

# Teaching Culture

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TCH 347

Social Studies Methods

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# What is Culture?

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- The way of life shared by a group of people
- The sum of manners, attitudes, customs, and beliefs that distinguishes one group of people from another. Culture is transmitted, through languages, material objects, rituals, institutions, and various forms of arts, from one generation to the next.

- <http://www.answers.com/culture&r=67>

# Components of Cultures

by a Cultural anthropological view

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- Belief
- Value
- Religion
- Tradition
- Custom
- Institution
- Social Organizations
- Tools
- Technology
- Aesthetic expressions

# Culture in Social Studies

Culture is Embedded in All Areas and All Levels of Social Studies

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- History
- Geography
- Civics
- Economics
- Current Events
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Psychology
- Philosophy

# Sociology

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- Family
- Community
- Institutions
- Roles of people
- Minority groups
- Interest groups
- Urbanization
- Social change
- Welfare

# Anthropology

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- Race
- Gender
- Family
- Marriage
- Clan
- Governance
- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Civilization
- Language/dialect
- Rituals

# Psychology

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- Attitudes
- Motives
- Interests
- Character
- Belonging
- Emotions
- Feelings
- Relations
- Individual difference
- Self-concept
- Self-actualization
- Personality
- Aggression
- Bravery
- Habits
- Fellowship
- Leadership

# Philosophy

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- The spirit of inquiry: Longing to know and understand, questioning of all things
- Reasoning
  - Inductive & Deductive
  - Analytical & Synthesis
  - Comparative & Classifying
  - Decision-making & Problem-solving
- Particularization/Generalization
- Logical fallacy



# Cultural Comprehension-1

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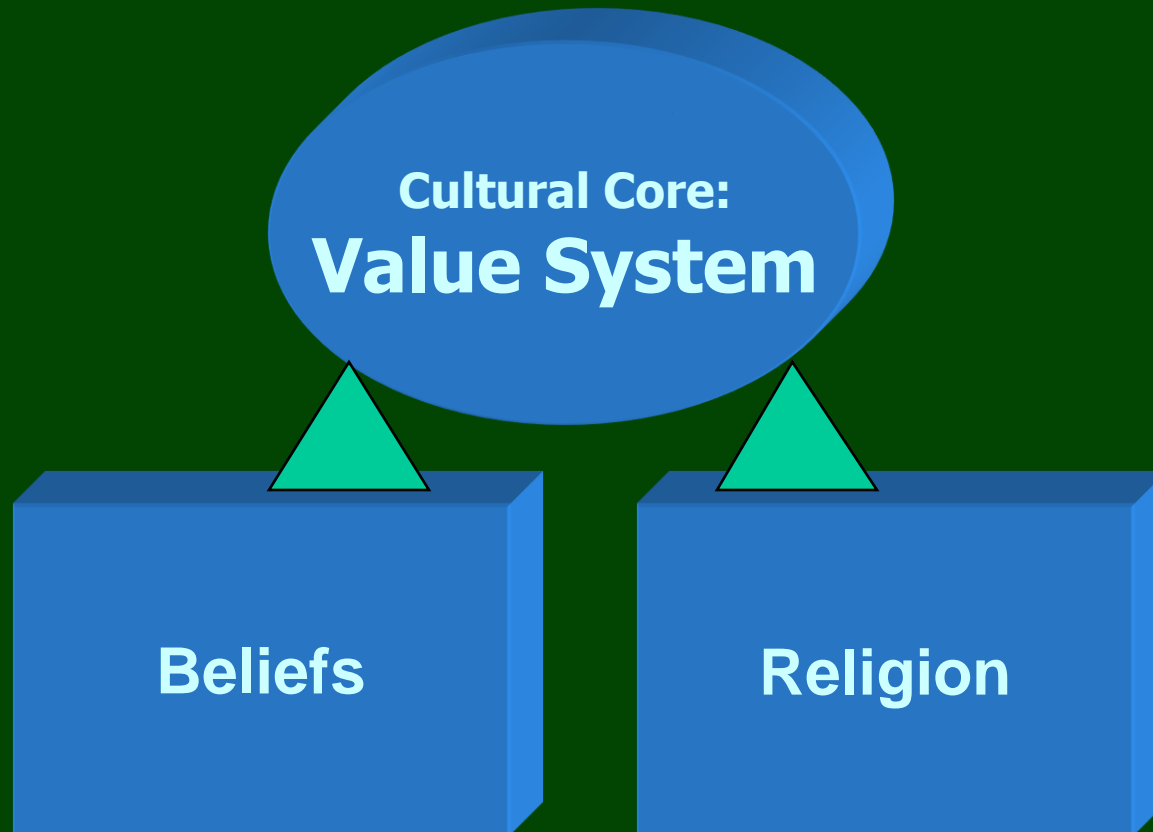
- Level 1: Behaviors
- Level 2: Ideals & Institutions
- Level 3: Values & Beliefs

