**Ethnography**: an open-ended family of techniques and procedures through which anthropologists investigate cultures; also, the organized descriptions of other cultures that result from this method. Cultural anthropology (ETHNOLOGY) is based primarily on fieldwork through which the anthropologist immerses him- or herself in the daily life of a local culture (village, neighborhood) and attempts to piece together a description and interpretation of aspects of the culture. Careful observation is one central tool of investigation. Once established in the field the anthropologist can observe and record various features of social life in the given context—for example, trading practices, farming techniques, or marriage arrangements. A second central tool is the interview, both formal and informal, through which the researcher explores the beliefs and values of members of the local culture. Tools of historical research, including particularly oral history, are also of use in ethnographic research, since the cultural practices of interest often derive from a remote point in time.