

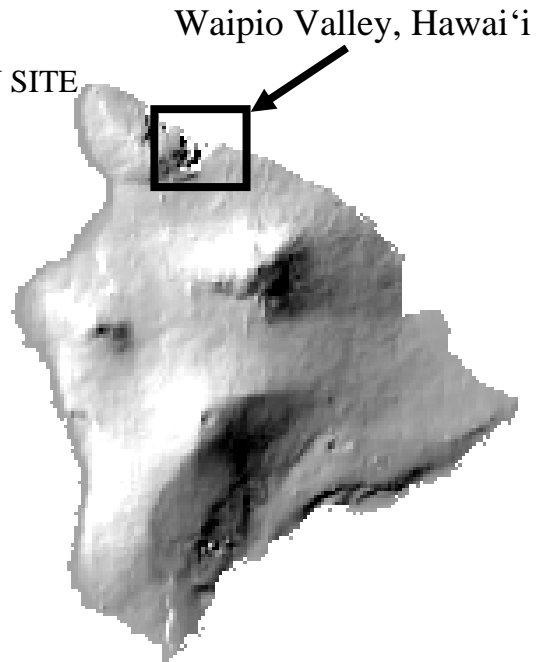
## LAB 3: Field Archaeology

Anthropology 151  
Fall 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

### STATION 1. EXCAVATING AN ANCIENT HAWAIIAN SITE

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS: You are an archaeologist and have just completed excavating a portion of this ancient Hawaiian site you see before you. It is located in the Waipio valley on the northeastern coast of the island of Hawai'i. Your two excavation blocks have uncovered portions of a single prehistoric living area with various clusters of artifacts and features. You know that ancient Hawaiians at this time would have manufactured tools in order to fish, procure raw materials (like wood), and produce and process root crops (like taro and sweet potatoes). Additionally, Hawaiians lived in structures with stone foundations, often close to where they worked.



You have not excavated the area between the two blocks. Since all good archaeologists publish results of their work, and you are a good archaeologist, you need to study these cultural remains, figure out what they are and how they might reflect ancient Hawaiian life, and report this for others. In order to later write your report for the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology you should answer the questions below.

(For more info about Waipio Valley, see [http://gohawaii.about.com/cs/bigislandland/a/waipio\\_valley.htm](http://gohawaii.about.com/cs/bigislandland/a/waipio_valley.htm)).

#### ***Excavation Block 1, Area 1***

The several stone artifacts in the northwest corner of Block 1 are adzes, plus one flat rock used to abrade other rocks. Ancient Hawaiians used smooth, polished adzes to chop wood and other materials; the adze blade was hafted onto a wooden handle. When adzes became too dull to use they would often re-sharpen them by chipping them and then re-smoothing them.

Are all of these adzes here finished and ready for use? How do you know?

A collection of small flakes of stone (basalt) are clustered around the adzes. What could all these small basalt flakes indicate, and why might they be clustered around the adzes? Could they be

tools also?

***Excavation Block 1, Area 1 (continued)***

One of the adzes is partly smoothed and looks different from the other two. Is this adze complete? What might have happened to this adze?

What kinds of activities do you think that residents of this site were doing in this area? Talk about the artifactual evidence that supports specific activities.

***Excavation Block 1, Area 2***

In the southeast corner of Excavation Block 1 is a cluster of small artifacts made of pearl shell and bone as well as a few cylindrical objects made of rough coral. What do you think these coral artifacts were used for since they are in direct association with the shell and bone artifacts?

Are all of the bone and shell artifacts in the same stage of completion? Why or why not?

What might we call these artifacts? What were they used for?

***Excavation Block 2, Area 1***

In the northwest corner of Excavation Block 2 you have uncovered a hearth used by the residents of this site. Scattered around the hearth (in the white trays) is prehistoric garbage, or what archaeologists call midden. What kinds of things are in this midden?

***Excavation Block 2, Area 1 (continued)***

Can you tell what the residents at this site may have been eating, and if so what? (What are people eating the most of? Are there particular parts of animals that show up while others don't?)

***Excavation Block 2, Area 2***

In the eastern half of Excavation Block 2 are a couple of isolated artifacts. Can you tell what they are, and what they were used for?

It seems as though different kinds of activities may have taken place in the areas of this site exposed by Excavation Blocks 1 and 2. Generalize about the activities that the site residents undertook in Block 1. What kinds of activities may have taken place in Block 2?

**STATION 2. EXAMINING A STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILE**

**READ THE INSTRUCTIONS:** You are an archaeologist examining the stratigraphic profile of your excavations at the Waipio valley site on the big island of Hawai'i. This profile is in two discontinuous sections, with an unexcavated area between them. In your excavation report on this site you'll want to discuss the changes that have taken place over time in Waipio valley. When ancient Polynesians first arrived here they brought many things like dogs and the ability to cook and procure food. Other things, like rats, probably "hitch-hiked" on Polynesian canoes and were also newcomers to the Hawaiian islands. Later, the residents of Waipio valley not only fished and hunted, but had elaborate systems for growing different kinds of agricultural crops. Answer the following questions to help you later write your excavation report.

What is the oldest (i.e., deepest) Layer that exhibits unambiguous evidence of human presence in the valley? Why do you say this?

## STATION 2. EXAMINING A STRATIGRAPHIC PROFILE (continued)

Stratigraphic profiles are like time machines, because they let archaeologists see what happened over time in a particular place. In each layer, there are things that indicate what the people in Waipio might have eaten. Evidence of prehistoric diet is not only found in food remains, but also in the things people used to process foods. What kinds of things were eaten by the people who deposited the artifacts in Layer IV?

Layer III ?

Layer II ?

Layer I ?

Do you notice any significant changes in the diet of Waipio valley residents over time?

There don't seem to be any bird bones in the topmost stratigraphic layer (Layer I). What do you think happened to all the slow, flightless birds that ancient Hawaiians used to eat? Make sure to support your theory with evidence from the stratigraphic profile.