

What is culture? Everything, from A to Z!

The ABCs of Culture

We do not have a category for either “customs” or “values.”

Customs exist in nearly every category.

Values exist in many categories, especially religion.

Art & Literature - What artforms (painting, music) and literary forms (novel, drama) are typical of this culture?

Buildings - What building (monument, statue, structure) symbolizes this culture?

Communication & Transportation - How is information spread? How does the average person get around?

Dress - What clothing is typical of this culture?

Economy - What drives this economy . . . farms, factories, or services? What is the biggest employer?

Family - What is the status of women and children? How well are women and children treated?

Government - Who has power? How is the average citizen connected to the government?

History - What major event shaped this culture?

Icon - What images cause an immediate emotional response in nearly every person?

Jobs -How does the average person make a living?

Knowledge - How is knowledge (skills, habits, values, attitudes) passed from one generation to the next?

Language - What language do people speak?

Movement & Migration - Who moves into and out of this culture?

National pride - What people, places, or things spark feelings of loyalty and patriotism?

Organizations - In this culture, what are the most important organizations (formal and informal)?

Population - What groups (age, race, religion, language, ethnic group) shape the culture?

Quality of life - Rate the average person's health and happiness.

Religion - What are the religious beliefs and values? What are the traditional holidays, festivals, ceremonies?

Status - What groups (racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, professional) have high and low status?

Taboos - What behavior is totally unacceptable?

Urban or Rural - Do most people live in the city or the countryside?

Vacation & Recreation - What do people do for fun? What are the sports?

Ways of everyday life - In this culture, how do people take care of cooking, shopping, washing clothes?

X marks the spot - - How does geography shape the culture?

Yum - What does the typical family eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner? This culture is famous for what food?

Ztuff - What stuff is typical? (You know, like chopsticks in China.)