WHAT MAKES US HUMAN?

Anthropology

FAMILY UNIT STUDY

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Welcome!

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What to Expect

Thank you for choosing one of How Wee Learn's Family Unit Studies! If you are new to Family Unit Studies, I invite you to take a moment to review the "What to Expect" below, as well as the suggested schedule on the following page.

A unit study focuses on critical thinking and problem-solving, allowing children to dive deep into fascinating topics and engage in meaningful learning. When a child is engaged in what they are learning, that learning sticks. And when a child is engaged and fascinated by what they are learning, learning is amazingly fun for the whole family! Say goodbye to those power struggles.

Our unit studies are divided into ten topics with manageable, bite-sized amounts of information. Each topic includes:

- **Interesting Fact:** Did you know that elephants suck their trunks much like babies suck their thumbs? Or that a human has the same number of neck bones as a giraffe? Interesting facts are an excellent way to spark a child's interest and imagination!
- **Discussion Question:** Asking the right questions and having meaningful discussions is a wonderful way to meet your child at their level of understanding and help them grow. So much can be learned through one meaningful discussion!
- **Curated YouTube Video:** Dive into fun and easy learning with experts in the field, entertaining stories, and inspiring tales, all selected to highlight key learning concepts. Enjoy a snuggle on the couch, learning with popcorn and a movie!
- **Book Suggestion:** The book suggestions for each topic are just that—suggestions. Any books related to the topic are strongly encouraged. Immersing your child in a literacy-rich environment and offering plenty of time to explore is key for child-led learning.
- **Math Enrichment:** Each unit study includes five math enrichment questions with three levels so they are fitting for ages 4 to 12. These questions cover the five strands of math: Number Sense, Algebra, Data, Spatial Sense, and Financial Literacy. This is not a full math curriculum, of course, but an enrichment opportunity and a chance to be exposed to real-world math. As you go through a question, consider how you might ask a follow-up question. Perhaps, "What would happen if there were 6 birds instead of 5?"
- **Literacy Enrichment:** There are so many opportunities to integrate literacy development throughout each unit study! Reading, researching, recording information, labeling, and note-taking all happen naturally. On top of this, each unit study includes five literacy enrichment activities with three levels so they are fitting for ages 4 to 12.
- **Hands-on Activity:** The hands-on activity brings the information shared and discussed to life! These activities allow children to engage in and solidify their learning.
- **What's Happening:** This ensures any information you need for the hands-on activity is right at your fingertips. This may include background information on the topic, the science behind an experiment you perform, etc.
- **Extension Activity:** Some activities might feel too young for your learner. If that's the case, this section is for you! The extension activity shares how to make the hands-on activity more challenging or enriching, ensuring every child is met with appropriate developmental activities.

I hope you and your family love this unit study!

If you have any questions at all, please email me at customercare@howweelearn.com.

xo Sarah

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Suggested Schedule

These unit studies are completely flexible—there is no right or wrong way to dive in. When learning is this exciting, you simply cannot go wrong! Below are two possible ways you might choose to use these unit studies.

10-Day Focused Unit Study

Your family might choose to focus on one unit study topic a day, completing the entire unit study over a 10-day period:

Day 1	**Morning** *30-60 mins*	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade. Next, introduce Topic 1 of this unit study with the interesting fact, discussion question, and YouTube video.
	Afternoon *30-60 mins*	Complete Topic 1 by diving into the math or literacy enrichment question, the hands-on activity, and the optional extension activity!
Day 2	**Morning** *30-60 mins*	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade. Next, introduce Topic 2 of this unit study with the interesting fact, discussion question, and YouTube video.
	Afternoon *30-60 mins*	Complete Topic 2 by diving into the math or literacy enrichment question, the hands-on activity, and the optional extension activity!

Etc., repeating until all 10 topics are covered.

