

## Culture Terms

**Culture-** knowledge, values, customs and physical objects that are shared by members of a society

**Material Culture-** physical objects shared by a specific society (tools, art, cuisine, clothing, etc.)

**Nonmaterial Culture-** the abstract ideas and ways of thinking shared by a society

**Society-** a specific territory inhabited by people who share a common culture

**Culture Shock-** disoriented feeling people may experience when they come in contact with a fundamentally different culture

**Ethnocentrism-** the use of one's own culture as a yardstick for judging the ways of other individuals and societies.

**Cultural Relativism-** trying to understand a different culture by its own terms rather than jumping to conclusions and prejudices.

**Cultural Appropriation-** the adoption or use of elements of one culture by members of a different culture (largely seen as a negative phenomenon).

**Values-** broad ideas about what is good or desirable that are shared by people in a society.

**Norms-** the rules that define appropriate and inappropriate behavior for members of a culture

**Folkways-** the least serious of the types of norms; lack deep moral significance and not strictly enforced

**Mores-** norms that have moral dimensions and that should be followed by all members of a society

**Taboo-** the strongest of social norms; the violation of which causes feelings of revulsion and disgust

**Positive Sanctions-** expressions of approval given for upholding norms of behavior

**Negative Sanctions-** expressions of disapproval given for violating norms of behavior

**Subculture-** a subsection of society that exists within the larger world of the dominant culture.

**Counterculture-** a group whose values and behaviors are largely at odd with the dominant culture

**Real Culture-** the actual behavior patterns based on values members of a society exhibit

**Ideal Culture-** cultural guidelines, beliefs or values that members of a society claim to accept

**Hub-** the effective center of an activity, region, or network; a common connection point

**Six Degrees of Separation-** the idea that anyone can be connected to anyone else through their personal networks in just six steps or less.

**Cultural Lag-** material culture usually change first with nonmaterial culture lagging behind.

**Cultural Diffusion-** the spread of cultural traits from one group to another

**Cultural Imperialism-** the practice of promoting and imposing the culture of a dominant nation over a less powerful society