

CHLOE DUCKWORTH
STEPHANIE PIPER
MARK JACKSON

Learning through ancient and modern technology

Dept. Archaeology, SHCA

**Social
aspects of
technologies.**

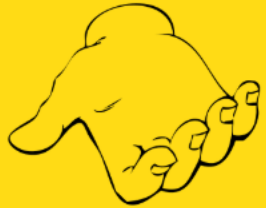
**How can we
study
technology in
the (very)
long-term?**

**Are we the
'artificial
ape'?**



EXAMPLE: 'YOU ARE WHAT YOU MAKE'

STAGE 3 MODULE



Experiential
learning
through
making



Online
content
including
videos



High degree
of classroom
engagement

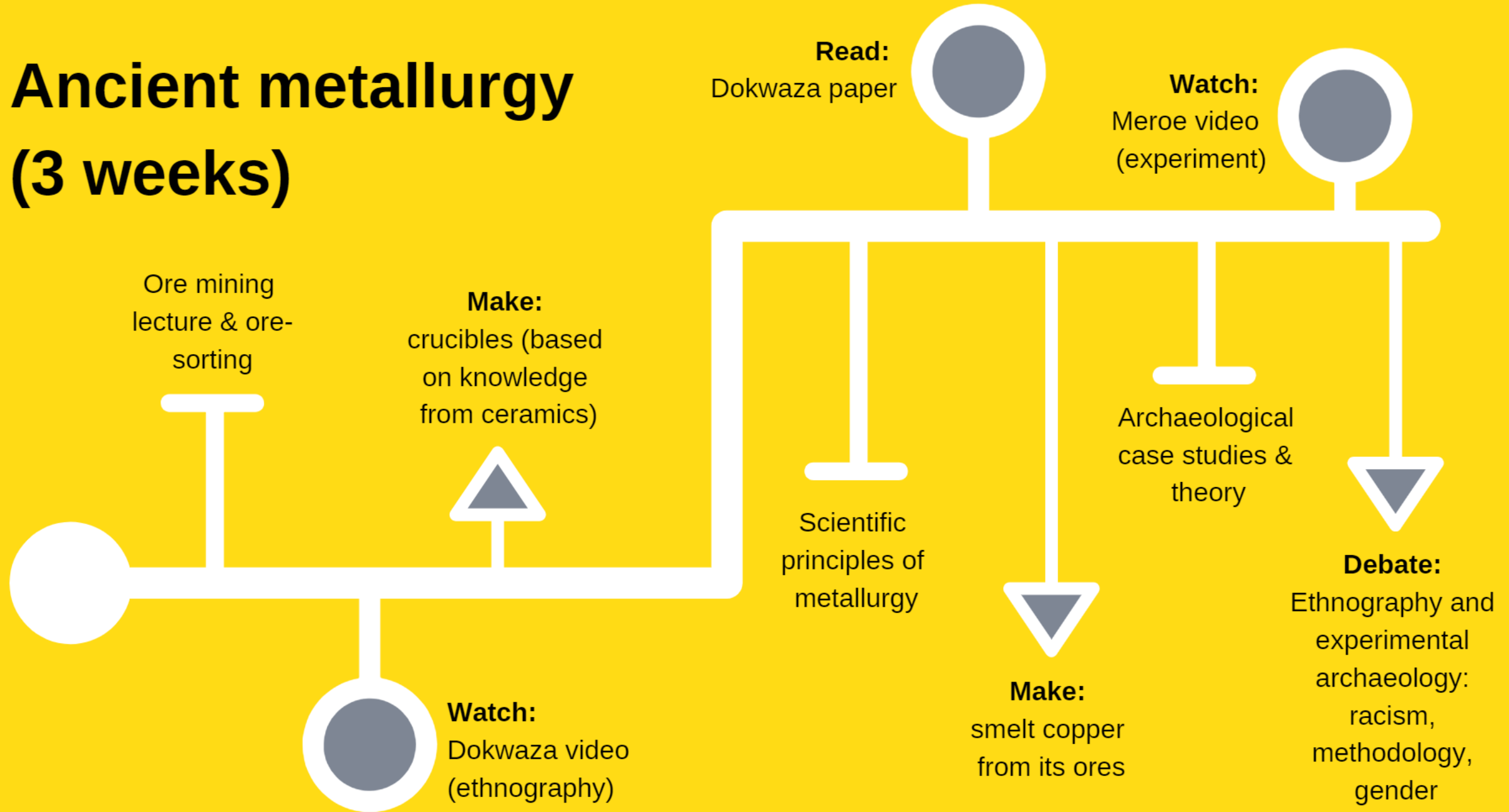


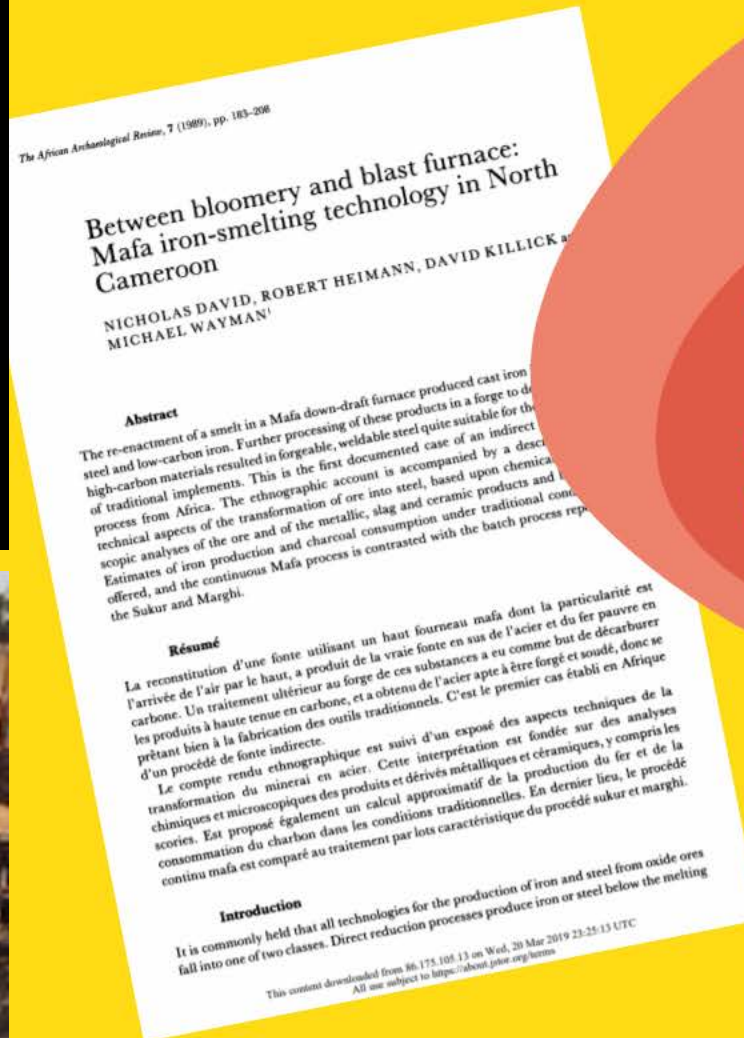
Traditional
lectures and
set readings



Problem-
solving group
work

Ancient metallurgy (3 weeks)





"This project aims to challenge the assumptions made by ethnographers, and re-evaluate the role of women within ethnography."
(student poster project)



ARA2066 & ARA3119 example
feedback:

"I loved the practical aspects of this module. It was interesting to handle objects made by craftspeople in the same way as in the past, and even better to do it yourself, and keep what you have made."



"The field trips were extremely useful
and ultimately very fun!"

"The practicals were fun to do and
well led."

"The practicals were such a fun way
of learning hands on. Really helped
to understand experimental
archaeology."



**'Fun' is not a
dirty word...**



**...theory is
discussed &
cemented
during
practical work
(relaxed
learning)**

Field trip to the
National Glass
Centre,
Sunderland





What is present and what
is missing from the
archaeological record?