One-Month Blended Unit Study

Alternatively, your family might choose to blend this unit study with your core skills and family adventures, completing it at a more leisurely pace. For example, 2-3 afternoons per week:

Day 1	**Morning** *30-60 mins*	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade.
	Afternoon *60 mins*	Complete Topic 1 of this unit study by chatting about the interesting fact and discussion question, watching the YouTube video, doing the math or literacy enrichment question, and diving into the hands-on activity!
Day 2	**Morning** *30-60 mins*	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade.
	Afternoon *60 mins*	Head outside for a nature walk, go to the park, or play board games!
Day 3	**Morning** *30-60 mins*	Complete core skill work with one page of How Wee Learn Literacy and one page of How Wee Learn Math for your child's specific grade.
	Afternoon *60 mins*	Complete Topic 2 of this unit study by chatting about the interesting fact and discussion question, watching the YouTube video, doing the math or literacy enrichment question, and diving into the hands-on activity!

Etc., repeating until all 10 topics are covered.

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Scope & Sequence

Family Unit Studies allow your child to explore one big topic through multiple subjects: reading, writing, math, science, history, geography, social studies, health, music, art, and life skills. This has been shown to make learning more meaningful and memorable—it makes learning stick! We use "cross-curricular connections" to help children see how ideas are linked in the real world, keeping them engaged and deepening their understanding.

As a parent, it's important to feel confident in the rich learning you're guiding your child through. That's why we've included this Scope and Sequence—not as an exhaustive list, but as a helpful starting point to show how key learning standards are met (and often exceeded!) through deep, connected experiences.

We hope this Scope and Sequence encourages you to look creatively at each Family Unit Study and see how the hands-on learning and fun are a part of an intentional, impactful, learning-filled journey.

Math		Topics
Number sense	Add quantities of books using age-leveled numbers.	1
Algebra	Extend patterns, identify sequences, calculate totals.	3
Data	Sort data, identify most/least common, calculate totals and differences, create bar graphs.	5
Spatial sense	Calculate perimeter and area of a rectangle; apply fractions to determine decorated space.	7
Financial Literacy	Add costs, apply sales tax, and find final totals.	9

Literacy		Topics
Listening & speaking	Daily "Spark Curiosity" discussion and video debriefs.	All
Reading comprehension	Through book suggestions and read-alouds in each topic.	All
Vocabulary & word Play	Create words from the letters in "ANTHROPOLOGY"; complete Mad Libs.	2, 4
Creative Writing	Write a cave-explorer description using drawings, sentences, or a paragraph.	6
Morphology & word study	Explore number prefixes and generate related words.	8
Poetry & oral reading	Write and recite a poem about how tools helped early humans survive and change.	10
Research & informational writing	Research an anthropologist, archaeological discovery, and cave art and present visually.	2, 5, 6

Science		Topics
Human biology & evolution	Learn how fossils, bones, footprints, etc., help scientists understand human evolution.	3
Primatology & animal classification	Identify primate traits.	4
Caves & preservation	Explore how caves preserve artifacts; compare weather-exposed and sheltered model artifacts.	6
Engineering & design thinking	Design a tool that moves an egg from one bowl to another.	10

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History		Topics
Human origins & early humans	Learn about early humans, fossils, and how scientists study clues from the past.	2, 3
Famous anthropologists	Match and learn about famous anthropologists.	2
Archaeological discoveries	Explore major archaeological discoveries.	5
History of communication	Learn how the alphabet developed over time.	8
Stone Age tools & innovation	Learn about Lomekwian, Oldowan, and Acheulean tools and how tools changed.	10

Geography		Topics
Map skills & location	Locate archaeological discoveries on a map using country and region clues.	5
Cultural geography	Identify where holidays and traditions are celebrated.	7

Social Studies		Topics
Understanding people and culture	Sort examples into biological, cultural, archaeological, and linguistic anthropology.	1
Cultural awareness & respect	Discuss how learning about other cultures helps us better understand and respect others.	1, 7, 8
Community, traditions & identity	Explore family traditions and compare celebrations.	7
Communication & human connection	Create a symbol alphabet and explore how writing systems help people share ideas.	8
Human problem-solving & innovation	Explore how tools helped early humans solve problems, survive, and adapt over time.	10

