Culture

Systems of shared beliefs, traditions, way of life
Cultural Regions

- Cultures are often based on where people are; where they learn basic living skills; family traditions and beliefs
- National cultures typically share religions, languages, common beliefs
- Regions can overlap based on other characteristics (job, education, travel)
How would you describe the culture of America? What descriptions would you provide?
Heavily Populated Cultural Areas of US
Race & Ethnic Groups

- Ethnic groups share religion, language, holiday traditions, foods
  - Also traced to historic roots
- Race is based on inherited physical or biological traits
  - Can be judged by appearance only
  - Differences/stereotypes created inaccurately based on race
- Assimilation/Acculturation
  - Adapting or merging of cultures
Acculturation

Assimilation

Syncretism
Cultural Differences

Languages, symbols, and behaviors are different for different cultures

- Shaking hands
- Clothing or signs for symbols
- Meanings or slang of words, dialects
Cultures develop over time

- **Family influence**
  - Religion
  - Rituals
  - Values/morals
  - Rules

- **History**
  - Different groups experience different events
  - Geographic events create history for specific groups

- **Environment**
  - Natural resources can change the way people live and they adapt to meet the changes
Development of Agriculture

- Cultures adapted to foods available
- Domestication of animals and learning to grow foods allowed for settlement
Agriculture

- Environment
  - Changed the landscape
  - Called for labor
  - Led to disputes over land

- Types of Agriculture
  - Subsistence farming
  - Commercial farming

- Civilization
  - Surplus of food allowed time for people to do other things to make life easier
  - Increased the population
  - Led to complex societies
Regional Foods

- In the South
- In New England
Other Factors on Culture

- Technology
  - Silicon Valley is center of computer technology in America

- Urban versus Rural
  - Urban – in the city
  - Rural – in the country (Outside or urban)

- Geography & Weather
  - Cold versus hot
  - Wet versus dry
Describe your “culture” in America.
What other cultures are around you?
Explain why diversity in culture is a GOOD thing!