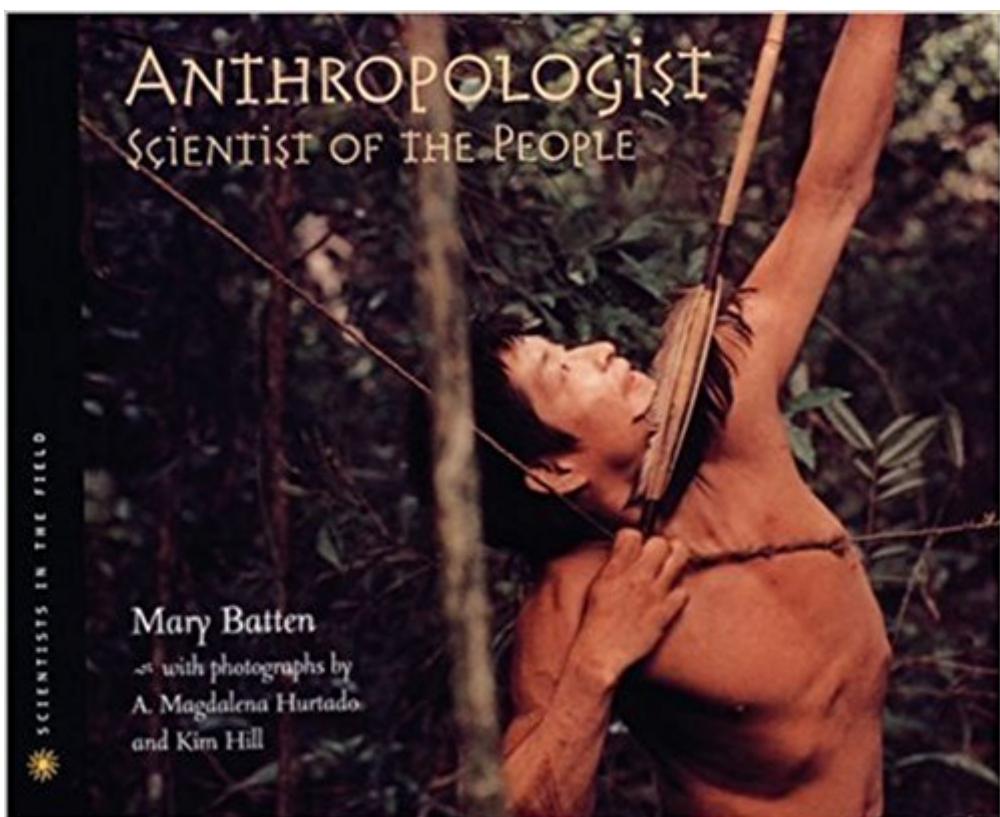


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# Anthropologist: Scientist Of The People (Scientists In The Field Series)



## **Synopsis**

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.

## **Book Information**

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 5-8-A stunning photo-essay about the life and work of Hurtado, an anthropologist who has been studying the Aché 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 Aché. 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 *Basin* (Harcourt, 1993), a photo exploration of the life of the Yanomama people of the region. Dona J. Helmer, College Gate School Library, Anchorage, AK  
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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 Hurtado 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. Hurtado 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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This biography of the young Venezuelan anthropologist Magdalena Hurtado provides a very clear description of her fieldwork among one of the world's last foraging peoples, the Ache Indians of Paraguay. This beautifully illustrated book provides the best available introduction for young readers of what it is an anthropologist does. Although the publishers recommend the book for ages 9-12, my guess is that students in junior high and high school --perhaps especially young women -- will find the book both informative and inspirational.

I gave this book to my 3 yr old neice and 6 yr old nephew, and they were as fascinated by it as their mother and father were. The pictures are wonderful and the text really gives you the feel of what the lives of one of the last groups of hunter gatherers in the world are like. And it paints a detailed and

fascinating picture of what it is like to be an anthropologist studying and loving a people whose lives are so different from our own. A really enjoyable book.

Very interesting text with great photos.

The shipping was only a couple days late. But overall it was perfect!

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