



Studying the Earth

Throughout the year we will be studying cultures of the world and learning about different groups of people such as the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Chinese, Aztec and others. We will learn how they lived and the contributions they have shared through history to our present culture. But how do we know about cultures that have come before us? We can thank special groups of scientists. Think of these scientists as people watchers of past and present cultures.

Archaeologists: Archaeologists study the things made and used by ancient cultures. Objects made and used by ancient people are called artifacts.

Sociologists: Sociologists study how different people within a culture get along with one another.

Anthropologists: Anthropologists study the customs of a group of people.

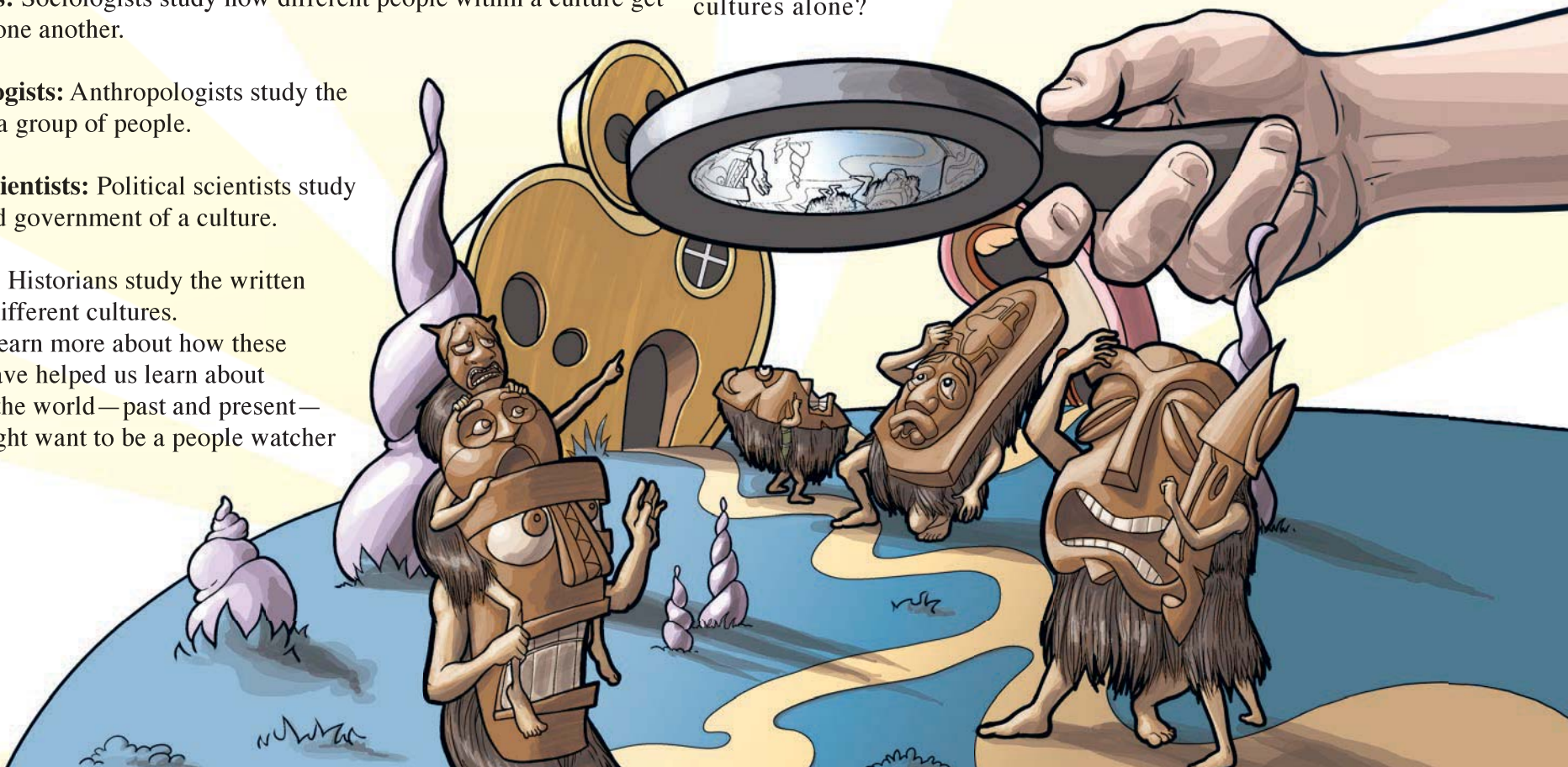
Political Scientists: Political scientists study the laws and government of a culture.

