***Folk Culture***

Folk culture refers to a constellation of cultural practices that form the sights, smells, sounds, and rituals of everyday existence in the traditional societies in which they  develop.

* A folk culture is usually rural, with strong family ties and strong interpersonal relationships leading to a cohesive group identity and can thus be considered an aspect of local culture
* Most goods are handmade
* Tools, musical instruments, and clothing, physically set folk cultures apart from one another and other culture groups.
* Nonmaterial aspects of folk culture, such as songs, stories, philosophies, and belief systems, set these traditional societies apart from much of the world's current population
* Very few traditional folk societies exist today
* Relics of past folk cultures exist in the present in the form of different types of houses like shotgun cottages in the South, different types of foods and drinks such as hush puppies and moonshine whisky, different types of music such as bluegrass, and different kinds of medicines or remedies like the use of different herbs and plants.

***Popular Culture***

Pop culture tends to convey a notion of cultural productions fueled by mass media and consumerism.

* Included in this are the visual and performing arts (e.g., painting, sculpture, and dance), the culinary arts, architecture and city planning, music, fashion, sports, leisure activities, and other forms of entertainment.
* Pop culture does not reﬂect the local environment; it looks virtually the same anywhere it appears.
* Pop culture is relatively uniform across space but rapidly changes over time as conveyed by terms such as "fad" or "trend" commonly used in pop culture lingo.
* Artifacts of popular culture are those things that can be produced, transmitted, and accepted virtually anywhere on the earth's surface.
	+ They include music, food, entertainment, fashion, recreation, and various forms of art.
* Popular culture is easily diffused across national boundaries, primarily through advertising and now through the Internet, enabling individuals all across the globe access to Big Macs, Levi's jeans, Taylor Swift, and other various exports of American pop culture.
* The increasingly globalized world system allows for the rapid diffusion and acceptance of elements of pop culture.
	+ In some cases, this process has led to increased access and improved economic and educational opportunities.
	+ The invasion of Americanized pop culture has been seen by many as just another example of cultural imperialism, causing people to lose their traditional ways of life in favor of cheap entertainment and disposable goods.
	+ In some less-developed countries, cultural globalization associated with the introduction of fast food restaurants, automobiles, and other emblems of American economic power have resulted in social and environmental problems.



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| ***Country music has its origins in folk music that began in the southeastern United States with different regions producing different types of music.***

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| **Cultural Geography  - Ethnicity** |
| ***The word ethnicity originates from the ancient Greek root ethnos, which refers to a unique and cohesive group of people. Currently, the term ethnicity refers to a group of people who share a common identity.*** |
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| ***Ethnic Diversity*** Today, many people place great value on ethnic diversity, realizing that communities are made richer by a variety of perspectives. However, disagreements between people of differing ethnic identities are also at the heart of many social and political conﬂicts throughout the world.* Over 90% of the world's countries contain more than one ethnicity
* Most countries share borders with people of foreign ethnicities
* Many otherwise cohesive ethnic groups have been artiﬁcially divided by political boundaries.

Places where particularly sharp ethnic boundaries characterize the cultural landscape or where people of various ethnic identities lay claim to the same lands or resources are often marred by political unrest and violence. In the worst cases, this violence has taken the form of ethnic cleansing, which is the effort to rid a country or region of everyone of a particular ethnicity either through forced migration, or through genocide, which is a premeditated effort to kill everyone from a particular ethnic group.***United States' Multicultural Makeup***Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, and other once minority ethnic groups are now part of a culturally diverse, polyglot nation in which a clear ethnic majority simply no longer exists. Perhaps the most striking ethnic pattern to emerge from early analyses of the 2000 census is that the population of Hispanic-Americans, particularly Latinos of Mexican origin, has increased dramatically during the past ten years.The relative openness of the U.S. borders during the 1990s, combined with economic globalization, has literally changed the face of America. American cities are the best representatives of this diversity of ethnicities. The process of migration, particularly chain migration, makes America's ethnic mosaic possible. Many American cities display their ethnic diversity in ethnic neighborhoods, or concentrations of people from the same ethnicity in certain pockets of the city. * Common examples are the various "Chinatowns" that exist in cities such as New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. These clusterings result from friends and relatives who have immigrated to the United States, encouraging friends and relatives back home to join them where opportunities or freedom may be more abundant.
* Sometimes ethnic groups are essentially forced to live in certain segregated parts of the city. These ethnic neighborhoods are called ghettos, and their locations tend to be some of the least desirable within the city.
* The experiences of people who come from a common ethnic background but who live in different regions or ethnic neighborhoods is called diaspora.
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| **Cultural Geography  - Gender** |
| ***Sex is generally considered a universal biological trait. However, gender also includes social constructs and cultural practices that vary across space and time. Since the 1980s, the study of gender has assumed an important place in the  discipline of geography.*** |
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| ***Gender Studies***Geographers who study gender may focus on such topics as:* Cultural differences in the expression of gender roles
* The relationships between gender and labor
* The links between gender and social welfare
* The connections between gender and economic development

