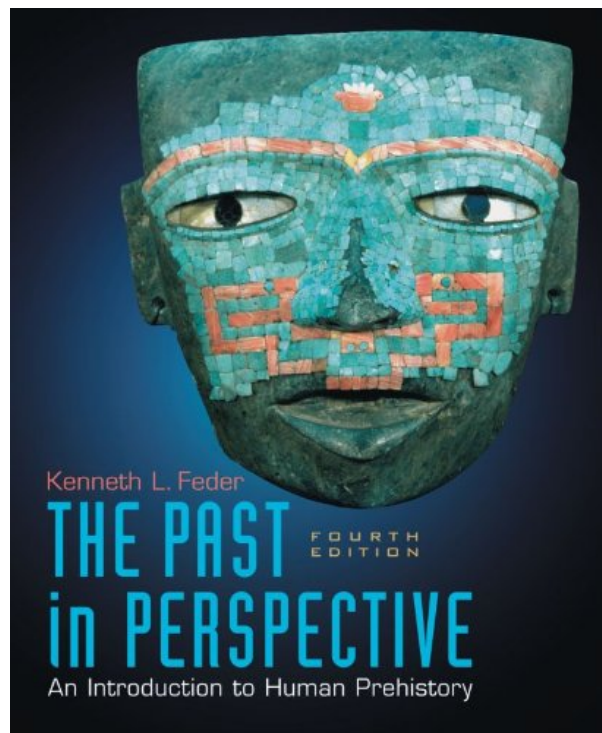
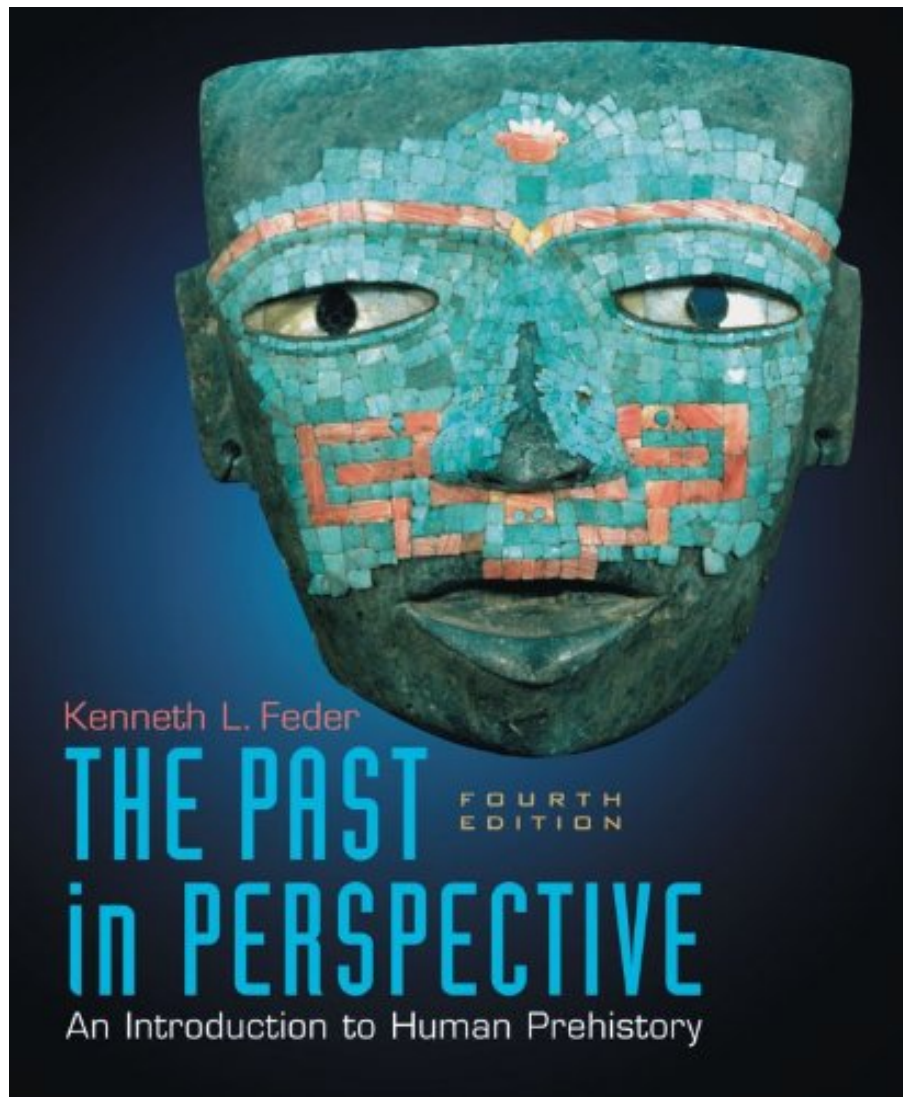


