Important Terms

Term	Definition
Ethnographic Fieldwork	a research strategy that involves **living and interacting** with a community of people over an extended period of time.
Salvage Ethnography	Franz Boaz; used to study cultural, lingustic, material and biological information **about Native populations being devastated by colonization**.
Participant Observation	a research method that involves the anthropologist **interacting and living** with the people of the culture they are studying.
Key Informant	a community member who **advises anthropologist** on community issues, they also warn them about cultural miscues.
Kinship Analysis	a fieldwork strategy that examines the interlocking relationships built on power.
Etic Perspective	An **outside** observer's perspective on a culture.
Emic Perspective	A cultural **insider's** perspective on their culture.
Intersubjectivity	The realization that knowledge about other people emerges out of relationships and perceptions individuals have with each other.
Headnotes	Mental notes
Genealogical method	A systematic methodology for **recording kinship relations** and how kin terms are used in different societies.
Ethnohistory	The study of cultural change in societies and periods for which the community had **no written histories or historical documents.**
Rapid Appraisal	Short-term, focused ethnographic research, typically lasting no more than a few weeks.

Important Terms (cont)

Participatory Action	A research method in which data/research questions are defined through collaboration between the researcher and the subjects of research. Goal: **Take action** on their primary problems.

Reviewing the Chapter

Question

What We Know

What distinguishes ethnographic fieldwork from other types of social research?

> The ability to conduct fieldwork and to live with the communities they were studying for long periods of time provides more insight on what the people do/lifestyles for what they are.

How do anthropologists do ethnographic fieldwork?

> Becoming involved (participant observation); asking the people questions (interviews); taking notes

What other methods do cultural anthropologists use?

> Comparative method; genealogical method; life histories; ethnohistory; rapid appraisals; action research.

Homework 3: Modern Ethnography

Describe where the anthropologist studying Haitian immigrants in the US first began her research.

> Research begins at Dorchester, MA at a Haitian refugee social service.

What is the primary question that the student studying artisan cheese makers is asking?

> She is studying how different people make cheese and what defines them as experts or artisan cheesemakers.

The anthropologist researching methods in marine biology has a very specific set of questions. His research may be important factor in explaining climate change (and other issues related to oceans) to the general public. How?

> Because his research is executed in a qualitative manner, it may be easier for the public to process his explanation of climate change and it's effects on their ocean, whereas the marine biologist is more scientific and quantitative with his explanations.

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