Gender studies in geography have usually focused on women's issues. However, other topics such as homosexuality, masculinity, transgender sexuality, and other gender identity themes have become more prominent in recent years.  An underlying message in this research is that throughout most of the world, gender remains a crucial factor in determining access to health care, civil rights, welfare, security, and other forms of social and political equality. ***Gender and Economic Development***In 2010, the United Nations introduced the Gender Inequality Index (UN index), which measures a country's loss of achievement due to gender inequality, based on reproductive health, employment, and general empowerment. * Men score higher on gender empowerment than women, particularly in areas such as income and literacy.
* Women score higher than men in life expectancy.
* Gender differences tend to be least in wealthy, highly developed areas, such as the Scandinavian countries, while differences tend to be greatest in developing countries.
* Some primarily Muslim countries score lower in gender empowerment than would be expected given their level of wealth.
* During times of acute stress, such as during food shortages and armed conﬂicts, women and children tend to suffer malnutrition, displacement, and other traumas at disproportionate rates compared with their male counterparts.

***Women's Empowerment and Population Growth***Numerous scholars have pointed out that the gender component of economic development is far more important in determining a population's growth rate than other aspects. Women who experience greater levels of political and economic empowerment and particularly those who have greater access to health care, education, and employment opportunities tend to delay child rearing until later in life and have lower birth rates. Some people believe that religion, not women's empowerment, is the key factor in determining fertility. * In the United States, Orthodox Jews are one example of a religious group with a relatively high birth rate.
* In Italy, an overwhelmingly Catholic but developed country with relatively high women's empowerment, has an extremely natural growth rate.
* In the United States, the fertility rates among Latino immigrant populations tend to decline with succeeding generations as women in those families ﬁnd more employment opportunities.

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| **Gender empowerment by country.** |

***Employment**** During the Great Depression of the 1930s, 26 out of 48 states prohibited married women from working outside the home. These laws were, in part, legacies of earlier times when women's employment prospects were even more limited and, in part, an effort to provide greater opportunities for unemployed men.
* During World War II when women entered the labor force in record numbers to participate in the war mobilization effort.
* The 1950s saw another effort to constrain women's opportunities, followed by a new feminist movement in the 1970s.
* Today, women are receiving college degrees at a rate nearly one and a half times that of men. Yet, compensation for women still lags behind that of men, and women are wildly underrepresented in top corporate, political, and academic positions.
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| **Cultural Geography  - Religion** |
| ***For many people, religion, more than any other cultural trait, deﬁnes who they are and how they understand the world around them. Because religion is tied to all aspects of human culture and social systems, studying the geography of religion can help us understand every-thing from population growth, to international politics, to the design and structure of cities. For these reasons, religion occupies a central place in the ﬁeld of cultural geography.*** |
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| **Commonalities**There are many commonalities between the world's many religious traditions. * All religions share some set of teachings that imply a value system
* All religions include some notion of the sacred, whether the sacred be a single divine being, a set of texts, or some powerful symbol
* All religions include some ideas about the place of human beings in the universe
* Many religions also have a creation story to explain the origins of humans and the physical universe
* Some religions also include teachings on law, politics, social mores, sexual relations, physical ﬁtness, cleanliness, eating habits, and even interior decorating

Spread v. LocalSome religions, through their teachings, seek to unite people from diverse backgrounds, while others seek to ground people in local traditions or landscapes.* Religions that seek to unite are called universalizing religions
* Those that are more spiritually bound to particular regions are called local religions
* Some religions are explicitly evangelical, which expand their membership by using missionaries to recruit new followers actively.

Religious Categories* Monotheistic, meaning that they teach the primacy of a single god, whereas other religions are polytheistic, teaching that there are numerous gods or spiritual powers.
* Global religions in the sense that their members are numerous and widespread and that their doctrines might appeal to different people from any region of the globe versus local religions, which were mentioned earlier, are also associated with particular places; tend to attract small, localized followings; and are often invested in the powers of particular living people or local natural phenomena.
* Ethnic religions tend to appeal to smaller groups of people with a common heritage or to large groups of  people living in a single region.

