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Anthropology :

→ Discuss the fields and branches of anthropology?

Anthropology is the scientific study of the origin, the behaviour, and the physical, social, and cultural development of humans.

Anthropology is the study of what makes a human. Anthropology take a broad approach to understanding the many different aspects of the human experience. Which known as holism, consider the past, through archaeology, to see how human groups lived hundreds or thousands of years ago and what was important to them. Anthropology also considers what makes up human biological bodies and genetics, bones, diet, and health. Anthropologists compare humans with other animals (most often, primates like monkeys and chimpanzees) to see what humans have in common with them and what makes a human unique. All humans need the same things to survive, like food, water, and companionship, the ways people meet these needs can be very different.

for instance everyone needs to eat, but people eat different foods and get food in different ways. Anthropologists look at how different groups of people get food, prepare it and share it. Anthropology is also study of how people interact in social relationships also try to understand the different ways people dress and communicate in different societies.

→ Anthropology's Fields :-

Anthropology is divided into four fields that focus on separate, but connected subject matter related to humanity.

- ↳ Biological Anthropology
- ↳ Cultural Anthropology
- ↳ Archaeology
- ↳ Linguistic Anthropology

→ Biological Anthropology: The study of humans as biological organisms, including evolution and contemporary variation.

Biological Anthropology focuses on the biological and physical aspects of

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human beings. This includes studying human evolution, genetics, anatomy, Physiology and behaviour.

→ Biological anthropology encompasses three subfields

(i) **Primatology**: The study of the non human members of the order of mammals called primates which includes a wide range of animals from very small nocturnal creatures to gorillas, the largest members. Primatologists record and analyze how the animals spend their time, collect and share food, form social groups, rear offspring, develop leadership patterns, and experience, and resolve conflict.

(ii) **Paleoanthropology**: The study of human evolution on the basis of the fossil record. Paleanthropologists search for fossils to increase the amount of evidence related to the way human evolution occurred.

(iii) **Biological variation / anthropology**: The third sub field is the study of contemporary human biological variation. Anthropologists working in this area seek to explain differences

in the biological makeup and behaviour of contemporary humans. They study such factors as DNA within and across populations, body size and shape, human nutrition, diseases, human growth and development.

Biological Anthropology: The study of Neanderthals:

A group of ancient humans who lived in Europe and Asia about 400,000 to 40,000 years ago. The study of Neanderthals began in the mid-19th century with the discovery of Neanderthal fossils in Germany.

Biological anthropologists study Neanderthals to learn about their biology, behaviour, and evolution. They used various methods, such as DNA analysis and skeletal remains to reconstruct the physical characteristics of Neanderthals, including their physical appearance and genetic makeup. They also studied their behaviour, social organisation, diet and use of tools.

Biological anthropologists ^{have} found many interesting

things about Neanderthals through their research. For instance, DNA analysis has revealed that some people today carry Neanderthal DNA in their genomes. Skeletal remains have shown that Neanderthals had a robust build, with a larger brain and shorter limbs than modern humans. Additionally, studies of ancient human remains have shown that modern humans and Neanderthals coexisted in some regions of the world. These findings suggest that Neanderthals played a role in the evolution of modern humans, and that the two groups are closely related.

→ **Cultural Anthropology:**

Cultural Anthropology is the study of contemporary people and their culture.

The term culture refers to people's learned and shared behaviours and beliefs.

Cultural anthropology considers variations and similarities across cultures and how cultures change over time.

Cultural Anthropology makes "the strange

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familiar and the familiar strange" Spiro 1990

The beginning of cultural anthropology goes back to writers such as Herodotus, Marco polo and Ibn-Khaldun, who traveled extensively and wrote reports about cultures they encountered.

