

Unit 1 - Anthropology Basics

Day 2 -

Theories in Anthropology?

"I don't believe in isms, I just believe in me."

- Ferris Bueller

Objectives

- ▶ Look at the dominant “theories” in studying Anthropology
- ▶ Compare and contrast these “isms”
- ▶ Decide which WE most agree with
- ▶ *Terms:*
 - ▶ Theory
 - ▶ Holism
 - ▶ Unilinealism
 - ▶ Diffusionism
 - ▶ Functionalism
 - ▶ Ethnocentrism
 - ▶ Cultural Relativism

Remind Me...

- ▶ **What is Anthropology?**
- ▶ **How is that different from Sociology?**
- ▶ **What exactly are society and culture?**
- ▶ **What do artifacts have to do with anything, and why do they matter?**
- ▶ *Today we look at different theories of how to study anthropology, and also how human “societies” evolved...*

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But First...

▶ **What IS a theory?**

- ▶ **An established explanation**
- ▶ *Not the same as hypothesis*
- ▶ *A theory has used the scientific method, been accepted by others, and NOT DISPROVEN*
- ▶ *That DOESN'T mean PROVEN*
- ▶ *Why does that matter in Anthropology?*
- ▶ *Can we truly PROVE some of these things without time-travel?*



**How did human
societies come to
be?**

**And are they related
or connected
somehow?**

Hole In One

▶ Holism

- ▶ Using a “whole” approach
- ▶ All aspects of humans relate to one another
- ▶ *So Lance Keller making a buddy pass in Lacrosse is connected to an Ancient native hunting buffalo?*
- ▶ *...Maybe...*



Carlin del.

Nº 21.

BALL PLAYERS.

Published at Lewis & Clarke's Lithographic rooms, 31, Broadway, N. Y.

Walk The Line...

► Unilinealism

- **The belief that all societies go through the same **distinct evolutionary** phases**
- *They **EVOLVE**... A “primitive” tribe would eventually become a gun-toting bacon-loving ‘Murica...*
- *OR that all societies **follow similar patterns...***
- *Like religious wars...*

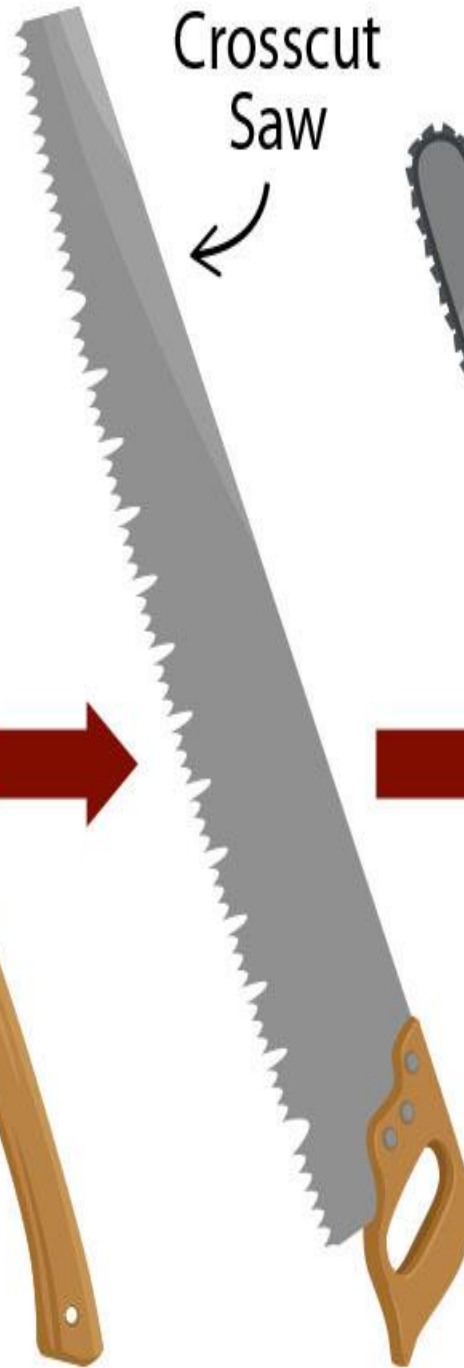
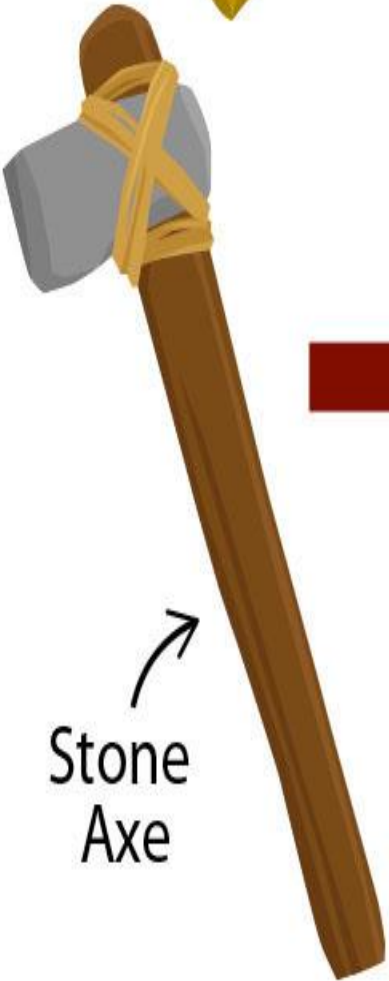
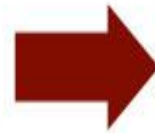
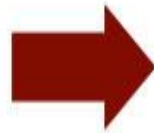
Bronze
Axe

