

The World's People

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. Culture is the set of beliefs, goals, and practices that a group of people share.
2. The world includes many different culture groups.
3. New ideas and events lead to changes in culture.

Key Terms

culture the set of beliefs, values, and practices a group of people have in common

culture trait an activity or behavior in which people often take part

culture region an area in which people have many shared culture traits

ethnic group a group of people who share a common culture and ancestry

cultural diversity having a variety of cultures in the same area

cultural diffusion the spread of culture traits from one region to another

Section Summary

WHAT IS CULTURE?

Culture is the set of beliefs, values, and practices a group of people have in common. Everything in day-to-day life is part of culture, including language, religion, clothes, music, and foods. People everywhere share certain basic cultural features, such as forming a government, educating children, and creating art or music. However, people practice these things in different ways, making each culture unique.

Culture traits are activities or behaviors in which people often take part, such as language and popular sports. People share some culture traits, but not others. For example, people eat using forks, chopsticks, or their fingers in different areas.

CULTURE GROUPS

There are thousands of different cultures in the world. People who share a culture are part of a culture group that may be based on things like age or religion.

Underline the sentence which lists some parts of culture.

What are some ways cultures develop?

Section 1, continued

A **culture region** is an area in which people have many shared culture traits such as language, religion, or lifestyle. One large culture region is the Arab world in Southwest Asia and North Africa. A country may have several different culture regions, or just a single region, such as Japan.

A culture region may be based on an **ethnic group**, a group of people who share the same religion, traditions, language, or foods. **Cultural diversity** is having a variety of cultures in the same area. It can create a variety of ideas and practices, but it can also lead to conflict.

CHANGES IN CULTURE

Cultures are constantly changing. They can change through the development of new ideas or contact with other societies. New ideas such as the development of electricity, motion pictures, and the Internet have changed what people do and how they communicate. When two cultures come in close contact, both usually change. For example, the Spanish and Native American cultures changed when the Spanish conquered the Americas.

Cultural diffusion is the spread of culture traits from one part of the world to another. It can happen when people move and bring their culture with them. New ideas and customs, such as baseball or clothing styles, can spread from one place to another as people learn about them.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Consider all of the parts of your culture that have been influenced by other cultures. During a normal day, keep a list of all the things you use or do that you think have been influenced by other cultures.

How can cultural diversity affect the people in an area?

Underline the sentences that describe how cultures change.

What are two ways cultural diffusion occurs?

The World's People

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. The study of population patterns helps geographers learn about the world.
2. Population statistics and trends are important measures of population change.

Key Terms

population the total number of people in a given area

population density a measure of the number of people living in an area, usually expressed as persons per square mile or square kilometer

birthrate the annual number of births per 1,000 people

migration the process of moving from one place to live in another

Section Summary

POPULATION PATTERNS

Population is the total number of people in a given area. Geographers study population patterns to learn about the world.

Some places are crowded with people, while others are almost empty. **Population density** is a measure of the number of people living in an area, usually expressed as persons per square mile or square kilometer. It describes how crowded a place is, which in turn affects how people live. In places with a high density, there is little open space, buildings are taller, and roads are more crowded than places with lower density. They also often have more products available for a variety of shoppers.

High density areas often have fertile soil, available water, and a favorable climate for agriculture. Areas that are less dense often have harsh land or climate that makes survival harder.

Underline the two sentences that describe the effects of population density on a place.

What is the land and climate often like in areas of high population density?

POPULATION CHANGE

The number of people living in an area affects jobs, housing, schools, medical care, available food, and many other things. Geographers study population

Section 2, continued

population changes and world trends to understand how people live.

Three statistics are important to study a country's population over time. **Birthrate** is the annual number of births per 1,000 people. Death rate is the annual number of deaths per 1,000 people. The rate of natural increase is found by subtracting the death rate from the birthrate.

Some areas have low rates of natural increase, such as Europe and North America. Some countries in Africa and Asia have very high rates of natural increase. High rates make it hard for countries to develop economically because they need to provide jobs, education, and medical care for a growing population.

Migration is the process of moving from one place to live in another. People may leave a place because of problems there, such as war, famine, drought, or lack of jobs. Other people may move to find political or religious freedom or economic opportunities in a new place.

The world's population has grown very rapidly in the last 200 years. Better health care and food supplies have helped more babies survive and eventually have children of their own. Many industrialized countries currently have slow population growth while other countries have very fast growth. Fast growth puts a strain on resources, housing, and government aid.

