

Culture Traits

Culture	the way of life of a group of people who share similar beliefs and customs
Cultural Traits	the characteristics that define a culture

Word	Definition	Example
Values & Beliefs	What a culture values, finds important, understanding of right and wrong.	Example: Americans believe if a person works hard, they will be successful.
Communication	Verbal and non-verbal language (written, spoken, gestures)	Example: Latin cultures speak Spanish.
Social Relationships	Friends, peers, family, mentors, teachers and how you interact with them.	Example: How students speak to a teacher versus a friend.
Food	What we eat and how it's cooked.	Example: Hot dogs are an American food.
Clothing & Body Decoration	How we dress, jewelry, body markings (tattoos, piercings, scarification)	Example: many American women have both ears pierced and wear earrings.
Religion	Religious beliefs and practices	Example: Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th and Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr at the end of Ramadan.
Family Structures	How your family is structured.	Example: In America, children often live with just their parents while in Mexico, grandparents and other relatives may live in the same home.
Traditions & Customs	things your culture does traditionally passed down from generation to generation.	Example: In America, families gather and eat turkey for Thanksgiving and in Latin America, many celebrate Dia de los Muertos by attending parades and making sugar skulls.
View of Time	How a culture treats time: linear (never enough time, tight schedules) or cyclical (there's always more, looser schedules)	Example: In U.S. we move fast and are almost always paying attention to what time it is, while in Jamaica, things move slower and the time is not as important.
Recreation	What people do for fun and to relax.	Example: In U.S., we play sports, video games, and watch movies.