

Early anthropologists such as Diamond Jenness felt it was important to document the way of life of what he called “disappearing cultures.” His book, *The People of the Twilight* (1928), is still regarded as one of the best sources of information on the life of the Innuinait. Today, anthropologists still use oral history, working together with people all over the world to preserve both culture and the environment.

**?** What are some challenges that cultural anthropologists face? What characteristics does an effective anthropologist require?

### Open for Debate

Anthropologist Diamond Jenness collected thousands of artifacts, from fish hooks to parkas, many of which were given to the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa. In some cases, museums also keep the human remains of Aboriginal people for study. Aboriginal groups object to and are deeply offended by the collection and display of these types of artifacts and have fought to have these items returned. How do you think anthropologists, Aboriginal groups, and museums should deal with these issues?

### YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

#### What is Canadian Culture?

Understanding the world view of another culture can be very difficult. In order to do so, an anthropologist must understand his or her own culture and how it shapes how he or she sees the world. Canadian culture has always been difficult to define; individuals have different opinions about Canada based on where they live, their background, and their experiences with other culture. Read the following statements from high school students about Canadian culture. Which opinions do you agree with? Which do you disagree with and why?

I find that Canadians say “sorry” a lot! Whenever someone steps on my foot, I’m the one to say sorry.  
– Ellie

I would describe the Canadian culture as an open minded culture. People accept differences and respect each other, not making fun of other cultures.  
– Sarah

I lived in China until my family moved to Canada when I was 11. Canadian culture is definitely more about freedom of expression and choices.  
– Mary



**↑ FIGURE 1-8** Hockey is often mentioned as an important aspect of Canadian culture. To what extent does hockey define Canadian culture?

I think we Canadians attempt to seek out and incorporate the cultures of the people that make our country. For better or for worse.  
– Tony

When I returned to Canada from Chad (after living there for two and a half years) I noticed how much more uptight Western culture is than Chadian. For example, in Chad it is acceptable to visit any person whom you know at least relatively well without invitation or calling to inform of your visit. They will still feed you, give you water, and make you feel welcome. In Canada, going to your own family member’s house without letting them know is unacceptable, let alone doing that with someone who is only an acquaintance.  
– Amina

As an international student, I noticed many differences such as hugs and kisses for your friends that were not considered common back in my country, Indonesia. This trip to Canada also made me understand the reason why a Canadian teacher, back at my school in Indonesia, would often end his questions with the phrase “eh.”  
– Han Hwe

Canadians take a lot of things for granted. I was in Jamaica in December and, depending on where you are, having running water is great and leaving the lights on costs a fortune.  
– Mekonen

Canadians will eat ice cream in the winter. In minus 40°C weather!  
– Sierra

#### QUESTIONS

1. How would you define Canadian culture?
2. How does Canadian culture compare to another culture you are familiar with?
3. Can you identify cultural behaviour, attitudes, and values in these examples?