

Culture Vocabulary

1. Acculturation – the process that occurs when contact between two cultures results in substantial change in the culture of the individual members of one or both groups
2. Beliefs – ideas or theories about the natural or supernatural world that are not supported by objective or factual evidence.
3. Civilization – an urbanized society with a large very complex social organization; common attributes of civilizations include:
 - a. Specialized division of labor
 - b. Long-distance trade
 - c. Tribute and taxation
 - d. Advances in record keeping
 - e. Science and mathematics
 - f. Some form of written money
 - g. Monumental public architecture
4. Clan – a kinship group based on descent through either males or females. Clan members frequently live and work together and believe they are descendants from a common ancestor.
5. Cultural Geography – the study of people and their ways of life (human geography)
6. Cultural landscape – the forms and artifacts sequentially placed on the physical landscape by the activities of various human occupants.
7. Cultural region – an area of land where most people have enough in common to be considered a group
8. Cultural trait – a single element of a normal practice in a culture – such as the wearing of a turban
9. Culture – the total way of life of a group of people, including their beliefs, institutions, and technology.
10. Culture hearth – a place in which important ideas begin and thereafter spread to surrounding cultures.
11. Custom – a practice from the past that people continue to observe.
12. Dialect – a local variation of a language.
13. Diffusion – the process of accepting, borrowing, and exchanging traits from one society to another; the spatial spreading or dissemination of a culture element.
14. Diversity – wide variations on features.
15. Enculturation – the slow and day-to-day process of learning your group's culture as an infant and a child.

16. **Ethnic group** – a group of people who share a language, history, or place of origin; a large group of people who have more in common with each other than they do with other peoples.
17. **Ethnocentrism** – regarding one's own culture as being superior to others and judging other cultures from the perspective of your own culture.
18. **Extended family** – a household that includes not only parents and children, but also other relatives, such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins.
19. **Folkways** – traditional social customs
20. **Gender roles** – the pattern of behavior expected of males and females in a society.
21. **Laws** – standardized and formalized norms that regulate conduct.
22. **Material culture** – the “object” part of culture; all things that people make or build with natural or human made resources; it includes food, clothing, architecture, arts, crafts, technology etc.
23. **Monotheism** – belief in one god.
24. **Mores** – social norms that provide the moral standards of a group or society and that are strictly enforced.
25. **Non-material culture** – the “idea” part of culture which includes religion, language, spiritual beliefs, superstitions, values, ways of viewing or behaving in the world
26. **Norm** – a rule or standard that defines what people should or should not do, think, or feel in any given social situation.
27. **Polygamy** – the marriage of a person to more than one wife or husband.
28. **Polytheism** – belief in many gods
29. **Race** – within a single species, a group of living creatures sharing the same appearance or genetic characteristics. The concept of race among humans is more complicated and includes social and cultural, as well as biological assessment.
30. **Religion** – beliefs and practices regarding supernatural beings, power, and forces.
31. **Socialization** – the process by which the accepted values, rules and ways of operating a society are passed on to the young.
32. **Subculture** – the attitudes, beliefs, values, and behavioral habits shared by a group of people within a society, which differ from those of the society as a whole.
33. **Technology** – the methods, tools, and machinery that humans have developed.
34. **Value** – an idea about what is good, right, wise or beneficial.