

Culture

What it is and how to deal with it.

The word "culture" has literally dozens of definitions, most of which we ignore. For this purpose we are defining the word in the anthropological sense.

Culture = an integrated system of learned behavior patterns that are characteristic of the members of any given society. Culture refers to the total way of life of particular groups of people. It includes everything that a group of people thinks, says, does, and makes- its system of attitudes and feelings. Culture is learned and transmitted from generation to generation.

Culture includes the following:

Manners
Customs
Beliefs
Social institutions
Ceremonies
Religious beliefs
Rituals
Myths and beliefs
Laws

Knowledge
Ideas and thought patterns
Values
Language
Concept of self
Morals and ideals
Accepted ways of behaving
Arts and artifacts
Tools

ACTIVITY

Think about our culture here in the United States and where you will be going. Note the most significant similarities and differences in the cultures.