

TABLE 10.6 Criteria for Evaluating Archaeological Explanations

Is the hypothesis testable?	If not, consider it no further
Is the hypothesis compatible with our general understanding of the archaeological record?	If not, be cautious
Can the hypothesis be used to explain more phenomena than competing explanations?	In general, the more phenomena a hypothesis can explain, the better
Occam's razor	The simplest explanation is usually the best
Have all competing explanations been considered equally?	Do not accept one hypothesis by merely rejecting the others
