

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

Prehistoric Cultures

University of Minnesota Duluth

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<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/>

"Selam"
aka *"Lucy's Baby"*



Main Characteristics of Anthropology

Prehistoric Cultures

University of Minnesota Duluth

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<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/>

"Selam"
aka *"Lucy's Baby"*

you've seen these listed in the Week 1 "Topics" . . .

[see note on slide formats]

• Main Characteristics of Anthropology

slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)

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[see note on slide formats]

(NOTE: This is a long slide set as it covers some very important background information that will be referred to often as we go through the semester. Please bear with it to the end. And it will take a little longer to load, so please bear with that also. There is no video presentation scheduled for this and next week as the base slide sets tend to be a little longer than "normal.")

- the **four fields** of general anthropology
- **culture** as a primary concept
- **comparative method** as major approach
- **holism** as a primary theoretical goal
- **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

WebPage Summary
"Anthropology and . . . It's Parts" chart

• "Other Important Terms"

slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)

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[see note on slide formats]

• Units of Analysis

slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)

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[see note on slide formats]

• Three Major Perennial Debates

slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)

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[see note on slide formats] (NOTE: This is a long slide set as it covers more than 2000+ years. Please bear with it to the end. Please bear with it to the end. And it will take a little longer to load, so please bear with that also. There is no video presentation scheduled for this and next week as the base slide sets tend to be a little longer than "normal.")

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- **Main Characteristics of Anthropology**

slides: ([.pdf](#)) ([.pptx](#))

([Download PowerPoint Viewer Free](#)) ([Download Adobe .pdf Reader Free](#))

[see note on slide formats]

(NOTE: This is a long slide set as it covers some very important background information that will be referred to often as we go through the semester. Please bear with it to the end. And it will take a little longer to load, so please bear with that also. There is no video presentation scheduled for this and next week as the base slide sets tend to be a little longer than "normal.")

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[WebPage Summary](#)

["Anthropology and . . . It's Parts" chart](#)

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- **Main Characteristics of Anthropology**

slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)

(Download PowerPoint Viewer Free) (Download Adobe .pdf Reader Free)

[see note on slide formats]

let's have a closer look . . .

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WebPage Summary

"Anthropology and . . . It's Parts" chart

Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
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Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields**

of general anthropology

2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal
5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

you've already seen the fourfold approach of
American Anthropology . . .

American Anthropology

- **cultural / social**
- **physical**
- **archaeology**
- **linguistics**

we're going to have a closer look at . . .

Prehistoric Cultures

and its . . .

- cultural / social**
- physical**
- archaeology**
- linguistics**

aspects

Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology

2. culture as a primary concept

3. **comparative method** as major approach

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5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

Main Characteristics

- **“culture” is**
 - learned
 - shared
 - transmitted from generation to generation
 - based on symbols
 - integrated

Main Characteristics

- “culture”

**some anthropologists
focus on the idea that
culture involves
“shared understanding”**

— integrated

Main Characteristics

- **“culture”**
 - **is *not* inherited**
(*i.e.*, is not biological)
 - **is *not* “instinct”**

Main Characteristics

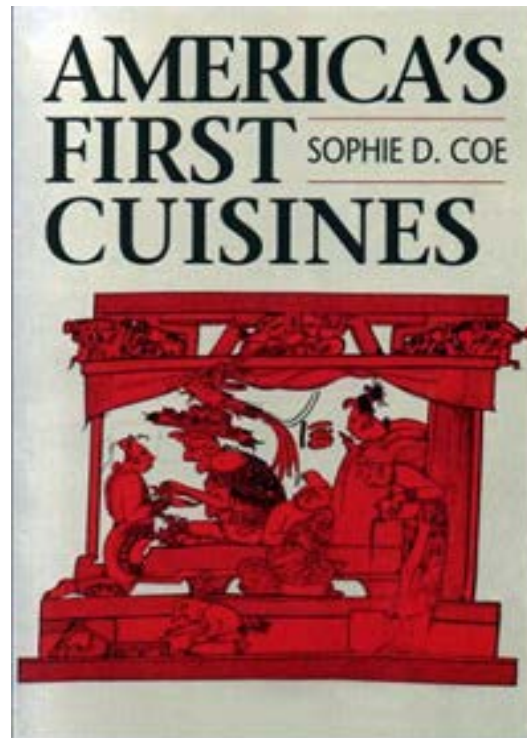
- **“cultures”**
 - are groups of people sharing a common heritage (and usually a common language)

for e.g.,

Aztec

Maya

Inca



Sophie D. Coe

America's First Cuisines

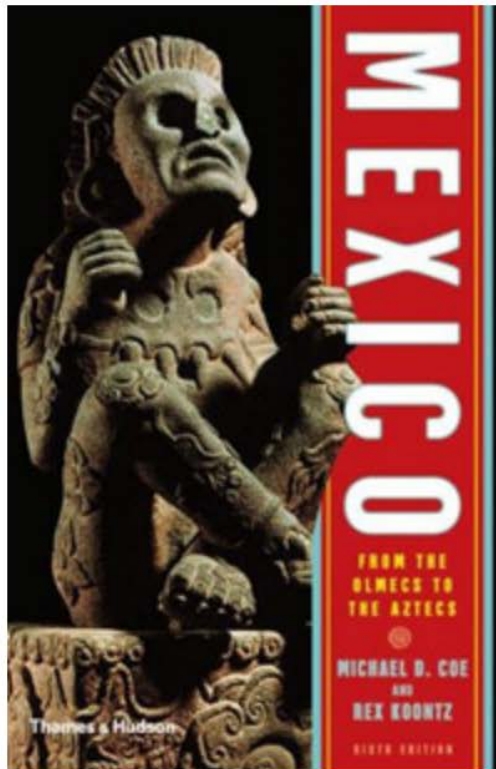
Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994.

www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aftexts.html#title

for e.g.,



for e.g.,



Mexico (6th ed.)

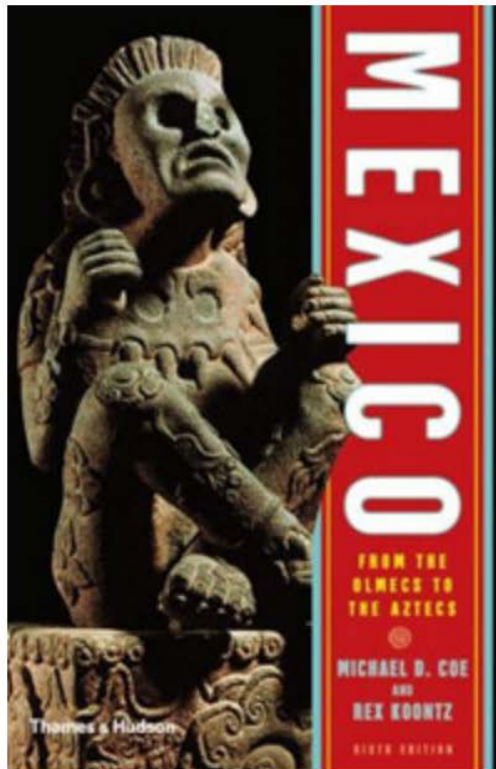
Michael D. Coe and Rex Koontz

(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

for e.g.,



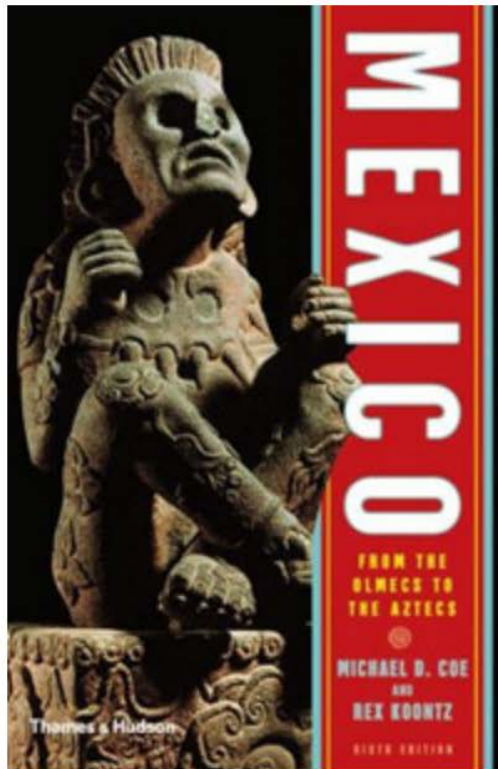
Mexico (6th ed.)

but “Mexico”

includes *many* cultures . . .

Aztec
Toltec
Mixtec
Totonac
Tarascan
Zapotec
Olmec
Yaqui
and others

for e.g.,



Mexico (6th ed.)

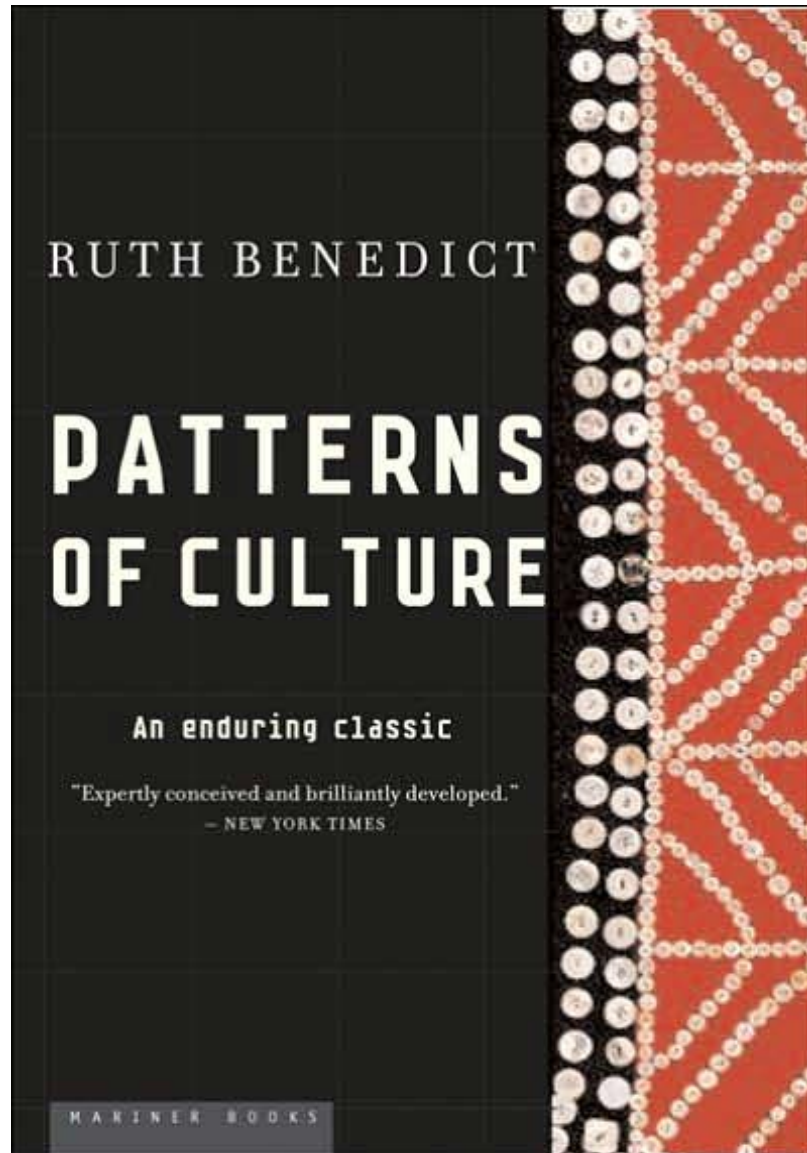
**more about this
with
“local cultures”
 (“microcultures”)
below**

