



What's the Story?

Group Guide for Anthropologists

Students, throughout this Exploration, your groups will take on the roles of Anthropologists, making observations and collecting then analyzing data. You will spend four class periods over the next two weeks on this activity.

An Anthropologist is a person who studies the origin, the behavior, and the physical, social, and cultural development of humans. In this exploration, you will act as an Anthropologist focusing on how the *environment* (a person's surrounding) affects what we eat and how much we move. While collecting data and making observations, keep in mind the possible ways in which an environment can affect the health of Americans using the following questions as a guide.

1. How does the environment affect what Americans eat and how they move?
2. What role has a changing environment played in the epidemic?
3. How have eating behaviors changed over time?
4. What has occurred in society to cause changes in eating behavior?
5. What environmental factors have caused changes in eating behavior?

Resources

Before conducting any kind of field experiment or survey, researchers first explore what *other* researchers know and have learned. With your group, conduct research using the following resources:

- Animation: [*Portion Distortion Trends*](#)
- Animation: [*Interactive Timeline*](#)
- Animation: [*U.S. Obesity Trends Map*](#)
- Article: [*Community Redesign*](#)
- Article: [*Are America's Youth Moving Less?*](#)
- Article: [*Eating at the Family Table*](#)
- Article: [*Smart Snacks: Vending Machines in Schools*](#)

Summarize Research Findings

Using the *Anthropologists' Presentation Template*, complete the first 4 slides, summarizing what you have learned during your research.

Select a Survey to Conduct Field Research

Scientists don't always design *experiments* to find out information. Often times, they can learn a lot about something by simply observing how something *is*. They perform a *survey*, making notes about an environment, or a subject's behavior.

Your group will select one of the following three surveys to do over the coming week.

- *Anthropologists' Survey 1 – Community Environment*
- *Anthropologists' Survey 2 – School Environment*
- *Anthropologists' Survey 3 – TV Commercials*

Summarize Survey Findings and Prepare Presentation

With your group, conduct the Survey analysis activities at the end of the survey. Using the presentation you created in which you summarized the research, complete your presentation. Decide what roles each person in the group will take when making the presentation to the class.