use your up/down arrow keys and/or your space bar to advance the slides

Units of Analysis

Prehistoric Cultures

University of Minnesota Duluth
Tim Roufs © 2010-2013
http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/
Units of Analysis
Prehistoric Cultures

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"Selam" aka "Lucy's Baby"
when you are looking at anthropological works — or social science works in general — it is important to pay attention to what “units of analysis” are being considered
in the “Main Characteristics of Anthropology” review it is noted that one of the defining characteristics of Anthropology is that it tends to be comparative . . .
in comparative works it is especially important to check to see that the units of analysis are comparable . . .
and if you utilize a comparative approach in your project, or in extra credit reports — or in your exam questions — you need to be especially careful to compare like units . . .
so let's have a look at
Units of Analysis
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a “culture area”
- a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
  - the family
  - the community
  - a region
  - a “culture area”
  - a culture / “subculture”
  - a nation
  - an item or action itself
  - a “cultural metaphor”
“units of analysis” may include:

- one person

for e.g. . . .
The Iceman

[Image: Portrait of the Iceman]
Examine the Iceman

In 1991 the frozen body of a man who lived 5,300 years ago emerged from a melting glacier in the Alps.

Sixteen years after he was discovered, scientists are still learning about a 5,300-year-old Neolithic hunter found in the Alps. Research now suggests the Iceman (or "Ötzi"), was murdered. Naturally mummified, Ötzi's brain, eyes, and internal organs were intact when excavated. Ötzi's time is now spent in an ice chamber which is at the same humidity and temperature level as where he was found.

INITIAL THEORIES ON HIS DEATH: Ötzi was first thought to be a shepherd or a hunter who was caught in a storm and died of exposure. Another theory suggested he was ritually sacrificed in the mountains.

LATEST THEORY: Cuts on the Iceman's hand and wrist suggest that he fought with members of his village and then fled. The attackers shot an arrow into Ötzi as he rested on a mountain. Researchers now say uncontrolled bleeding and head trauma killed him.

Click the hot spots on this image to see clues about the Iceman's life.
Tutankhamun

"King Tut"

Under Construction
Sorry for the inconvenience

map of Egypt

enlarged map
from The World Factbook
Lonely Planet Map

see also

Egypt, Ancient
Egypt, contemporary

ancient civilizations
Archaeology Web Sites

This is the face behind the famous golden death mask of King Tutankhamun

Panel from the back of the golden throne of King Tut
The Kennewick Man

see also
Who were the First Americans?
Clovis traditions
Paleo-Indians
The Kennewick Man
Video: "Coming to America"

Kennewick Man -- Wikipedia

Illustration for TIME by Paul Colin

Kennewick State

Reconstruction by Jim Chatters and Thomas McAlland
“Gibraltar I”
Reconstruction of a ca. four-year-old Neandertal"
Macchu Picchu
(Across the Divide Expeditions)

"La Doncella"
Hummified Inca maiden wows crowds
Friday, 7 September 2007 -- BBC News
Genghis Khan a Prolific Lover, DNA Data Implies

Hillary Mayell
for National Geographic News
February 14, 2003

Genghis Khan, the fearsome Mongolian warrior of the 13th century, may have done more than rule the largest empire in the world; according to a recently published genetic study, he may have helped populate it too.

An international group of geneticists studying Y-chromosome data have found that nearly 8 percent of the men living in the region of the former Mongol empire carry Y-chromosomes that are nearly identical. That translates to 0.5 percent of the male population in the world, or roughly 16 million descendants living today.

The spread of the chromosome could be the result of natural selection, in which an extremely fit individual manages to pass on some sort of biological advantage. The
N!ai, the Story of a !Kung Woman

(59 min., 1980, VC 2371)

"Arranged Marriages": an excerpt from N!ai, the Story of a !Kung Woman

(10 min., 1980, VC 182)
(26 min., 1980, VC 182)

Other Hunting and Gathering Peoples

Hunter-gatherer -- Wikipedia
Bushmen -- Wikipedia
!Kung people -- Wikipedia
Khoisan -- Wikipedia
Focusing on the individual as a unit of analysis was advocated in anthropology by early pioneers such as . . .