Main Characteristics

- “cultures”
 - are “integrated”
- an idea that was pioneered and emphasized by the “pioneer” anthropologist Ruth Benedict



Ruth Fulton Benedict
1887-1948
Patterns of Culture
1934



Ruth Fulton Benedict
1887-1948
Patterns of Culture
1934

Main Characteristics

- “cultures”
 - are integrated
 - **Interact and change**
 - the idea that some cultures (like “hunting and gathering” cultures, or the Amish) do not change is not correct

The Concept of Culture

- ***Microculture***

- are smaller groups with distinct pattern of learned and shared behavior and thinking found within larger cultures such as ethnic groups in localized regions
- some people like to think of these as “local cultures”

The Concept of Culture

- *Microculture*

- are smaller groups with distinct pattern of learned and shared behavior and thinking found within larger cultures such as ethnic groups in localized regions
- some people like to think of these as **“local cultures”**

**every region has its own
local cultures,
or microcultures . . .**

“units of analysis” may include:

one person

for e.g.,
Prehistoric Middle America
has all of these cultures . . .
and more . . .

– a culture / “subculture”

• Ancient Middle America

- Chamula
- Lancandon
- Tzotzil
- Tzeltal
- Zoque
- Yaqui
- Otomi
- Tarascan
- Mixtec
- Zapotec
- Olmec
- Toltec
- Aztec
- Teotihuacanos
- Tarahumara

**indigenous groups
with a population
of more than 100,000**

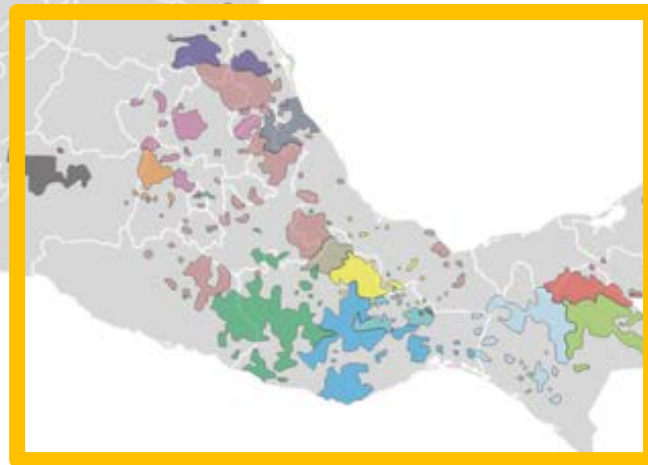


Año 2000. Fuente: CDI-Conapo

**indigenous groups
with a population
of more than 100,000**



Año 2000. Fuente: CDI-Conapo





Aztec “Triple Alliance” . . .

Provinces dépendant de la triple alliance

- ★ Membres de la triple alliance
- Chef-lieu de province tributaire

- Mixes État ou peuple indépendant
- Chef-lieu d'État indépendant

“units of analysis” may include:

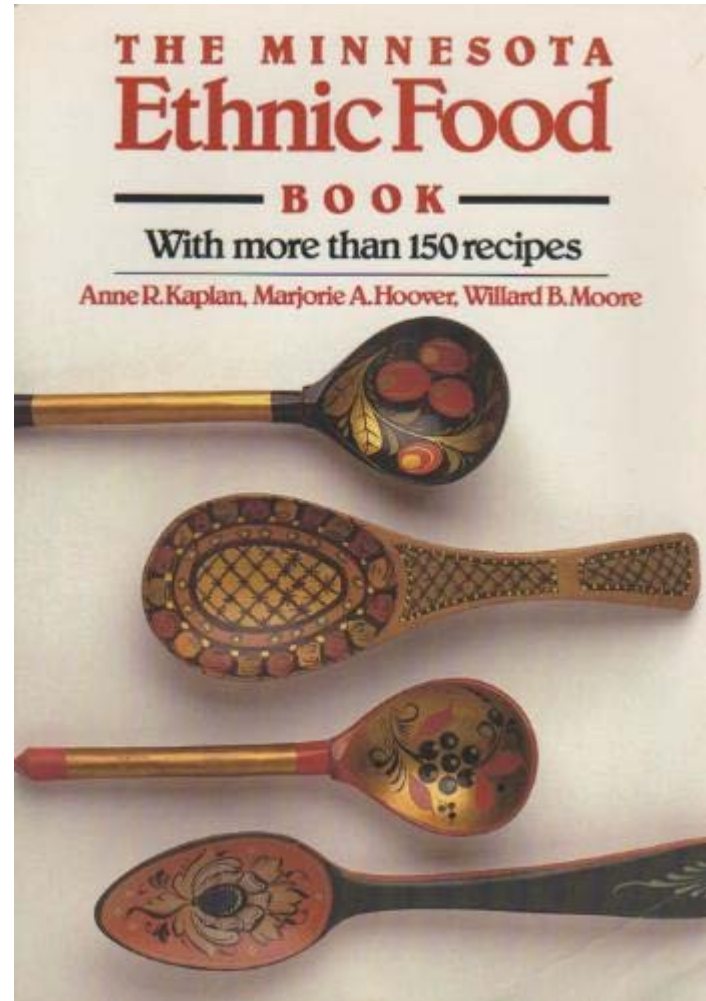
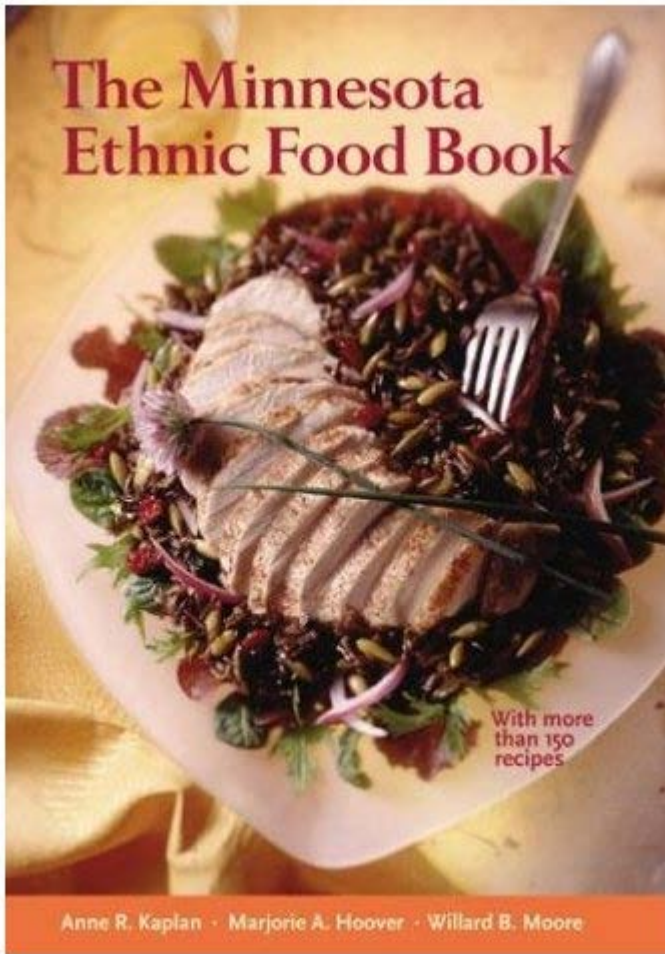
and
just the Maya
include all of these subcultures . . .
and more . . .

– a culture / “subculture”

- Maya
 - Chamula
 - Lacandon
 - Tzotzil
 - Tzeltal
 - Zoque

**every region has its own
local cultures,
or microcultures . . .**

even Minnesota . . .



Minnesota Historical Society Press

**even in places like Minnesota
there are many “microcultures” . . .**

The Ojibway / 15
The Blacks / 34
The Mexicans / 48
The British / 67
The Germans / 86
The Scandinavians / 102
Norwegians / 109
Danes / 121
Swedes / 131
The Finns / 144
The Greeks / 163
The Italians / 180
The Jews / 196
The South Slavs / 214
The Hmong / 235

**even in places like Minnesota
there are many “microcultures” . . .**

for e.g., *Anishinabe*

(known less appropriately as
“The Ojibwa,” and “The Chippewa”) . . .

**. . . and many groups have been in or near their
present locality since prehistoric times**

The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
 - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
– Irish “Travelers”

local groups generally strive to preserve their cultural identity . . .

The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations

local groups generally strive to preserve their cultural identity with . . .

language

food

religion

clothing

cultural symbols

Tribal college seeks to strengthen its Indian identity

Jana Hollingsworth Duluth News Tribune

Published Thursday, September 1, 2011

The pipe ceremony Wednesday at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College acknowledged and honored the four directions, the elements and the Creator.

It also signaled a new beginning for the college and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

By law, both the state and the band run the college. But in recent years, the band has felt its role diminish — a trend that community college officials say they want to reverse.



The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
 - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
Ojibwa: Anishinabek “Travelers”

local groups generally strive to preserve
their cultural identity . . .

**and you can often see that in the
artifacts that they produce**



Private Vehicle



Private Vehicle



Vet



Handicapped Driver



Private Vehicle



Private Vehicle



you can probably see signs of this
in your area . . .

these have prehistoric counterparts

• • •



Clovis Point



Pictograph from Hegman Lake, Minnesota

**and prehistoric
items sometimes
have modern
counterparts**



Molinillo

Ancient Mexican Hot Chocolate Frother

**but *context* is
always
important**



but *context* is
always
important

**What is this,
for e.g.?**



it's a “spurtle”

for stirring oatmeal
and soups
(in Scotland)



The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
 - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)

. . . some areas of human activity tell us more than others . . .

- e.g., Kurds
- e.g., Australian Aboriginals

The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
 - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)

. . . food, for e.g., is almost always a key part of peoples' cultural identity, often dating back to their prehistoric past, and defining their history . . .

