



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION TERMS AND TRANSLATIONS **ENGLISH-MANDARIN**

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>DEFINITION</u>	<u>MANDARIN (SIMPLIFIED)</u>	<u>MANDARIN (TRANSLITERATION/PINYIN)</u>
<u>SURFACES/SOILS:</u>			
clay	Sticky and malleable dirt 有粘性且易塑形的土	陶土	táo tǔ
marl	A crumbly earth deposit 松散的沉积层	泥灰岩	ní huī yán
mud	Wet dirt 潮湿的/含水量大的土	泥	ní
pebble/gravel	Small stones 小的石头	碎石/砾石	suì shí / lì shí
sand	Fine grained rocks 细粒岩屑	砂	shā
soil/earth	Dirt used as fill 用作填充物的泥土	填土	tián tǔ
stratum/layer	A distinct level of archaeological context 考古学中的独特层次背	地层	dì céng

Last updated July 2025

	景		
surface	The top of a layer 最上面的地层	表层	biǎo céng
FEATURES:			
arch	A curved architectural feature 拱形的建筑特征	拱形	gǒng xíng
<i>bothros</i>	An artificial hole or pit 人工挖掘的坑洞		
corner	The place where two walls meet 两堵墙相交的地方	角落	jiǎo luò
crack	A small gap between two surfaces 两个表面之间出现的小缝隙	裂缝	liè fèng
curve	A rounded surface 一个圆弧形的表面	弧面	qū miàn
deposit	Anything placed in the ground 埋在地里的物品	堆积	duī jī
drain	A trench or pipe used to take water out of an area 用来排水的一条沟或管子	排水管	pái shuǐ guǎn
dump	A place for discarded material, ancient or modern 堆放古代/现代垃圾的	灰坑	huī kēng

Last updated July 2025

	地方		
edge/border	The boundary between two things 两个物体之间的分界线	边界/ 边线	biān jiè / biān xiàn
floor	The lowest surface of a room 一个房间的最低面	地板/地面	dì bǎn / dì miàn
foundation	Stones used as a base of a building 被用作房基的石堆	房基	fáng jī
fill	Dirt or material put into a space in the ground 埋在地里的物品或土	填埋物	tián mái wù
garbage	Trash, waste 废物	垃圾	lā jī
grave	A burial place in the ground 埋在地下的墓	墓	mù
hole	A void in the ground 地上的孔	洞	dòng
joint (building)	The point where building elements meet 建筑构件相交的地方	结合处	
kiln	An oven used to bake pottery 用来烧陶器的炉子	窑	yáo
layer	A distinct level of archaeological context 地层	地层	dì céng

Last updated July 2025

	考古学中的独特层次背景		
line	The shortest distance between two points 两点之间的最短距离	线	xiàn
pipe (clay)	A gutter 排水沟/管	排水管(陶制)	pái shuǐ guǎn
pipe (water)	A modern piece of plastic irrigation material 现代塑料制的灌溉用品	灌溉管道	guàn gài guǎn dào
space, interval	An area between two things 两个物体之间的区域	间隔	jiàn gé
threshold	The passable boundary between two areas 一条在两个区域之间可跨过的边界	界线/门槛	jiè xiàn / mén kǎn
wall	A vertical structure that divides or encloses an area 分隔或包围一个区域的垂直结构	墙	qiáng
dividing wall	A wall used to separate two areas 用来分隔两个区域的墙	隔墙	
retaining wall	A wall used to hold up earth 用来撑土的墙	挡土墙	
enclosure wall	A wall used to block off	围墙	

Last updated July 2025

	an area (keep things inside) 用来包围一个区域的墙		
defensive wall	A wall used as a defensive fortification of a town or settlement 用来给一个城镇做防御工事的墙	城墙	chéng qiáng
well	A deep hole in the ground to access water 在地下连接地下水的深洞	井	jǐng
well-head	The top of a well, usually made of stone 通常由石头砌成的井露出地面的部分	井口	jǐng kǒu
<u>MATERIALS/FINDS:</u>			
Bone	The calcified material that forms an animal's skeleton 由骨头组成的钙化材料。组成人体骨架	骨头	gǔ tou
brick	A small rectangular block typically made of fired or sun dried clay,used in building 通常由太阳晒干或是由火烧干的小长方形块状物, 可用在建筑上	砖	zhuān
bronze	A yellowish brown alloy of copper and tin 黄褐色的铜锡合金	青铜	qīng tóng

