

# ***OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENT #1: VISIT TO A ZOO, A MUSEUM, OR A HOUSE OF WORSHIP...***

***Due December 11*** (worth 20 points)

For this assignment, you will apply what you are learning about the different subfields of anthropology by visiting ***one (only one)*** of three places and analyzing what you see through the eyes of an anthropologist. Upon visiting this place, you will need to answer a set of questions pertaining to that visit (there is a different questionnaire for each type of place, so make sure you are answering the correct questionnaire).

The places you have to choose from are:

- 1. the chimpanzee exhibit at the Maryland Zoo, or the Great Ape exhibit at the National Zoo in DC**, to apply your knowledge of physical anthropology. NB: Spend at least 15 minutes viewing the apes; you will also have to observe one of the other nearby primates for about 5 minutes. If you choose to go to the National Zoo, admission is free. Choose to observe *either* the gorillas *or* the orangutans. If you choose to go to the Maryland Zoo, and enter between Monday and Friday you can get in for free if you use the form sent to me by the Education Office of the Maryland Zoo (request it from me and I will email it to you); however, you must arrange the visit beforehand, or you will be paying to get in. Admission is free after 3 pm. ***Note: The Maryland Zoo opens on March 3, while the National Zoo is open year-round;***
- 2. a history or art museum that has exhibits of a historical nature**, to apply your knowledge of archaeology. NB: I want you to steer yourself towards exhibits of archaeological materials – become acquainted with an ancient culture, or a more recent culture that has been studied through archaeological excavation; or
- 3. a house of worship that is *not* associated with your religion or religious background**. NB: I want you to observe an ***ordinary religious service***, not a special event like a wedding or a funeral. It must be for a religion other than your own so that you can observe what is going on through new eyes. For example, if you are Roman Catholic, you could go to a worship service held by any other Christian denomination (Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican, Mormon, etc.) or by a non-Christian religion (Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Wicca, etc.), but not a Roman Catholic worship service. And so on if you are of any other religious tradition. If you were raised an atheist, you are free to choose a worship service from any religion.

Your answers should be put in a paper of two (2) to three (3) pages. I also want you to include some sort of brochure or ticket with your paper. If you go to the Zoo, include your ticket or map of the zoo. If you go to a museum, include your ticket or a map or circular from the exhibit you saw (if there is one). If you visit a house of worship, try to obtain some sort of circular, announcement or xerox about the place (any church will have one, as should many synagogues

and mosques). If there is none (for example, at an informal Buddhist prayer meeting or a Wicca ceremony), please indicate this.

If all questions are answered and given some thought, and all supplementary materials are submitted, I will give you full credit for your assignment.

## VISIT TO THE MARYLAND ZOO OR THE NATIONAL ZOO

- 1) Write down some of the displayed information about the ape you are studying.
  - a. What is their Latin taxonomy (Genus species)?
  - b. What part of the world do they come from (be more specific than just “Africa”)?
  - c. What kinds of foods do they eat?
  - d. What is the lifespan of this ape?
  - e. What is their social group like?
  - f. How many young does this ape have at one time?
  - g. Are they an endangered species?
  
- 2) How many of your chosen ape species are in the Zoo? How many males and how many females, and how many young? Try to find out some of their names.
  
- 3) How did the apes interact with each other on your visit? Did some segregate themselves from the others?
  
- 4) How, if at all, did the chimpanzees interact with the visitors at the zoo, like yourself? How did you react to them? Does the zoo have any rules about how humans are supposed to interact with the chimpanzees?
  
- 5) There are other primates – monkeys, lemurs, sifakas, baboons, and lesser apes (gibbons) – housed at each zoo. Compare one of them to the chimpanzee / gorilla / orangutan. How are their reactions with each other and with the zoo’s visitors differed from the ape?

[Click here for a PDF map of the Maryland Zoo.](#)

## VISIT TO A MUSEUM

- 1) What museum did you visit? What was the name of the exhibit you visited?
- 2) What culture or cultures is/are represented in the exhibit?
  - a. Is the exhibit about a specific subculture or ethnicity?
  - b. When and where did the culture or cultures live (or is it still around)?
  - c. If it is centered around a specific event in a culture's history (a military battle or a shipwreck, for example), what is that event? Or does it display, for example, "religious art and artifacts" from a particular continent?
- 3) Give a brief description of the story created for the exhibition – in other words, if the exhibit mirrors a specific timeline, what is the flow of events? If not, discuss the general way in which the artifacts are associated, and any general historical information given about the collection as a whole.
- 4) What types of material culture are exhibited? For example, what things are shown to the public? What were some of their uses (Is it all art? Is some of it of a religious or military nature? etc.)
  - a. Are there specific materials that were used to make the artifacts, like stone or jade or wood?
  - b. Are the artifacts in the exhibit "archaeological" (excavated from the ground or obtained in surveys), "historical" (donated by others) or both?
- 5) Are there dioramas – life-sized or miniature displays that "reenact" an event or everyday scene – that show people (or vacant rooms that could be used by people) using real or mocked up versions of real artifacts? If so, describe one.
- 6) If this is an archaeological exhibit, what is one thing that archaeologists have learned from these materials, according to the exhibit?

## VISIT TO A HOUSE OF WORSHIP

- 1) What house of worship did you visit? What religion and denomination(s) or sect(s) does it serve?
  - a. What time and what day of the week did you visit?
  - b. Was a special religious holiday or cultural event being celebrated on the day that you visited?
  - c. Did you go with someone or did you alone?
  
- 2) What is the setup of the worship space?
  - a. Are men and women separated? If so, where does each sit?
  - b. Are people set up in a circle? Are they facing a specific direction?
  - c. Is the building a small one, or is it very large? How many floors are used for the worship service?
  - d. What types of music did you notice during the service? If you could describe it in a few words, what does it sound like to you?
  
- 3) What is the title of the head celebrant (the priest, preacher, etc)? Is it a man or a woman? Is there more than one head celebrant, or none at all?
  
- 4) What is the structure of the worship service? That is, what specific events occur during the flow of the service?
  
- 5) How do the celebrants (congregation members) act during the service (solemn, joyous, quiet/loud, etc.)? Are they expected to sing or talk during the course of the service?
  
- 6) If you follow or have followed a specific religious tradition, how does this service differ from those you are familiar with? How is it similar?