This week we go a-hunting—hunting for the “truth” about how Prehistoric Peoples lived off of the land. And in doing so we’ll have another look at !Kung San ethnographic analogy.

Hunting was a part of prehistoric peoples’ living off of the land, but not quite as big a part as is usually thought. Except with cold-climate cultures—like the Inuit, the “Eskimo”—women provided 60-80% of the food for the group, as they do today with “Hunting-Gathering” groups, even in groups that consider themselves primarily “hunters.”

But hunting was a crucial activity, a vital activity for some cold-climate folks like the Neandertal.

We’ll continue our close look at lithics, stone tools and stone tool making, so vital to the hunt itself. . . .

And we’ll have a look at the main features of “band” societies. We’ll see The Hunters—often said to be one of the top three anthropological films ever made—it is certainly one of the top three films viewed and used as part of other films. It most often takes a long time to hunt . . . it took The Hunters thirteen days basically to get one animal in the end. So it will take us a while to watch The Hunters hunting action.

video:

The Hunters
(72 min., 1955, UMD Library Multimedia GT1655 K56 k56 2004 DVD)

film HomePage
course viewing guide
"In this classic documentary [The Hunters], the Kalahari Bushmen [aka Khoisan, !Kung, San] of Africa wage a constant war for survival against the hot arid climate and unyielding soil. The Hunters focuses on four men who undertake a hunt to obtain meat for their village. The chronicle of their 13-day trek becomes part of the village's folklore, illustrating the ancient roots and continual renewal of African tribal [sic.] cultures."

After the hunt on Thursday we’ll have a short look at another fundamental concept in anthropology and prehistoric cultures—adaptation. (We had a look at the sister concept Week 3, Patterns of Variation.)

“How do humans adapt to environmental challenges? In this [video], experts explore this question from many angles. The difference between acclimatization and adaptation is explained. Nina Jablonski explains skin-color function and adaptations related to UV radiation levels, the vitamin D hypothesis, and preventing the loss of folate in the body. High-altitude adaptations are also discussed, along with responses to heat and cold stressors. In the last segment, the evolutionary dance between humans and their pathogens is brought to light. The interwoven interactions between human cultural activities, and the evolution of new pathogens, are discussed, as well as the evolution of drug resistance in existing pathogens.” – Coast Learning Systems

In the *moodle Forum* this week we hunt for the First Americans, the oldest American “artifact,” and weigh in on atlatl hunting in the City of Duluth . . .

- [Forum: Who Were the First Americans? (Due by Friday, 7 December 2012)]
- [Forum: Atlatl Hunting in Duluth? (Due by Friday, 7 December 2012)]

As usual, if you have any questions, please let me know: mailto:troufs@d.umn.edu. Or, better yet, post them on your *moodle* Discussion and Project forum boards.

Share your ideas. Discuss them on-line with the others in class . . .
The above items will be found at the top of your folder under “Student Collaboration Space.”

Your Topics and Reading Assignments Listings for Week 13 will look something like the information below.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs
Ethnographic Analogy and the Method of Controlled Comparison

Week(s) Foraging Peoples in History and Prehistory

Ethnographic Analogy / Ethnoarchaeology
(slides: 11A-Ethnoarchaeology.pptx)

12 / 13 Foraging: Hunting / Gathering / Collecting
(slides: hunting.pptx)

Ambrona and Terra Amata: Big Game Hunters in Spain and France
(slides: 27A-Ambrona.ppt)

Holocene Hunters and Gatherers
(slides: 27B-Holocene_Hunters.ppt)

video:
*The Hunters*
(72 min., 1958, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia DT1058.K86 H86 2004 DVD)

film HomePage
course viewing guide
REM we had a look at the sister concept Week 3

**Patterns of Adaptation**
(28 min., 2008, UM DULUTH Library Multimedia QP82 .P38 2008 DVD)

film HomePage
transcript

**Patterns of Variation**

film HomePage
transcript

![Kung San Hunters](image)
For Week 13 Activities see "moodle"

**readings from Understanding Humans, 11th Edition**

**Ch. 14, "Food Production," pp. 339-372**

The materials from Ch. 14 will be reviewed in the Week 14 presentations.

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**DAY and CE Prehistoric Cultures Extra Credit papers are due Friday, 7 December 2012**

**AVISO:** Late Extra Credit Papers will not be accepted unless (1) arrangements for an alternate date have been arranged in advance, or (2) medical emergencies or similar extraordinary unexpected circumstances make it unfeasible to turn in the assignment by the announced due date.

For Week 13 Activities see "moodle"