Modern
Axe

Crosscut
Saw

Chainsaw

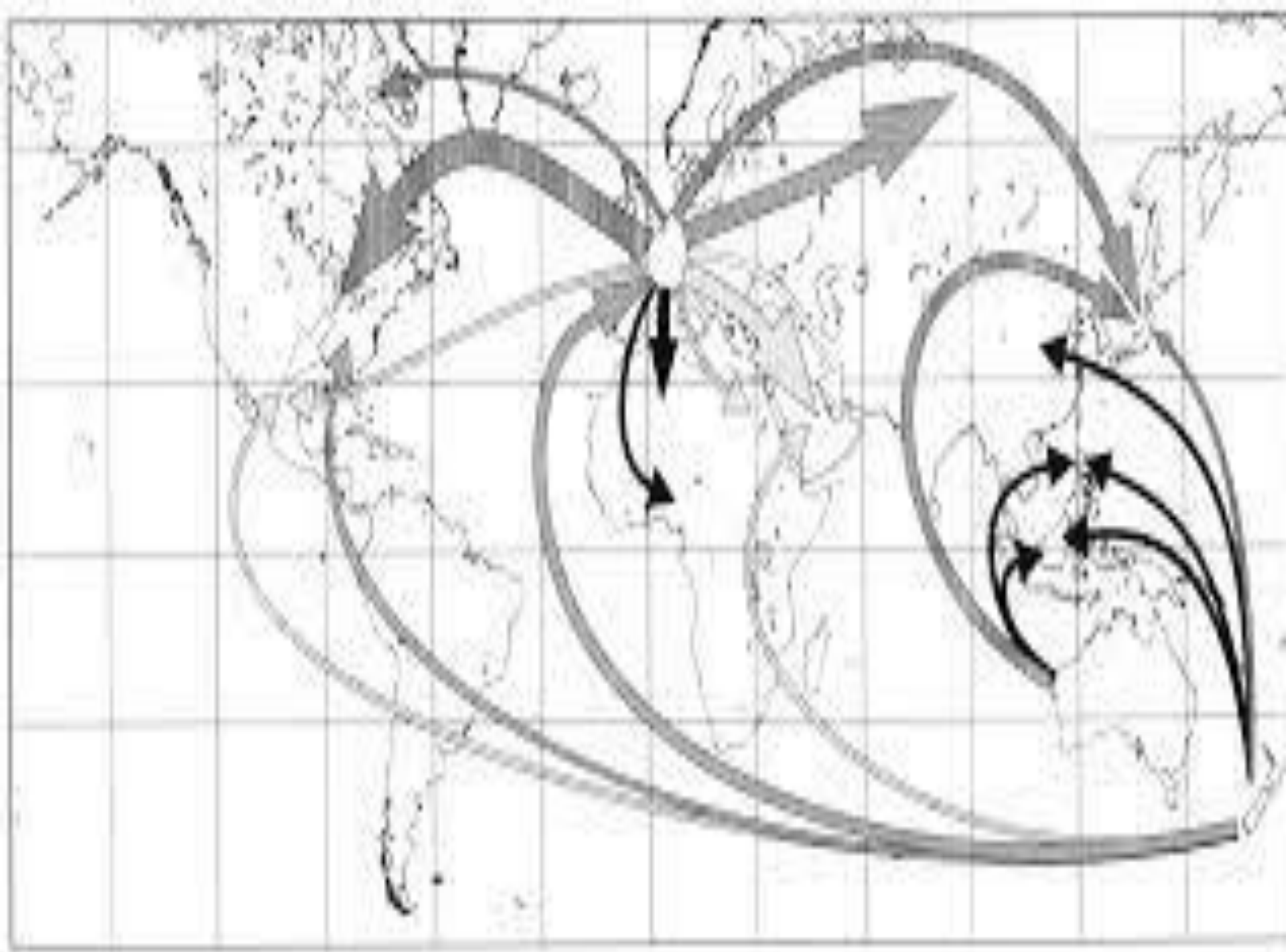
Stone
Axe



Blowing A Fuse

▶ Diffusionism

- ▶ Rejected evolution **and suggested that** a few key societies spread their ideas out among others
- ▶ *Egyptian culture influence all of Africa, Buddhism influence all Southeast Asia, the Greeks/Romans created “Western Society”*
- ▶ *This would mean not everyone would have similar inventions, ideas of government, or even morals and religion*



