#### Supplemental Table 1. Comparison of Tables of Contents of Major Introductory Archaeology Textbooks That Are Organized by Complexity.

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|  | *World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways through Time*, 4th ed. (Micahel Chazan, 2017, Routledge) | *People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory*, 9th ed. (Brian Fagan and Nadia Durrani, 2019, Routledge) | *The Past in Perspective: An Introduction to Human Prehistory*, 8th ed. (Kenneth Feder, 2019, Oxford University Press) |
| Cost – Pages | $89.951 – 460 pp1 | $180.001 – 496 pp1 | $92.951 – 640 pp1 |
| Introduction to prehistory |  | 1. Introducing World Prehistory |  |
| History of archaeology | 2. Putting the Picture Together |  | 1. Encountering the Past |
| Archaeological methods and approaches | 1. Getting Started In Archaeology | 1. Introducing World Prehistory | 2. Probing the Past |
| Hominins | 3. Early Hominins  4. From Homo erectus To Neanderthals | 2. Human Origins: 7 Million to 1.9 Million Years Ago  3. Archaic Humans: 1.9 Million to 30,000 Years Ago | 3. African Roots  4. The Human Lineage  5. The First Humans: The Evolution of Homo sapiens  6. Expanding Intellectual Horizons: Arts and Ideas in the Upper Paleolithic and Late Stone Age |
| Modern humans | 5. The Origin of Modern Humans | 4. Origins and the Diaspora Begins: c. 350,000 Years Ago and Later  5. Europe and Eurasia: c. 50,000 to 10,000 Years Ago  6. The First Americans: Around 15,000 Years Ago to Modern Times  7. After the Ice: Before 10,000 B.C. to Modern Times |
| Diaspora/ migration | 6. The Peopling of Australia and the New World | 7. Expanding Geographic Horizons: New Worlds |
| Origins of food production | 7. Towers, Villages, and Longhouses  8. Mounds and Maize  9. A Feast of Diversity | 8. Agriculture and Animal Domestication  9. The Origins of Food Production in Southwest Asia  10. The First European Farmers  11. First Farmers in Egypt and Tropical Africa  12. Asia and the Pacific: Rice, Roots, and Ocean Voyages  13. The Story of Maize: Early Farmers in the Americas | 8. After the Ice: The Food-Producing Revolution |
| Emerging complexity | 9. Roots of Complexity: The Origins of Civilization |
| Complex societies | 10. Complexity without the State  11. Cities, Pyramids, and Palaces: Early States of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Aegean  12. Locating the Source of Authority: Early States in Asia  13. From City to Empire: Social Complexity in Mesoamerica  14. Bringing the Four Parts Together: States and Empire in the Andes | 14: The Development of Civilization  15: Early Civilizations in Southwest Asia  16: Egypt, Nubia, and Tropical Africa  17: Early States in South and Southeast Asia  18: Early Chinese Civilization  19: Hittites, Minoans, and Mycenaeans  20: Europe Before the Romans  21: Mesoamerican Civilizations  22: Andean Civilizations | 10. An Explosion of Complexity: Mesopotamia, Africa, and Europe  11. An Explosion of Complexity: The Indus Valley and China  12. An Explosion of Complexity: Mesoamerica  13. An Explosion of Complexity: South America  14. An Explosion of Complexity: North America |
| Becoming an archaeologist |  |  |  |
| Relevance of archaeology |  |  |  |

1 - as listed on publisher’s website