The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
 - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
 - e.g., Irish “Travellers”
 - sometimes incorrectly called “Gypsies”

**and this often shows up in the
archeological record . . .**

INDIANS PICKING WILD RICE, NEAR BRAINERD, MINN.



Pub. by W.W. Latta.

Indians harvesting wild rice near Brainerd, 1905

Minnesota Historical Society

Google™ Custom Search

Search

[↑](#) to top of page / [A-Z index](#)

Wild Rice



Wild rice
Zizania aquatica
Wikipedia

× Find: wild [Next](#) [Previous](#) [Highlight all](#) Match case

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afwildrice.html#title>



Maple Sugar

Day's Place, Frozen Sap, Lake Mille Lacs
Minnesota Historical Society



Indians making maple sugar, Cass Lake.

Photograph Collection, Postcard, 1905

Visual Resources Database

Minnesota Historical Society

Location No. E97.32M r4 Negative No. 49125

start

Inbox for troufs@d.u...

Firefox

Adobe Dreamweaver ...

Microsoft Office P...

Google Earth

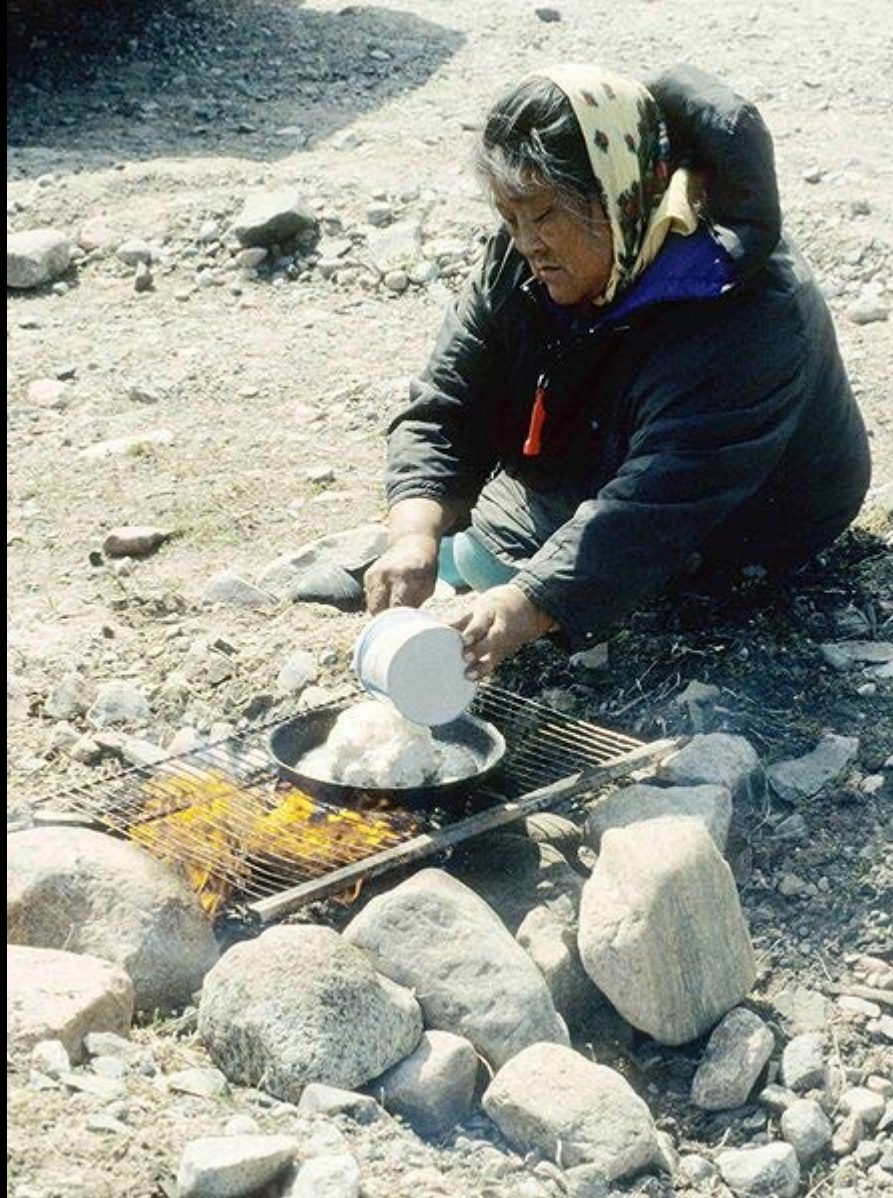
11:03 AM



Mrs. Day Granulating Maple Sugar, Lake Mille Lacs
Minnesota Historical Society

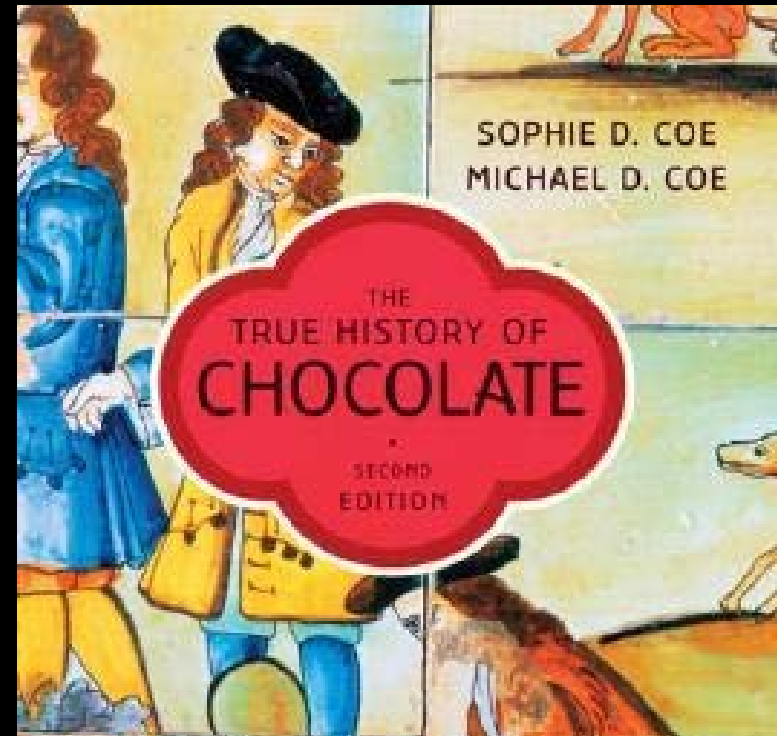
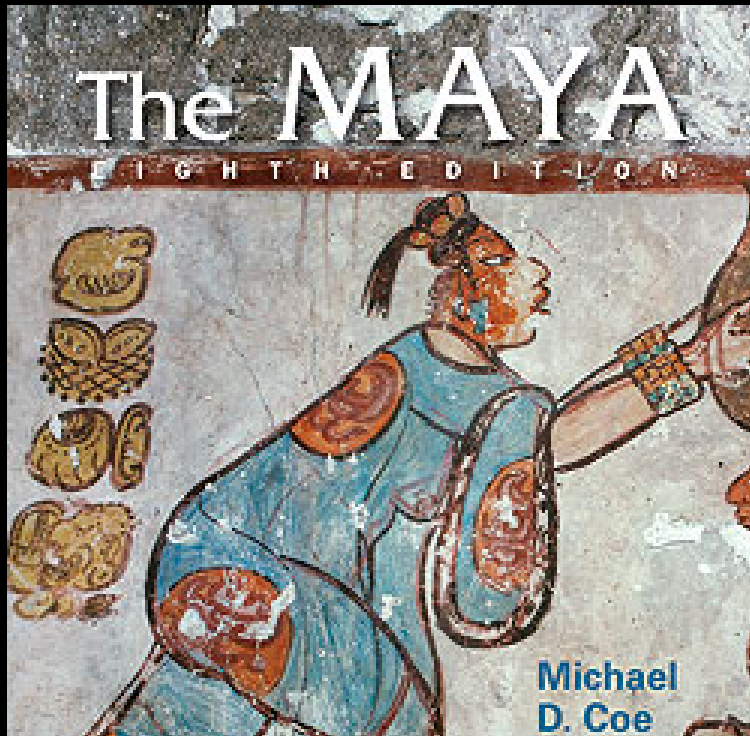


Woman and Blueberries.
Patrick DesJarlait (1912-1972)
Minnesota Historical Society

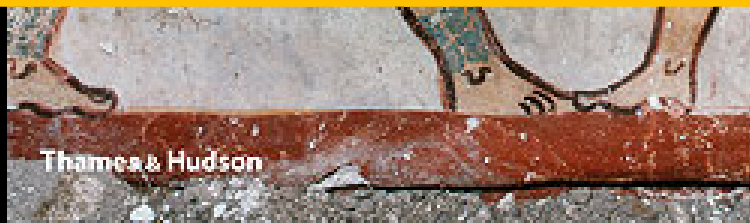


Bannock / Frybread

Wikimedia



and this is the case for almost every group . . .



Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology

2. **culture** as a primary concept

3. comparative method

as major approach

development and structure

4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal

5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- **comparative method**
 - as a **major approach** to the study of human behavior
 - the comparative method **compares things**

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- **comparative method**

- One form of comparative method was pioneered by Fred Eggan

(University of Chicago)

“Social anthropology and the method of controlled comparison”

American Anthropologist, 56:743-61 (1954)

Compare . . .

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Main Characteristics

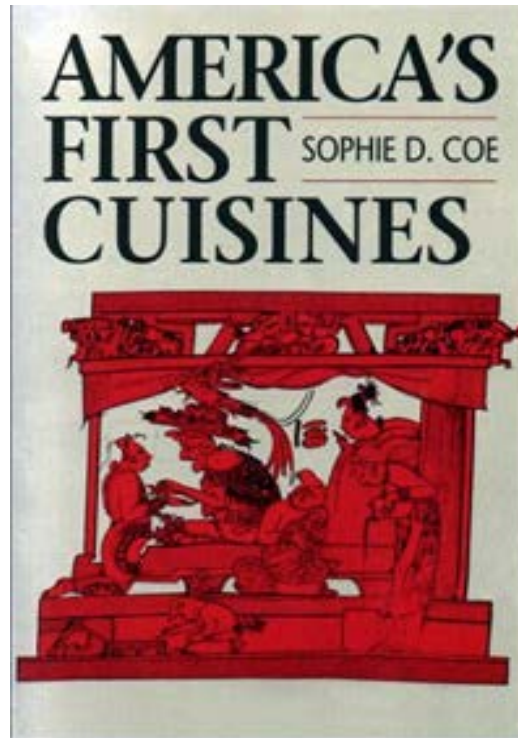
- the comparative method **compares** things

for e.g. . . .