→ History of cultural Anthropology:

- It all started from Herodotus, Marco polo and Ibn-Khaldun who wrote reports on cultures. Most recent conceptual roots are found in writers of the French Eng Enlightenment, such as the philosopher Montesquieu who wrote in the first half of the eighteenth century. His book "The Spirit of the Laws" 1748. In this book he discussed the temperament, appearance, and government of various peoples around the world. His thoughts on cultural anthropology was that different climates caused cultural variations.

- The second half of the nineteenth century, Charles Darwin introduced his model

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According to his model, continuous progress toward increasing fitness occurs through struggle among competing organisms.

This model was ~~unimportant~~ important for early cultural anthropologists. The most important founding figures of cultural anthropology in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century were Sir Edward Tylor, Sir James Frazer and Lewis Henry Morgan. They developed a Model of cultural evolution whereby all cultures evolve from lower to higher forms over time. This view placed non-western people at a "Primitive" stage and Euro-American culture as "civilization". It assumed that non-western culture would either catch up to the level of western civilization or die out.

One of the key figures in the development of cultural anthropology was Franz Boas, a German-American anthropologist. Boas advocated for a holistic approach to studying human cultures, emphasizing the importance of conducting fieldwork and ethnographic research to gain firsthand

knowledge of specific cultures and societies.

He rejected theories of racial determinism and cultural evolution prevalent at the time.

• Another influential figure in the early development of cultural anthropology was Bronislaw Malinowski, a Polish-British anthropologist is known for his pioneering fieldwork in the Trobriand Islands in Papua, New Guinea. He stressed the importance of participant observation.

The development of anthropology continued with the work of Claude Lévi-Strauss, a French anthropologist known for his structural approach. Lévi-Strauss focused on analyzing the underlying structures of cultures and the universal patterns of human thought that shape cultural practices.

→ Sub-Fields of Cultural Anthropology:

↳ Ethnography: Ethnography involves the immersive study of specific cultures or communities through participant observation, interviews, and the collection of qualitative

data. Ethnographic research aims to provide a detailed and holistic understanding of a particular cultural group's practices, beliefs and social dynamics.

↳ **Symbolic Anthropology:** Symbolic anthropology examines the symbolic meanings, rituals, and cultural symbols that shape human behaviour and social interactions. It explores how people assign meaning to objects, events, and practices and how these meanings influence cultural practices and social organization.

↳ **Economic Anthropology:** Economic anthropology explores the relationship between culture and economic system. It investigates how different societies produce, exchange and distribute goods and resources, as well as the cultural values and beliefs that shape economic behavior and practices.

↳ **Political Anthropology:** Political anthropology examines power dynamics, political systems, and governance within different societies. It explores how social and cultural factors influence political organization, authority structures

and decision making processes

↳ Linguistic Anthropology: The study of human languages and their role in culture. It explores how language shapes and is shaped by cultural processes, social interactions and identity construction. linguistic anthropologist

→ characteristics of culture:-

↳ culture is learned: culture is not inherited genetically but is acquired through the process of socialization. Individuals learn their culture through observation, interaction, and instruction from others within their society. cultural knowledge is passed down from one generation to the next.

↳ culture is shared: culture is a collective phenomenon shared by members of a particular group or society. It provides a common framework for understanding and interacting with the world. cultural elements such as language, rituals, and customs, are often shared and practiced by members of the same culture.

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Culture is based on symbols: culture is characterized by the use of symbols, which are arbitrary representations that carry shared meanings within a cultural group. Symbols can be words, gestures, objects, or images that represent ideas, concepts, or values. Language is a primary symbolic system through which culture is communicated.

↳ **Dynamic and Changing:** culture is not static, it evolves and changes over time. It is shaped by historical, social and environmental factors. Cultural change can occur through ~~time~~ contact with other cultures, technological advancements, social movements or generational shifts.

↳ **Patterned and Integrated:** culture is organized into patterns and systems that give it coherence and structure. Different aspects of culture, such as beliefs, values, norms, and practices, are interconnected and form an integrated whole. Cultural patterns provide guidelines for behaviour and define what is considered appropriate or acceptable within a particular society.

