The ability to:
- Ask anthropological questions.
- Gather information through participant observation.
- Organize anthropological information.
- Investigate differing and competing interpretations of trends and relationships.
- Explain the importance of evidence.
- Draw conclusions and make informed decisions on the basis of information gathered to relate different cultural traits within a single culture to each other.

What is a culture?
- What are the key characteristics of a civilization?
- How are elements of a culture transmitted from generation to generation?
- Does nature or nurture shape who and what individuals are?
- What causes cultural change and continuity?

What It Is Not
- An inventory of cultural traits.
- The study of isolated cultures.
- A focus on heroes, holidays, and celebrations.
- An exclusive focus on the exotic and unique.

Making Interdisciplinary Connections
- **English Language Arts**: Have students write essays that summarize, analyze, and/or compare information about different cultures.
- **Literature**: Many folktales incorporate people’s dreams and desires. Have students compare and contrast what people want and the reasons for their wants.
- **LOTE**: Use some key cultural traits of the societies in which the target language is spoken.
- **Math**: What calendar does the culture use/did it once use? Why?
- **Music**: What kinds of musical traditions does the culture have (e.g., ceremonial, folk, classical)? In what kinds of contexts are these music forms performed?
- **Science**: How does the culture categorize the physical world, and what kinds of proof does it recognize?
- **Social Studies**: Have students create a time capsule representing a culture different from their own. Understand how historical events shape the culture.
- **Technology**: Have students discuss and illustrate the technologies, tools, and methods that are used by a culture they are studying.

Key Ideas
- Culture: all aspects of human adaptation, including technology, traditions, language, and social roles.
- Civilization: a more advanced form of organized life; it usually has more complex forms of social, political, military, and religious life.
- Change: derives from basic alterations in things, events, and ideas.
- Continuity: the quality or state of continuing without essential change.
- Ethnic Group: a collection of people distinguished, by others or themselves, primarily on the basis of cultural or nationality characteristics.
- Race: features that are genetic and inherited (e.g., skin, hair, eye color).

Key Anthropological Questions
- **Methodology**
  - Direct observation.
  - Surveys.
  - In-depth interviews.
  - Participant observation.

Comparing Cultures