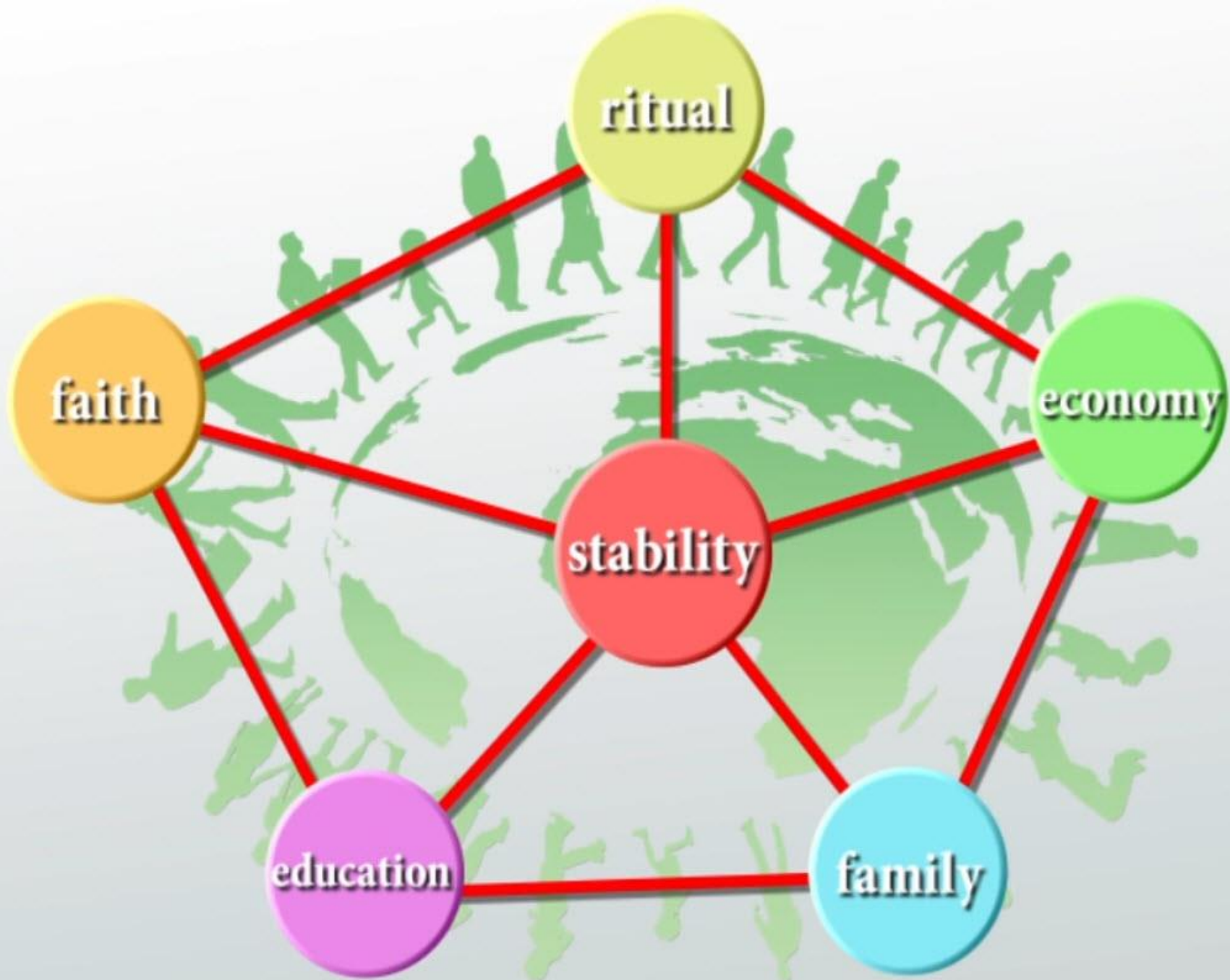


Diffusionism and Acculturation

What's Your Major Multifunction?

► Functionalism

- Each society had its own unique **elements of culture** and **this shaped** its own evolution *separate from others*
- *Similarities become coincidental or just “human nature”*
- **Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, Daoists, Greeks, Hindus, and more all have a “flood story”**
- **But details, artwork, and the important parts change based on which it is**



Common Cents...

▶ Ethnocentrism

- ▶ Looking at another culture with the values, standards, and customs of one's own culture.
- ▶ *Judging another person or country the way you judge yourself*
- ▶ *Is this fair?*
- ▶ *What about things like violence, nudity, drugs, age of adulthood, etc.?*
- ▶ *So how do we avoid this?*

EVERYTHING
COVERED
BUT HER EYES,
WHAT A CRUEL
MALE-
DOMINATED
CULTURE!



NOTHING
COVERED
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Elms





It's All Relative...

▶ Cultural Relativism

- ▶ A culture to be **viewed and** judged by the standards that they created
- ▶ *We don't judge all other culture by "Western" civilization. Democracy might not be their ideal.*
- ▶ *Values and morals may look different, as would families, religion, clothing, music, etc.*
- ▶ *If THEIR society says it is "wrong" then it is wrong, regardless of our views*
- ▶ *Any problems with THIS?*

