Babies: Got to Love ‘em!
The most important thing to know about babies is that they are born experts at what they do.
A Japanese Macaque carries a baby in the snow
Bonding

Konrad Lorenz
For humans to survive, someone must form an attachment to them.
Psychologist John Bowlby suggested that the maternal instinct had evolved thousands of years ago.
Mother Goddesses
Bonding in a Variety of Ways with a Variety of People
Louis XIV and his Wet Nurse

Alexey Venetsianov. Wet-Nurse with a Child. 1830

A Sunday on La Grande Jatte by George Seurat

Wet Nurses
In much of the world, little girls become the primary care-givers for younger siblings at an early age.

Nepal
Single Fathers

Gay Fathers

Inter-racial Adoption
Multi-generational families

Efe Pygmies

“Team” Mothers

Multiple wife households
What about the paternal instinct?

Bonobo family
A Farm Family in Sumatra
Future fathers dressed as pregnant women take part in a training session held by a local obstetric hospital to get a taste of the hardship of their pregnant wives in Suqian, east China's Jiangsu Province January 7, 2006.
The father may be more than “sympathetic” to the pregnant mother. He may actually be experiencing hormonal changes.
Most of the time, mothers do have a special relationship with their children, but this does not make fathers less important.
Parenting styles differ from culture to culture.
The Kung San of the Kalahari region in Africa are a traditional hunter–gatherer group.
In contrast, the Gusii are a horticultural people.
Japanese babies grow up in the atmosphere of a highly industrialized state.
Omiyamairi (Child’s First Visit to the Family Shrine)
United States
Which is more dangerous?
So, what is best for babies?
Our species has survived not only because babies are demanding, but also because of all those unexpected rewards they so cleverly bestow upon us!
1. Where do we get information about how to raise babies in our culture? Is this the same in every culture?

2. What kind of life-style changes would you expect to make if you became a parent?

3. What kind of life-style changes would you expect your partner to make if you became a parent?

4. What do you think the role of a father should be in raising a baby?

5. What do you think a baby really needs in terms of material possessions?

6. Do you feel pressured to have children? Can you imagine a childless life?