Aztec

Maya

Inca



Sophie D. Coe

America's First Cuisines

Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994.

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- **comparative method**
 - Other methods . . .

compare things regionally

in an attempt to understand **process**

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

process

essentially refers to

how things change

or

**how things came to be
the way they are now**

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- **comparative method**

- Other methods . . .

anthropologists

for e.g.,

**compare things regionally
in an attempt to understand
process**

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- **the comparative method compares things, for e.g., process of domestication / civilization**

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- the comparative method compares things, for e.g., **process** of domestication / civilization

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- the comparative method **compares** things, for e.g., process of domestication / civilization

maize – Mexico

wheat – Turkey

rice – China

manioc – Brazil

millet – Africa

Compare . . .

Main Characteristics

- the comparative method **compares** things, for e.g., process of domestication / civilization

maize – Mexico

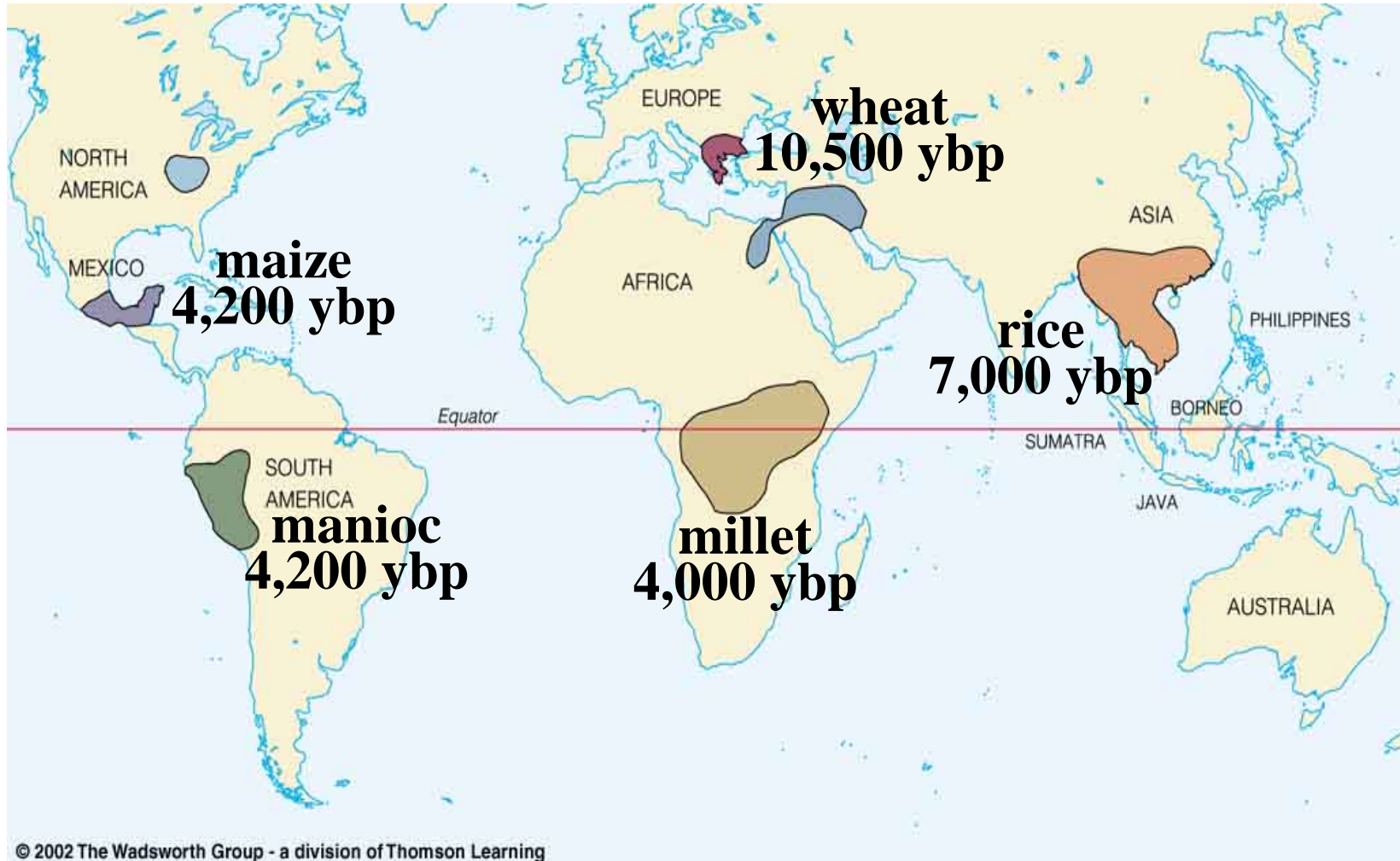
wheat – Turkey

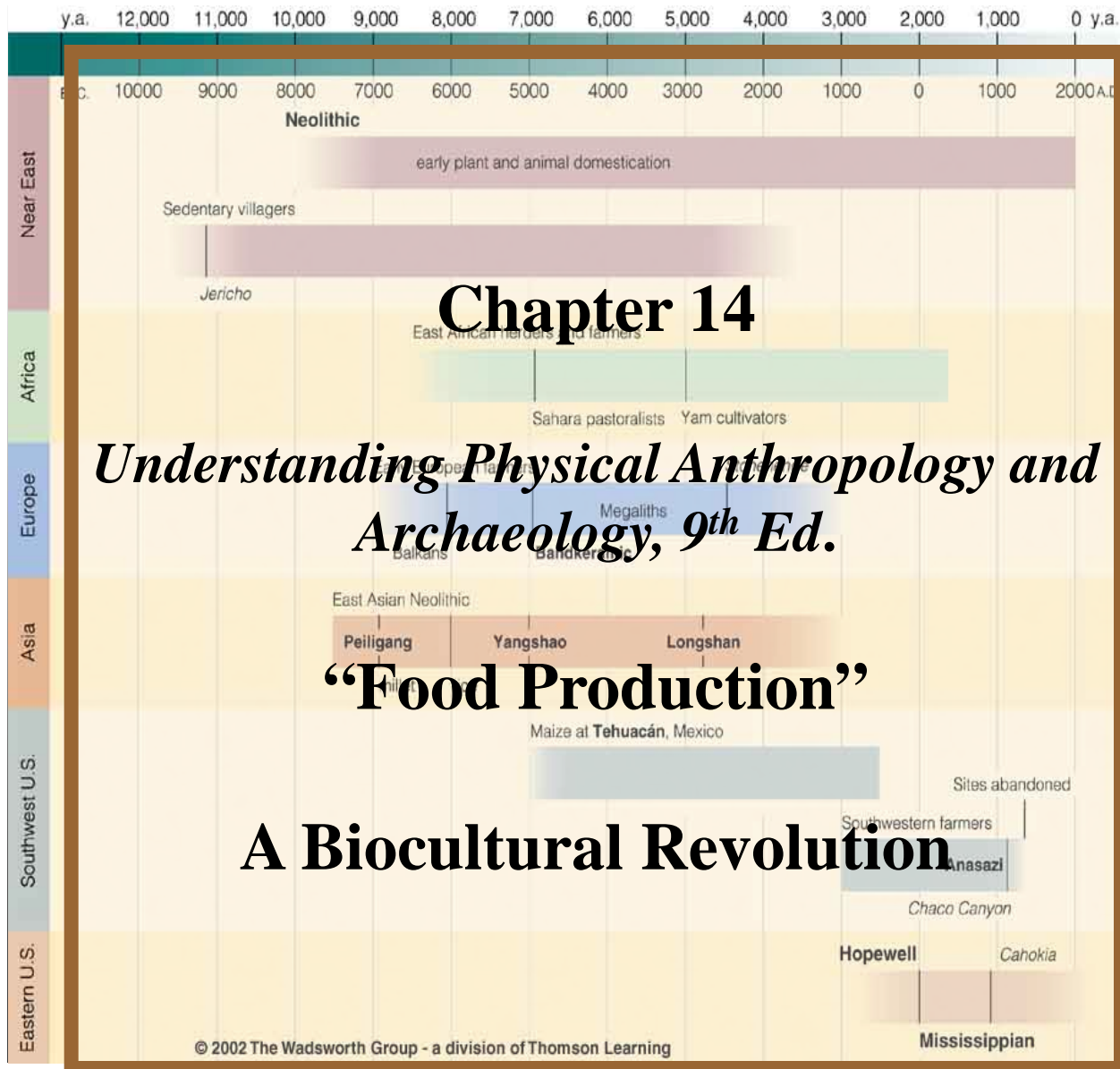
rice – China

manioc – Brazil

millet – Africa

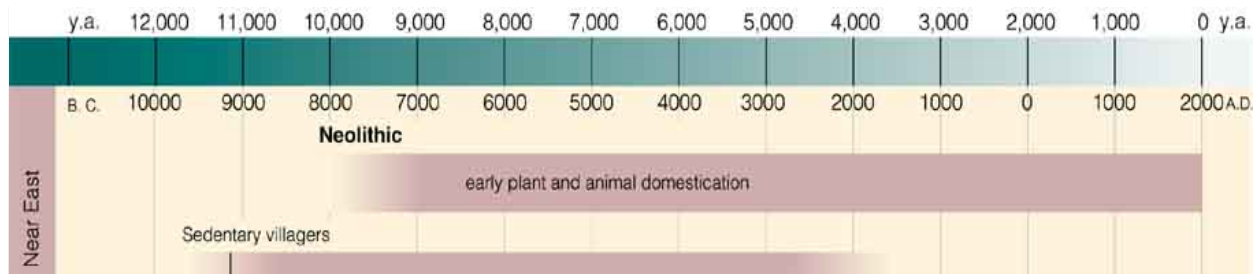
Compare . . .





