

# Research Notes

# Introduction

Welcome researchers!

Today you will be exploring the world as  
**Anthropologists.**

Anthropology is a science that studies people. People tend to live together in groups.

Groups of people in different times or places may do things differently.

Groups of people living together tend to do things in a similar way and pass those ways of doing things on to their children.

These groups are called cultures.

What was  
your  
favorite ?

What  
surprised  
you?

## Intro questions

Two of the biggest questions that Anthropologists ask are:

- 1) How are cultures different?
- 2) How are cultures the same?


Today you will explore different aspects of culture including how people communicate, what they eat, and how they get around.

While you do each activity, ask yourself:

- How do different cultures go about solving the same problems?
- How do we solve these problems in our culture?
- How do these solutions compare?

# Maya Numbers

When we need to write a number we use a symbol. In English we use symbols like “1” and “5”. The Maya wrote a dot for one and a line for five – you just add them up to get a number. Try using the guide below to write your age!

0	1	2	3	4
	•	••	•••	••••
5	6	7	8	9
—	—•	—••	—•••	—••••
10	11	12	13	14
— —	— •	— ••	— •••	— ••••
15	16	17	18	19
— — —	— — •	— — ••	— — •••	— — ••••

## Research Task

1. Find and circle the numbers on the stele.
2. Can you translate any of the numbers?

Why do you think they put numbers on the stele?

## Research Task

Refer to the list of plants and animals on the Foodways Activity page. Where do you think each of these came from? Write your answers below and check them when you're done!

Food Item

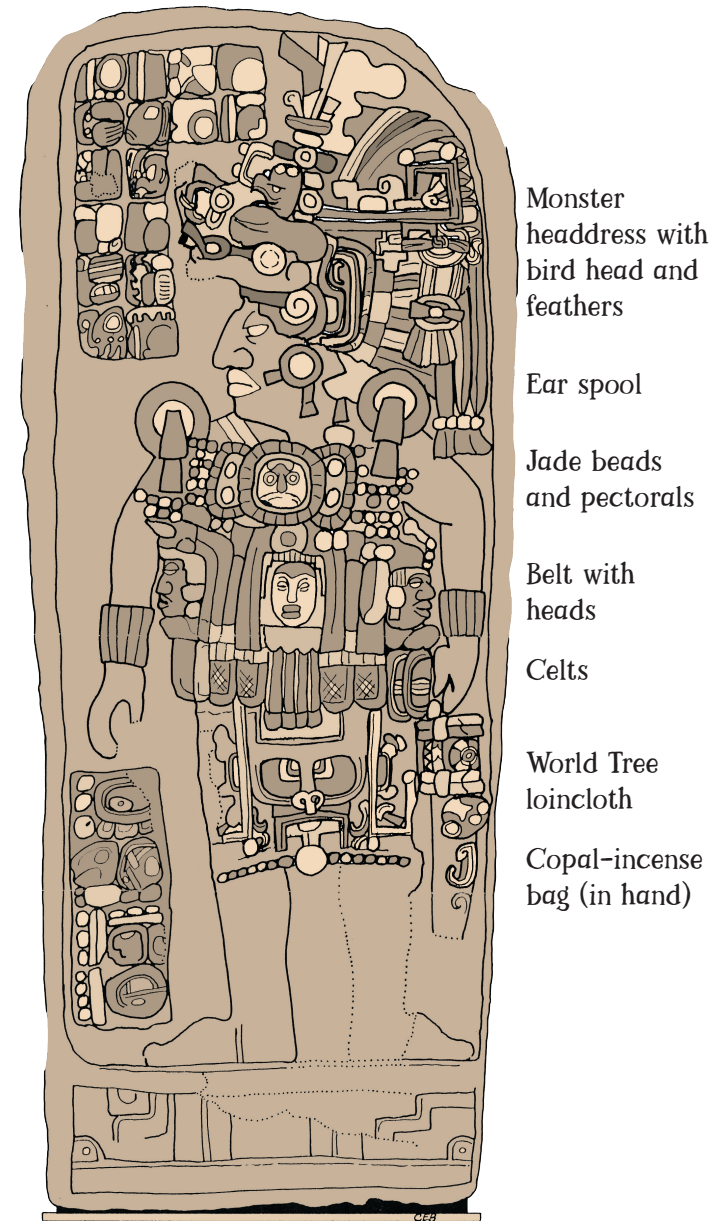
Region

# Foodways

Today when we go to the grocery store we can buy food from all over the world.

