

Summary: Culture in a Community

Looking at Culture

Culture is how people in a community live. It includes their ideas, language, religion, and history. It includes the clothes people wear and what they learn in school. Every community in the world has a culture. Children learn about culture from their families, their community, and legends. Legends tell about ideas that are important in a culture. For example, the legend of Johnny Appleseed is part of American culture. This story tells how Johnny Appleseed traveled around the country planting apple seeds. The story's idea is that Johnny Appleseed was unselfish.

Different Ways of Life

All cultures are alike in some ways because all people have the same needs. All people communicate. How they communicate depends on their culture. People in different cultures use different languages. All people need shelter. The kind of shelter they build depends on their culture. In some dry countries, people make homes from mud bricks. In some wet countries, people build homes on stilts to keep the water out.

Culture also affects how people get along. Cultures have different laws, rules, and ways of worship. People from many cultures live in the United States. Some follow the traditions of their ethnic groups. Many ethnic cultures are part of American culture. Americans eat pizza from Italy. They listen to music from Brazil. They play games from Japan.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

legend *noun*, a story passed down from an earlier time

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



After You Read

REVIEW In what ways do people learn their culture? Highlight three words that tell who or what teaches children about culture.

REVIEW In what ways are cultures alike? Why are all cultures alike in some ways? What are two needs that all people have? Underline the sentences that tell the answer.