Historians: Historians study the written records of different cultures.

As you learn more about how these scientists have helped us learn about cultures of the world—past and present—you just might want to be a people watcher too.

Uncontacted Cultures

Not every culture on Earth has been studied. As you sit reading this at your desk, it may seem amazing to learn that there are some groups of people that have never had any contact with the outside world. Scientists estimate there are at least 100 “uncontacted cultures” worldwide. Of this number, most live in the Amazon Rainforest in Peru or Brazil. Recently, an airplane flying over a remote area of Brazil photographed one such tribe. The people, whose bodies were dyed bright red or black, stood outside a thatched hut. They pointed their bows up toward the airplane as it passed overhead. If you found such a tribe, would you make contact with the people? Do you think scientists should leave uncontacted cultures alone?



Connections

Discovering Artifacts From Washington's Boyhood House



photo courtesy The George Washington Foundation

Excavation work is done at Ferry Farm.

After seven years of searching, archaeologists have found the boyhood house of George Washington, our country's first president. The remains of the original house were found on the grounds of the 113-acre Ferry Farm where Washington lived from age 6 to about age 20.

Archaeologists have unearthed the stone-lined cellars, root cellars and two chimney bases of the home. They have also found many artifacts used by young Washington and his family. The George Washington Foundation says it has found a half million artifacts to date, including wig curlers, toothbrush handles made of bone, glass and ceramic pieces, pieces of a tea set that probably belonged to George's mother, wine bottles, forks, knives, a pipe bowl and small figurines.

Archaeologists have also found musket parts, uniform buttons and other artifacts at the site from the Civil War era when Union soldiers used the property.

Researchers believe that most of the wood from the original house was used to build other buildings. The original house was also damaged during a fire on Christmas Eve in 1740, which George wrote about in one of his letters. The George Washington Foundation hopes to eventually rebuild Washington's boyhood home for educational purposes.

Check out the George Washington Foundation's website at http://www.kenmore.org/ferryfarm/archaeology/ff_arch.html for more info.



Studying the Earth

We live in an amazing world. It's going to be a fascinating year as you learn about different world cultures throughout history. But what is a culture? What is a custom? Have you ever experienced culture contact? Have you been affected by global interdependence? Let's begin to explore these things and more.

Cultures

A culture is a group of people with the same ways of doing things (customs). No matter how modern or simplistic a certain culture may seem, there are some things that all cultures have in common. These things include religious beliefs, the need for laws, a type of communication or language and a certain way of seeing beauty.

Are you born knowing the rules and ways of your culture? Of course not. You learn to be a member of your culture as you grow and experience new things. Didn't you have to learn that in our culture you should cover your mouth when you yawn or sneeze? You weren't born knowing this, and you weren't born knowing that you should keep your mouth closed when chewing food. Your parents, teachers, church and community all help teach you to be part of a culture.

Customs

The accepted ways of doing things among a group of people are called customs. Can you think of any customs of other cultures? Perhaps you know that the Chinese and Japanese bow to greet each other instead of shaking hands or that some American Indians rub noses to greet. If you meet other cultures, you need to know their customs or you may upset someone. For example, in Indonesia you never point the bottoms of your feet at anyone. The soles of feet or shoes are considered very dirty, so it is rude to do this. In Japan, slurping your noodles very loudly is a sign you like the meal. Being a quiet noodle-eater just won't do. But don't eat all the food on your plate in China, as this is considered rude.

Culture Contact

Cultures can and do change. Usually change comes when one culture meets another culture. When two cultures meet and exchange ideas, it is called culture contact. For example, the American Indians shared the sport lacrosse with other cultures they met. They also gave the Pilgrims the idea of planting a dead fish as a fertilizer for corn. Europeans learned about paper making, eyeglasses, the yo-yo, kites and umbrellas from the

2000 B.C.
1279 B.C.
776 B.C.
650 B.C.
323 B.C.

Which of the following people and events can you identify? Write your answers above or below the illustrations.

