodology*

Customer Reviews

Anthropologist Orser wrote his book for students and educated readers. He describes how to think about the past like an archaeologist and is eminently successful in that effort. In the first chapter, he discusses critical thinking versus belief, the relation between science and history, and a brief history of archaeological thinking. Following chapters cover such topics as systematic approaches to critical thinking, the nature of facts and their selection, the use of logic both deductive and inductive, the various uses of analogy, the use of sources as evidence, and the use of artifacts as evidence. Throughout, Orser provides helpful examples, mostly drawn from the realm of pseudo history—the Great Pyramid as a power plant, the myth of the Mound Builders, and St. Brendan's discovery of America, among others. The final chapter discusses the dangers of

faulty archaeological thinking through the examples of the racist interpretations placed on the ruins of Great Zimbabwe and the work of Nazi archaeologists supporting Aryans as innately superior. At times, Orser seems to privilege scientific thinking over historical thinking, but overall, this book should be a model for similar titles in other disciplines and of interest to anyone teaching critical thinking. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All public and undergraduate collections.

(CHOICE)The methods discussed in the book. . . in addition to the use of critical thinking and logic, can aid anyone in determining whether a theory/hypothesis is plausible. By discussing these ideas in one source, Orser has provided a valuable resource to anyone who finds themselves questioning. The easy to read format, vivid examples, and humor, make Archaeological Thinking: How to Make Sense of the Past well worth the read. (Historical Archaeology)Interpretations of the past often function as social charter myths condoning terrible injustices. These are serious matters that should be addressed in a textbook that teaches the methodology of archaeological thinking.

Orser's expositions of logic and its use in archaeology are well done and start the student in this direction. (Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology and Heritage Studies)A clearly written and genuinely fun little book that will be required reading in my class on pseudoscience and the past! In a terrific counterpoint to speculative conjectures of pseudo-archaeology, Orser situates archaeology between the sciences and history and carefully explains why the demand for solid evidence makes archaeology a very conservative field when it comes to claims about the past. Rather than debunking specific outrageous claims, he focuses on the critical thinking skills archaeologists use. Readers will learn how to apply those skills, and in turn, to recognize evidentiary gaps and logical flaws of any claim about the past. (Larry J. Zimmerman, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis)Critical thinking is at the core of archaeology, but it can be quite a task to convey these skills to students. Orser's Archaeological Thinking covers the basics with well-supported arguments and by using a tone that is perfect for introductory students and lay readers alike. (Travis W. Stanton, University of California, Riverside)An essential primer for introductory and veteran students alike. In this lucid little book, Orser provides a clear and concise discussion of how archaeologists create knowledge about the human past. He contrasts archaeo-thinking with pseudo-archaeology to explore issues of fact selection, logic, analogy, material culture, historical documents, and critical thinking. (LouAnn Wurst, Michigan Technological University)Archaeological Thinking tackles the often-ignored dimension of how archaeologists know what they know and what it means to think about archaeology and the past. In the midst of popular archaeologies that range from the ridiculous to the dangerous, Orser offers wise counsel on how to think critically, reflectively, and creatively about archaeology, material

things, and heritage. (Paul R. Mullins, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis)

Charles E. Orser Jr. is research professor of anthropology at Vanderbilt University and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Illinois State University. His publications include *Historical Archaeology*, 2e (2004) and *The Archaeology of Race and Racialization in Historic America* (2007). He is founder and editor of the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology*.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Archaeological Thinking: How to Make Sense of the Past Positive Thinking: 50 Positive Habits to Transform you Life: Positive Thinking, Positive Thinking Techniques, Positive Energy, Positive Thinking,, Positive ... Positive Thinking Techniques Book 1) CRITICAL THINKING: A Beginner's Guide To Critical Thinking, Better Decision Making, And Problem Solving ! (critical thinking, problem solving, strategic thinking, decision making) Sicily: An Archaeological Guide : The Prehistoric and Roman Remains and the Greek Cities (Archaeological guides) Malta: An Archaeological Guide (Archaeological guides) The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide (Oxford Archaeological Guides) The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide from Earliest Times to 1700 (Oxford Archaeological Guides) Angkor Wat Archaeological Park: The Ultimate guide to exploring Angkor Wat Archaeological Park (Cambodia Travel Guide Books By Anton) Little Red Book of Sales Answers: 99.5 Real Life Answers that Make Sense, Make Sales, and Make Money Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past (Critical Perspectives On The Past) Reframe Your Thinking Around Autism: How the Polyvagal Theory and Brain Plasticity Help Us Make Sense of Autism Comic Sense: A Comic Book on Common Sense and Social Skills for Young People with Asperger's and ADHD Chart Sense: Common Sense Charts to Teach 3-8 Informational Text and Literature K-2 Chart Sense: Common Sense Charts to Teach K-2 Informational Text and Literature The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century Getting Past Your Past: Take Control of Your Life with Self-Help Techniques from EMDR Therapy Past Life Regression Sleep Hypnosis: Discover Your True Nature and Uncover Your Past Lives During Sleep with Hypnosis and Meditation Children's Past Lives: How Past Life Memories Affect Your Child Old Souls: Compelling Evidence from Children Who Remember Past Lives (Scientific Search for Proof of Past Lives) Digging Up the Past (Set) (Digging Up the Past (Hardcover))

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

Privacy

FAQ & Help