

**TABLE 10.3 Conceptual Frameworks in Archaeology**

Agency theory	Focuses on intentional actions of individuals in creating change
Annales School	Stresses the interrelationship of short- and long-term events
Catastrophe theory	Views culture change as a buildup of minor factors that suddenly overload a cultural system, causing major changes
Chaos theory	Views culture change as being caused by small-scale and apparently random phenomena
Cognitive idealism	Views ideology as the driving force of culture change
Conflict theory	Focuses on social conflict within and between cultures
Critical theory	Focuses on the inner, hidden workings of societies (also known as the Frankfurt School)
Cultural ecology	Focuses on the interrelationship between humans and the natural environment
Cultural materialism	Focuses on the environment, economy, technology, and demography as the driving force of culture change
Darwinian archaeology	Modeled after Charles Darwin's theory of biological evolution, but with "cultural" rather than biological traits being subject to selection processes
Diffusionism	Focuses on the spread of ideas
Environmental determinism	Views culture as primarily an adaptation to natural environments
Feminist archaeology	Addresses inaccurate depiction of gender roles in the past and systemic gender inequality
Functionalism	Focuses on the interrelationship of the various components of a culture
Historical particularism	Views the evolution of each culture as being unique
Marxist archaeology	Focuses on the economy and conflict between classes
Sociobiology	Views cultural behavior as driven by biology
Structuralism	Focuses on social systems and institutions
Unilinear cultural evolution	Views cultural evolution as following a singular, predetermined course; of historical interest only; no longer considered valid