

## TO TELL THE TRUTH: AN ANTHROPOLOGIST

Three class members will be chosen to pretend they are an anthropologist who has just returned from Africa. They will stand next to each other in the front of the room facing the class. During the game, the three will be asked questions by other students in class. The questions will be about the anthropologist's experiences in Africa.

Ten students will now be chosen to ask one question each during the game. They will be assigned a number from 1 to 10. This is the number of the question they will ask when the game begins.

After every question, the three anthropologists will each give an answer. "Number 1" will answer first, "Number 2" second, and "Number 3" third. Only one of the three is really an anthropologist. The real one will always tell the truth when answering questions. The other two will only tell the truth once in awhile. After all questions have been asked, class members will vote for the person they think is the real anthropologist.

This game will be played like a television game show. The teacher will be the "MC," or Master of Ceremonies. The people who ask questions are the "panelists."

MC: Now let us meet someone who has just returned from Africa. Number 1, what do you do for a living?

Number 1: I am an anthropologist.

MC: Number 2?

Number 2: I am an anthropologist.

MC: Number 3?

Number 3: I am an anthropologist.

MC: And here is the anthropologist's story. He says, "I study ways of living of various groups of people in the world. I look closely at their habits, beliefs, and values. During my years in Africa, I studied the cultures of Arabs in North Africa, Pygmies in the tropical rain forests, Bushmen in the Kalahari Desert, and numerous other groups. I gather information through a commonly used method called 'participant observation,' in which I live with the people I am studying. I share meals, work at different jobs, play games, visit with families, and take part in as many activities as possible. Like most anthropologists, I take notes during the day and type them out at night. Sometimes questionnaires are distributed and inventories are taken of what people have in their homes. I'll even take pictures, and occasionally make recordings of interviews or musical activities. After completing my research, I write out a lengthy description of the people I have studied. My story often appears in a scientific journal or in a book, and helps people to understand the way others live." Signed, "an anthropologist." We will start the questioning with Panelist 1.

Panelist 1: Most everyone knows that Arab peoples live in the countries of North Africa — Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, and Tunisia. Arabic is the official language and Islam the dominant religion in these countries. The Sahara Desert extends across the entire region. Yet despite these similarities between Arab countries, there are many differences among the Arab people in the way they live. Tell us about some of these differences.

Number 1: About one in every four people has a high standard of living because of billions of dollars in oil exports. But the majority of all Arabs are still poor farmers. Western style clothes are rapidly replacing traditional loose-fitting shirts and trousers. People are using air



and rail transportation more frequently, although rural Arabs still depend on the camel.

Number 2: Families in villages are much larger than families in cities. Villagers often have a hard time providing for their daily needs. Starvation is common when crops fail during periods of drought. The life expectancy among city residents is nearly twice that of people in outlying areas. Only men are allowed to vote.

Number 3: Some Arab people have light skin and others have dark skin. Brick buildings and houses of sun-dried mud bricks can be seen in the cities. Farmers in rural villages live in smaller houses that are also made of mud bricks. Nomads called Bedouins live in tents. More and more cars, trucks, and buses are appearing in the cities. Camels, donkeys, and water buffaloes often carry passengers and baggage in rural areas.

**Panelist 2:** What unusual ways of living did you discover while living with the Arabs?

Number 1: Most families are small and are headed by the oldest woman. At school, children memorize passages from the Koran, the Muslim holy book. Women are required by Islamic law to serve men. Two or three times a week, families eat the meat of camels, goats, or sheep.

Number 2: I was surprised to find how much influence the Church of Islam has over the daily lives of the Arabs. Everyone is required to worship at least once a week at a local mosque. Church leaders urge people to visit the holy city of Mecca at least once during their lifetime, if possible. Many schools are run by Muslim clergymen. The drinking of alcohol is against the laws of Islam.

Number 3: Unlike most countries of the Western world, several generations of an Arab family often live together in a group of adjoining houses. Families eat meat only on special occasions because it is so expensive. According to Islam, a man can have as many as four wives, though few do anymore. During my stay in North Africa, I learned that Arabic numerals — like 1, 2, and 3 — were invented by the Hindus of India, not by the Arabs.