Time line for Ch. 14 Food Production

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 9th Ed., p. 333



one of the best places
in the world to look at
the **process**
of plant domestication



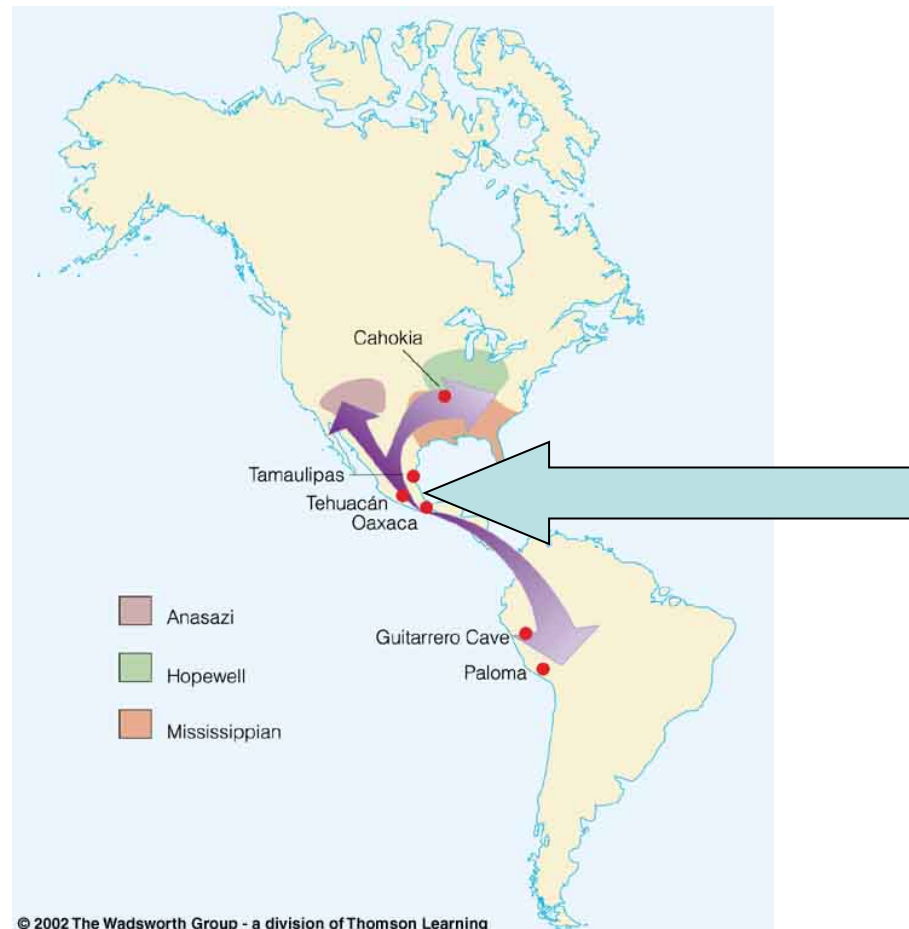
Time line for Ch. 14 Food Production

Compare . . .

- **Tehuacán Valley, Puebla, Mexico**

maize

**4,200
ybp**



Ancient Middle America

UMD Home > CLA > Sociology-Anthropology > Anthropology > Tim Roufs > Ancient Middle America

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A - Z



Tech Resources for Students

search links

Google advanced

EBC News: AMERICA

Course Information

Course Topics

Maps

Useful Web Sites

Week: 01 . 02 . 03 . 04 . 05 . 06 . 07 . 08 . 09 . 10 . 11 . 12 . 13 . 14 . 15 . 16

Fall 2008 Calendar

ackethexo.com (map)

Cutting Costs for College Textbooks
general textbook information

Mesoamerica -- Wikipedia
Pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica -- Wikipedia

search Mesoamerica on JSTOR

Wednesday, 03-Sep-2008

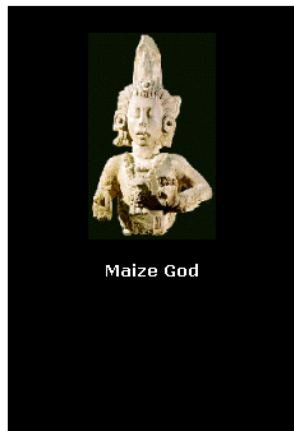
21:09:06 GMT

... in History

... in Headlines

UM One Stop
more on J-Store

Babel R di Tran da ton
- Van da b h's page



Tehuacán

Teotihuacán

Tenochtitlán

Tehuacán slides

Tehuacán -- Wikipedia

Search Tehuacán on JSTORE

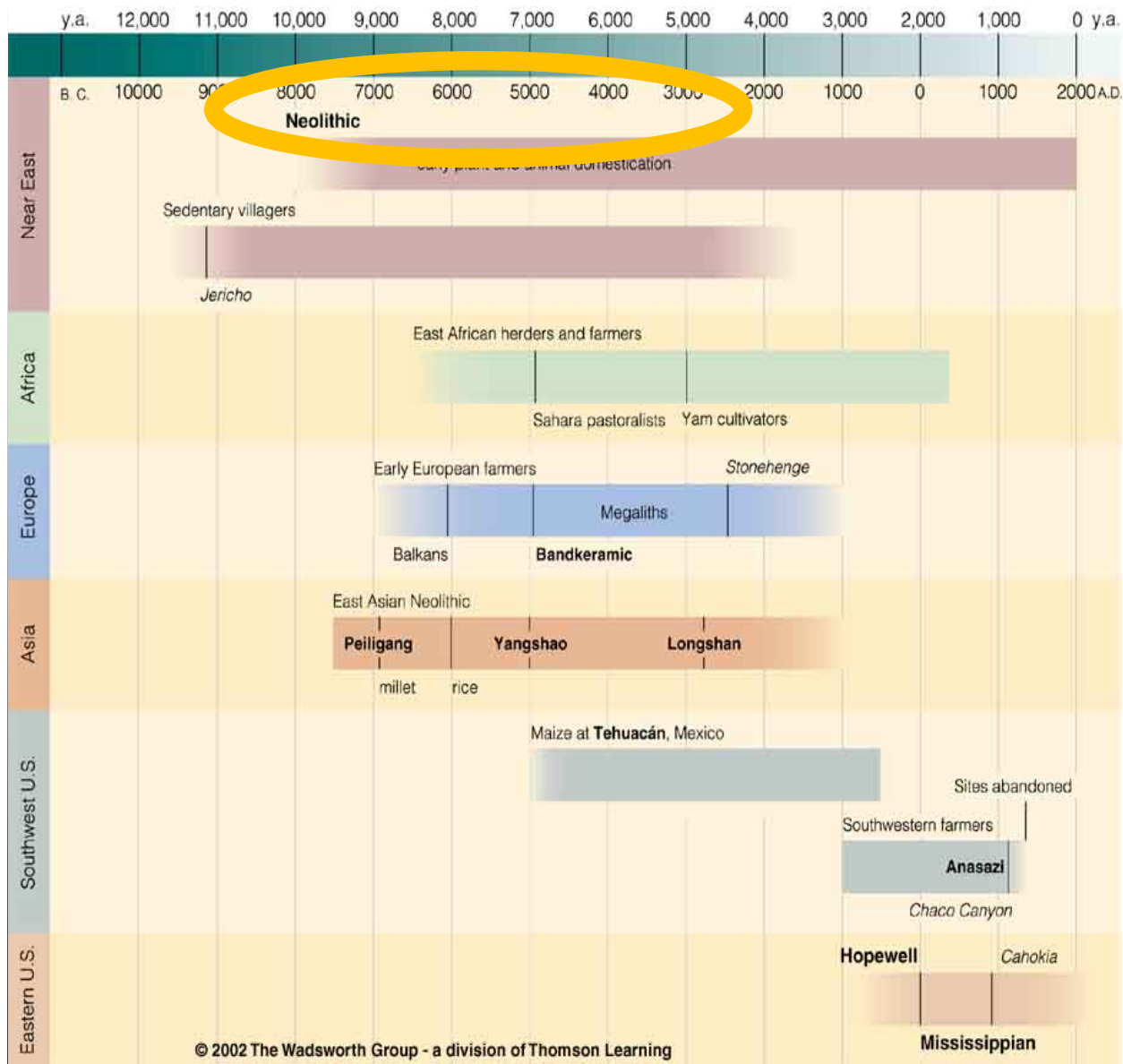


Early Maize Cobbs -- Tehuacán Valley

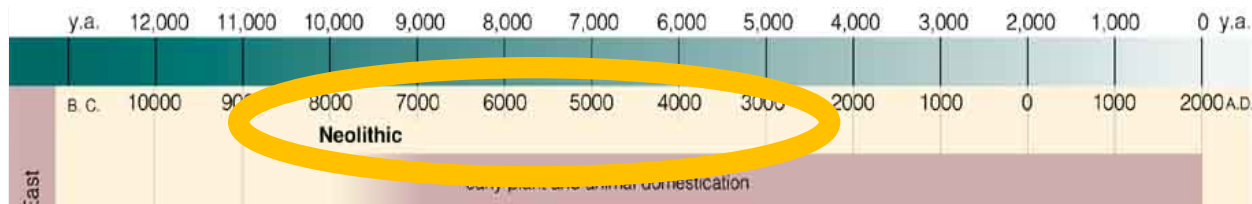
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE FROM TEHUACÁN, MEXICO
11,000 B.C. to A.D. 1500**

(Tehuacán Page)

<u>PHASE</u>	COMMUNITY PATTERN	SUBSISTENCE	TEHUACÁN VALLEY POPULATION ESTIMATE
Venta Salada phase (A.D. 700 - 1520)	Secular cities or towns with religiously, politically, and economically affiliated centers	Full-time agriculture and irrigation as well as commerce	Five thousand times original population (60,000 - 120,000)
Palo Blanco (200 B.C. - A.D. 700)	Sacred or ceremonial centers	Full-time agriculture with irrigation	One thousand times the original population (12,000 - 24,000)
Ajalpán and St. María (1500 - 200 B.C.)	Ceremonial centers or villages with temples with ceremonially affiliated villages (100-300 village population)	Full-time agriculture using many hybrid domesticates; irrigation (?)	One hundred fifty times original population (1800 - 3600)
Late Abejas, Durrán, and...	Semipermanent villages composed of a number of	Full-time agriculture planting an increasing	Forty times original population (480 - 960)



Time line for Ch. 14 Food Production



“The Neolithic Revolution”

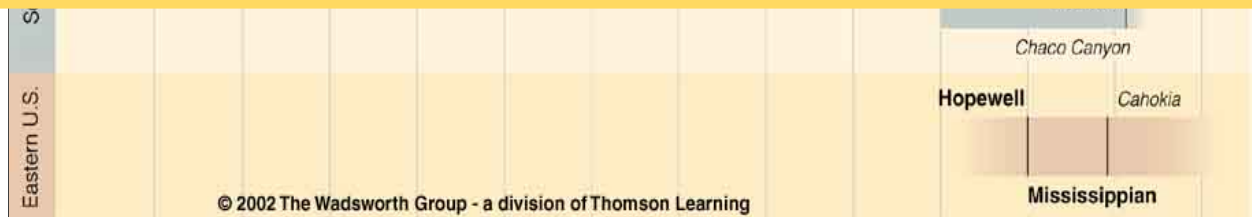
“The New Stone Age”

in Prehistoric Middle America this is known as

The “Archaic”

and sometimes they’re all referred to as

“The Agriculture Revolution”



Time line for Ch. 14 Food Production.

Compare . . .