Oscar Lewis
Bronislaw Malinowski
Edward Sapir
(“Sapir-Whorf” hypothesis)
Margaret Mead
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
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- a nation
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”
Afar region (map of Ethiopia)

- *afarensis* (including "Lucy" and the "First Family")

* Australopithecus afarensis -- Wikipedia

Lucy

"The First Family"

3-Million-Year-Old Skeleton Gets CT Scan -- NPR (2008-02-07)

Puzzling Over Pre-Humans -- MSNBC (10/6/08)
The Genographic Project

National Geographic

DNA, the molecular basis for inheritance. Each strand of DNA is a chain of nucleotides, matching each other in the center to form what look like rungs on a twisted ladder. (Image: Wikimedia)

*In the grip of an Ice Age, the Earth’s temperature dropped, locking the world’s moisture into giant glaciers and bringing intense drought to Saharan Africa. As herds of thirsty animals wandered northeast off the African continent searching for water, human hunters, our ancestors, followed.*

Travelling by helicopter and army tank, Spencer Wells visited the Arctic Circle to meet the nomadic Chukchi. (Image: National Geographic)
THE SEARCH FOR ADAM

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL
Oscar Lewis
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

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as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

– one person
– the family
– the community

in archaeology
the comparable unit
to the “community”
is the
“site”
one of the best-known archaeological sites in the world
in some regions there are a lot of sites
in some regions there are a lot of sites
there are more than 12,000 archaeological sites in modern-day Mexico alone for e.g.
including some of the largest sites in the world
and some of those considered “most sacred”
as mentioned in the “Orientation”
units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community

- a region
  - a “culture area”
  - a culture / “subculture”
  - a nation
  - an item or action itself
  - a “cultural metaphor”
Early Neolithic sites of the Fertile Crescent
as mentioned in the “Orientation” units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
  - Valley of Mexico
  - Soconusco
  - El Bajío
  - Huasteca
  - Yucatán...
As mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region

- Valley of Mexico
- **Soconusco** (Xoconusco)
  - El Bajío
  - Huasteca
  - Yucatán...
the Xoconusco region played a central role in chocolate, which played a key role in prehistoric and post-contact Mesoamerica
the Tehuacán region was one of the greatest centers of plant domestication in the world
the Tehuacán region was one of the greatest centers of plant domestication in the world

NOTE: Tehuacán is different from Teotihuacán
and Tehuacán is one of the best places in the world to look at to understand the “agricultural revolution”
and it’s likely where your bottled water came from if you purchased bottled water in Mexico
as mentioned, Tehuacán is it one of the best places in the world to look at to understand the “agricultural revolution”
Tehuacán Valley, Puebla, Mexico

maize was domesticated here by at least 4,200 ybp
NOTE: The nation of South Africa is different from the region of South Africa.

“South Africa” is the region of “southern Africa”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Africa
“South Africa” is the region of “southern Africa”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Africa
NOTE:

He nation of South Africa is different from the region of South Africa.

South Africa is the nation of South Africa.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Africa
South Africa is the nation of South Africa.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_africa
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

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- a “cultural metaphor”
some areas are “officially” anthropological “cultural areas” . . .
Ethnographic Atlas by George P. Murdock