**Panelist 3:** Another group of people living in North Africa are the Berbers. What can you tell us about them?

Number 1: Anthropologists believe that the Berbers were the first people to live in the “cradle of civilization” that arose around 2000 B.C. in the Nile Valley of Egypt. The Berbers were the ancestors of the pharaohs. They are the people responsible for the spread of civilization across North Africa.

Number 2: From historical records, we have learned that the Berbers established a powerful empire in Algeria and Libya during the 600s and 700s A.D. But their lands were invaded over the next thousand years by Romans, Vandals, Turks, Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Italians. Today, they have no real power in the region.

Number 3: Berbers are people of northwest Africa who long ago came under the control of Arab invaders from the Middle East. The Berbers adopted the Muslim faith, and began speaking Arabic and following Arab customs. Today, they live in villages, and depend mostly on herding and farming for a living. Some roam the Sahara Desert with their camels, goats, and sheep.

**Panelist 4:** Pygmies are the famous dwarf-like inhabitants of the central African rain forest — a hot, humid jungle region near the equator. What else is known about these little people of the Negroid race?

Number 1: Each person weighs less than a hundred pounds, and rarely is taller than 4 feet. Pygmies have dark-brown skin and short, black hair. Arms and legs are short, but the

fingers and toes are quite long. Pygmies live in grass huts, hunt small game, and eat berries and other wild plants. They have no organized religion or government.

Number 2: I found the Pygmies to be friendly people after you get to know them. At first, they are easily frightened, which is why they live deep in tropical jungles far from civilization. They have black skin and shiny black hair. Women wear their hair in a series of tiny braids. Fish caught in nets, small animals, and fruits make up the diet. Houses are made of bamboo and have thatched roofs. Pygmies are rarely over 5 feet tall.

Number 3: Pygmies stand 4 feet to 4 feet 8 inches, have reddish-brown skin, and tightly curled brown hair. They have round heads with wide, flat noses. Arms are long and legs are short. The men hunt such animals as antelope, monkeys, birds, buffaloes, and elephants. They hunt with spears and bows that shoot poisoned arrows. Women gather fruits and vegetables. Pygmies live in huts made of branches and leaves.

**Panelist 5:** About 2,000 years ago, black peoples called Bantu lived in Africa near the equator. Over the centuries, small groups moved away and settled throughout central and southern Africa. Today, these Bantu groups make up a large part of the populations of almost all countries in central and southern Africa. Each of the approximately 300 groups has its own name, history, and language. My question is — why did so many Bantus leave their original homeland and move thousands of miles to other parts of the continent?

Number 1: They were driven away during a series of wars between tribal chiefs, who were trying to take control of an empire in what is now the country of Cameroon.

Number 2: The Bantu groups migrated to new lands where they could govern themselves and worship as they pleased.

Number 3: Groups left their homeland because there was not enough land for farming and hunting.

**Panelist 6:** One of the Bantu groups is the Zulu, who today live in the Republic of South Africa. A traditional Zulu family includes a man, one or more wives, his unmarried children, and his married sons and their wives and children. During colonial times when Europeans were invading Africa, what did the Zulu become famous for?

Number 1: They were able to maintain their strength and good health despite the humid climate. This made them ideal slaves for working on plantations in North America and South America.

Number 2: The Zulu were skilled craftsmen who knew how to make tools and weapons out of iron. They were the first people to discover and mine gold in South Africa, the world's leading producer of gold today.

Number 3: They were fierce warriors who fought bravely against the Europeans.

**Panelist 7:** Black people known as the Watusi live in Central Africa near Lake Tanganyika. They raise cattle for almost all their food and other needs. The cattle provide them with meat, milk, and milk products. What else can you tell us about the Watusi people?

Number 1: They enjoy dancing to the music of drums and flutes, which they make themselves. Their tribal dress is the same as it was more than a thousand years ago. The Watusi are excellent fishermen. Many work in the tin mines of Burundi and Rwanda.

Number 2: The first thing you would notice when visiting a Watusi village are the clusters of small, cone-shaped grass houses. Families rarely include more than two children because food is always in short supply. Villagers grow several food crops. Palm oil, peanuts, and tobacco are sold as cash crops. The Watusi are noted for their fine pottery.

Number 3: Watusi are tall people, some of them reaching a height of 7 feet. They are recognized for their dancing and high-jumping abilities. Watusi sometimes drink blood drawn from live animals.