Margaret Mead

Margaret Mead was born in 1901 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her family moved around a lot because her parents were professors. She envied other kids who had lived in just one place. As an adult, Mead would become one of the most famous anthropologists, studying other cultures and their customs.

She wanted to learn whether different cultures, even primitive ones, had things in common. What do you think is the better way to learn about other cultures—to read about them in books or to live among the people? Mead thought it was best to live among the people. She spent her life living with and studying cultures in areas like New Guinea, Samoa and Bali. She learned the language of the people and followed the customs

of the different cultures. She didn't want to be an observer, but a participant in the cultures.

Mead wrote 44 books and more than 1,000 articles. While living among the Bali people, Mead took more than 30,000 photographs. She was one of the first to use photography as an anthropology tool.

She once said, "I have spent most of my life studying the lives of other peoples—faraway peoples—so that Americans might better understand themselves." Her work sparked interest in other cultures and dispelled incorrect beliefs about primitive cultures. Her studies show that all cultures have many things in common. She gave this example: "One of the oldest human needs is having someone to wonder where you

are when you don't come home at night."



Biography

Chinese. Germans gave the world the Christmas tree, the earliest pencils and the Grimm brothers’ fairy tales. Skiing comes from Norway, and the first bicycle came from Scotland.

People often think their culture is the best. Have you ever seen a man with a bone through his nostrils? Do you think that is odd? Have you seen pictures of people who stretch their lips and place large plates inside? Do you wonder why they do this? Do you think it’s strange to eat fish eyes like the people of the Philippines or deep-fried monkey toes as they do in Indonesia? What would you do if you were served duck feet or jellyfish at a Chinese family’s home? If you laugh at a culture’s customs, you are being ethnocentric (judging another culture according to your own values). You should try to not judge other cultures.

Global Interdependence

Think of our world as a giant pond for a second. If you throw a pebble into the pond, the pebble creates ripples that reach the other end of the pond. Global interdependence is just like that giant pond. Something happening in one area of the world can cause a ripple that affects somewhere else. For example, the destruction of the rainforests in Brazil has a rippling effect in areas such as the United States. Can you think how? As trees are cut down, the rainforest will produce less oxygen. There will also be more pollution. Plus, losing the animals and plants native to the area will be a loss for the world.

Global interdependence also shows how different parts of the world depend on one another, with goods and services moving

between countries and making the world just a bit smaller. Are you wearing goods from other parts of the world today? Check the label of your shirt, jeans or sneakers. Most likely many of those items were made in different countries.

