What makes you who you are?

What are your likes and dislikes?

What defines you?

How do you see yourself?
Culture helps to define YOU!

Culture is not inherited; it is something that is taught to you, either formally or informally.
Cultural Universals

There are 10 things that all cultures have - can you name any of them? These are called cultural universals.

- Stop and write down some things that you know are found everywhere in the world no matter what country or part of a country you visit.
1. Language

Both spoken and unspoken language

Be careful with your hand gestures! They can mean different things in other countries. Sometimes hand signals we use here in this country can be considered very rude in others. Body language in general can differ.
2. Family Structure

• Who is the head (leader) of your family?
  In some cultures, it is the father (a patriarchal system); in some it is the mother (a matriarchal system). And in some families, the grandmother or grandfather is the one in charge. The system you have depends on where you live, even within the United States.

• Does birth order matter in your family?
  In some places around the world being the first born or being the first male child is very important.
3. Rules/Laws

• For Americans, our laws must be in agreement with the Constitution. We have city, state and national laws that must all follow requirements set by the Constitution.

• Other countries have different systems of law, but they all serve the same purpose: to provide some type of order for their citizens.
4. Education

• The question of who gets educated in a country depends on the culture.
  
  o Education in America is about educating everyone. In order for a democracy to work, every citizen needs to be educated.
  
  o Education is important because it passes on the heritage and stories that bind a culture together.
  
  o Some cultures don’t believe in educating girls.
5. Visual and Performing Art

(includes Art, Architecture, Music and Dance)

A. Dance:
B. Architecture

- Many cultures have a particular architectural style that is easy to recognize.

For example, the onion dome style cathedral is generally associated with Russian culture.
Notice the **curved arches** and the **rounded tops** of these buildings. This style is usually associated with **Muslim culture**. There are countries where Islam used to be the most important religion, but is not any more, that still have buildings like this. Spain is a perfect example. There is a lot of Moorish (Muslim) architecture in Spain even though it is a Christian country today.
Notice the tall spires and the crosses that are distinctive of the Christian influence in architecture.
Notice the large curves and that each story is progressively smaller. This is a distinct reflection of the east Asian culture.
C. Body decoration is a type of art.
D. Traditional art reflects culture.

- Native American Pottery
- Russian nesting dolls
- Arabic Art
- East Asian
- Native Americans from the Northwest
- African Masks
Even vehicles have a place in art.

Where would you find these?

India, Pakistan, Nepal
E. Music

- All cultures have unique forms of music, as well as dance. [http://www.worldmusic.net/guide/](http://www.worldmusic.net/guide/) (Teachers scroll down and search through the guide for audio and visuals)

- How does a Sitar from India sound [http://www.soundboard.com/sb/Sitar_Sounds](http://www.soundboard.com/sb/Sitar_Sounds)

- (18 countries through song) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ERRofoPiiU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ERRofoPiiU)

- (Chose from over 40 songs of street musicians from around the world joining in on the same song, notice the surroundings, dress and instruments) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xjPODksIo8&list=RD02Us-TVg40ExM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xjPODksIo8&list=RD02Us-TVg40ExM) **www.playingforchange.com** (Website has 76 episodes to choose from)
6. Religion

- Most cultures have a major, or even several religions. Some of these religions have spread around the world: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, etc.

- Religion teaches people right from wrong. Many times religion tries to explain to its people how the world was created and how it works.

- Of all the different aspects we are studying, this one affects culture the most because it also influences two other “cultural universals”: rituals and celebrations. Many, although not all, of the rituals and celebrations we engage in are tied to our religion. Sometimes even the clothes we wear are determined by our religion.
7. Rituals and Celebrations

Weddings are a great example of a cultural ritual.

A marriage ceremony called jumping over the broom – African American culture

India

Thailand

Jewish

Wedding Ring examples:

Navajo Ring

Traditional American

Toe ring of marriage

Chinese
Photos of some celebrations around the world
8. View of Time

A. Appointment times: In some cultures you must arrive at appointments early, while in some cultures arriving early is rude. In others, you are expected to be right on time. Even within the United States, our view of time depends on which cultural region you live in.

- An even more complex idea is how much time one is allowed to be late before it is considered rude. Around the world times vary, anywhere from 15 minutes to 48 hours late. “Fashionably late”, “Island Time”, and “Greek Time” are terms used in some areas to describe this aspect of time.
B. Within some cultures, reaching a certain age is very important. Listed below are a few of the celebrations associated with coming of age around the world.

- **Quinceañera** – Celebration within Hispanic cultures when a girl turns 15, moving from childhood to young womanhood
- **Cotillion Ball (Debutante Ball)** – Celebration within wealthier communities for girls who are considered old enough to date or marry, usually between 16 -18
- **Sweet 16** - American milestone signifying a girl is now a young woman
- **Bar Mitzvah** – a Jewish person is held accountable for his or her actions at this age – boys at age 13, girls at age 12 in a Bat Mitzvah ceremony.
9. Recreation and Leisure
10. Diet and Food Preparation

- Every culture has food that is unique. In Texan culture it is chicken fried steak, Tex-Mex food and barbeque; in Japanese culture it is sushi and miso soup.
- Some cultures do not eat corn because they consider that animal food. Some cultures eat horse, but not in America because that is considered taboo.
- Food will be influenced by geography and other cultural traits such as religion.

Now that you know the 10 Cultural Universals, let’s learn some helpful vocabulary.
Cultural Norm

- **Cultural (social) norms** are group-held beliefs about how members should behave in a given situation.

- Example:

  Shaking hands after a game to demonstrate good sportsmanship is an example of a social norm.
A single component of culture is called a cultural trait. For instance, the wearing of baseball caps by American teenagers is a trait of American culture that is less common in other places in the world.
Cultural Region

• If an area shares a large number of cultural traits, geographers refer to that place as a **cultural region**.

• In the United States, a region such as New England could be defined as follows: the area in which many people root for the same sports team (the Red Sox), pronounce chowder “chowda”, and use the word *wicked* as an adjective for something extreme, as in “It’s wicked cold out there!”

• What makes the South a cultural region?
Cultural Diffusion

• The movement of cultural traits from one place to another is called cultural diffusion. It generally happens when people, ideas, or things move from a point of origin to another location over time. The spread of English around the globe is an example of cultural diffusion.

The red arrows show you where the English language has spread around the world.
Want to know more about a culture?