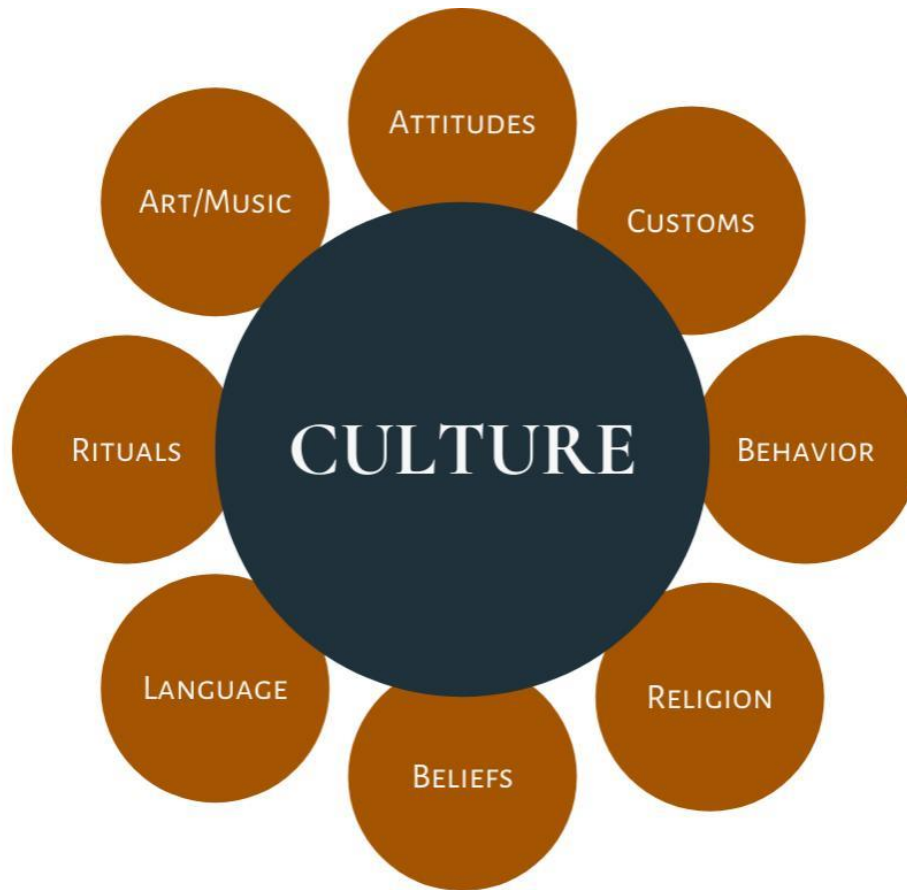




Culture

Culture can be defined as the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, it has been called The way of life for an entire society. encompassing (language, religion, norms, cuisine, social habits, beliefs, values, customs, rituals, codes of manners, music and art ...) that are passed down from generation to generation and shapes their behaviours and ways of life.

The word culture derives from the latin word colere which has the following meanings as to build, to care for, to plant, or to cultivate as a result, this term generally refers to something that is derived from, or created and refined by the intervention of humans.



Components of Culture:

Symbols: Symbols are things like pictures or shapes that stand for or represent other ideas, feelings, or things. For example, a red light is a symbol to stop, and a flag can be a symbol of a country.

Examples :

1. **National Flags:** The American flag symbolizes freedom and patriotism while The Japanese flag Represents purity and the sun, reflecting Japan's cultural values.
2. **Religious Symbols:** The cross is a symbol of Christianity, representing faith and spirituality, while the crescent moon and star are associated with Islam.
3. **Language:** A system of symbols and rules that allows people to communicate and share ideas.

Examples :

- **English as a Global Language:** Used in international business and diplomacy.
- **Sign Language:** A visual language used by the deaf community, such as American Sign Language (ASL).

Values: Values are the core beliefs and principles that guide our behavior and decision-making. They represent what we consider important in life, shaping our actions and interactions with others. Examples include honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Examples:

Individualism vs. Collectivism: Western cultures often value individualism (self-reliance), while many Asian cultures prioritize collectivism (community welfare).

Respect for Elders: In Asia, Africa and Middle East, respecting elders is a fundamental value, emphasizing wisdom and experience.

Norms and Customs: These are the rules and expectations by which a society guides the behavior of its members.

In china :

Bowing: A common greeting that shows respect.