The construction of the
archaeological record



Experimental
archaeology

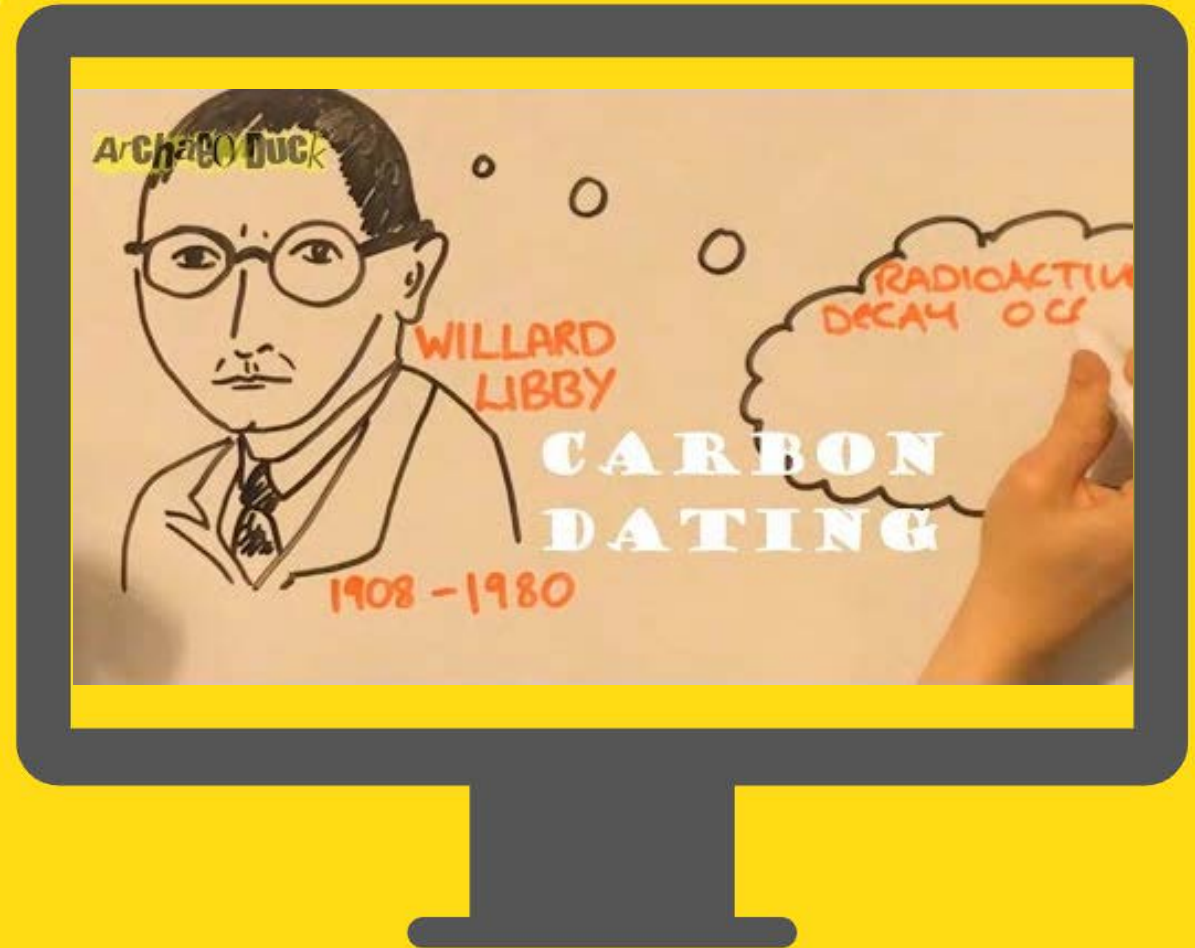
Repeat learning at own pace

Multimedia activity

Efficient

Archaeo Duck

www.youtube.com/archaeoduck



ARA8190 Using Radiocarbon Dates and Ox Cal

Problem-solving radiocarbon calibration dating exercise

In this tutorial, you will take the raw radiocarbon dates provided to you by a radiocarbon laboratory and calibrate them using Ox Cal (<https://c14.arch.ox.ac.uk/oxcal.html>). The raw data, including details of sample type and context, are provided below. Follow the instructions, which are provided in a separate handout. While you're completing the exercise, think about the questions listed at the end of the exercise. A completed exercise will include a table of the 7 calibrated radiocarbon dates, a plot of the calibrated dates, and a discussion of answers to the questions.

Background to the Site

The radiocarbon dates you will be calibrating come from the site of Tell Abraq, on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf in the United Arab Emirates. The settlement site was occupied from the third millennium BCE to the end of the first millennium BCE. Associated with the settlement was a large, circular, stone-built collective tomb, of a type known to date to the third millennium BCE (see figures). The tomb contained the densely-packed, disarticulated skeletal remains of over 400 individuals, and its deposits survived to a depth of about 80 cm. Burning and/or cremation seem to have been components of the burial rites of the inhabitants of Tell Abraq. In addition to burnt bone, patches of charcoal were found throughout the tomb deposits. Mixed in with the skeletal remains in the tomb were hundreds of archaeological artefacts, such as pottery, stone vessels, metal jewellery and weapons, ivory combs, beads, etc., which were grave offerings.

The tomb deposit was excavated in 50x50 cm squares in 6 artificial layers, each about 10-15 cm deep. Layers were numbered 1 to 6 from top to bottom. As listed below, two of the charcoal samples came from a burnt layer directly underlying the stone floor paving of the tomb.

Links to my YouTube video

1. Carbon dating explained
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>
2. The problem with radiocarbon dating
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...>

This handout contains answers.

Go to <https://c14.arch.ox.ac.uk/oxcal.html>

Read the basic information

Right click on this open so that

OxCal

- Radiocarbon dates
- Accessing the OxCal online

THANK YOU!

CHLOE.DUCKWORTH@NCL.AC.UK