Last updated July 2025

cement	A powdery substance made with calcined lime and clay 由生石灰和泥土做成的粉状物	水泥	shuǐ ní
figurine	Small or tiny statues 小型雕像	小雕像	xiǎo diāo xiàng
find/discovery	An object found in an archaeological context 发掘	发掘	fā jué
fragment	A broken piece of pottery; potsherd 断的/碎的陶片	碎片	sui piàn
fresco	A painting done on wet plaster which locks the colors in as it dries 壁画	壁画	bì huà
glass	Hard and brittle material, usually transparent 玻璃	玻璃	bō lí
gold	A yellowish precious metal used in jewelry, coins, and art 金	金	jīn
iron	A strong dark metal used for tools 铁	铁	tiě
ivory	Animal tusks used in art 象牙	象牙	xiàng yá
lead	A somewhat soft silvery metal 铅	铅	qiān
lime mortar	A cement-like mixture of calcium calcium oxide and another medium, such as sand, with water 石灰砂浆	石灰砂浆	shí huī shā jiāng
plaster (wall)	A smooth lime-based cement used for making the surfaces of walls and ceilings 灰泥墙	灰泥墙	huī ní qiáng

Last updated July 2025

plaster (of Paris)	A lightweight cement-like mixture of gypsum and another medium, such as sand, and water	巴黎石膏	bā lí shí gāo
potsherd	A broken piece of ceramic material	陶器碎片	táo qì suì piàn
rock	A naturally occurring piece of solid mineral	岩石	yán shí
rubble	Debris or pile of broken segments of buildings, walls, waste, etc.	碎石/瓦砾	suì shí / wǎ lì
silver	A grayish precious metal often used in making coins	银	yín
terracotta	Unglazed, brownish-red earthenware	赤陶	chì táo
tile (roof)	Thin slabs of material used to cover buildings	瓦(屋顶)	wǎ
wood	Hard, fibrous material from the trunks of trees	木	mù
vessel	A hollow container	器皿	qì mǐn
<u>DRAWING/MEASURING:</u>			
centimeter	A metric unit of measure equaling one hundredth of a meter	厘米	lí mǐ
depth	The distance between the top and bottom of something	深度	shēn dù
elevation	The height of a given level	标高	biāo gāo

Last updated July 2025

ground plan	The general outline of a building as viewed from above	平面图	píng miàn tú
height	The measurement from the base of something to its top	高度	gāo dù
measuring tape	A roll of thin metal marked at interval for measuring	卷尺	juǎn chǐ
meter, meterstick	The base unit of measuring length in the metric system	米	mǐ
millimeter	The metric unit of length equaling one thousandth of a meter	毫米	háo mǐ
plan	A drawn record of features from an archaeological site on a horizontal plane	详图	xiáng tú
section	A drawn record of features from an archaeological site on a vertical plane; a cross section	区域	qū yù
width	The measurement of something from side to side	宽度	kuān dù
<u>ADJECTIVES:</u>			
burnt	Damaged by fire; charred	烧焦	shāo jiāo
dark	A shade of black; not bright	深色的	shēn sè de
deep	Extending far down	深的	shēn de

fine	1) Very small particles 2) high quality	精细的	jīng xì de
glass	A brittle hard surface; glass-like	玻璃的	bō lí de
hard	Firm, rigid, compact	硬的	yìng de
high	Of great vertical extent, or great in quantity, size, or intensity	高的	gāo de
horizontal	Parallel to the horizon	水平的	shuǐ píng de
light (color)	Not dark; pale	浅色的	qiǎn sè de
mixed	Consisting of different qualities or elements	混合的	hùn hé de
perpendicular	At an angle of 90° to a given line, plane, or surface	垂直的	chuí zhí de
soft	Easy to shape, compress, or cut	软的	ruǎn de
thin	Not thick; sparse	薄的	báo de
uneven	Irregular in pattern, quality, or shape; not smooth	不平的	bù píng
vertical	An alignment that is oriented upward; standing	竖直的	shù zhí de
wide	broad	宽的	kuān de
wooden	Made of wood	木质	mù zhì
<u>COLORS:</u>			
black		黑色	hēi sè
blue		蓝色	lán sè
blond/yellowish		浅黄色	qiǎn huáng sè
brown		棕色	zōng sè