Health		Topics
Comparative anatomy	Compare human hands and feet with other primates, consider shared traits.	4

Music		Topics
Ethnomusicology	Explore how music connects to traditions, ceremonies, celebrations, and daily life.	9
History of music and instruments	Explore early music-making and the development of string instruments across cultures.	9
Pitch & sound exploration	Build a harp, observe how band thickness, tension, and length affect pitch.	9

Art		Topics
Visual research & infographic design	Create a research infographic about an anthropologist.	2
Sculpture & fossil art	Create air dry clay 'fossil' jewelry.	3
Diorama construction	Build a primate diorama using colored printable components.	4
Symbol design	Design a personal alphabet using original symbols.	8

Life Skills		Topics
Research skills	Research an anthropologist, archaeological discovery, and cave art using books or web-based resources.	2, 5, 6
Problem-solving & perseverance	Use the design thinking process to brainstorm, prototype, test, improve, and retest a tool.	10

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TOPIC ONE

What is Anthropology?

Anthropology is the study of people and what makes us human. Anthropologists learn about the past and present by studying things people left behind, how our bodies evolved, how cultures live, and how people communicate. How can studying people from the past help us understand more about the world we live in today? Let's explore...

Spark Curiosity

Did You Know? The word anthropology comes from the Greek words 'anthropos' (human) and 'logos' (study). Anthropology literally means the study of humans!

I Wonder... How does learning about others help us to learn about ourselves?

Resource Suggestions



What is Anthropology? *by THE WHAT IS PROJECT*

In this video, we will explore what anthropology is, how it is important in our modern world, and what kinds of questions anthropologists seek to answer.



A Ticket Around the World *by Natalia Diaz and Melissa Owens*

Take a tour of 13 countries in this introduction to cultures around the world.

Enrichment Question

Subject Focus: *Math (Number Sense)*

L1 An anthropology library has 6 books about early humans and 4 books about world cultures. How many books are there in total?

L2 An anthropology library has 425 books about early humans and 315 books about world cultures. How many books are there in total?

L3 An anthropology library has 7,483 books about early humans and 3,217 books about world cultures. How many books are there in total?

Hands-On Activity

Subject Focus: *Social Studies, History*

What Makes Us Human?

See the next page for your hands-on activity instructions!

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HANDS-ON ACTIVITY: SOCIAL STUDIES, HISTORY

What Makes Us Human?

Materials

Scissors, glue stick

Anthropology Pictures

What Makes Us Human?

Directions

1. Cut out the Anthropology Pictures.
2. Read about the four anthropology categories in the What's Happening section.
3. Decide which category each picture belongs to then glue the pictures into the correct box on the What Makes Us Human? printable.

Extension Activity

What area of anthropology interests you the most and why? Make a list of some of the anthropology topics you want to learn more about!



What's Happening?

Anthropology is the study of humans. It helps us learn who we are, where we came from, and how people live around the world. Anthropology has four main branches, and each branch studies a different part of what it means to be human:



Biological Anthropologists study the human body. They look at bones and skeletons to learn about how humans lived long ago and how humans evolved from early humans to modern people.



Cultural Anthropologists study how people live in different cultures. They learn about traditions, clothing, food, celebrations, and homes around the world.



Archaeologists study objects and artifacts left behind by people in the past. They carefully dig in the ground to find things like pottery, tools, and ruins to learn how ancient people lived.



Linguistic Anthropologists study how people use language. They explore different languages, writing systems, and storytelling to understand how people communicate and share ideas.