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| *The geographic distribution of the worlds major religions* |

Global Religions* Christianity
	1. With about 2 billion believers, Christianity is the world's most wide-spread religion
	2. Monotheistic religion with its origins in Judaism
	3. Christians believe in one God and that his son Jesus was the promised Messiah, delivering salvation to all people
	4. Practiced on every continent and in almost every country
	5. Three major categories of Christianity are Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Eastern Orthodox.
* Islam
	1. Claims about 1 billion members worldwide
	2. Distribution is centered in North Africa and the Middle East, Muslims (practitioners of Islam) are found throughout the world, including Europe, Southeast Asia, and the United States
	3. Islam is a monotheistic religion, also stemming from Judaism, which is based on the belief that there is one God, Allah, and that Muhammad was Allah's prophet
	4. Observance of the Koran, or word of Allah revealed to Muhammad, along with the observation of the ﬁve pillars of the faith unite Muslims across the globe
		1. The ﬁve pillars consist of repeated recital of the basic creed; prayers ﬁve times daily, facing Mecca; the observance of Ramadan, which is a month of day-time fasting; almsgiving; and if possible, a pilgrimage, or journey, to the holy city of Mecca
* Buddhism
	1. With more than 300 million adherents worldwide
	2. Originated in the 6th century B.C. in northern India, traces its origins and many of its traditions from Hinduism
	3. Founded by Siddhartha Gautama (or, simply, the Buddha), Buddhism teaches that suffering originates from our attachment to life and to our worldly possessions.
	4. According to Buddhism, a state of Nirvana, or ultimate puriﬁcation and happiness, can be achieved through the process known as the Eightfold Path
	5. It has gained an increasingly large following in Europe and North America since the 1950s.
* Hinduism
	1. Closely tied to Indian culture.
	2. For over 4,000 years, people living on the Indian subcontinent have developed a cohesive and unique society that integrates their spiritual beliefs with their daily practices and ofﬁcial institutions
	3. One important aspect of the Hindu culture is the caste  system, which gives every Indian a particular place in the social hierarchy from birth.
	4. Each caste deﬁnes individuals' occupations along with their social connections, where they can live, the clothes they wear, and the food they eat. Individuals may improve the position they inherit in the caste system in their next life through their actions, or karma.
	5. Hindus worship in temples or shrines that can be found in every Hindu village.
	6. Hindus follow the doctrine of ahimsa, as do Buddhists, which instructs them to refrain from harming any living being.
* Judaism
	1. Was the ﬁrst major monotheistic religion
	2. It is based on a sense of ethnic identity, and its adherents tend to form tight-knit communities wherever they live
	3. In 1948, after the catastrophe of the Holocaust and almost 2,000 years of existing as ethnic minorities in Christian- and Muslim-dominated countries, the Jewish people ﬁnally established their own state in Israel
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| **Cultural Geography** |
| ***Where would we be without language and literacy? Probably not taking AP Human Geography or reading this newsletter.  It's amazing how many languages exist, how many have become extinct, and how language has spread with the conquering of regions and countries throughout time..******A knowledge of the geography of language is essential for understanding larger spatial patterns in human societies and for piecing together the common histories of people who have spoken to, written to, and learned from each other over time.*** |
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| **Language**Language is one of the oldest, most geographically diverse, and most complex cultural traits on Earth. In the prehistoric past, there were probably at least 10,000 languages spoken throughout the world. Currently, about 5,000 to 7,000 languages remain, with Africa and Asia being the most linguistically rich continents. The world's greatest concentration of linguistic diversity is on the island of New Guinea. On the broadest scale, all languages belong to a language family, which is a collection of many languages, all of which came from the same original tongue long ago, but have since evolved different characteristics. About 50% of the world's people speak languages belonging to the Indo-European family. Languages from this family are spoken on all continents but are dominant in Europe, Russia, North and South America, Australia, and parts of southwestern Asia and India. This language family includes the Germanic and Romance languages, as well as Slavic, Indic, Celtic, and Iranic. Of the world's people, 20% speak languages from the Sino-Tibetan family. This language area spreads through most of Southeast Asia and China and is comprised of Chinese (which has the world's most speakers), Burmese, Tibetan, Japanese, and Korean. The final 30% of the world's populations speak languages from the Afro-Asiatic, Niger-Congo, Altaic, or Austronesian language families.Language families can also be divided into smaller language group, which is a set of languages with a relatively recent common origin and many similar characteristics. Spanish and Italian, for example, are both part of the Romance languages-they are both derived from Latin, they have many related words, and they contain similar grammatical structures. Diversity also exists within individual languages. Dialects are geographically distinct versions of a single language that vary somewhat from the parent form. Different dialects may have different terms for the same thing, for example, an English speaker from the American South might call to his friends "y'all," whereas an English speaker from Australia might call them "mates." Geographical boundary lines where different linguistic features meet are called isoglosses.

