



# Anthropologist: Scientist of the People

By Mary Batten

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## Anthropologist: Scientist of the People By Mary Batten

Imagine making your living by hunting, fishing, and collecting wild plants and insects. Imagine having to worry about being attacked by a jaguar or some other wild animal. This is how our ancestors lived for hundreds of thousands of years, but only a few peoples carry on this ancient lifestyle today. One of the few are the Ache, hunter-gatherers living in Paraguay, a country in South America. Magdalena Hurtado is an anthropologist who has been studying the Ache for fifteen years. She has spent years living with the Ache people: learning their language, observing their history. The photographs and text offer invaluable insight into the work of an anthropologist.

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## **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Gr 5-8-A stunning photo-essay about the life and work of Hurtado, an anthropologist who has been studying the Ach, people in Paraguay for 15 years. The well-organized, logical text intertwines the information about these hunter-gatherers and the changes in their society with insight into the anthropologist's methods of observation, data collection, and analysis. Unfamiliar terms are effortlessly explained. The large, full-color photographs sometimes fill an entire page and show individuals engaged in daily activities. There are also a couple of maps (without a scale or compass rose). Batten gently explains that there are many reasons for studying other cultures. Her respect for the work of Hurtado is evident as is her concern for the future of the Ach,. This book is an excellent choice for booktalking and it will fill requests for assignment material on careers, women's history month, introductory anthropology, and the peoples of South America. Reluctant older readers will be enticed by the photos. Students who enjoy this title may also be interested in Joan Mark's Margaret Mead (Oxford, 2001), which offers a more complete life and education of a female anthropologist, and Jan Reynolds's Amazon Basin (Harcourt, 1993), a photo exploration of the life of the Yanomama people of the Amazon region.

*Dona J. Helmer, College Gate School Library, Anchorage, AK*

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From [Booklist](#)

Reviewed with Stephen Kramer's *Hidden Worlds*.

Gr. 4-7. From the Scientists in the Field series that produced outstanding titles such as Nic Bishop's *Digging for Bird Dinosaurs* (2000) come these fine new entries. *Anthropologist* introduces readers to Magdalena Huriado and Kim Hill, a husband-and-wife team who study the Ache of Paraguay, one of the few remaining hunting and gathering peoples. Batten's graceful text covers basic science concepts (what an anthropologist really does; what evolutionary biology is) in accessible, clear language and examples just right for kids, offering fascinating hypotheses along the way. *Hidden Worlds* focuses on the work of Hawaii-based microscopist Dennis Kunkel. The text nicely illustrates how a scientist explores, discovers, and formulates questions. The stunning color photographs, provided by the scientists themselves, are the books' real strength. Huriado and Hill's shots bring the Ache's way of life up close, without sensationalizing, while kids will pore over Kunkel's magnified shots of a carpet flea, red blood cells, and more. Substantive, readable, and visually outstanding. *Gillian Engberg*

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Review

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**From reader reviews:**

**Gerald Rountree:**

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**Betty Williams:**

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**Billie Gould:**

Reading can be called an imagination hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book specially a book entitled Anthropologist: Scientist of the People the mind will drift away through every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a guide then become one web form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get just before. The Anthropologist: Scientist of the People giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life in this particular era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

**Rick Fairchild:**

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