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Ideal for Introduction to Archaeology and World Prehistory courses, and geared toward students with little-to-no previous coursework in the subject area, *The Past in Perspective, Fourth Edition* is an engaging, up-to-date, chronological introduction to human prehistory. Written in a conversational, appealing tone, Kenneth L. Feder introduces students to "the big picture"--the grand sweep of human evolutionary history, presenting the human past within the context of a series of fundamental themes of cultural evolution. His is a captivatingly written narrative of the trajectories of human development--and of the fascinating processes employed to reveal those trajectories.

The Past in Perspective distinguishes itself with a series of common headings across its chapters that help students to master the complex story of the human past. Each chapter includes the following headings: Prelude, Chronicle, Issues and Debates, Case Study Close-up, Visiting the Past, Summary, and To Learn More. These sections work together to paint a picture of human antiquity in vivid detail. Each chapter also includes a timeline of events and a listing of archaeological sites mentioned in the text.

This text is supplemented by a companion website (www.oup.com/us/feder), which includes student resources (chapter summaries, multiple choice quizzes, glossaries, and flashcards), as well as instructor resources (PowerPoint slides and links to professional resources). The latter is also available on an Instructor's CD, along with an Instructor's Manual, which includes a Word-based test bank.

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- 720 pages

About the Author

Kenneth L. Feder is Professor of Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University.

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22 of 23 people found the following review helpful.

Putting more than the past into perspective

By A Customer

Kenneth Feder's "*The Past In Perspective*" is a book designed for those who wish to learn the basics regarding the field of archaeology. Focusing on the cultural evolutions of mankind, Feder never lapses into the jargon so popularly found in some textbooks. This is a book designed to introduce over five million years of human evolution, so naturally it is best for those who are new to the topic. Although I used this book for my archeology class, it contains information that could interest anyone with a flair for history. All in all, it is easy of to follow and does its best to represent all sides of arguments that are presented, although at times it seems to stress a war between religous and evolutionary ideas that may, or may not exist as much as the

author would like them to.

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Strong on Fossil Forms, Weak on Latter-Day Cultures

By Paul V. McDowell

I have used this book for about three years in my archaeology class, discontinuously I must admit. It's good for those who want a strong biological perspective in humankind's cultural evolution, but it comes up short when it comes to regional civilizations. Treatment of the state-level societies in each region (e.g., Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Mesoamerica, Andean America) could be more detailed, and the book would be easier to follow if it used a sequence of culture model for each region from its Neolithic to florescence to decline. In treating fossil hominids and their material culture, from the earliest human and humanlike forms through the Lower Paleolithic to the Mesolithic traditions and their makers, however, this is a solid presentation.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great overview of human development

By Mark W. Bohrer

This was the text for an intro to archaeology course I ended up dropping. Since I'll be signing up for the course again next spring, I decided to read it anyway.

Most of my archaeology background comes from books like Lekson's *The Architecture of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico (Chaco Canyon Series)*, Cordell's *Prehistory of the Southwest (New World Archaeological Record)*, and Reed's *Chaco's Northern Prodigies: Salmon, Aztec, and the Ascendancy of the Middle San Juan Region after AD 1100 on Ancestral Puebloans (AKA Anasazi or Hisatsinom) in the Four Corners area*. So it's good to get a more general background from Feder.

Feder weaves recent research into his narrative, making his book as current as books get.

He also discusses different methods of dating, and many other techniques that reveal prehistoric cultures.

His descriptions of field research in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe make me want to do fieldwork even more, especially after exploring Chacoan Great Houses and Anasazi outliers.

A faculty member in West Valley College's Park Management program recommended Renfrew's *Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice (Fifth Edition)* as a more complete text. I haven't read it so I don't know how it compares.

Feder's *Past in Perspective* reads a bit more like a New York Times bestseller than a textbook.

His out-of-print *Lessons From the Past: An Introductory Reader in Archaeology* reprints relatively recent articles about unusual archaeological applications in forensics, and in reconstruction of recent history, like combatant movements during the battle of the Little Bighorn.

Both books will give you a general idea of what archaeology is about.

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