- **Early Neolithic sites**



© 2000 Wadsworth Publishing Company/ITP

REM:

“The Neolithic Revolution”

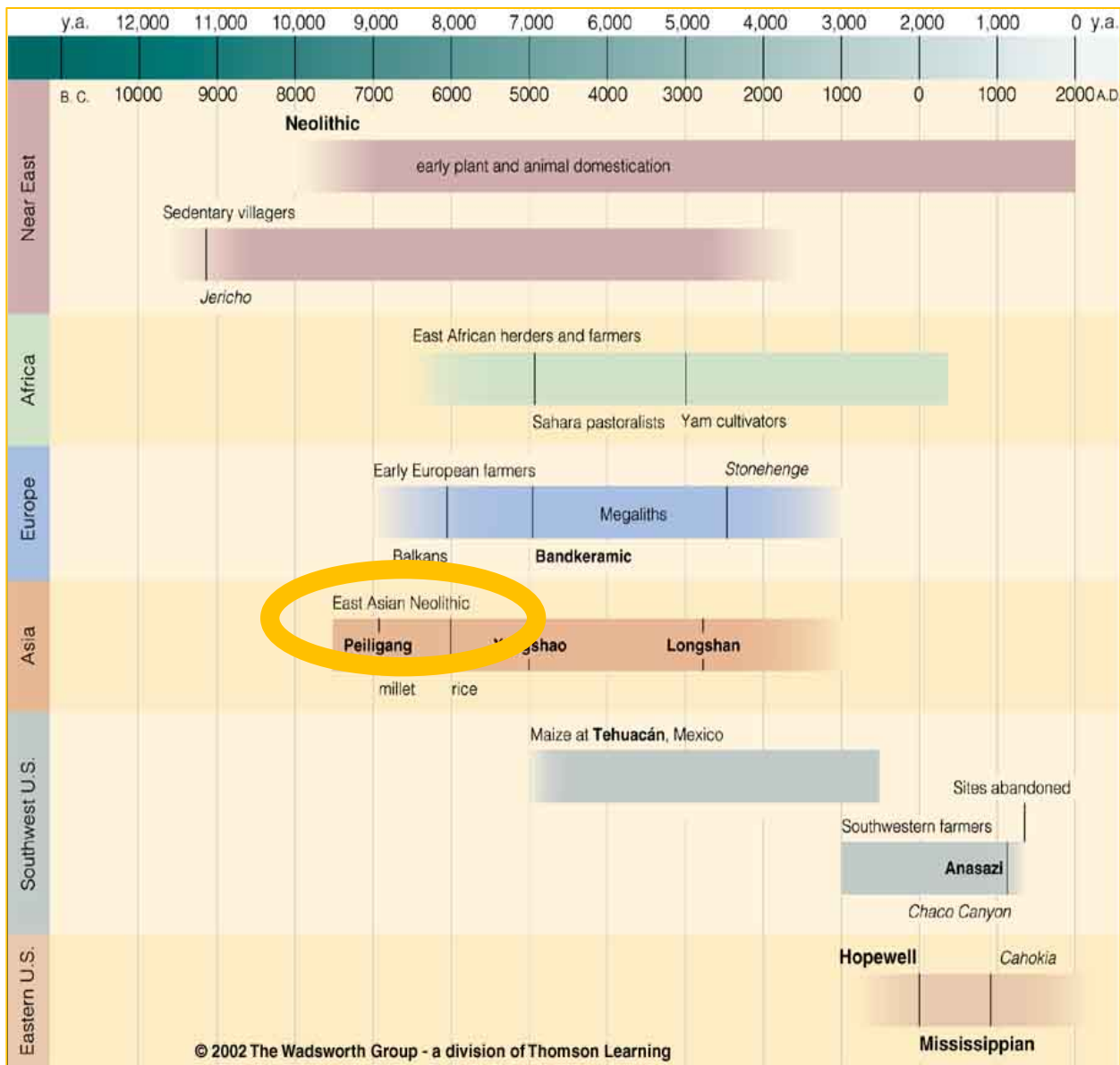
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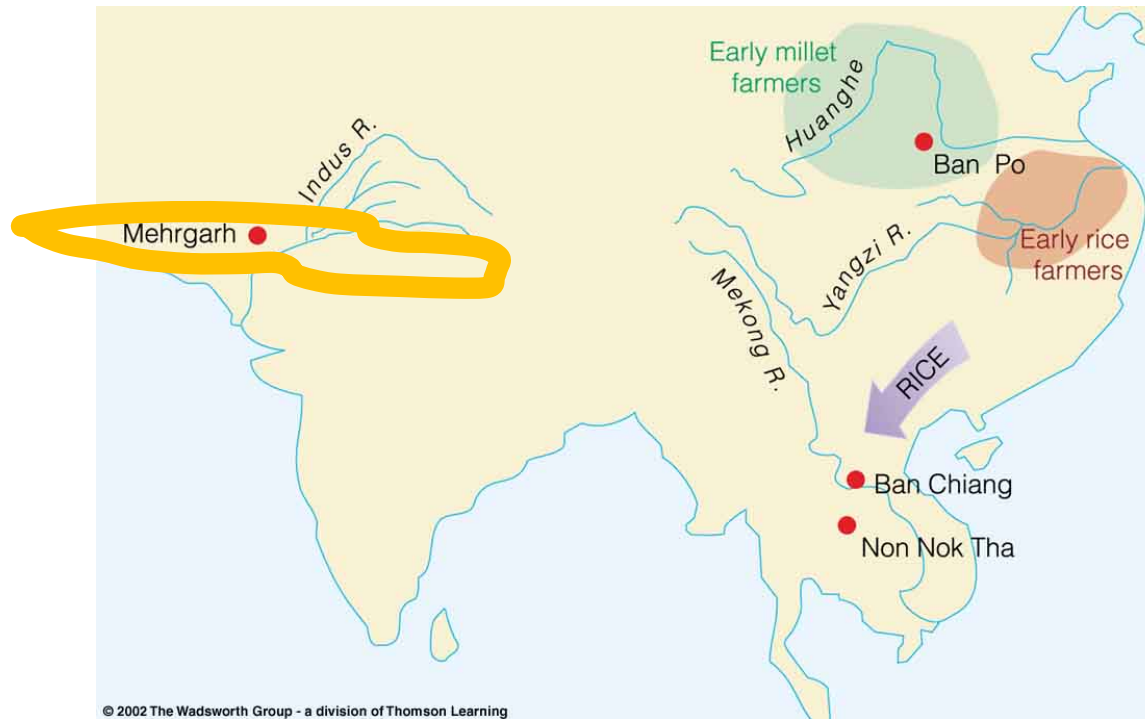


Time line for Ch. 14 Food Production

Compare . . .

Mehrgarh

One of the earliest Neolithic settlements of southern Asia, Pakistan



Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology

2. **culture** as a primary concept

3. comparative method

as major approach

development and structure

another e.g. . . .

Compare . . .



Map of the
Mayan World
-- NOVA

[↑](#) to top of page / A-Z index

Out of the Past: "The Collapse"

60 min., 1993, VC 2135

[Abstract](#) [Terms /](#) [Notes](#)
[Concepts](#)

[Cultures](#) [Sites](#) [Individuals](#) [Bibliography](#)



**comparing
the "fall of civilization"
around the world**

[The Fall of Civilizations](#) -- Wikipedia

Find: [Next](#) [Previous](#) [Highlight all](#) Match case



Map of the
Mayan World
-- NOVA

The Fall of the Maya

23 min., 1993, VC 2322

Abstract	Terms / Concepts	Notes
Cultures	Sites	Individuals
		Bibliography / Resources



Copán, Honduras

[Other Maya Sites](#)

[Maya](#) -- Wikipedia

[Search Maya on JSTOR](#)

"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

Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach

4. **holism**

or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a primary theoretical goal

5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

Holism tries to put all of the pieces together . . .

American Anthropology

- **cultural / social**
- **physical** (bio-physical)
- **archaeology**
- **linguistics**

**let's have a look at that on the
“Anthropology and . . . Its
Parts” chart . . .**

NOTE:

**usually anthropologists read
charts from the bottom up**

**that has to do with the fact that in
archaeology the oldest layers are
at the bottom of a site and the
newer ones are on top**

Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

Level 4 Integrative Science of Humans (Holism)	Anthropology						
Level 3 Generalized Analysis of Biological and Cultural Systems	Physical Anthropology			Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology)			
Level 2 Specialized Classification and Analysis of Subsystems	Human Morphology	Human Biology	Human Paleontology	Technology	Arts and Literature	Social Anthropology	Linguistics
Level 1 Empirical Observation and Gross Classification	Anthropometry		Archaeology		Ethnography		

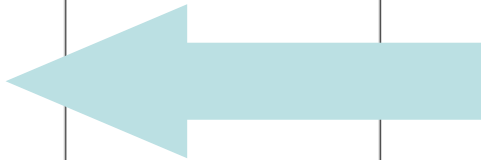
¹After E. Adamson Hoebel, *Anthropology: The Study of Man*, 4th Ed. (NY: McGraw-Hill, 1972), p. 14.

NOTE:
there are four levels . . .

(REM: read from the bottom up)


Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

Level 4 Integrative Science of Humans (Holism)	Anthropology						
Level 3 Generalized Analysis of Biological and Cultural Systems	Physical Anthropology			Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology)			
Level 2 Specialized Classification and Analysis of Subsystems	Human Morphology	Human Biology	Human Paleontology	Technology	Arts and Literature	Social Anthropology	Linguistics
Level 1 Empirical Observation and Gross Classification	Archaeology			Ethnography			



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Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

Level 4 Integrative Science of Humans (Holism)	Anthropology							
Level 3 Generalized Analysis of Biological and Cultural Systems	Physical Anthropology			Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology)				
Level 2 Specialized Classification and Analysis of Subsystems				Biological Anthropology	Technology	Arts and Literature	Social Anthropology	Linguistics
Level 1 Empirical Observation and Gross Classification	Anthropometry		Archaeology		Ethnography			

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Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