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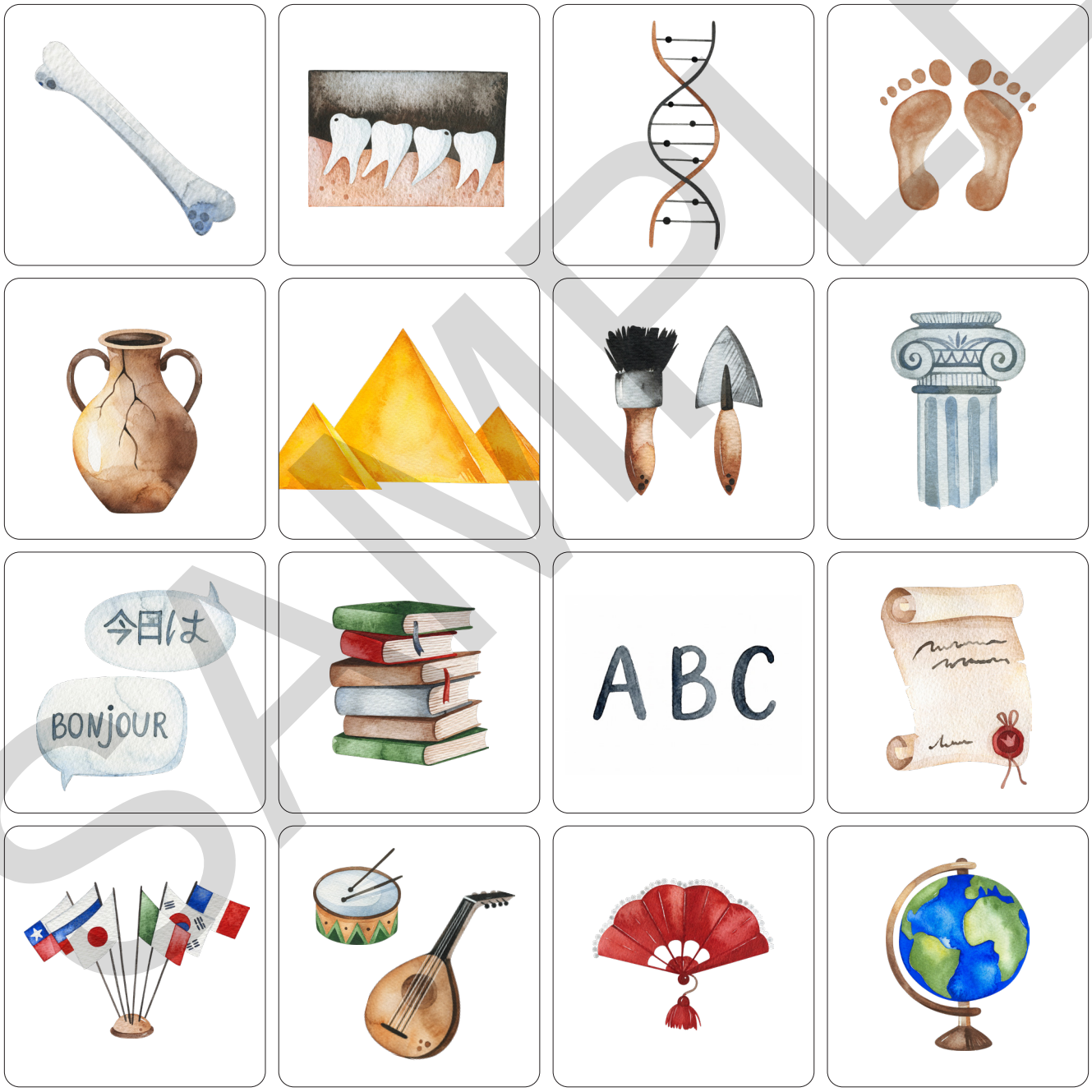
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Printables

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Anthropology Pictures



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What Makes Us Human?

Biological Anthropology

Bodies and Evolution

Cultural Anthropology

How People Live

Archaeology

Artifacts from the Past

Linguistic Anthropology

Language and Communication

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