

## UNIT 1 CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

### CHAPTER 1 LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

1. We have heard that the capacity for language acquisition is biologically derived, but that the language you learn comes from your culture. We are born with the ability to learn language, but we are not born with language. What other capabilities are you born with that allow you to grow and change over time? Were you born with any talents—or at least the potential to develop a particular talent? Describe something that you can do very well. How did you learn this ability?
2. Chantek the orangutan and Koko the gorilla learned a remarkable number of signs to communicate with people using a sign language that was invented by humans. However, there were limits to their communication—they could never verbally produce our complex human languages. Why? What other distinctions exist between humans and other animals? What sets us apart—what makes humans different? Are there any abilities that other creatures share with humans?
3. While many people in industrial societies might reject magic, people in many cultures around the world not only believe in it, but practice it. What do you think about magic? Are there people in your native culture who practice magic? Are there any witches or sorcerers in cultures that you are familiar with? How does their magic work? Can there be both good magic and bad magic? The Trobrianders are not the only people who believe that magic can help us. Do you think they are right?

### CHAPTER 2 SUBSISTENCE PATTERNS

1. Review the subsistence patterns of three cultures we have studied. How do the Nenet, Changpa, Rabari, or Mbuti survive? What form of subsistence do they follow? How has this subsistence affected their culture?
2. Cultures like the Mbuti pygmies, the Nenet, and the Changpa have all been affected by government decisions. They have all been pressured by governments to change their subsistence pattern. What are the arguments for and against nomadism? Is there a type of subsistence that is better for the health of the people or the well-being of the country?
3. What foods are traditional in your native culture? What subsistence patterns are followed in your home country? What groups or cultures follow these patterns? Has your subsistence changed with time? What factors have caused you or your culture to change in subsistence patterns? For example, how do climate, environment, technology, or trade affect your subsistence?

## UNIT 2 GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

### CHAPTER 3 PSYCHODYNAMIC PSYCHOLOGY

1. Freud believed that to help a patient overcome a conflict in the mind, a psychologist must understand the structure of the mind. Summarize Freud's model of the human mind. How does Freud's model compare to your own understanding of the mind? Would you disagree with Freud? What do you think is right and what is wrong about Freud's model?
2. The approach to psychology that we have read about in this chapter is very much a western approach. How is the field of psychology perceived in your own culture? Do many people seek help from psychologists? Is psychology a respected field in your culture? Why or why not? Are there other people that you might prefer to seek help from back home instead of a psychologist?
3. Freud tended to see some dreams as unconscious expressions of wishes, fears, and hidden desires. Does that make sense to you? Have you ever seen hidden meanings in your dreams? With your peers, share a special dream or two that you have had, and ask your peers to interpret your dream for you. Likewise, try to interpret your peers' dreams.

### CHAPTER 4 BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGY

1. The practice of rewarding good behavior and punishing bad behavior is likely as old as mankind is. I'm sure you have experienced this as well, haven't you? Can you identify specific cases in your life in which Instrumental Conditioning affected your behavior? Describe them. How have rewards and punishments influenced your behavior?
2. With each figure we have learned about in this chapter, we have seen not only the researcher, but something about the subject as well. In the experiments we have studied, children and animals were used as subjects, which raises many ethical and sometimes legal concerns with people. How do you feel about using animals as subjects, for example? Identify any problems and benefits that might derive from experimenting on animals.
3. We've now studied a fair amount about psychodynamic and behavioral psychology—two very different approaches to understanding human behavior. What do you think about these approaches? Does either one seem more reasonable to you? Explain why. What problems or benefits do you see with the practice of psychology?

## UNIT 3 WORLD HISTORY

### CHAPTER 5 ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

1. We have read about how agriculture transformed human society, and this is true. However, agriculture is not the only great innovation to bring about great changes. We opened this unit by looking at a list of inventions. Take another look at that list, and think about other inventions that are not on that list, perhaps more modern inventions. Now describe what you believe are the three most important inventions in all of human history.
2. Hammurabi and King James both declared that they were empowered to bring justice to the people. A good ruler, a good president—you would hope that they would be passionately concerned with the well-being of the people they govern. Is that how you see it as well? What do you think is the role of a leader: a king or president or prime minister? What should they be doing with their authority? What limits should be placed on their power?
3. King James, Hammurabi, and Akhenaten all claimed to have a special relationship with their gods—a relationship between religion and governmental authority that is quite contrary to the modern American notion of a separation between church and state, a phrase first used by the very author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson. His argument was that the government must not have the authority to choose your religion for you or limit your religious freedom. What do you think? How important is freedom of religion to you?

### CHAPTER 6 TOWARDS A NEW WORLD

Describe the crucial differences between Europeans and Indians that seemed to encourage hostility between the two groups.

## UNIT 4 INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY

### CHAPTER 7 CONCEPTUALIZING KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH

1. Whatever college or university you attend, you're bound to find philosophy classes in their schedules. To this day, there are students who study and even major in philosophy, despite the fact that the study of philosophy is often mocked by people as having no practical benefit in your life. It won't help you get a better job, will it? So what is the point of studying philosophy? What would you argue is the value of philosophy?
2. "Know thyself." It's a simple statement that is often quoted, even by people who don't know where that statement comes from. But you are familiar with it now, having studied this chapter on "Conceptualizing Knowledge and Truth." What is the relevance of knowing yourself? What does that really mean? How well do you know yourself—your beliefs, your knowledge, your strengths and weaknesses, your ambitions and goals? How can it help you in your life to truly "know thyself"?
3. Epicurus argued in favor of self-sufficiency. Free yourself from your dependence on others. The more you can do for yourself, the more liberated you become, and freedom is one of the key elements to happiness. Would you agree with this? What does happiness mean to you? What brings you happiness: self-sufficiency? Material success? A high education? A family? Helping others? Taking from others? How free are you? And how happy are you?