



Six Aspects of Culture



Culture can be defined in many ways. When asked, "What is (or was) that culture like?" one person may respond by telling about the food and the types of sports played, while another may tell about the religion and the types of art works produced. Below is just one way to break the culture of a place, a group, or time period down into six individual aspects, by asking questions about the people.

1. Government & International Relations

How do the people make laws and enforce them? Who rules over the people, and how are the rulers selected? What types of relationships do the people have with other groups?

2. Resources & Economics

What natural resources do the people have available for their own use and for trade? What goods are produced? What type of barter or monetary system do the people use? How do the people buy and sell the goods they produce, and those produced elsewhere?

3. Religion & Spiritual Beliefs

What do the people believe in? How and whom do they worship? Do the people have a structured religious system? Is practicing religion mandatory or optional? How are those whose beliefs differ from the majority treated? How do beliefs affect everyday life?

4. Learning & Technology

How are the people educated? Who attends school, and what is taught? Who determines what is taught in the schools, and who teaches it? What technologies do the people use both in schools and in everyday life? How "advanced" is the society?

5. Family Life, Community, & Society

How are people arranged into groups? Who lives together, in what types of housing, under what sanitary conditions, and how close together? How do the people relate to each other? Are family, race, religion, ethnicity, or other factors of high importance? Do these issues divide the people? How do the people live day to day? What are their daily customs? How do they celebrate special days, and how do they amuse themselves?

6. Arts & Crafts

What types of paintings, sculptures, music, and architecture do the people create? What types of handmade goods such as baskets, pottery, or decorative items do they make?

Just like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, these six pieces of a culture are intertwined, and many pieces overlap. For example, healthcare may involve technology, government oversight, and educating the public. It will also affect family life. In addition, healthcare may be influenced by religious beliefs, and it may be reflected in art. Access to natural resources such as clean water may also affect healthcare.

Therefore, when designating any single issue as belonging to one aspect of culture, keep in mind that often it may be part of more than one - just choose the "best fit".





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First find 3 spelling errors in the list of six cultural aspects below. Then write the correct spellings of these words in the title area of the six information boxes below. Select two or more items from the box at the bottom of the page to write under each aspect of culture, then come up with two or more of your own for each category. Be creative! :)

Religon - Art - Goverment - Socyetic - Learning & Technology - Economics

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|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| worship | senators | Supreme Court | Zeus | computers |
| basketry | bishops | wood sculptures | male teachers | Hinduism |
| large cities | high school | soccer games | fishing | supermarkets |
| oil drilling | rice dishes | democracy | drawing water | pottery |





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Religon - Art - Goverment - Socyetic - Learning & Technology - Economics

Religion	Art	Government
worship	basketry	senators
bishops	wood sculptures	Supreme Court
Zeus	pottery	democracy
Hinduism		

Society	Learning & Technology	Economics
large cities	high school	oil drilling
rice dishes	male teachers	fishing
soccer games	computers	supermarkets
drawing water		

worship	senators	Supreme Court	Zeus	computers
basketry	bishops	wood sculptures	male teachers	Hinduism
large cities	high school	soccer games	fishing	supermarkets
oil drilling	rice dishes	democracy	drawing water	pottery

