Questions for Consideration

ANTH 2301 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Film: Franz Boas – IVS 1365

A film by T.W. Timreck



1. **Who is Franz Boas and why is he important to American anthropology?** 
   1. Physicist, wanted to find why seawater is a certain color. He was the first to say that race was not the determinant of success.
2. **In what region of the United States did Boas primarily work?**
3. **With what indigenous group did Boas principally work?**

Eskimos

1. **What was the purpose of repeated trips to this field site? What did he accomplish?**
2. **Why did he consider his work so important? What is “salvage ethnography”?** 
   1. He studied cultures that were dying. Salvage ethnography is basically gathering what is there in a culture and recreating what was a culture and learning a dying language.
3. **How is Boas’ work “four field”? That is, what aspects of his work represent each of the four subdisciplines in anthropology?**
4. **How did Boas contribute to our understanding of race?**
5. **Describe Boas’ concern with the presentation of research data to the public.**
6. **Who were some of Boas’ students?**
7. **What did he demand from his students and how did he encourage/support them?**
8. **Boas eventually turned away from museum work as the “seat” of anthropology and to the university department, a move that forever influenced American anthropology. Why did he make this shift?**

It institutionalized anthropology.

1. Why was cultural relativism so important to boas?
   1. Because he was jew. He grew up very marginalized due to that. He wanted people to understand that culture was learned and adapted.