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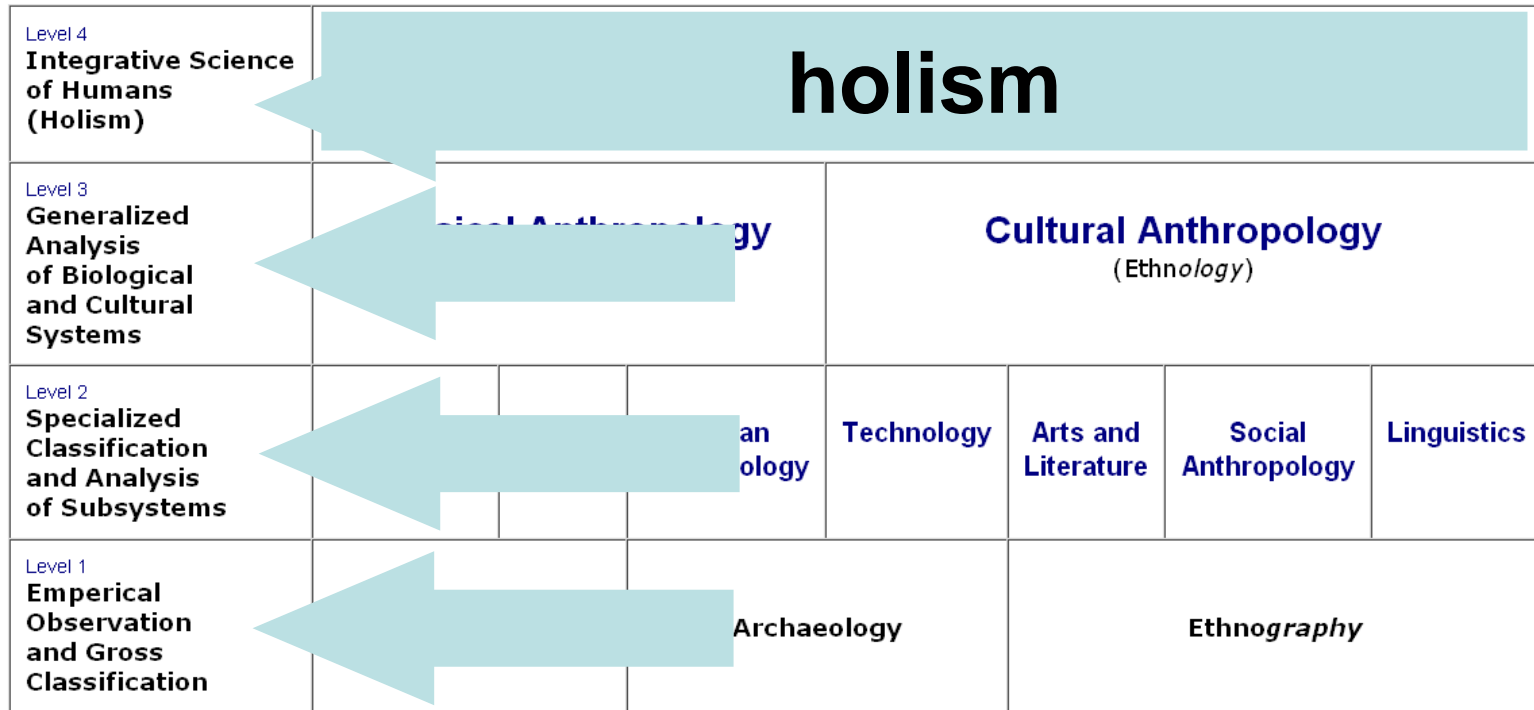
Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

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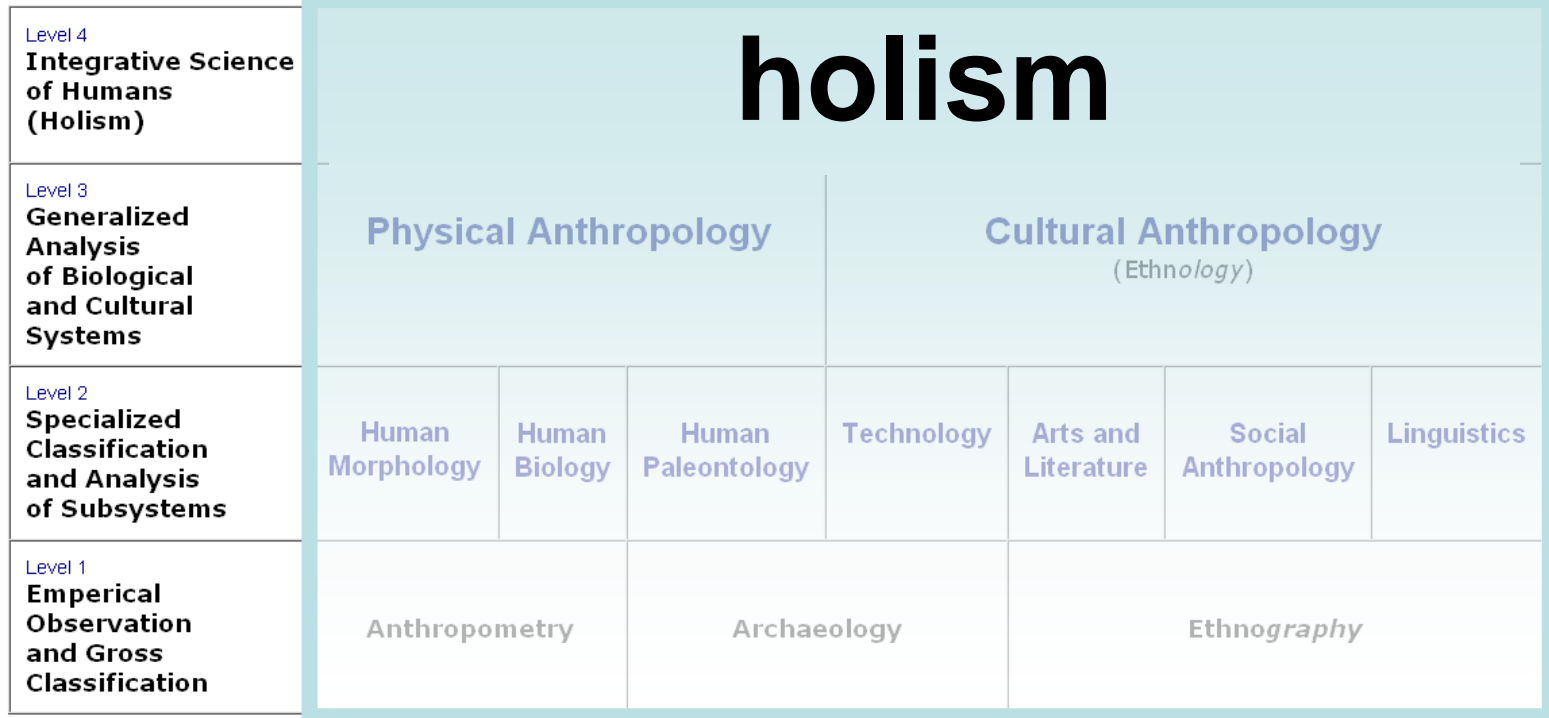
HOLISM
involves all four levels
and all
of the physical and cultural
components combined

Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹



¹After E. Adamson Hoebel, *Anthropology: The Study of Man*, 4th Ed. (NY: McGraw-Hill, 1972), p. 14.

Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹



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Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

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¹After E. Adamson Hoebel, *Anthropology: The Study of Man*, 4th Ed. (NY: McGraw-Hill, 1972), p. 14.

**. . . and the two main divisions
of Anthropology are
bio-physical
and
socio-cultural . . .**

Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

Level 4 Integrative Science of Humans (Holism)	Anthropology						
Level 3 Generalized Analysis of Biological and Cultural Systems	Bio-physical			Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology)			
Level 2 Specialized Classification and Analysis of Subsystems	Human Morphology	Human Biology	Human Paleontology	Technology	Arts and Literature	Social Anthropology	Linguistics
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Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

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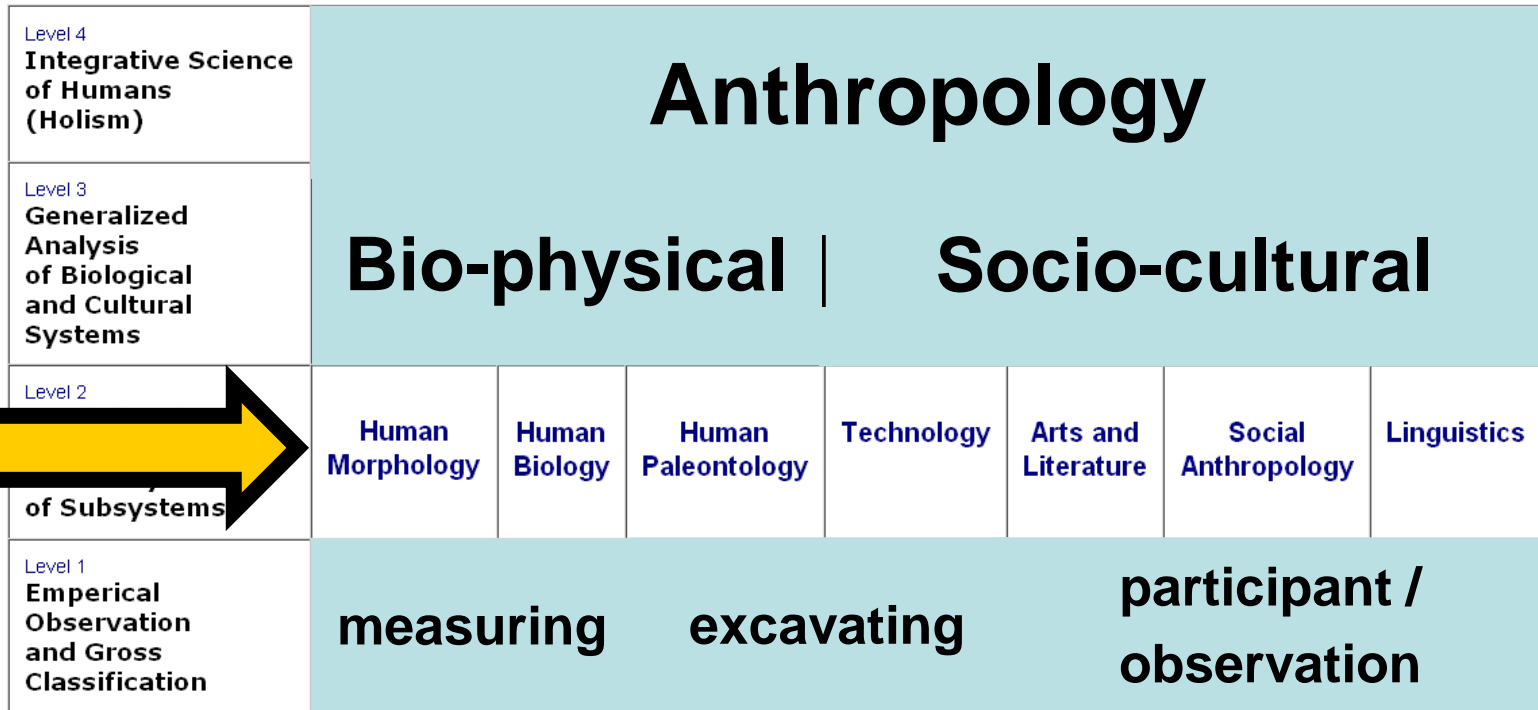
¹After E. Adamson Hoebel, *Anthropology: The Study of Man*, 4th Ed. (NY: McGraw-Hill, 1972), p. 14.

