The Trajectory of Anthropological Fieldwork

Prep-Work:

Pick an ethnic group and area
Review the literature
Take language classes, if possible
Contact people who have also worked in the area, and begin to form scholarly networks
Write a research proposal (submit it to obtain funds)
Apply to host country government for an official research permit
Get IRB approval
Buy supplies
Obtain all necessary immunizations and medications

Actual Fieldwork:

Choose actual site
Establish a base of operations
Make courtesy visits to local government officials and notables
Engage in participant observation: field-notes and diary
Take census (??)
Make maps (??)
Conduct open-ended (non-directive) interviews
Employ additional methods:
  Conduct formal surveys and questionnaires (??)
  Record folklore, songs, poetry, and other oral texts (??)
  Chart kinship (??)
  Make a visual record of the community: photos and videotapes (??)
  Collect life histories (??)
  Perform time-allocation study (??)