

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

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