Last updated July 2025

gray		灰色	huī sè
green		绿色	lǜ sè
orange		橙色	chéng sè
red		红色	hóng sè
white		白色	bái sè
yellow		黄色	huáng sè
<u>TOOLS:</u>			
basin	A bowl for washing	盆	pén
basket	A container for carry things, typically with handles	篮	lán
box	A container for holding objects	盒	hé
broom	A tool used for sweeping the floor	扫帚	sào zhǒu
brush (scrub)	A stick with hard bristles used for cleaning or scrubbing hard surfaces	刷子(擦洗)	shuā zi
brush (paint)	A stick with soft bristles used for applying paint	刷子(涂色)/ 画笔	shuā zi / huà bǐ
compass	A tool that points toward magnetic north used for orienting directions	指南针	zhǐ nán zhēn
drawing board	A hard, flat board on which paper may be spread for drawing	画板	huà bǎn
dummy level	An optical instrument used for verifying points along a horizontal plane;	定镜水准仪	dìng jìng shuǐ zhǔn yí

	sometimes called a “surveyor’s level”		
hammer	A tool with a heavy metal head used for striking nails into surfaces	锤子	chuí zi
knife	A sharp blade for cutting mounted on a handle	刀	dāo
ladder	A portable device of two uprights with horizontal bars used for stepping up or down	梯子	tī zi
nail	A thin metal rod with a sharp end driven into a surface in order to hold something in place	钉子	dīng zi
notebook	A small book for hand-written notes or drawings	笔记本	bǐ jì běn
pick	A tool with a curved metal head used for chiseling or breaking up hard ground or rock	镐	gǎo
plank	A long, thin, flat board used in flooring or as a bridge over a small gap	板	bǎn
plumb bob	A weight with a pointed tip used for marking locations 有尖头的砣码用于标记 位置	吊线锤	diào xiàn chuí
ruler	An instrument for measuring length	尺子	chǐ zi

scale	A device which determines an object's weight	秤/权	chèng / quán
shovel	A broad (curved or flat) metal plate attached to a handle used for scooping dirt	铲子	chǎn zi
sieve	A mesh screen used for sifting 用于筛分的筛网	筛网	shāi wǎng
stadia rod	A pole used for measuring elevations; a leveling rod	塔尺	tǎ chǐ
stake (wood)	A piece of wood driven into the ground to mark boundaries	桩(木质的)/ 木桩	zhuāng / mù zhuāng
string	A thin length of material	细绳	xì shéng
tool	A handheld device used for a particular function	工具	gōng jù
total station	A piece of survey equipment used for taking GPS points 一种用来测量GPS点的设备	全站仪	quán zhàn yí
trowel	A small handheld tool with a curved metal scoop for scrapping or lifting dirt	手铲	shǒu chǎn
water cooler	A container that holds chilled drinking water	水冷器	
water sprayer	A device that spreads water in a fine mist	喷水器	pēn shuǐ qì
wheelbarrow	A small cart with a single wheel in the front, two support legs	手推车	shǒu tuī chē

Last updated July 2025

	in the back, and two handles in the rear used for moving dirt and other objects		
wire	Thin metal string	线 / 细铁丝	xiàn / xì tiě sī
<u>VERBS:</u>			
to cut	To divide something with a sharp tool	切	qiē
to dig	To break up and remove earth by hand or with a tool	挖	wā
to draw	To compose a picture or sketch	画	huà
to go under	To move beneath	下陷	xià xiàn
to lift	To raise something to a higher position	抬起	tái qǐ
to lower	To put something down	下降	xià jiàng
to photograph	To take a picture with a camera	拍摄	pāi shè
to raise	To take something upward	举起	jǔ qǐ
to remove	To take something away	移除	yí chú
to separate	To divide into groups	分隔	fēn gé
to shovel	To move something with a shovel	铲起	chǎn qǐ
to sieve	To put material through a sieve	筛	shāi
to spray	To apply a liquid as a shower of tiny droplets	喷	pēn
to sweep	To clean an area with a broom or brush	扫	sǎo
to throw (away)	To discard something	投掷	tóu zhì

Last updated July 2025

to throw (dump)	To dispose by dropping	丢掉	diū diào
<u>NUMISMATICS:</u>			
coin	A thin flat metal disk used as currency	硬币	yìng bì
metal	A solid material that is typically hard, shiny, malleable, fusible, and conducts electricity	金属	jīn shǔ
hoard	Three or more coins found buried in close proximity	窖藏	jiào cáng
electrum	An alloy of gold and silver	金银矿 / 琥珀金	jīn yín
gold, <i>aurum</i>	A yellowish precious metal used in jewelry, coins, and art	金	jīn
silver, <i>argentum</i>	A grayish precious metal often used in making coins	银	yín
bronze, <i>aes</i>	A yellowish brown alloy of copper and tin	青铜	qīng tóng
weight	The relative mass of a coin	重量	zhòng liàng
field	The background of a coin not used for design or image 币面上图像和文字外的空白底子	底板	dǐ bǎn
exergue	The segment of a coin separated by a line in which the legend is placed	刻字 (在金属钱币后)	kè zì
attribute	Something attached to the central image on a coin		