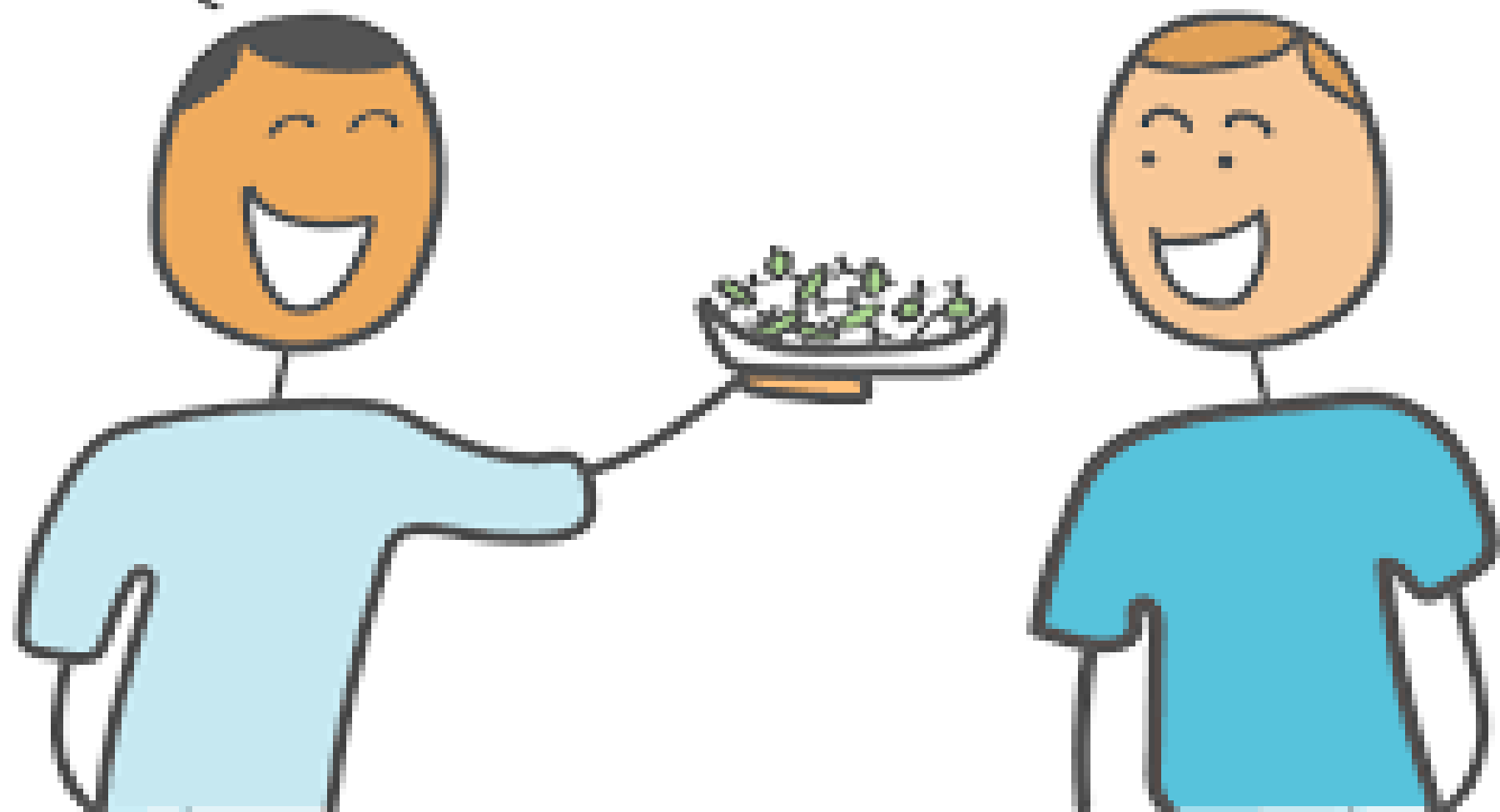
try some
deep fried
crickets
they're delicious!

um,
I think
I'll pass
thanks



try some
deep fried
crickets
they're delicious!

I'm not
used to eating
crickets... can you
tell me why
you like them?



And so...

- ▶ *Though Anthropology has universal terms and means of study, Anthropologists disagree with HOW that should be done, and often how they believe it came to be*
- ▶ *In addition, we are ever-changing the way we judge the past IN the future*
- ▶ *Which makes sense... since OUR future is also changing. Perhaps what's “right and wrong” today, may change by tomorrow...*
- ▶ *In the meantime remember what Ferris Bueller taught us about “isms”...*



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