# Cultural Comprehension-2

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- Vehicles of Culture
  - Language
  - Artifacts
- Impacts of a culture on society
- Core of a culture

# Cultural Core Structure



# American Values

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- Freedom
- Democracy
- Individualism
- Rule by Law
- Hard Work
- Meritocracy
- Puritanism
- Secular Material Success
- Abstinence from temptation
- Avoidance of Favoritism
- Responsibility for the Society

# Guidelines for Teaching Culture

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- **Cultural Commonality** (the Core of American Culture—stemming from Anglo-Western European Macroculture)
- **Cultural Diversity** (cultures-- stemming from countries and regions all over the world)
  - Parker 1997: Being American means being politically one (citizenship identity), while culturally many (other identities)

# Conceptual Approach

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- Manners
- Traditions
- Customs
- Values
- Beliefs
- Civilization
- Community
- Family
- Holidays

# Topical Approach

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- National Holidays
- Food
- Clothing
- Wedding Ceremony
- Color Preference
- Education System
- Religious Belief
- American Symbols



# Inquiry Approach

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- Why do people of different countries wear different clothes?
- Why do you like pizza so much?
- Why are Asians good at math?
- Why do Amish people avoid modern material civilization?
- Why do terrorists hate the United States?



# Reading & Traveling

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- Read thousands of books,  
and travel thousands of miles  
--Chinese proverb on cultural learning
- Field Trip

# Story Telling

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- Teacher & Students tell stories
- Digital story telling
- Guest Speaker

# Activities for Teaching Culture

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- Dancing a culture
- Singing a culture
- Painting/Drawing a culture
- Speaking a culture
- Cooking a culture
- Eating a culture
- Playing a culture
- Dramatizing a culture
- Guessing a culture
- Exhibiting a culture (artifacts)

# Cultural Learning Sources

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- Historic Sites
- Museums
- Scenic Spots
- Festivals
- Music
- Proverb/Idiom
- Friend

# Don't Forget the Basic Skills for Social Studies

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- **Communication and language skills**
  - Vocabulary building
  - Comprehension
  - Decoding
  - Reading
  - Listening
  - Speaking
  - Writing
  - Research
- **Thinking skills**
  - Critical thinking
  - Creative thinking
  - Decision making
  - Problem solving
  - Inductive thinking
  - Deductive thinking
  - Individual inquiry
  - Group inquiry

# Cyberspace Culture

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- What is cyberspace culture
  - Emoticons
  - Email etiquettes
  - Blog etiquettes
  - Chat Room Etiquettes
  - Arts of website
- What is good netizenship
- Your Experiences & Inputs

# Discussing Questions

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- Are there universal values?
- What is the relationship between American values and universal values?
- Do we need a cultural core?
- Should English be the official language of the United States?
- Is America a melting-pot, a mosaic, or a salad?
- How can you take the advantage of diversity to enrich student learning?
- Is culture changing?
- Is culture a glue or a divider?

# Discussing Questions

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- How do you define multiculturalism?
- How to you define cultural identity?



# Online Resources on Teaching Culture

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- **Celebrations of Light**

- [http://www.learner.org/channel/libraries/socialstudies/k\\_2/mesmer/video.html#](http://www.learner.org/channel/libraries/socialstudies/k_2/mesmer/video.html#)

- **Care about the Community**

- [http://www.learner.org/channel/libraries/socialstudies/k\\_2/lerner/video.html#](http://www.learner.org/channel/libraries/socialstudies/k_2/lerner/video.html#)

- **Understanding of Stereotypes**

- [http://www.learner.org/channel/libraries/socialstudies/3\\_5/sinclair/video.html](http://www.learner.org/channel/libraries/socialstudies/3_5/sinclair/video.html)

- **Digital Storytelling**

- <http://www.coe.uh.edu/digital-storytelling/example-pages/social-studies-examples.htm>
- <http://www.coe.uh.edu/digital-storytelling/example-pages/personal-reflection-examples.htm>

- **Understand Culture**

- [http://dir.yahoo.com/Society\\_and\\_Culture/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/)

- **Quizzes on Culture**

- <http://www.fekids.com/img/kln/flash/DontGrossOutTheWorld.swf>
- <http://www.hoggardinternational.com/index.ecs/37>