↳ **Adaptive:** culture enables human adaptation to the

environment and social life. It provides a set of tools, knowledge, and practices that help individuals and societies navigate their surroundings, meet their needs, and cope with challenges.

Cultural adaptations can be seen in various domains, including technology, subsistence strategies, and social organizations.

↳ **Influences Behaviour:** culture shapes and influences human behaviour. It provides individuals with shared expectations, norms, and roles that guide their actions and interactions.

Culture influences everything from daily routines and social roles to patterns of communication and expression of emotions.

↳ **Multilayered and Multilevel:** culture operates at different levels, ranging from small-scale communities and subcultures to larger societal and global levels. Within a society, multiple cultural groups or subcultures exist, each with its own distinct practices and values while still sharing broader cultural elements.

Cultural Anthropology: Case study of Trobriand Islanders

The study of the Trobriand Islanders conducted by anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski in the early 20th century. Malinowski's research focused on the cultural practices and social organization of the Trobriand Islanders who inhabit a group of islands off the coast of Papua, New Guinea. Malinowski spent several years living among the Trobriand Islanders, immersing himself in their daily lives and documenting their customs, rituals, and belief system. He observed their economic activities, such as fishing and agriculture, and studied their kinship structures, Political organization, and religious practices.

One of the Malinowski's notable contributions was study of the kula exchange system. He described the intricate network of ceremonial gift-giving and trading that occurred between different Trobriand Island communities. The kula involved the circulation of shell necklaces (Soulava) and arm bands (mwali) in counter-clockwise and clockwise directions respectively.

Malinowski highlighted how the kula not only facilitated economic transactions but also played crucial role in establishing and maintaining social relationships, prestige, and status.

→ **Archaeology:** Archaeology is the study of human past using material remains. A scientific discipline that studies human history and prehistory through the recovery, analysis and interpretation of artifacts, structures, and other physical remains. It involves the systematic investigation of past human cultures by examining material remains such as tools, pottery, buildings, bones and other artifacts.

↳ **Sub-Fields of Archaeology:**

- **Classical Archaeology:** This subfield focuses on the archaeology of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as other Mediterranean civilizations of the classical period. For instance the study of ancient city of Pompeii. Pompeii was a Roman city located near modern-day Naples, Italy. In 79 AD it was buried under volcanic ash and debris during the eruption of Mount

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vesuvius. Archaeologists have conducted extensive excavations at Pompeii since the 18th century uncovering well-preserved buildings, streets, artwork and artifacts. classical archaeologists have gained knowledge about Roman construction techniques, the organization of Roman households, the role of religion and public spaces, and the economic activities of the city. This study also provided evidence of ancient Roman art and the influence of Greek culture on Roman society.

↳ **Historical Archaeology:** This subfield deals with the period of human history for which written records exist. It focuses on the study of artifacts, structures, and landscapes associated with more recent civilizations such as colonial settlements, industrial sites and urban archaeology. The study of Jamestown is perfect example of historical archaeology. Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in North America located in present day Virginia. Jamestown was established in 1607 and played a pivotal role in the

early colonial history of the United State

The historical archaeology of Jamestown

provided evidence about the interactions

between the English colonists and the Powhatan

confederacy, the native American group that

inhabitat the region. The discovery of a well

preserved trash pit known as "James Fort Deposit"

has yielded a wealth of archaeological

material, shedding light on the struggles faced

by early colonists their effort at survival,

and their interactions with Native American

population.

↳ Zooarchaeology - Archaeobotany:

Zooarchaeology and Archaeobotany is

also part of bioarchaeology. In these

subfield archaeologist focuses on the

remains of animals and plants. Both subfields

provide valuable information about the interactions

between humans and natural environment.

