

## **What is Archaeology**

Archaeology studies the past by examining material culture across time and space.

## **Role of Theory**

Formal definition of theory:

Theory is a coherent group of general propositions used to generate explanations for a class of phenomena. It is a template for observation that is used to explain phenomena and organize knowledge.

Broader definition of theory:

The way people think the world works.

Why is theory important?

- It is important for understanding how archaeology works.
- It is a useful skill to recognize how ideas influence research in any discipline.

The relationship between theory and data

## **Science and Humanities**

Science: The search for universals by means of establishing scientific methods.

Humanism: A doctrine, attitude, or way of life featuring human interests or values.