Avoiding Eye Contact: It can indicate humility or respect, especially towards superiors.

Dining Etiquette: In some cultures, it's polite to wait for the host to start eating, while in others, it's acceptable to begin as soon as food is served.

In the United States :

Firm Handshake: Typically seen as a sign of confidence.

Nodding: It Indicates agreement or understanding.

In Italy :

Hand Gestures: Italians often use expressive hand movements while speaking to emphasize points.

In India :

Namaste Gesture: Bringing hands together in front of the chest as a greeting and sign of respect.

Head Nods: A slight tilt of the head can mean agreement or acknowledgment.

Food and Cuisine: Culinary practices are a vital part of cultural identity and reflect history, geography, and social values.

Example: Sushi is a traditional Japanese dish that embodies cultural practices related to food preparation and presentation.

In India: Varied cuisines with rich spices; vegetarianism is common among many.

In Italy : Pasta and pizza.

Traditional Clothing: Kimono in Japan, Sari in India, Kilt in Scotland.

Celebrations : Celebrations are special times when people come together to enjoy and have fun. They often happen for important events like birthdays, holidays, or achievements, and people may eat, dance, or give gifts to show happiness.

Diwali (India) :

Also known as the Festival of Lights, celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, marked by lighting lamps, fireworks, and sharing sweets.

Thanksgiving (United States and Canada):

A harvest festival celebrated with a feast, typically including turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. It emphasizes gratitude for the harvest and blessings of the past year.

Day of the Dead (Mexico):

A celebration honoring deceased loved ones, involving altars (ofrendas), decorations, and offerings of food and drinks. It's a time for families to gather and remember those who have passed.

Task1: Circle the correct holiday for each description.

A holiday celebrated in the USA where families come together to eat turkey:

- a) Christmas
- b) Thanksgiving
- c) Halloween

A festival in India that involves lights, fireworks, and celebrating the victory of light over darkness:

- a) Diwali
- b) Holi
- c) Hanukkah

A Mexican holiday where people honor their ancestors with colorful altars:

- 1) Carnival
- 2) Día de los Muertos
- 3) La Tomatina

Task 2 : Based on the information provided, fill in the table with the corresponding greeting gesture for each country

Country	Greeting Gesture	Description
China		A slight or deep bow as a sign of respect
	Firm Handshake	
		expressive hand movements while speaking to emphasize points.
India		

Task3: Match the Following

Cultural Element	Example
1. Traditional Clothing	A. Pasta and pizza
2. National Flag	B. Sari
3. Celebration	C. Festival of Lights
4. Cuisine	D. American flag
5. Religious Symbol	E. The cross

CULTURE SHOCK.



Cultural shock:

It occurs when someone encounters a culture significantly different from their own, leading to feelings of confusion, disorientation, or anxiety. Here are some common examples:

1. **Food:** In some cultures, eating insects or raw fish is normal, while in others, it might be seen as unappetizing or unacceptable.
2. **Greetings:** In certain cultures, a firm handshake is standard, while in others, bowing, cheek-kissing, or avoiding physical contact is preferred.
3. **Personal Space:** Different cultures have different rules about personal space. For example, some people stand close when they talk, while others like to keep more distance.
4. **Time Perception:** In cultures that value punctuality (like Germany or the U.S.), being late is frowned upon, whereas in some Latin American or Middle Eastern cultures, time may be viewed more flexibly.
5. **Dress Codes:** In some countries, people are expected to wear modest clothes in public, while in other places, casual or revealing clothes are normal.
6. **Holidays and Traditions:** Discovering unfamiliar holidays or customs can be shocking, such as the significance of Diwali in India or Thanksgiving in the U.S.
7. **Public Behavior:** In certain cultures, loud talking in public is acceptable, while in others, it may be seen as rude.

Task: Match the cultural shock examples (1-5) with the correct descriptions (a-e).

1. Food
2. Greetings
3. Time Perception
4. Holidays and Traditions
5. Public Behavior

Descriptions:

- a) Some people greet with a bow or a cheek kissing instead of a handshake.
- b) Talking loudly in public is okay in some cultures but rude in others.
- c) Some cultures eat foods like insects or raw fish, which others might find strange.
- d) Some cultures are strict about being on time, while others are more relaxed about time.
- e) Learning about holidays like Diwali or Thanksgiving shows how cultures are different.

1	2	3	4	5