

10/20/21: APHG

- **Grab the handouts on the back table**





3.1 Introduction to Culture

Objective and Essential Learning

3.1 Define the characteristics, attitudes, and traits that influence geographers when they study culture.

- Culture comprises the shared practices, technologies, attitudes, behaviors transmitted by a society.
- Cultural traits include such things as food preferences, architecture, and land use.
- Cultural relativism and ethnocentrism are different attitudes towards cultural difference.



What are the characteristics of culture?

Culture: The shared beliefs, values, practices, behaviors, and technologies of a society.

Cultural Traits: Visible and invisible attributes that combine to make up a group's culture.

Examples include:

- ❑ Artifacts
- ❑ Sociofacts
- ❑ Mentifacts



What are the characteristics of culture?

Artifacts: Visible, physical objects created by a culture.

- Houses
- Clothing
- Architecture
- Toys
- Tools
- Furniture



What are the characteristics of culture?

Sociofacts: The ways in which a society behaves and organizes institutions.

- Family
- School/Education
- Government
- Religion
- Land Use
- Gender Roles



What are the characteristics of culture?

Mentifacts: The ideas, beliefs, values and knowledge of a culture.

- ❑ Religious Beliefs
- ❑ Language
- ❑ Food Preferences & Taboos



Types of Culture

Local/Traditional Culture: small, homogenous (similar) groups of people, often living in rural areas that are isolated and unlikely to change.



A Festival celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Kutubu Foe and Faso people inclusive of neighbouring Bosavi and Huli Tribes in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. Traditional 'singing', arts and crafts; tours of the traditional 'haus-man' and scenic tours of the majestic Lake Kutubu; displays of sacred body arts, chantings and 'kundu' drum beats..plus many more traditional activities.

Types of Culture

Cultural Traits of Local/Traditional Culture

- Architecture:
 - Materials from the local physical environment.
 - Snow, mud, stone, bricks, wood, pelts, grass
- Land-Use:
 - Agricultural
 - **Sense of place:** Unique attributes of a specific location - cultural influences and feelings evoked by people in a place. Distinctiveness.



Thule Winter House: The floors and lower walls are made with flagstones, and the roof is held up by whale bones covered with skins and slabs of rock. The house is then covered with sod.

Types of Culture

Global/Popular Culture: large, heterogeneous groups of people, often living in urban areas that are interconnected through globalization and the internet/social media. Quick to change, time-space compression.



Types of Culture

Cultural Traits of Global/Popular Culture

- Architecture:
 - Materials from factories & manufactured.
 - Glass, steel, drywall, cement
- Land-Use:
 - Urban & suburban
 - **Placelessness:** loss of uniqueness of place in the cultural landscape so that one place looks like the next or does not inspire any strong emotional or cultural ties. Uniform landscape.



Pop vs. Folk

**AP Human
Geography**



Attitudes Towards Cultural Difference

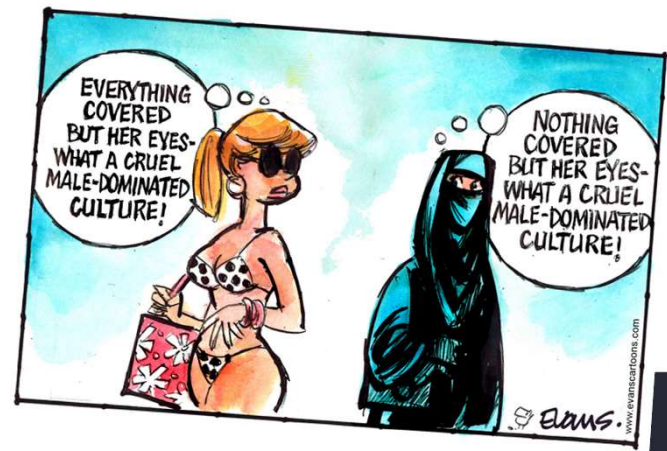
- Cultural Norms: Agreed upon cultural practices or standards that guide the behavior of a culture.
 - Cultural Taboos: Behaviors heavily discouraged by a culture.

Around 10 to 20 million are killed for human consumption every year and the custom can be traced back at least 400 years. The Yulin "Lychee and Dog Meat" festival is an annual 10 day event where over 10,000 dogs are eaten. The first festival took place in 2009 to mark the summer solstice. Dog eating is traditional in China, and according to folklore eating the meat during the summer months brings luck and good health. Some also believe dog meat can ward off diseases and heighten men's sexual performance.

Attitudes Towards Cultural Differences

- Ethnocentrism: Judging other cultures in terms of one's own standards and often includes the belief that one's own culture/ethnic group is better than others.

Levels of veiling The traditional clothing of Muslim women



Attitudes Towards Cultural Differences

- Cultural Relativism: An unbiased way of viewing another culture, the goal of this is to promote understanding of cultural practices that are not typically part of one's own culture. Leads to the view that no one culture is superior to another culture when compared.



Questions to think about

- 1) Define 'stereotype'
- 2) Provide an example of a stereotype that exists in American culture
- 3) Are the following images acceptable or are they offensive? Explain why or why not.



Cultural Appropriation

- Cultural Appropriation – the “cherry picking” or selecting of certain aspects of a culture and ignoring their original significance for the purpose of belittling it as a trend.