↳ Pre-historic Archaeology: Prehistoric archaeology

examines human societies that existed before

the invention of writing. It involves the study

of artifacts, settlements, burial sites, and

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and other traces left by prehistoric cultures, including the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The study of Neolithic site of Stonehenge in England. Stonehenge is an iconic monument constructed during the late Neolithic period around 2500 BCE to 2000 BCE. It consist of massive standing stones arranged in a circular pattern. The study reveals several valuable information such as the stone sources that stones specially the smaller stones were brought from the Preseli Hills in southwest Wales. Their astronomical alignment with the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset. Excavation around Stonehenge revealed numerous cremation burials including animal and human remains. The presence of a large number of ceremonial and ritual objects showed that it was a ceremonial center and had a symbolic significance for the Neolithic people who used it.

↳ Underwater Archaeology: Underwater Archaeology investigates submerged archaeological sites, such as shipwrecks, submerged cities, and underwater landscapes for instance the study of ancient port city

of Sutkagen Dor located along the Makran coast in Balochistan province. Sutkagen Dor was an important maritime trading hub during the Bronze Age (around 2500-2000 BCE)

The underwater excavations have uncovered remnants of structures, including walls and defensive installations, suggesting a bustling port city

Archaeology: The study of Ancient city

Mohenjo-daro

Mohenjo-daro located in the Sindh province and one of the largest cities of the Indus valley civilization, which flourished between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE.

Archaeologists have conducted extensive excavations at Mohenjo-daro since the 1920s, uncovering a well preserved urban settlement that provides insights into the organization, architecture, and daily life of the Indus valley people.

The excavations have revealed a sophisticated city layout with well-planned streets, public buildings and a complex water management system, including a network of covered drains

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The discovery of granaries and large residential structures suggests an organized economy and social hierarchy.

Artifacts recovered from Mohenjo-daro has provided valuable insights include intricately designed pottery, seals, figurines, jewelry, and tools made from materials such as stone, shell, and metal.

The famous "Priest king" statue, one of the most iconic finds from the site, represents a male figure adorned with a ceremonial headdress and jewelry.

↳ **Linguistic Anthropology**: Linguistic ~~archaeology~~ anthropology or archaeolinguistics focuses on the study of language and its role in human culture. It aims to reconstruct ancient languages, linguistic features and linguistic relationships in order to understand the history, cultural interactions and social dynamics of past societies. Linguistic anthropology analyze evidence found in archaeological context such as inscriptions, written records, manuscripts and other written documents.

↳ **Sub-Fields of Linguistic Anthropology:**

↳ **Sociolinguistic:** Sociolinguistic is the study of how language use varies across different social contexts and groups. It examines the relationship between language and society including how language is used to construct and maintain social identities, how language use varies based on factors such as gender, age and ethnicity.

↳ **Historical linguistic:** Historical linguistic is the study of how languages change over time. It examines the evolution of languages, including how they split into different branches, how they borrow words and grammatical structures from other languages and how they develop new words and grammatical structures over time. Historical linguistics also seeks to reconstruct the ancestral forms of languages including Proto-languages, which are hypothetical ancestor languages.

↳ **Descriptive linguistics:** Descriptive linguistics is the study of the structure and use of language in a particular speech community. It involves documenting, and analyzing the sounds

grammar, and vocabulary of a language as well as how language is used in different social context. Descriptive language linguistic seeks to describe and understand the features of a language, rather than prescribe how it should be used.

Linguistic Anthropology: The Indus civilization:

The indus valley civilization thrived around 2600-1900 BCE. The script used in the indus valley civilization, also known as the indus script and one of the most enigmatic and yet undeciphered scripts of ancient civilization. They left behind thousands of inscriptions. Despite extensive research and numerous attempts the Indus script remains undeciphered.

There have been significant efforts to analyze the script and gain insights into its linguistic and cultural significance.

Scholars have identified over 400 distinct signs in the script, making it one of the most complex ancient scripts.