**Panelist 8:** During your years in Africa, what did you learn about the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert region of Botswana and Namibia?

Number 1: Bushmen lead a difficult life because nearly all of their time must be spent searching for food and water in the desert. Temperatures in the Kalahari change dramatically from day to night. During the day, temperatures are in the 90s, and at night in the 50s. Bushmen are peace-loving, friendly people who wander through the desert with their flocks of camels, goats, and sheep.

Number 2: The Bushmen are a Bantu-speaking tribe with black skin and charcoal hair. They grow crops — especially date palms — at oases. Clothes for both men and women are loose-fitting, white robes. Men almost always have beards, and wear turbans around their heads for protection against the burning sun. Women wear wide-brimmed straw hats. Everyone wears sandals.

Number 3: Bushmen have yellowish-brown skin and flat faces with high cheekbones. Their hair is worn in tiny, black curls. Men do the hunting, and women gather berries, melons, roots, nuts, and seeds. Families live in groups of about 25 people. Bushmen build temporary shelters of branches and grass. They stay in one place no more than a few weeks.

**Panelist 9:** The Khoikhoi, sometimes called Hottentots, live in Namibia. In years past, they were nomads who herded sheep and cattle. But few Khoikhoi live in rural areas today. Most work for whites on farms or in towns. Like the Bushmen, the Khoikhoi have an unusual way of talking. How is their speech different from normal patterns of communication?

Number 1: Their language includes strange whistling sounds.

Number 2: They communicate using a combination of words and hand signals.

Number 3: The speech of Bushmen and Khoikhoi includes clicking sounds.

**Panelist 10:** Another group of people who live in the southern part of Africa are the Boers. What do you know about these people?

Number 1: The Boers are of German descent. They settled in South Africa in the 1880s during the Age of Imperialism, when almost all of Africa fell under the control of European nations.

Number 2: The Boers are of British descent. When Great Britain abolished the slave trade in the 1820s, these people began growing crops for export to Britain. Today, the Boers make up the white minority in the country of South Africa.

Number 3: “Boer” is a Dutch word meaning “farmer.” The first Boers were sent to South Africa in the 1600s by the Dutch East India Company. Eventually, their colony was taken over by the British. Nowadays, they call themselves “Afrikaners.”

**MC:** It's time now to vote for NUMBER 1, NUMBER 2, or NUMBER 3. All those who think NUMBER 1 is the real anthropologist, please raise your hand. All those who think NUMBER 2 is the real anthropologist, please raise your hand. All those who think NUMBER 3 is the real anthropologist, please raise your hand.

The votes are all in. Will the real anthropologist please step forward.

True or False? Answer the following questions by using information given in the MC's introduction, the panelists' comments, and the responses of the "real" anthropologist. Do not use any information contained in answers given by the two imposters.

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ An anthropologist studies the ways of living of different groups of people.
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Most Arabs are Muslims who live in the dry lands of North Africa.
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_ Berbers speak Arabic, follow Arab customs, and earn a living as herders and farmers.
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Arabs belong to the Negroid race.
- (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Both modern and traditional ways of living exist today in the Arab world.
- (6) \_\_\_\_\_ The Arabs developed the system of Arabic numerals.
- (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Pygmies are taller than Watusis.
- (8) \_\_\_\_\_ Pygmies live in huts, hunt with spears and bows and arrows, and gather fruits and vegetables in equatorial Africa.
- (9) \_\_\_\_\_ Arabs make up a large part of the populations of almost all countries in central and southern Africa.
- (10) \_\_\_\_\_ Several hundred groups of people live in Africa and have different languages and histories.
- (11) \_\_\_\_\_ Afrikaners are the descendants of Dutch farmers called Boers, who first settled in South Africa during the 1600s.
- (12) \_\_\_\_\_ The Zulus were nomads who wandered through the Kalahari Desert with their goats, camels, and water buffaloes.
- (13) \_\_\_\_\_ Bushmen and Khoikhoi speak with a whistling sound.
- (14) \_\_\_\_\_ Watusis are skilled dancers, have excellent jumping ability, and sometimes drink the blood of live animals.
- (15) \_\_\_\_\_ Most Bushmen today work in mines or on plantations.