Anthropology – the study of humans

1. The science of studying human differences and similarities through time and space
   1. Observation – leads to descriptions through sensory system
      1. = data collection
      2. Answers questions of how, what, when, where, who
   2. Explanation – hypotheses and theories (well tested hypotheses)
      1. Answers questions of why
2. Defining characteristics of anthropology as an academic discipline
   1. Comparative
   2. Holistic – study of the whole of human kind
      1. Time and space
      2. Bio-cultural
   3. Evolutionary & ecological discipline
      1. Environmental context
   4. Cultural discipline
      1. Started mid 1800s
      2. Learned shared behaviors
   5. Focus = group = population, species
3. Specialized fields / branches of anthropology
   1. Archaeology
      1. Ancient lifestyles or cultures
      2. Reconstruct past cultures / lifestyles
   2. Cultural anthropology
      1. Living – here and now cultures – field work
         1. Ethnography – writing about ethnic groups (the data)
         2. Ethnology – explaining (theorizing and hypothesizing) – comparing the data
   3. Linguistic anthropology
   4. Biological or Physical anthropology
      1. Primatology
      2. Forensics
      3. Medical
      4. Industrial