

Culture Terms

1. **Culture** – the entire way a group of people lives. This includes the ideas, customs, values, social institutions like marriage, attitudes, music and art, language, technology and traditions of a society.
2. **Culture Traits** – are the individual parts of a culture, which make that one culture different from another culture.
3. **Culture Universals** – are the individual parts of a culture that are basically the same from culture to culture.
4. **Enculturation** – when you learn your role in the society and become part of the culture.
5. **Values** – are the behaviors and beliefs a society thinks are important.
6. **Ethnocentrism** – when people in a culture view the people in another culture as backward or “not as good as us”. Ethnocentric people think their culture is the best way to live because they do not understand how the culture traits of other societies fit together to make a good-working culture.
7. **Stereotyping** – putting people into a group and labeling them because they are similar to that group.
8. **Prejudice** – when you prejudge (think) a person based on their looks or group they belong to without knowing them. This judgment is usually negative.
9. **Discrimination** - unequal treatment (action) of a particular group due to stereotyping or prejudice.
10. **Cultural Diffusion** – when the ideas or products from one country spread to another country.
11. **Taboos** – are things that are forbidden in a culture.
12. **Salad Bowl** – the current way we describe the mix of cultures in the US. It is a united whole made up of varied pieces that each brings a unique flavor to the mix.