

Summary: Looking at Culture

Ways of Life

All communities have a culture. The culture has rules about manners and how to behave. Not all cultures have the same rules. The family, community, and school teach people about their culture.

In some ways, people across the United States share the same way of life. Every region in the country also has its own culture. For example, jazz and blues music are part of the South's culture.

People like to share their special culture with others. They may share their music, food, language, and celebrations with people from other regions. Sometimes, parts of a culture may have first been brought to the region by people from other areas. When people move to different countries, their ideas and language travel with them.

Comparing Cultures

People in all cultures have the same basic needs. These basic needs are food, water, clothing, and a place to live. People in different cultures meet their basic needs in different ways. For example, people living in countries with cold weather need heavy clothes to keep warm. People living in countries with warm weather need light clothing to keep cool. People in all communities have wants, too.

People from different ethnic groups live in the United States. The cultures of these groups are part of our American culture.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

needs *noun*, things people must have in order to live

wants *noun*, things people would like to have

ethnic group *noun*, a group of people who have their own language and culture



After You Read

REVIEW How are the cultural regions of the United States alike and different? Circle two sentences that tell about how culture is shared and how it is special to a certain region.

REVIEW In what ways are all cultures alike? Highlight the sentence that tells how all cultures are alike.