



Culture Notes



Kelley-Geography

Things to consider...

- Guess what cultures/countries the following elements were borrowed from:
 - Hamburgers and Hot Dogs-
 - Chocolate-
 - Democratic government-
 - Halloween-
 - Number system-
 - Hockey-
 - Paper money-

Key Terms...

Culture is...

- the beliefs and actions that define a group of people's way of life

Ethnic Culture is...

- a group of people with shared history, ancestry, geographic factors, languages, origins and physical characteristics

Key Terms...

- **Custom**- a repetitive act of a group, becomes a characteristic of the group- used to explain a specific element of culture
- **Culture Hearth**- a place where important ideas BEGIN and then spread to surrounding cultures
 - Ex. Mayans in Central America formed culture hearth of area, Southwest Asia – writing and mathematics originated in this culture hearth

Cultural changes...

- **Cultural Diffusion/Convergence**- the process by which a cultural element is transmitted across some distance from one group or individual to another OR occurs when one culture/cultural element comes in contact with another culture
 - Often occurs with the migration of people
 - Examples
 - » Farming practices
 - » Religious beliefs/customs
 - » Popular song in the US being transferred around the world to become a worldwide #1 hit
 - » Assimilation or acculturation- blending of cultures

Cultural Diffusion/Convergence

- **Assimilation**- the process where people of a culture learn to adapt to the ways of the another culture
 - loss of one's own culture as a person gives more value to the cultural aspects of the community
- **Acculturation**- a group retaining their own culture, but adapting to some aspects of the new culture because you cannot be isolated
 - Original customs remain apart of their culture but they accept customs from new community too

Other cultural changes...

- **Cultural Divergence, OR “Taboo”**- the restriction of a culture from outside cultural influences
 - Sometimes imposed by governments or administration of some sort; purpose is to limit cultural contact and the spread of ideas

MATERIAL CULTURE

- First type of cultural elements are known as MATERIAL CULTURAL items- Things people make
 - Food
 - clothing
 - architecture
 - arts & crafts
 - technology
 - sports
 - music

NONMATERIAL CULTURE

Second type of cultural elements are known as NON MATERIAL CULTURAL items- the norms, morals, values of society;

how society functions

- languages
- religions
- patterns of behavior within a society
- government systems
- education systems
- attitudes towards the role of women and men within a society

FOLK CULTURE

- Practiced by smaller groups living in rural areas, or isolated smaller scaled territories
- Seen through lasting traditions, or customs
- Anonymous hearth, or unknown origin
- Originating from unknown dates and sources
- May have multiple hearths, or origins
- FOLK examples CAN BE material or nonmaterial
 - Material examples: Wearing a sarong in Malaysia, traditional Folk song, bride dowry
 - Nonmaterial examples: value or belief; such as Bride Burning or Matriarchal based family

POP CULTURE

POP CULTURE: found in larger groups, or larger scaled territories, where they share certain habits

- Trend, fad or fashion that becomes popular
- Most often associated with MDC (more developed country, more economically established countries)
- Usually develops from a combo of technology and increased leisure time
- POP CULTURE can be BOTH material and nonmaterial
 - Material Examples: Wearing jeans, Popular music created to be shared and sold (Hip Hop, Classic Rock), Eating Pizza Hut pizza
 - Nonmaterial Examples: Slang language (OMG)