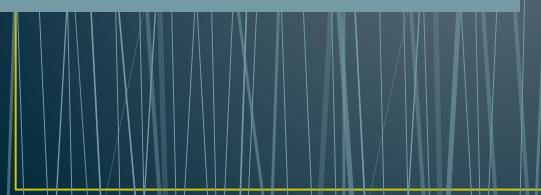
#### Activator

What does the image below make you think of? How would you describe it? What would you call it? Explain your responses in paragraph form.



# Utopia

Definition, Concepts, and Varieties



## **Utopia: A Definition**



- An ideally perfect place, an impractical idealistic scheme.
  The word "utopia"
- comes from two Greek words: "oi" (not) and "topos" (place) = "nowhere."

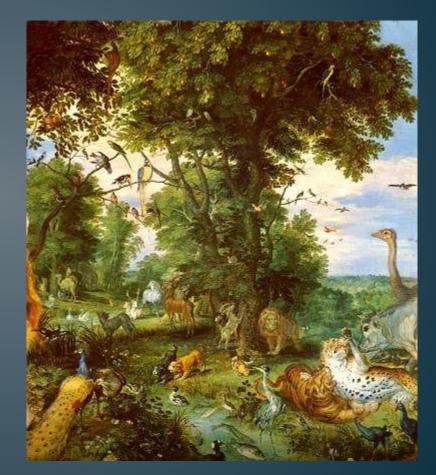
 The word was created by Sir Thomas More in 1516 when he wrote a book by that title.

#### **Utopian Concepts**

- Poverty and misery are removed.
- Very few laws are necessary.
- Money is unnecessary.
- The society is free of class systems, meaning the equality of all people.
- View on the future is optimistic and upbeat.

## **Religious and Scientific Concepts**

- The Judeo-Christian concept of the Garden of Eden and Heaven.
- The Buddhist concept of Nirvana.
- Advanced science and technology will abolish suffering and death.



## **Utopia Varieties**

- <u>Ecological Utopia</u>: a traditional way of life that is more in harmony with nature.
- <u>Economic Utopia</u>: the total abolition of money; only working on what one enjoys and on what is for the common good.
- <u>Political Utopia</u>: world peace—without war; everyone gets along regardless of race, culture, and political beliefs.
- <u>Religious Utopia</u>: harmonious relationships and enlightenment.
- <u>Science and Technology Utopia</u>: set in the future; absence of death and suffering.

## "Imagine" by John Lennon

Be sure to use strong evidence from the song to support your analytical responses.

- What utopian concepts does Lennon reflect in his song? List them and explain them.
- What variety of utopia does Lennon's fit?
- Do you disagree with any of Lennon's utopian ideals? Explain why or why not.

## "Where is the Love" by The Black Eyed Peas

Be sure to use strong evidence from the song to support your analytical responses.

- Which aspects of a utopia do The Black Eyed Peas allude to in their song? List them and explain.
- What variety of utopia do The Black Eyed Peas seem to desire?
- Though ten years old, does this song still hold relevance to our current society? Explain why or why not.

### "Utopia" by Alanis Morissette

Be sure to use strong evidence from the song to support your analytical responses.

- Which aspects of a utopia does Morissette reflect in her song? List them and explain.
- What variety of utopia does Morissette's seem to fit?
- Does our current society mirror Morissette's ideal in any way? Explain why or why not.