

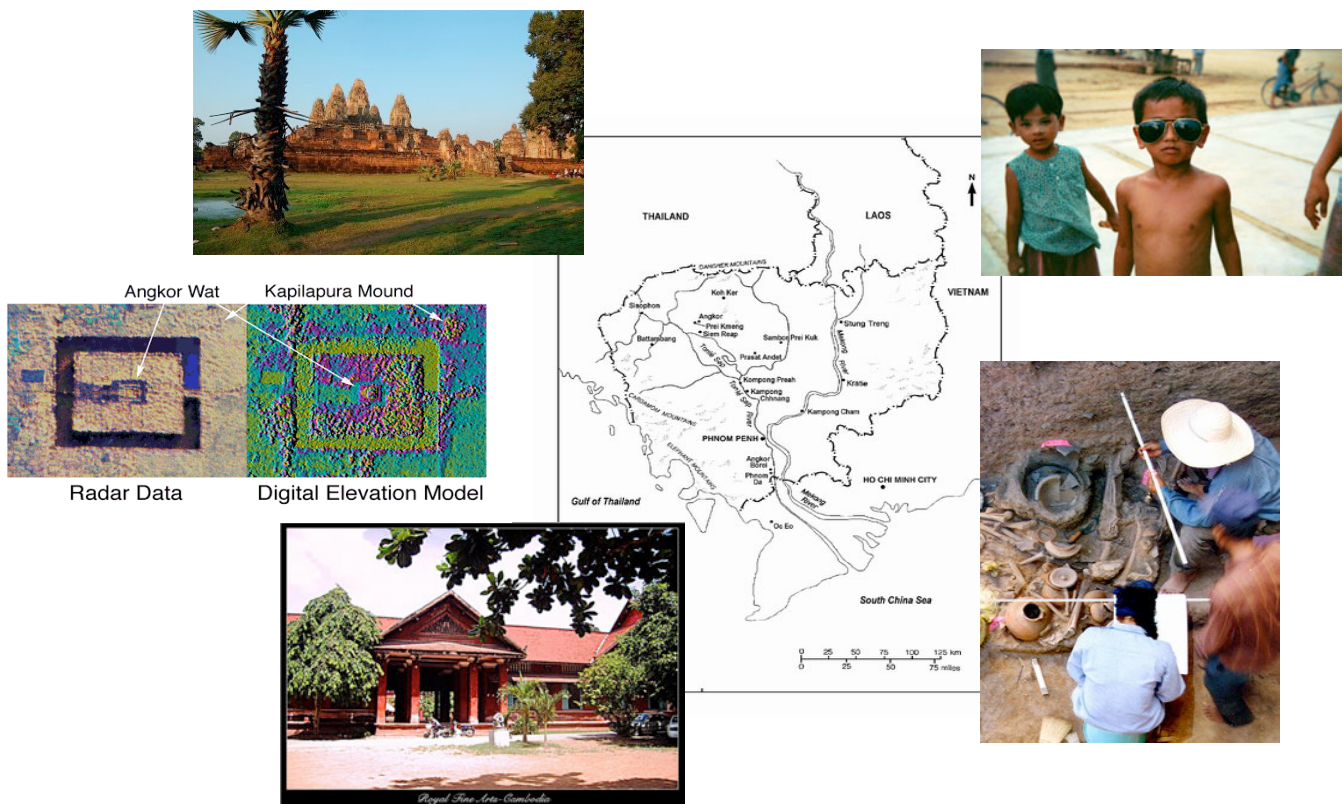
Southeast Asian Archaeologies

The Society for Exploration, Archaeology, Research, Culture and History (SAA: SEARCH)

Calling for Computers, Textbooks, Lab Equipment, De-Mining Equipment and Survey Materials

There are hundreds of temples scattered across Cambodia, most of which remain underground. These temples are the remnants of the Angkor period of Khmer history, which lasted from 200BC to 1431CE, shortly before Cambodia's French Colonial period. However, landmines, UXO, and Agent Orange, have made most of these temples inaccessible, leaving history with a striking regional and chronological gap.

For local farming communities, the land is inaccessible, pressing people into poverty. For some, these heavily land-mined areas are home and they continue to live among the mines, losing friends and children to these remnants of war. There are between 4 million and 6 million landmines in Cambodia today. If there were removed, there would be an estimated 50%-75% increase in agricultural surplus for the country.



Cambodia's **Royal University of Fine Arts (RUFA)** has graciously accepted our offer to help rejuvenate their south campus.

Standing as the only university in Cambodia with a reputation for archaeology, this turn of the century building is in despair. During the Khmer Rouge Period, their libraries and labs were emptied. At present, they do not have a single radiocarbon dating machine nor do they have a conservation lab. However, they still have a Department of Archaeology, which must rely heavily on foreign support to fund small-scale land clearance and archaeology projects.

Today many Cambodian students are anxious to work with their own prehistory and land restoration. And every Cambodian wants their country freed of landmines. Please help us donate new or outdated materials to the university to enable students to learn and work with their own history and prehistory. This project will support both education systems and local economies. Our **SAA:SEARCH** initiatives were designed to liberate the people of Cambodia from the present state of land devastation, heritage looting, and competing development models, which have been applied to this nation following their civil war.