**Anthropology Unit Textbook Questions**

**Yanomamo and the Anthropologists (pg. 16)**

1. Chagnon developed the theory that aggression by males in society was culturally and biologically determined after interacting with the Yanomamo.

2. Tierney claimed that Chagnon manipulated data to fit his ideas, triggered conflicts and the vaccines he gave the tribesmen were bad for the tribe.

3. The main focus of the debate is how to study a culture without applying your own influence on them. Tierney said that Chagnon when studying the Yanomama influenced them so his results would fit his hypothesis.

**Cultural Anthropology (pg. 18)**

4. Cultur­e can be defined as “the total system of ideas, value, behaviors and attitudes of a society commonly shared by most members of society”. Culture is made up of what people made, do and believe.

5. Cultural anthropologists gather data by immersing themselves into the culture, they attempt to live in the society for months or years, while doing interviews and taking notes.

6.

**Research Tools of Cultural Anthropologists (pg. 20-21)**

7. Cultural anthropologists rely on informants because as an individual they cannot talk to every single person. Informants will have a deep knowledge of their culture and can investigate into the culture further, cultural anthropologists will ask informants questions to get further information about their culture.

8. Informed consent is when a cultural anthropologist informs its subject when interviewing what the information will be used for. This is important because it is unethical to not inform a subject about the content of the interview because they may not want to publicly divulge such information.

9. The main purpose of an unstructured interview is to test out a researchers initial ideas and get a greater understanding of the culture, by getting the informant to lead the interview without set questions.

10. The advantages of a structured interview is that a non-expert can do it, it does not require a relationship with the interviewee and will produce consistent data that can be compared against responses from others. The disadvantages are that the questions cannot be adapted to changing situations and the researcher will get limited answers and potentially not the full story.

**Ethnology (pg. 22-25)**

11. Ethnology is the study of the origins and culture of different peoples.

12. Participation Observation is the careful watching of a group of people and sometimes when a researcher lives with some members of a culture and participate in the culture.

13. Cultural anthropologists can increase the objectivity of participant observation by reflecting on their own cultural assumptions and learning the stories, myths, songs of the culture.

14. When Mead studied the Samoan girls she recorded that it was a stress free time and the gender roles did not exist however when Freeman went back to study them he learned that their society was actually quite strict indicating that from Mead’s perspective it what freedom because in the 1920s they were very strict and that the girls had tricked her because the questions were very embarrassing.

15. Ruth Benedict was criticized for studying Japanese culture from a distance and that she should have immersed herself in the culture.

**Richard Lee and the Dobe Ju/’Hoansi (pg. 26-27)**

16. Since Richard Lee has visited the Dobe Ju/’hoansi globalization has made it difficult for these people to retain their culture. Many people are assimilating into western culture.

17. It took Richard Lee so long to discover why they insulted his meat because he never asked anyone why they had insulted it. The people just assumed it was normal they did not think Richard would question it.

**Schools of Thought in Cultural Anthropology (pg. 28-31)**

18. Cultural relativism is the theory that two cultures cannot be compared because they each have their own rules.

19. Cultural Relativism is in response to cultural evolutionism that states that cultures evolve from savage to civilized.

20. Gender roles are socially constructed and are not based off biology, in societies where men have control over resources for example hunting, men become more dominant over women.

21. Subcultures are small groups who develop their own culture separate from a larger group.

**Linguistic Anthropology (pg. 32-33)**

22. Historical linguistics are important because they can help revive cultures by converting languages with no writing to a language that has writing.

23. Noam Chomsky says that every child is able to learn language so well because they are born with innate principles and rules of grammar.

24. There are more than 5000 languages in the world and it has been proven that they share certain linguistic principles

**Archaeology (pg. 34-35)**

25. Archaeology is the cultural anthropology of the past. Archaeology is the study of cultures from the past by excavating and studying artifacts.

**Physical Anthropology (pg. 37)**

1. Physical Anthropologists want to know the origin of humans, how they evolved and what makes humans different from animals.

Physical Anthropology

**Paleoanthropology**

Paleoanthropologists study bone and stone remains of our ancient ancestors from millions of years ago.

**Primatology**

Primatologists study primates.

**Human Variation**

The study of physical differences and similarities of existing human populations,

**Paleoanthropology (pg. 38-43)**

3. Palaeoanthropology is often referred to as the “bones and stones” part of Physical anthropology because it is the part where anthropologists excavate sites and study artifacts including bones to learn how humans lived in the past.