Ethnographic Atlas On-Line Tabulations, by Michael Fischer

The Ethnographic Atlas is a database on 1167 societies coded by George P. Murdock and published in 29 successive installments in the journal ETHNOLOGY, 1962-1980. It gives ethnographic codes and geographical coordinates but no actual maps (maps were later added by the World Cultures electronic journal's MAPTAB program, by Douglas R. White, along with an electronic version of the codes and the codebooks). A summary volume of the Atlas was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in 1967. It contained the data on 862 of the better-described societies in each of 412 cultural clusters of the world. Murdock published a new edition with Pittsburgh Press in 1980 titled ATLAS OF WORLD CULTURES, and included 563 of the better-described societies in the atlas, classified in 150 more linguistically-based clusters.
those “culture areas” were initially established by George P. Murdock and associates and are commonly associated with HRAF (the Human Relations Area Files) and its World Ethnographic Atlas
Fig. 1—AREAL CONCEPTS
Key: 1. Territory of “Cultural” Mesoamerica. 2. Geological Middle America.
The Cities of Pre-Columbian Mexico can be visited by clicking on their exact sites.
other North American “culture areas”
some “areas” are not “officially” anthropological “cultural areas” . . .
culture “areas” that are not “culture areas”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_areas_of_North_America
it can get confusing because, among other things, some regions we consider cultural areas in daily life are also officially designated as “cultural areas” in modern Anthropology
Europe, for e.g., is now officially an anthropological "culture area"
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a “culture area”

-a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a “culture area”

-a culture / “subculture”

cultures are major groups of individuals with common customs, traditions, history, and origin, sharing a common language
for e.g.,
Aztec
Maya
Inca

Sophie D. Coe
America's First Cuisines

www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aftexts.html#title
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a “culture area”
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- a nation
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”

Cultures are major groups of individuals with common customs, traditions, history, and origin, sharing a common language.

There are dozens in Mesoamerica, for e.g.
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maya</th>
<th>Yaqui</th>
<th>Olmec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chamula</td>
<td>Otomi</td>
<td>Toltec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancandon</td>
<td>Tarascan</td>
<td>Aztec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tzotzil</td>
<td>Mixtec</td>
<td>Teotihuacanos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tzeltal</td>
<td>Zapotec</td>
<td>Tarahumara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoque</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
just in Mexico, for e.g., there are 63 languages spoken
—9 “major” languages, and 54 languages of “microcultures”

Languages

Nahuatl, Yucatec, Tzotzil, Mixtec, Zapotec, Otomi, Huichol, Totonac and other living 54 languages along the Mexican territory, as well as Spanish.
Mexico (6th ed.)

Michael D. Coe and Rex Koontz

(NY: Thames and Hudson, 2008)

- "A pioneering synthesis." -- Antiquity
- "Fascinating reading . . . an accessible, informed and extremely well illustrated introductory book." -- Popular Archaeology

"Michael D. Coe's Mexico has long been recognized as the
but Mexico, for e.g., is not a "culture"
it is a "nation"
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
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- a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”
within “culture areas” there are most often “subcultures”
within “culture areas” there are most often “subcultures”
these are also known as “microcultures”
within “culture areas” there are most often “subcultures”
these are also known as “microcultures”
and occasionally as “local cultures”
within “culture areas” there are most often “subcultures” these are also known as “microcultures” and occasionally as “local cultures”
within “culture areas” there are most often “subcultures” these are also known as “microcultures” and occasionally as “local cultures” and often there are lots of them

“subcultures”

“microcultures”

and often there are lots of them
there are dozens in Mesoamerica for e.g.
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
- the family

there are several “subcultures” in the Maya area alone

- a culture / “subculture”

Maya
Chamula
Lancandon
Tzotzil
Tzeltal
Zoque

Yaqui
Otomi
Tarascan
Mixtec
Zapotec

Olmec
Toltec
Aztec
Teotihuacanos
Tarahumara . . .
Maya Lords of the Jungle

60 min., 1981, VC 212

"Depicts ... archaeological work on the Maya civilization in the Yucatán Peninsula and in Central America. Discusses how it developed, why it declined, and what significance ... finds and interpretations have."

Terms / Concepts:

- raised field agriculture
  - "intensive agriculture"
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

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REM NOTE: The nation of South Africa is different from the region of South Africa.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Africa
REM NOTE: 

The **nation** of South Africa is different from the **region** of South Africa.