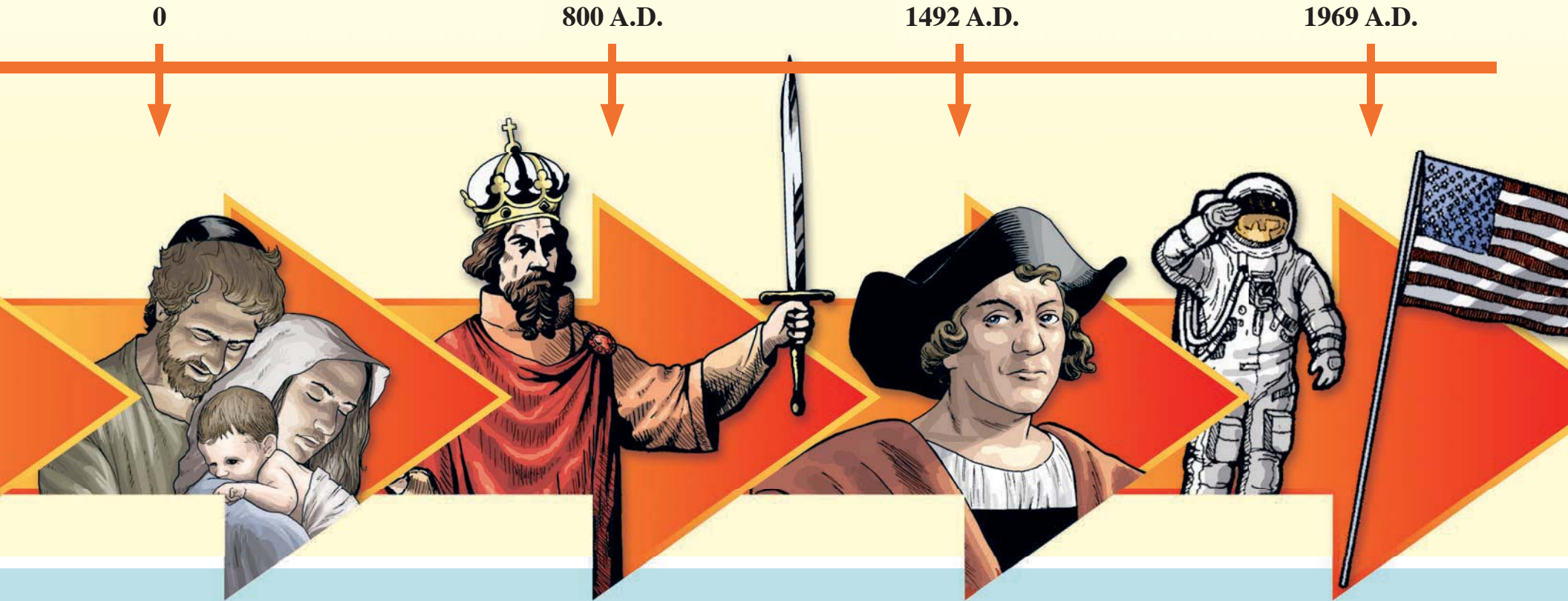
Keeping Track of History

A man named Dionysius Exiguus came up with a way of recording time that we still use today. His system divided events into two sections, before the birth of Jesus Christ and after. He developed his record-keeping system around 525 A.D. He labeled anything that happened before Christ was born as B.C. (Before Christ). He labeled events occurring after Jesus Christ was born as A.D. The letters A.D. stand for the Latin words “anno domini,” meaning “in the year of our Lord.”

Which of these dates do you think was closest to the A.D. section of the timeline? 776 B.C. (the first recorded Olympic games) or 44 B.C. (the death of Julius Caesar)? If you said 44 B.C., you are correct. The events further away from the birth of Christ are always further to the left on a timeline.

Chinese, Jewish and Islamic calendars do not use this system. That’s because these cultures didn’t start counting years over again with the birth of Christ. On a traditional Chinese calendar, 2013 is actually 4711. On a traditional Jewish calendar, 2013 is 5773.

Some people today use B.C.E. (Before Common Era) and C.E. (Common Era) instead of Dionysius’ B.C. and A.D. Can you think why? Since B.C. and A.D. refer to Jesus Christ, some people prefer to use terms that aren’t connected to a religion.



Amazon Rainforest

About 200 different indigenous (native) tribes call the Amazon Rainforest home. The Yanomami are one of the largest groups. The Yanomami live in the rainforests of southern Venezuela and northern Brazil. Two other groups are the Matis Indians (jaguar people) and the Huaorani blowgun hunters.

The Amazon Rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world. It also has the most species. You can find more than 300 reptile species, 500 mammal species and 175 lizard species living here. There are also more than 30 million insects buzzing around the Amazon and one-third of the all the world’s birds live in the region.

The Amazon Rainforest is called the “lungs of our planet” because of the oxygen it produces. The rainforest receives between 80 and 430 inches of rain each year. The rainforest gets its name for the river that runs through it. The Amazon River, which is about 4,080 miles long, begins in the Andes of Peru and travels to the Atlantic Ocean at Belem, Brazil. The river empties 28