Underline the sentence that tells how to calculate the rate of natural increase.

Why do high rates of natural increase make it hard for a country to develop economically?

How has the world's population changed during the last 200 years?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Identify Cause and Effect Find out the population density of your city or town. Write down ways that this density affects your life and the lives of others.

The World's People

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. The governments of the world include democracy, monarchy, dictatorship, and communism.
2. Different economic activities and systems exist throughout the world.
3. Geographers group the countries of the world based on their level of economic development.

Key Terms

democracy a form of government in which the people elect leaders and rule by majority

communism a political system in which the government owns all property and dominates all aspects of life in the country

market economy a system based on private ownership, free trade, and competition

command economy a system in which the central government makes all economic decisions

gross domestic product (GDP) the value of all goods and services produced within a country in a single year

developed countries countries with strong economies and a high quality of life

developing countries countries with less productive economies and a lower quality of life

Section Summary

GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD

People form governments to make laws, regulate business, and provide aid to people. A **democracy** is a form of government in which the people elect leaders and rule by majority. Most democracies protect people's rights to freedom of speech, religion, and a free press.

Monarchies are ruled directly by a king or queen who holds all the power. Dictatorships are also ruled by a single person. Dictators hold all the power and often rule by force. **Communism** is a system in which the government owns all property and dominates all aspects of life in the country. In most Communist states, the people have restricted rights and little freedom.

What rights are protected in most democracies?

What types of government are ruled by a single person?

Section 3, continued

ECONOMIES OF THE WORLD

Primary industries provide natural resources to others through work such as farming, fishing, and mining. Secondary industries use raw materials to manufacture other products such as automobiles or furniture. Tertiary industries exchange goods and services through retail stores, health care and educational organizations, and so on. Quaternary industries involve workers such as architects, lawyers, and scientists who research and distribute information.

In a traditional economy, people make and use their own goods with little exchange of goods. A **market economy** is based on free trade and competition. People buy and sell as they wish and prices are determined by supply and demand. In a **command economy**, the government decides what to produce and what prices will be.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One measure of economic development is **gross domestic product (GDP)**, the value of all goods and services produced within a country in a single year. Other ways include the level of industrialization and the quality of life.

Developed countries have strong, wealthy economies and high standards of living. **Developing countries** have poorer economies and a lower quality of life. About two thirds of the world's people live in developing countries with poor education and little access to health care or telecommunications.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Classify Select a family member or friend and ask them about their job. Classify it as one of the four basic types and describe why it is important in our society.

What are the four levels of economic activity?

Underline the sentence that describes who controls a command economy.

Which type of country is more industrialized?

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Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. Globalization links the world's countries together through culture and trade.
2. The world community works together to solve global conflicts and crises.

Key Terms

globalization the process in which countries are increasingly linked to each other through culture and trade

popular culture culture traits that are well known and widely accepted

interdependence the reliance of one country on the resources, goods, or services of another country

United Nations (UN) an organization of the world's countries that promotes peace and security around the globe

humanitarian aid assistance to people in distress

Section Summary

GLOBALIZATION

People around the world are more closely linked than ever before. **Globalization** is the process in which countries are increasingly linked to each other through culture and trade. Improvements in technology and communication have increased globalization.

Popular culture consists of culture traits that are well known and widely accepted. These traits can include food, sports, music, and movies. The United States has a great influence on popular culture through sales of American products and the use of English for business, science, and education around the world. It is also greatly influenced by other countries.

World businesses are connected through trade. Companies may make products in many different countries or use products from around the world.

Interdependence occurs when countries depend on each other for resources, goods, or services.

Underline the sentence which describes two ways countries are linked together.

What are four traits that can be considered part of popular culture?

Section 4, continued

Companies and consumers depend on goods produced elsewhere.

What two groups might depend on goods produced elsewhere?

A WORLD COMMUNITY

Because places around the world are connected closely, what happens in one place affects others. The world community works together to promote cooperation between countries.

When conflicts occur, countries from around the world try to settle them. The **United Nations (UN)** is an association of nearly 200 countries dedicated to promoting peace and security.

Underline the sentence that describes the main goals of the United Nations.

Crises such as earthquakes, floods, drought, or a tsunami can leave people in great need. Groups from around the world provide **humanitarian aid**, or assistance to people in distress. Some groups help refugees or provide medical care.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Contrast Talk to a parent or other adult about their knowledge of other countries and their connections to them when they were young. Write a short essay that contrasts their global connections with yours.