“South Africa” is the **region** of “southern Africa”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Africa
REM: Mexico, for e.g., is not a “culture” it is a “nation”
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

- one person
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- a nation

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- a “cultural metaphor”
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

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including “processes”
as mentioned in the “Orientation”

units of analysis may include:

– one person
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– the community
– a region
– a “culture area”
– a culture / “subculture”
– a nation

– an item or action itself

and there’s almost no end to these . . .
The Search for Adam

51 min, 2006, DVD 1015

see also
DNA
The Genographic Project

Abstract

Terms / Concepts

Notes

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/video/Search_for_Adam.html#title
Who Were the First Americans?
"Looking for One Beginning
The Fallacy of Diffusionism"

From the series *Lost Worlds: The Story of Archaeology*

(50 min, 2001, DVD 308)
The Last Great Ape

Airs on February 13 at 8pm

An expedition into the Congo examines one of our closest living relatives, the peace-loving bonobo.

(56 min, 2007, CC, DVD 1150)
Lithics

"Chart of the Principal Paleolithic Industries"

lithic analysis -- Wikipedia

search lithics on JSTOR

Try "The lithics site"
-- Hugh Jarvis, SUNY Buffalo (Comprehensive)

Clovis point
Blades and Pressure Flaking

20 min., 1968, VC 2941

Clovis point

Francois Bordel

Don Crabtree

Abstract  Terms / Concepts  Notes
Neanderthals on Trial

60 min., 2002, VC 4333

"Were Neanderthals human like us, or were they sub-human brutes? Since the discovery of the first Neanderthal skeleton in 1856, scientists have battled over..."
The Iceman

"Ötzi"

56 min., 1992, VC
1981

more information on Ötzi

See also:
The Iceman
97 min., 1998, VC
1997

The Iceman's Ax

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/video/Ice_Man.html#title
"The mystery of the Maya civilization is explained through the archaeological findings of the ancient city of Copán in the Honduras' jungle."

"Until 1965, the ancient Maya were thought to have been a mysterious but peaceful people governed by astronomer-priests. But then Russian linguist Yuri Knorosov cracked the phonetic code of Maya hieroglyphics. Today, researchers are revealing stories of Maya blood sacrifice, uncovering a world far different from their expectations. This program shows how, from excavations deep in the Honduran jungle to the most recently interpreted hieroglyphic writings, the story is being..."
Cracking the MAYA Code

The story behind the centuries-long decipherment of ancient Maya hieroglyphs

TIME LINE OF DECIPHERMENT
Trace key discoveries in the effort to understand the Maya script.

A MASTERPIECE REVEALED
Explore a 2,000-year-old mural, one of the most exciting recent discoveries of early Maya art.

DECODE STELA 3
"Read" Maya hieroglyphs carved on an eighth-century stone monument, and hear them spoken aloud.

MAP OF THE MAYA WORLD
From Chichén Itzá in the north to Copán in the south, the Maya empire was vast and varied.

WATCH ONLINE

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/mayacode/
As mentioned in the “Orientation”

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as mentioned in the “Orientation”
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Cultural metaphors use an item or event representative of a culture and analyze the culture with reference to that item or event.
The Buried Mirror:
The Virgin and the Bull

(50 min., 1991, VHS 3939, fl. 1)

Spain  Mexico  Portugal

top of page

"... The mirror, for American Indians... symbolized power, the sun, the Earth, its four corners, and its people. Now, an extraordinary 'mirror' is being held up to the Old and New worlds to reflect the diverse cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and peoples, together with the themes, institutions, beliefs, and symbols that have endured or changed through time."

"Vibrant and illuminating, The Buried Mirror is an epic portrait of a remarkable history... ."

"Best-selling Mexican author Carlos Fuentes looks for his forebears in the mix of people that created
Carlos Fuentes

for e.g.,

looks at prehistoric and modern Mexico and Spain in terms of the imagery of “The Virgin” and “The Bull”
and, of course, the Units of Analysis can be combined (and quite often are)
"Culture and Math: The Maya"

slides

15/31 min., 2006, CC, DVD 1110

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<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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Mannikins -- wikipeida
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Terms / Concepts</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultures</td>
<td>Sites</td>
<td>Bibliography / Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
food
genes
cultural diversity
in summary . . .
“units of analysis” may include:

- one person
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- a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- an item or action itself
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end of unit on Units of Analysis

Prehistoric Cultures

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