4. The discovery of Lucy in 1974 was so important because it showed how humans evolved and the different hominids that walked the earth millions of years ago.

5. The discovery of Selam in 2006 is important because it is the most complete skeleton of a juvenile Australopithecus afarensis which is another hominid that walked the earth millions of years ago and we can learn how these hominids evolved to become humans and the traits they gained over time.

6. Charles Darwin’s On the origin of species is a very important literary work because it outlines the theory of natural selection. The book tells us and provides evidence that all animals evolve to better adapt to their environment, and those that cannot will fail, it states that animals mate with those who can best adapt to their enviroment to create a better species. The descent of man was important because it outlined how the theory of natural selection applies to people in modern times including why females choose to pick certain husbands and why males tend to be more dominant in society. Charles Darwin attempt to explain human behavior through the theory of natural selection

7. They were able to date their fossils to the second half of the twentieth century using radiometric dating, which measures the radioactive material is has to determine the date of the bones.

8. The fundamental distinction between us and our closest relatives is that we stand upright which allows our lower body handling all locomotion allowing our upper body especially our arms to be free for other tasks

9. Ardi is similar to Lucy as they’re both bipedal however Ardi has opposable big toes which allows her to climb trees as well.

10. The figure 1-30 surprises me because of the massive time frame between each milestone in evolution and the almost exponential growth in which it shrinks. It took 2 million years for hominin ancestors to become fully bipedal, 1.5 million years from becoming bipedal to being able to use tools, 1.7 million years after tool use to make fire and finally about 800,000 years for humans to develop agriculture. These are massive time scales of millions of years however the scales get close as humans develop, all of human civilization developed in about 12,000 years however it took 1.7 million years for humans to develop fire with tools.

11. In 2010 it was discovered that Neanderthals mix bred with humans and that most humans actually have Neanderthal DNA.

12. Neanderthals are seen as inferior and stupid however their brain size is about 100cm^3 larger than modern human’s brain

13. The first stone tools were used for cutting meat off animal bones, this was determined through microscopic analysis of the polish on tools it can tell what the tool was used for.

**Forensic Anthropology (pg. 44-45)**

14. Forensic anthropologists are usually paleoanthropologists or paleontologists show they study bones and fossils and when they do get involved with law enforcement, they are not involved with detective work and only analyze the bones.

15. Most forensic anthropologists find job opportunities are involved investigating former war zones and genocides, they identify bodies to determine what happened in an area.

16. These forensic anthropologists also need to know about the cultural anthropology. They must know the cultural norms to understand whether something is normal or whether something is strange, if there is a cultural practice that doesn’t usually happen in that area for example how they are buried than the anthropologist may suspect something.

**Primatology (pg. 46-48)**

17. Primatology studies the anatomy and behaviors of primates and this research can be very important because these primates are related to us and can give us an idea of how humans work on a primal level.

18. Louis Leakey inspired Jane Goodall, Dian Fosseya and Birute Galdikas.

19. What surprises me the most is that these primates have dominance hierarchies and aggression among the males. I would have assumed this would be a societal issue that males fight over females and for resources however the research indicates that is human nature to have hierarchy. I assumed that social class was a social construct but these primates have a very strict dominance hierarchy indicating that its our human nature to divide ourselves.

20.I did not realize that humans were the only primates adapted for bipedalism, I would have assumed that there were some primates that evolved alongside humans and could at least function with bipedalism but I suppose it can be assumed that these relatives to humans if they were bipedal would have mixed and assimilated into the human race.

21. From Sue’s research we can assume that these primates are not as primitive as we thought and can actually be taught to have near human thinking and learning. These primates may be able to communicate with humans

**Human Variation (pg. 49-51)**

22. Humans developed differently from each other due to the changes in their environment, if they are changes in their environment than they will adapt to their environment.

23. Variation is essential to the survival of their species, if a species has no variation and a change happens in their environment they will all be wiped out, they require some individuals to have different traits

24. There is only one human race, there is no sub category, the idea of race is socially constructed and imposed on people to justify oppression.

25. Anthropologists consider race to be a cultural myth not a biological reality they believe race is not entrenched in biology but created in society.

26. Skin color does have evolutionary advantage, though it may not be a big one, people have evolved to develop this trait in their certain areas. Those who live in warmer climates have more melanin which causes them to have a darker skin. Lighter skin absorbs vitamin d which is important in northern areas because they have less access to the sun.