**. . . and ultimately
studies**

**involve lots of subdisciplines
and interdisciplinary studies**

. . .

Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹



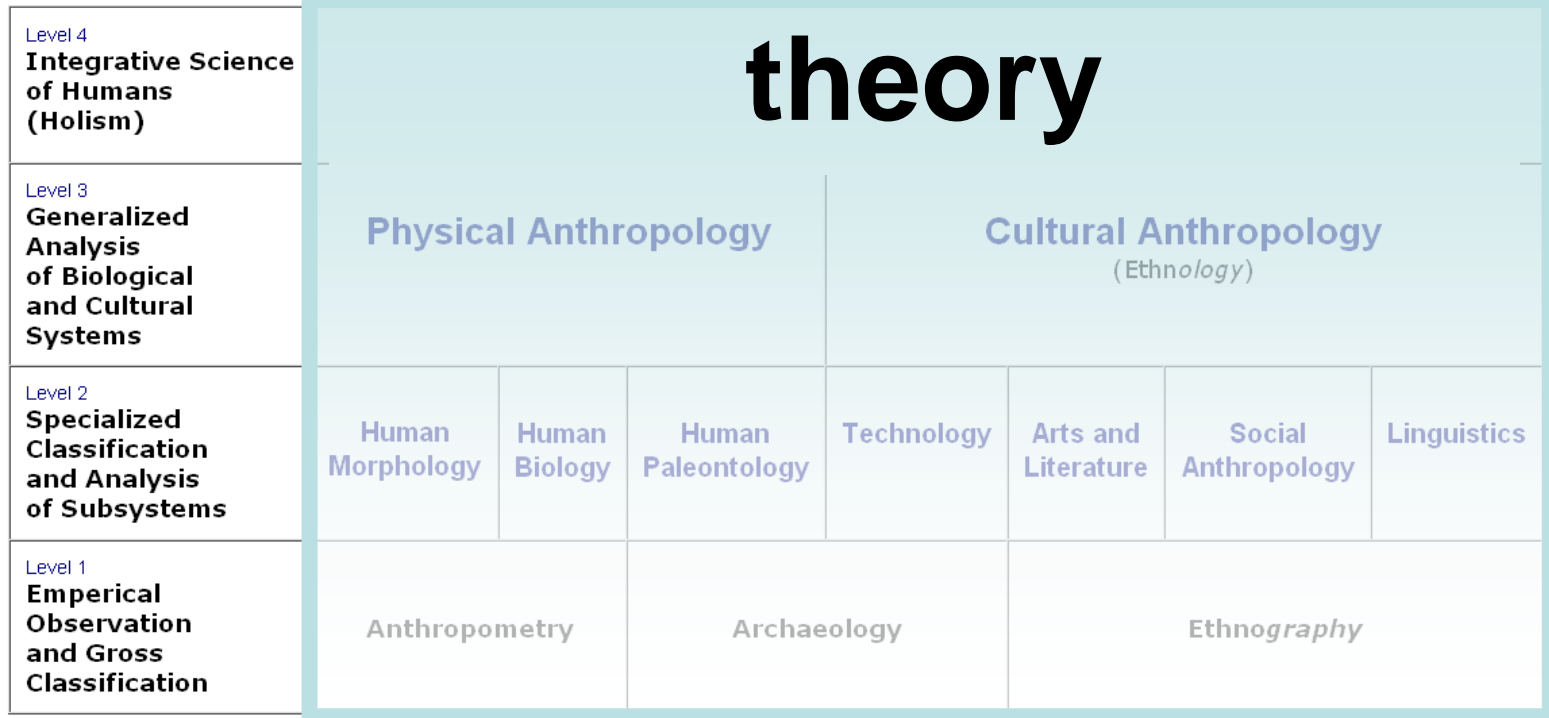
¹After E. Adamson Hoebel, *Anthropology: The Study of Man*, 4th Ed. (NY: McGraw-Hill, 1972), p. 14.

**in some ways this chart business
is all about**

Theory

**and that is important to the
understanding of
many aspects of
Prehistoric Cultures**

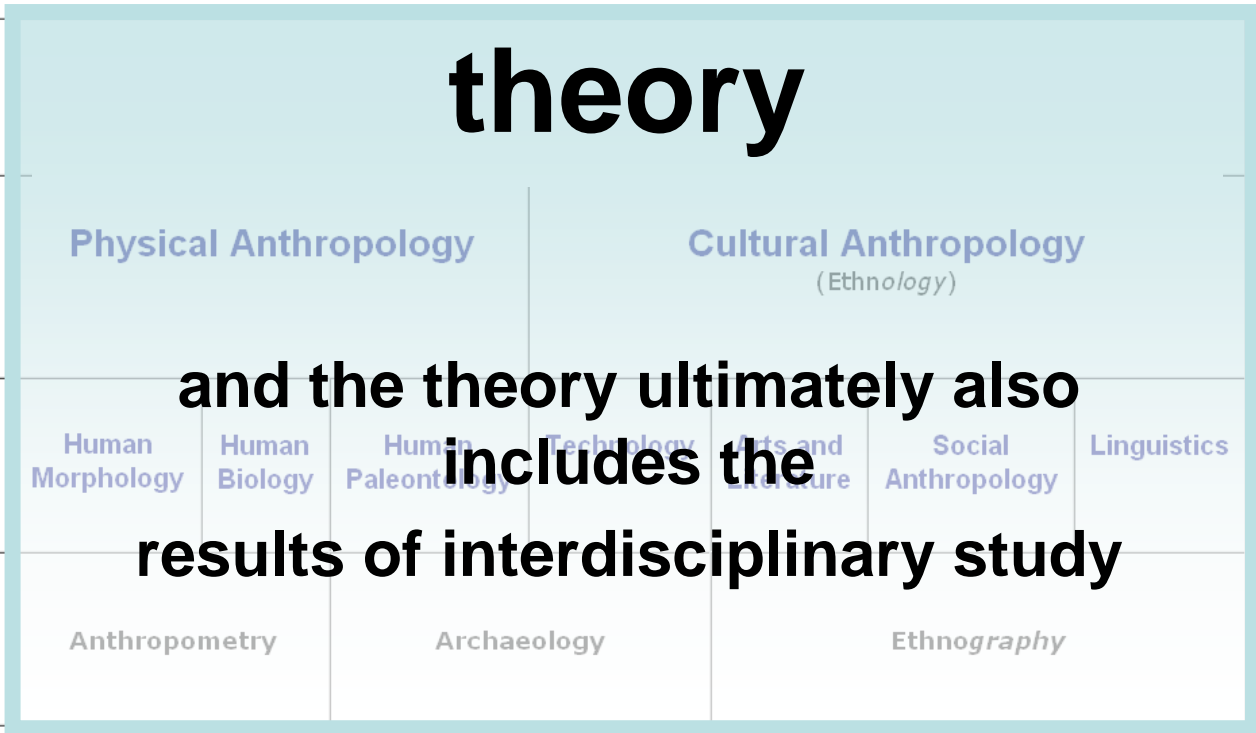
Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹



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Anthropology and . . . Its Parts¹

Level 4 Integrative Science of Humans (Holism)
Level 3 Generalized Analysis of Biological and Cultural Systems
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Level 1 Empirical Observation and Gross Classification



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**and finally,
we have the last
main characteristic of
anthropology . . .**

Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal

5. fieldwork

as a primary research technique --
involving “participant observation”

**note two terms in the
“major characteristics of
anthropology”
listing . . .**

Main Characteristics

1. ***culture*** as a primary concept
2. ***comparative method*** as major approach to the study of human behavior
3. ***holism*** or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a *primary theoretical goal*
4. **fieldwork** as a primary research **technique**, involving "*participant observation*"

Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept
2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study of human behavior

what's the difference?

4. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique, involving “*participant observation*”

Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept
2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study of human behavior
3. *holism* or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a *primary theoretical goal*
4. fieldwork as a primary research

technique = tool “*participant observation*” = how you get information

Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept

**data gathering *technique* —
participant observation
(fieldwork)**

technique = tool “*participant observation*” = how you get information

Main Characteristics

Anthropologists use other tools . . . like questionnaires, interview schedules, psychological tests, documentary filming . . . but **“participant observation”** is a characteristic technique use by anthropologists, especially cultural anthropologists (ethnologists)

“participant observation” = how you get information

Main Characteristics

Anthropologists use other tools . . . like questionnaires, interview schedules, psychological tests, documentary filming . . . but “participant observation” is a characteristic technique use by

NOTE: specially cultural anthropologists are also **ethnologists**


observation” = how you get information

Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept
2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study of human behavior
3. *holism* or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a *primary theoretical goal*
4. fieldwork as a primary research

technique, = tool “*participant observation*” = how you get information

Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept
 2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study = **approach**
 3. *holism* or the whole, as a *primary theoretical goal* how you use information
 4. fieldwork as a primary research **technique, = tool** “*participant observation*” = how you get information
- 

Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept
2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study of human behavior
3. *holism* or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a *primary theoretical goal*
4. fieldwork as a primary research

technique, = tool “*participant observation*” = how you get information

Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept

**other tools include
things like . . .**

technique, = tool “*participant observation*” = how you get information

Main Characteristics

- **surveys and questionnaires**
- **various laboratory analyses of a variety of artifacts**
- **ethological research techniques**
(animal studies in the field)

technique, = tool “*participant observation*” = how you get information

- **various studies of laboratory animals**
- **biochemical research**
(“test tube”)
- **epidemiological research**
(populations)
- **clinical studies**
(medical)
- and others

**Anthropologists often like to
use a research “technique”
based on
“unobtrusive measures” . . .**

(either in the field or elsewhere)

“unobtrusive measures”

- **analysis of available data**
- **analysis of artifacts**
- **simply observing**
- **still and video photography**
and analysis of films and images
- **and others**

**but most of all (generally)
Anthropologists
LOVE . . .**

Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal

5. **fieldwork**

as a primary research technique --

involving “**participant observation**”

**and as I mentioned in the
“ . . . Note on Videos and Visual
Anthropology”,
we would LOVE to take you along
with us around the world,
but the next best thing we can do
is bring the world to you in the
form of films and videos.
And we'll do a lot of that**

(starting Week 1)

our first “field trip” . . .

video:

Yanomamö: A Multidisciplinary Study

(45 min., 1970, VC 1290, F2520.1.Y3 Y36 2004 DVD)

Controversy: *Darkness in El Dorado*

[film HomePage](#)

[course viewing guide](#)



YANOMAMO INTERACTIVE CD/ROM

(Peter Biella, Napoleon A. Chagnon and Gary Seaman)

our first “field trip”



Data courtesy of the World Language Mapping System