

# INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVEN ELEMENTS OF CULTURE



# ELEMENTS OF CULTURE

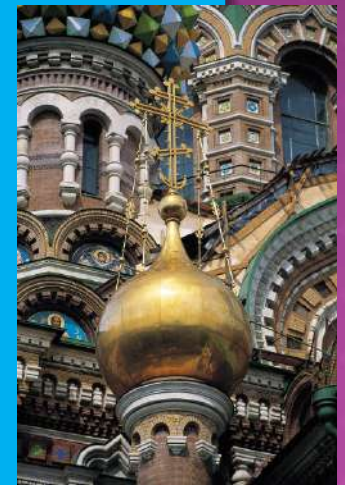
- Social Organization
- Language
- Customs and Traditions
- Religion
- Arts and Literature
- Forms of Government
- Economic Systems

# SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

- ✓ Puts its members into small units to meet basic needs
- ✓ Family Patterns: the most important unit of social organization. Children learn how to behave and what to believe
  - Nuclear family: wife, husband, children
  - Extended family: Several generations together
- ✓ Social classes: rank people in an order, depending on what is important to the culture (money, job, education, ancestors, etc.)

# CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

- ❖ Rules of Behavior
- ❖ Holidays and Celebrations
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Clothing
- ❖ Shelter
- ❖ Transportation



# LANGUAGE



- All cultures have a spoken language (even if there are no developed forms of writing)
- People who speak the same language often share the same culture
- Many societies include a large number of people who speak different languages
- Each language can have several different dialects



# ARTS AND LITERATURE

Human Creativity

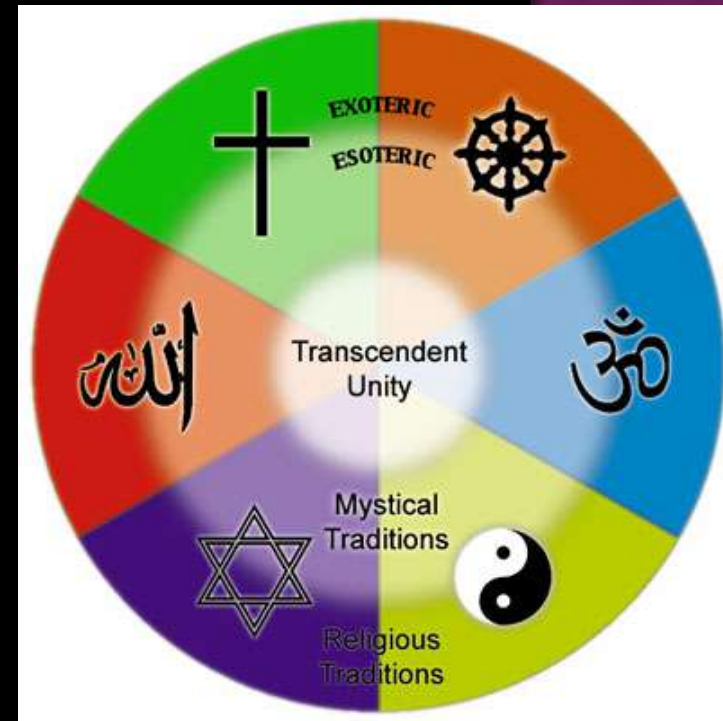
-Passing on the culture

For Example: art, literature, music,  
folk tales



# RELIGION

- Answers basic questions about the meaning of life
  - Supports cultural values
  - Religion is often a source of conflict between cultures
  - Monotheism:
    - Worship one God
  - Polytheism:
    - Worship more than one God



# FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- Government is to provide for common needs, keep order, and protect society from outside threats
- Definition of government: 1. Person/people who hold power in a society; 2. Society's laws and political institutions
- Democracy: people have supreme power, government acts by and with consent
  - Republic: people choose leaders who represent them
- Dictatorship: ruler/group holds power by force
  - Usually relying on military support for power



# ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

How people use money and goods –

- ⊙ Traditional Economy: people produce most of what they need to survive (hunting, gathering, farming, herding cattle, make own clothes/tools)
- ⊙ Market Economy: buying and selling goods and services
- ⊙ Command Economy: Government controls what/how goods are produced and what they cost. Individuals have little economic power
- ⊙ Mixed Economy: Individuals make some economic decisions and the government makes others