

# aDNA IN ANTHROPOLOGY



## WHAT IS aDNA?

aDNA stands for ancient DNA, which is collected from ancient organisms and then used in labs.

## WHY DO WE USE IT?

To track the evolution, migration, health, etc., of several species whose ancestors date back thousands of years.

## THE PROBLEM

- 1 DNA has to be **extracted** from the human remains. Researchers use a machine to grind the bones to fine powder. Doing so, the researchers destroy the bones for future research.
- 2 The DNA used is usually extracted from remains found in developing countries. Many times, researchers take the remains and use them without regarding the **cultural significance** of the remains to **local communities**.
- 3 There are several **gaps** within the scientific community between countries, companies, intermediaries, individual researchers, etc.



## SOLUTIONS

### SOVEREIGNTY

Full agreement and equal participation between all stakeholders of the investigation: researchers, anthropologists, communities, etc.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Only extracting the aDNA from remains when researchers are sure that this method is the best approach for using the samples.



### DIRECT COLLABORATION

Encouraging communication between local researchers obtaining samples and the scientists without an intermediary in the way.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Ensuring equal participation, acknowledgment of others and their cultural or specific needs, sustainable practices, and beneficial collaboration are all important traits for an individual to have when working in a group or attempting to gain a new perspective on a topic.

## REFLECT

Do you believe there's a way of doing aDNA research that respects the humans who's remains are used along with their descendants? How?