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.