Chapter Guide 2: Dating Methods

- Based on:
  - “Dating,” by Douglas Price, Chapter 8 of *Principles of Archaeology*.
  - Yes, these overlap. Feder provides a brief intro to dating; Price provides important details and useful pictures and examples. Focus on the methods named below.

Key Terms – Write a brief definition or description, in your own words as much as possible. Sometimes you will have to get the meaning from the context. You may make flash cards instead if you like – one term per card.

Relative dating

Dendrochronology

Absolute (chronometric) dating

Thermoluminescence (TL)

K/Ar (radiopotassium) range in years

Be able to find these on a world map or globe:

Jamestown Island (pipe study)

Laetoli (footprints)

Scythian tomb

AMS

Thought Questions – Write a brief paragraph to answer each question. Include specific examples and definitions whenever possible.

1. What parts of prehistory are not accurately dated? Why?
2. What aspect of clay pipes helps archaeologists to date sites? Where and when do these sites date to?

3. What method was used to date the Laetoli footprints? Why was this the best method for that particular site?

4. Examine Table 8.3 in the Price reading. Are all these dates equivalent? Why or why not? What is the most likely date for the tomb?