

## 1. Description

1.1 Name of society, language, and language family: Ainu, Hokkaido Ainu, Ainu

1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): ain

1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): 43.2203° N, 142.8635° E

1.4 Brief history: The Ainu are theorized to be the offspring of the Jomon-Jin, a hunter-gatherer group that dwelled in Japan from around 15,000 BC to 300 AD. Cross breeding with the agricultural Yayoi people created a blended people (The Ainu) unlike the rest of Japan. The Ainu people preferred hunting and gathering to agriculture, so agriculture died out. (1)

1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Japanese culture prides itself in its homogenous people, so the Ainu are mostly denied or treated as second class citizens. Today, they largely live off of welfare provided to them by the Japanese Government (1)

1.6 Ecology: (2): The Ancient Ainu made their clothes from bird skin plucked of feathers, deerskin, and woven garments of wild grasses (2). However, after the Edo Era, the ainu began trading their goods for cotton and began making durable clothes to make it through harsh winters (2). The Ainu are known to dam rivers to pile up and spear fish., and have even built boats for whaling and seal hunting on excursions (2). Their hunting strategies involve bow and arrow hunting, trap hunting, and deer drives. The Ainu have also adapted to the area by becoming bear hunters. The Ainu generally attack bears in the early spring while they are still lazy and gorged from hibernation. In the summer, they use bow and arrow traps to hunt bears (2). To take down such large animals, the Ainu make their own poison and use the poisonous barbs of stingrays on their arrows (2).

1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Population is officially 25,000. However, very few still live in among the tribe. Somewhere closer to around 10 (1). The mean village size is around 4-7 families.

## 2. Economy

2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): A millet based porridge called “Sayo” (2)

2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: bear, Ezo deer, rabbit, fox, raccoon, wild dog (2)

2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Bow and Arrow, Traps, Spring Arrow Traps (Amappo), Deer Clubs. (2)

2.4 Food storage: Dried goods are put in large wooden storehouses (2)

2.5 Sexual division of production: Men and Women are both responsible for hunting, fishing, gathering wood, and going to war when needed. However, when a woman is married, it is then her job to cook, weave, and generally take care of the home. (3)

2.6 Land tenure:

2.7 Ceramics:

2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns:

2.9 Food taboos:

2.10 Canoes/watercraft? Basic Cannoos used for Whaling and fishing. (2)

### **3. Anthropometry**

3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):

3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

### **4. Life History, mating, marriage**

4.1 Age at menarche (f):

4.2 Age at first birth (m and f):

4.3 Completed family size (m and f):

4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):

4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Male: 17-18. Female: 15-16

4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce:

4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously:

4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: The man gives the woman an engaged knife, a workbox, a spool, and other small gifts of his choosing (2)

4.9 Inheritance patterns: All of the goods of the woman become the goods of the man (2)

4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict:

- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy):
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these “other fathers” recognized?
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother’s role in procreation exactly? (e.g., “receptacle in which fetus grows”)
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms?
- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring:
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children?
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect?
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony?: The elders of the families say prayers to the Fire gods as the woman enters the home of the man (2).
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?: Infants are given pet names that relate to their statues as a baby; (crying one, little one, etc.). However, permanent names are given to the child once they have survived to about 2-3 years of age. They were then given their names based on personal feats or habits. (2).
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?)

4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Marriages are sometimes arranged by parents and sometimes arranged by consent. In either case, the woman must formally accept the marriage by eating half a bowl of rice.

4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who:

### **Warfare/homicide**

4.14 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare:

4.15 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death:

4.16 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing:

4.17 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations):

4.18 Cannibalism?

## **5. Socio-Political organization and interaction**

5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: 4-7 families (2).

5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality):

5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Paternal Clans led by Chiefs (2).

5.4 Post marital residence: Women live in the house of the man, no more than one family per house. (2)

5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): The men carry swords mainly for ceremonial purposes, yet have been known to engage in warfare on rare occasion when disputes arise (2)

5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex):

5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:

5.8 Village and house organization:

5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): Villages consisted of one bamboo/reed house per family. The houses were about 7 meters by 5 meters.

5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?

5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Paternal Clans (2)

5.12 Trade: The Ainu would trade eagle feathers and other hunted goods with the Japanese for cotton. (2)

5.13 Indications of social hierarchies?: At the Ainu homestead, there is a large statue of a chief, which denotes power, but no real caste system (1).

## **6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)**

6 Time allocation to RCR: Ainu practice religious ceremonies throughout the year. Not unlike a religious calendar. (2)

6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine):

6.2 Stimulants:

6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Once a year, a feast is held to return the spirits of everything that had died that year back to the gods to be reused. This “Sending Back” ceremony consists of many spiritual dances, and the feasting of bear meat.

6.4 Other rituals:

6.5 Myths (Creation): The gods created everything in their own image. Everything has a god; from pots and pans to windows to humans. (2)

6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games): Songs and dances are used to tell epic tales that correspond with rituals (2)

6.7 Sex differences in RCR:

6.8 Missionary effect:

6.9 RCR revival:

6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Spirits are sent back to the gods. (2)

6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?

6.12 Is there teknonymy?

6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): Deism.

## **7. Adornment**

7.1 Body paint: Women are not able to be married until their tattoos have been completed. They receive tattoos on their lips, hands, and arms. (2)

7.2 Piercings: Women have pierced ears (2)

7.3 Haircut: Long hair, Beards for men. (2)

7.4 Scarification: None (2)

7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):

7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment: Men wear a crown called “sapanupe” for important ceremonies. The crowns are wooden and contain pictures of animal gods and spirits carved within them (2)

7.7 Sex differences in adornment: Women wear earrings and necklaces (2). Men carry swords over the shoulder (2)

7.8 Missionary effect:

7.9 Cultural revival in adornment:

## **8. Kinship systems**

8.1 Sibling classification system:

8.2 Sororate, levirate:

8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.):

## **9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):**

### **Numbered references**

1. Francisco, Aya. "The Ainu Reviving the Indigenous Spirit of Japan." Tofugu.com. Tofugu LLC, 8 Nov. 2013. Web. 23 Feb. 2017.
2. Ainu Museum: Poroto Kotan. "Ainu History and Culture." Ainu-museum.or.jp. Ainu Museum: Poroto Tokan, n.d. Web. 23 Feb. 2017.
3. Anitei, Stefan. "The iCross-Cultural Citizen Project – Our Indigenous World: Ainu - Group 13 ." Blogspot.com. Blogger, 17 Apr. 2013. Web. 23 Feb. 2017.