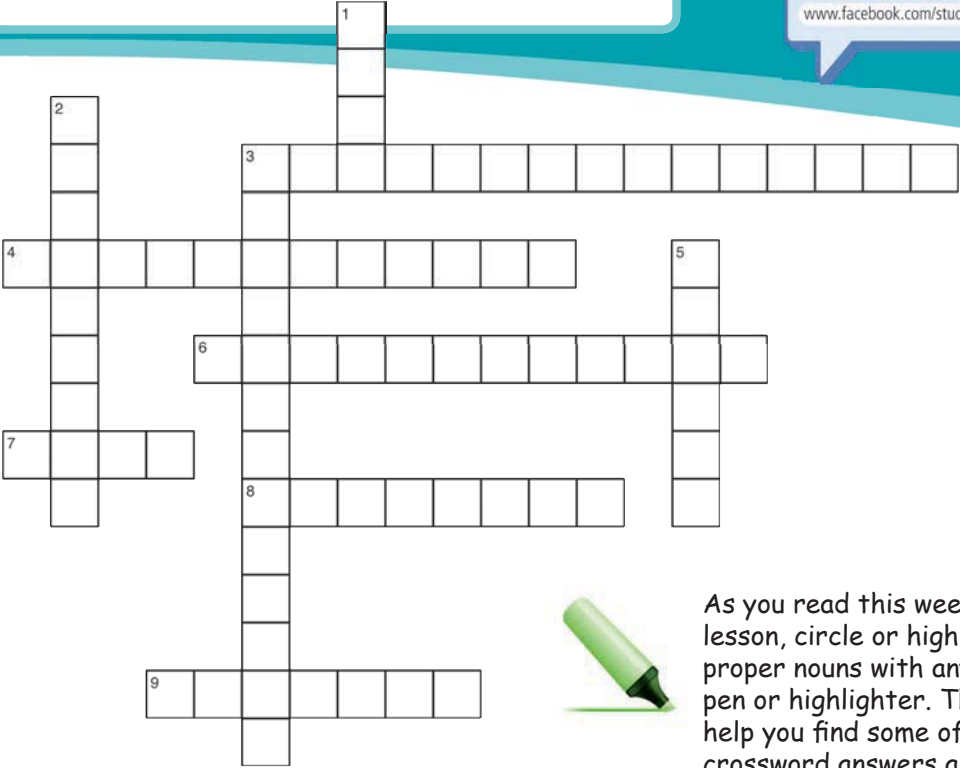


billion gallons of water every minute into the ocean. Such an amount of fresh water lessens the salt in the Atlantic for about 100 miles offshore.

The countries of Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Columbia, Brazil, Peru, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana all share the rainforest. Brazil has the largest section, or 60 percent, of the rainforest. Every minute, dozens of acres of the Amazon Rainforest are being cut down to make more farmland or sell timber. Destroying the rainforest is having a very negative effect on the indigenous cultures of the area. These tribes are losing the habitat they have called home for thousands of years. Additionally, contact with the modern world caused thousands to die from diseases that were previously unknown to their cultures. Finally, many of the youth are choosing to leave their culture for a new world that has just been introduced to them.

World Regions

Name _____



As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.

- Across**
- 3. scientists who study the customs of a group of people
 - 4. judging another culture according to your own values
 - 6. famous anthropologist
 - 7. A political scientist studies the _____ and government of other cultures.
 - 8. American Indians gave which sport to other cultures?
 - 9. the accepted ways of doing things among a group of people

- Down**
- 1. In Indonesia, never point the bottoms of your _____ at anyone.
 - 2. scientist who studies the written records of other cultures
 - 3. scientist who studies things that past cultures have made and used
 - 5. the South American country with the largest section of the Amazon Rainforest

Activity

Making Inferences

When you make an inference, you use information to make an educated guess. Look at these drawings carefully. What can you infer about the people who might have used things like these? Write your answer on the lines provided.



HEY KIDS!

Scan this with a smartphone, or go to StudiesWeekly.com to earn points as you learn! Help me upgrade my home and garage!



Sometimes called the giraffe women, the Ka-Kaung or Padaung have long practiced a custom of placing brass rings around their necks. People of this culture live in areas of Myanmar and Thailand. A coil is placed around girls' necks beginning when they are about 5 years old. Additional neck rings are added every few years until the age of 45. The rings make the women look as if they have very long necks. But the rings can weigh more than 11 pounds and press down hard on the collarbone. Pretend you are an anthropologist and write an entry about your first contact with this tribe. Remember to check your writing for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. (You can see a photograph of the brass rings by searching the Padaung at www.nationalgeographic.com with a parent or teacher.)

Let's Write