adjunct	Something separate from the central image on a coin	附属物	fù shǔ wù
type	The central motif on either side of a coin 设计元素凸起的部分	图案设计	tú àn shè jì
legend	The main inscription on a coin	币文 / 铭文	bì wén / míng wén
mint	The place of coin manufacture	铸币厂	zhù bì chǎng
casting	Pouring molten metal into a mold	铸造	zhù zào
striking	Hammering a softened (heated) metal flan to produce an image on the coin	冲压	chōng yā
die	A metal piece engraved with the image to be struck onto a flan	印模 / 冲模	yìn mó / chōng mó
anvil	A fixed metal block upon which a coin is struck	铁砧冲模	tiě zhēn chōng mó
block	The metal base upon which a coin is struck		
flan	A flat metal disk to be struck into a coin	币坯	bì pī
obverse	The front or “heads” side of a coin	正面	zhèng miàn
reverse	The back or “tails” side of a coin	背面	bèi miàn
axis	The relative alignment between the two coin faces	轴线	zhóu xiàn
module	The diameter of a coin	(硬币的)直径	zhí jìng

fabric	The general appearance of the coin as reflects the mint's method of fabrication	外表	wài biǎo
brockage	When a previously struck coin is used as a die	铸造错误钱币	zhù zào cuò wù qián bì
double-strike	When a coin is struck twice	二次冲压	èr cì chòng yā
over-strike	When an earlier coin is reused as a flan	重压币	zhòng yā bì
patina	copper oxidation	包浆	bāo jiāng
alloy	A combination of two metals	合金	hé jīn
ingot	A mold-made bar of solid metal	铸块 / 锭	zhù kuài / dìng
circulation	When coins are allowed to be used for everyday transactions	发行量	fā xíng liàng
<u>PLANTS:</u>			
beech			
oak			
holm oak		山毛榉	shān máo jǔ
olive tree		橡树	xiàng shù
laurel		冬青栎	dōng qīng lì
myrtle		橄榄树	gǎn lǎn shù
cypress		月桂	yuè guì
daffodil		香桃木	xiāng táo mù
ash tree		柏树	bǎi shù
poppy		黄水仙	huáng shuǐ xiān
grapevine		椈树	chén shù

Last updated July 2025

cedar		罌粟	yīng sù
palm		葡萄藤	pú táo téng
apple tree		雪松	xuě sōng
pine		棕榈树	zōng lǘ shù
eucalyptus		苹果树	píng guǒ shù
acacia		松	sōng
chestnut		桉树	ān shù
bottle brush tree	callistemon citrinus	洋槐/金合欢	
cedar		栗	lì
medlar		美花红千层	měi huā hóng qiān céng
jacaranda		雪松	xuě sōng
walnut		欧楂	ōu zhā
palm		蓝花楹	lán huā yíng
willow		核桃	hé táo
elderberry		棕榈树	
fig tree		柳树	liǔ shù
peach tree		接骨木梅	jiē gǔ mù méi
wheat		无花果树	wú huā guǒ shù
buckwheat		桃树	táo shù
durum wheat		小麦	xiǎo mài
einkorn wheat		荞麦	qiáo mài
emmer wheat		硬粒小麦 / 杜兰小麦	yìng lì xiǎo mài / dù lán xiǎo mài
barley		单粒小麦	dān lì xiǎo mài
malt		二粒小麦	èr lì xiǎo mài

Last updated July 2025

rice		大麦	dà mài
rye		麦芽	mài yá
sorghum		米/水稻	mǐ / shuǐ dào
corn		黑麦	hēi mài
millet		高粱	gāo liáng
cabbage		玉米	yù mǐ
rhizomes		小米	xiǎo mǐ
chayote		卷心菜	juǎn xīn cài
dates		根茎	gēn jīng
<u>CATTLE/LIVESTOCK:</u>			
		佛手瓜	fó shǒu guā
Ovine	Referring to sheep	椰枣	yē zǎo
Sheep			
Bovine	Referring to a cow	羊的	yáng de
Cow	An adult female bovine	羊/绵羊	yáng / mián yáng
Ox	A castrated bull	牛的	niú de
Bull	A male cow	母牛	mǔ niú
Steer	A male cow castrated before reaching sexual maturity	牛	niú
Caprine	Referring to a goat	公牛	gōng niú
Goat		阉公牛	yān gōng niú
Horse		山羊的	shān yáng de
Donkey		山羊	shān yáng
Mule	A cross between a donkey and a horse	马	mǎ

Last updated July 2025

Llama		驴	lú
Alpaca		骡子	luó zǐ
Pig		美洲驼/骆马	měi zhōu tuó / luò mǎ
Chicken		羊驼	yáng tuó
Duck		猪	zhū
Turkey		鸡	jī
Swan		鸭	yā
Goose		火鸡	huǒ jī
		天鹅	tiān é
		鹅	é