For most of human history people relied only on food they could find around them to survive!

In fact, before Europeans found their way to the Americas, many of the foods we consider common today were only found in a very small area.



This stele shows a ruler and includes two different inscriptions.

# Status and Wealth

When we buy something we are trading money for goods. Money is a form of **currency** - something that does not have an actual use or a value other than what people are willing to trade for it.

Anything can be currency! Some cultures use gold or gems, others use stones so big they cannot be carried, or even seashells or feathers! In America today we use specific kinds of paper. If the people of a culture agree something has value, it can be currency.

Many cultures do not use currency. Instead, they trade useful things they have or can do for the things or services they need. This is called **bartering**.

## Research Task

Look at the three outfits at the bottom of the Clothing and Adornment page:

1. Do these look like everyday outfits? Why or why not?



2. What do you think these outfits tell us about the person who wore them?

3. What outfit do you own that is similar? What does it communicate about you?



# Clothing & Adornment

Clothing doesn't just protect us from the elements; it's also a way for us to show others our interests, likes, or other things.

From just the clothes you wear, people may be able to guess where you come from, what you do, or even how old you are!

## Research Task

1. Gather a few friends and some stuff to barter with. What's worth trading to you? Trading cards, beads, pencils, chores, anything! (Don't worry, you'll get it back after the game ends!)
2. Start bartering! Do the others have something you want? Try to convince them to trade for a couple of things of yours! Who traded the most when everyone's done?

## How did it go?

What did you start with?

What did you end with?

What had the most value?

# Belief

Every culture has beliefs about how the world works, where we fit into it, and how we should interact with nature and the supernatural.

These different beliefs have their own rituals and stories that help us to teach and understand. These may be acted out using masks, shadow puppets, and dances.

On the “Belief” page you saw masks from the Northwest Coast of the USA and from the island of Bali in Indonesia. Each mask has stories associated with it, from the Raven Stealing the Sun to the Old Woman of the Forest. Some cultures even believe that wearing the mask would allow the wearer to become the creature the mask depicted!

## Research Task

1. Draw or describe a new form of transportation:

2. Where would this be useful?

3. What powers it?

4. What is it made of?



# Transportation

Since the beginning of time, people have come up with a variety of inventive ways to get around! These forms of transportation are powered in all kinds of different ways. Can you match the forms of transportation on the left with their power sources on the right?

Cart

Skateboard

Dogsled

Car

Sailboat

Wheelbarrow

Canoe

Wind

Human

Animal

Chemical

## Research Task

1. Think about a story you know (or make one up!) and choose a character that would help you tell the story.
2. Grab some materials (a paper plate, markers, crayons, paint, feathers, yarn...) and make a mask to help you tell your story.
5. Tell the story to friends or family using the mask!
6. How does the mask help you tell your story?

# Homelife

Houses are important for many reasons. They are places we can shelter our bodies, keep our belongings, and organize our relationships.

Houses look different around the world. They are built using the materials available and provide shelter in a specific environment and for different lifestyles.

On the “Homelife” display you saw models of houses made for living where it is warm. These houses had a roof to provide shade, but no walls to allow the cooling breezes in. They are made from the trees and palms growing in the rainforests in which they were built.

You also saw belongings from both sedentary and nomadic people that reflect the lifestyles for which they are useful.

## Research Task

1. Choose an environment that interests you and describe it here: ▲

▼  
2. Now design a house for that environment. What does it need to do? What materials are available? Draw or describe your house here: