Chapter 1
What is sociology?
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Activity: Research
Cannibalism as a norm

Learning objectives
At the end of this activity you should be able to:
• Identify different types of cannibalism.
• Identify cultural reasons for cannibalism.
• Explain how norms about cannibalism reflect cultural attitudes to death and bereavement.

In some cultures and in some circumstances, cannibalism is a cultural norm.

A. Using the web links below (or others), find definitions for the following types of cannibalism:
   1. exocannibalism
   2. endocannibalism
   3. necro-cannibalism

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannibalism
http://www.deathreference.com/Bl-Ce/Cannibalism.html

B. The Korowai people of Papua New Guinea practise endocannibalism. Use the web links to research the reasons why these people eat human flesh.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-Vtk2dDkl8

C. The Wari’ use cannibalism in different ways. Use the link to research the two different meanings and types of cannibalism among the Wari’.


D. Write a summary of how the meaning of cannibalism varies between and within cultures. (You may like to consider how it reflects differences in attitudes towards death and bereavement in different cultures.)