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| ***The Indo-European language family represents just one of the worlds major language families but its members include many of the languages spoken across the globe today.***Language Diffusion |

Language diffusion occurs when migration, trade, war, or some other event exposes one group of people to the language of another. When two groups of people with different languages meet, a new language with some characteristics of each may result. This hodgepodge form is called a pidgin. If, over time, a pidgin evolves to the point at which it becomes the primary language of the people who speak it, then it is called a Creole. Development of Alphabets & LiteracyMany linguists believe that the development of alphabets and the resulting literary traditions have contributed to the complexity and dominance of particular cultures, and thus particular nations across the globe. Most likely the invention of agricultural societies, alphabets, and the resulting efficient record keeping, provided a means for these societies to dominate other illiterate societies more easily. Literacy is thus one of the critical tools that explains why countries such as the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, and the United States have had such a dramatic impact on the languages spoken around the world today. Literacy varies between genders, especially in countries where social mores prohibit women from receiving a formal education. While many of the world's wealthiest countries have literacy rates approaching 100%, in some African and Asian states, fewer than half of the population can read. CommunicationWhen people who speak different languages need to communicate quickly and efficiently, a lingua franca frequently results. A lingua franca is an extremely simple language that combines aspects of two or more complex languages. Although many countries have established one or more official languages, in which all government business occurs, most countries also contain signiﬁcant linguistic diversity. In the United States, which has no ofﬁcial language, dozens of native tongues are in common usage. In many urban areas, such as Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, a signiﬁcant portion of the resident population speaks a ﬁrst language other than English. A few countries, such as Switzerland and Belgium, have formally recognized their cultural diversity by establishing multiple ofﬁcial languages. In Canada, language and the cultural heritage associated with it has been a source of conﬂict between secession activists from French-speaking Quebec and the majority English-speaking Canadian population. Canada is an example of a polyglot, or multilingual, state.Language ExtinctionAn important topic in the current scholarship surrounding linguistic diversity is language extinction, which occurs when a language is no longer in use by any living people. Thousands of languages have become extinct over the eons since language ﬁrst developed, but the process of language extinction has accelerated greatly during the past 300 years. Colonialism in the 18th and 19th centuries and economic globalization in the 20th century have driven many languages to premature extinction. RevivalToday, movements have begun to revive lost aspects of culture and, in particular, native languages. In parts of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, Celtic is being brought back from near-extinction, Hebrew was revived after World War II when Israel became an independent state, and Native Americans from Alaska to the tip of South America have begun to reestablish their distinct and unique linguistic heritage. Manifestation of LanguageThe names different cultures give to various features of the earth such as settlements, terrain features, streams, and other land features are called toponyms and can reveal interesting aspects of the spatial patterns of different languages and dialects. In the United States, many of the names given to American cities reveal the dominant cultures of their ﬁrst inhabitants: "New York," "Baton Rouge," and "San Diego" reveal the English, French, and Spanish inﬂuence of some of the ﬁrst settlers in these parts of the country.  |
| **Cultural Geography** |
| ***Welcome to Chapter 3.  We're gonna hop right into Cultural Geography and create a better understanding of how Culture and our concept of it has changed and evolved over time.*** |
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| **Cultural Basics**Culture means many things to many people. * Linguistically, the English word "culture"derives from the Latin word cultus, which means "to care about."
* The concept of culture dates back at least to the age of Enlightenment (1630s-1780s), when culture referred to a variety of endeavors that were essentially human, such as agriculture.
* Later, the term came to connote differences between people's lifestyles in different areas of the world.
* The modern notion of culture, which includes all the ideas, practices, and material objects associated with a particular group of people, evolved from this notion of difference.

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| This map depicts the world's macrocultural regions the geographic areas encompassed by different cultural realms around the globe. |

When geographers think about culture, they include both the material things that a group of people cares for (artifacts) and the suite of beliefs, values, and characteristics that define their collective identity and set them apart from others.  A cohesive collection of customs is called a tradition, which blend cultural traits from different contemporary sources, and dynamic, since they change over time. Cultural geographers study the spatial distribution of cultural traits and the intricate relationshipsbetween cultures and the natural environment. Two concepts of environment-culture relations are:* Environmental determinists claim that cultural traits are formed and controlled by environmental conditions. Certain types of people, who come from cultures that arose in certain physical environments, may be smarter, more attractive, or more able to govern themselves as a result.
* Possibilists have different environmental conditions offering both restraints and opportunities to people living in various regions. However, people control their own destinies and deal with these various environmental factors in ways that are dynamic and contingent and that unfold unpredictably over time.

Cultural geographers also explore the various ways cultural qualities diffuse to other parts of the world; they study how language, religion, and other cultural artifacts such as fashion, music, and culinary traditions move from their areas of origin to different parts of the world.  |

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