Note: Egalitarian societies are found most frequently among geographically mobile food collectors (foragers). They recognize few differences in status, wealth, or power. Sharing is a key cultural behavior that acts as a leveling mechanism to ensure social equality in such societies.

Reading Questions:

1. With what people did Lee work? (Note: Today the term “Bushman” is seen as ethnocentric.) How did those people “earn a living”?

2. What did Lee go to the Kalahari to study?

3. Why did he not want to share his food?

4. Why did Lee want to give a Christmas ox to the !Kung with whom he had been living and working?

5. How did the people describe Lee’s Christmas ox?

6. How did Lee feel about what the !Kung people said about his ox?

7. What was the ox really like at the Christmas butchering?

8. How did the !Kung explain what had gone on? (See especially Tomazo’s explanation.)