



Chapter 2

Roots and Meaning of Culture

Components of Culture

Interaction of People and Environment

Roots of Culture

Seeds of Change

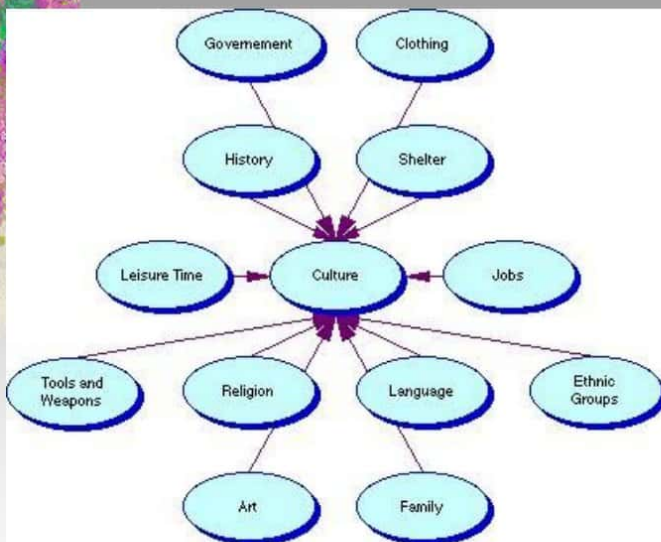
Culture Hearths

The Structure of Culture

Culture Change

Contact between Regions

What is Culture?



- Regional differences that are the essence of Human Geography
- Culture can be visible and invisible
- What are the different elements of culture?

Definition of Culture

- Culture is the specialized behavioral social patterns, understandings, adaptations, and social systems that summarize a group of people's learned way of life.



Culture Displays a Social Structure

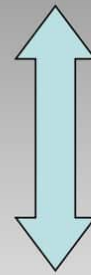


- Framework of roles and interrelationships of individuals and groups.
- Individuals learn and adhere to the rules not only of the culture but of specific subcultures to which he/she belongs.

Components (structure) of Culture

- Culture Traits
- Culture Complex
- Culture Region
- Culture Realm
- Globalization

Small



Large

Culture Traits



- Smallest item of culture-building block of culture.
- Learned behavior ranging from language spoken to tools to games.
- They can be objects, techniques, beliefs, or attitudes.

Culture Complex

- Individual cultural traits that are functionally interrelated.
- Examples include: religious complexes, business behavior complexes, sports complexes.



Culture Regions

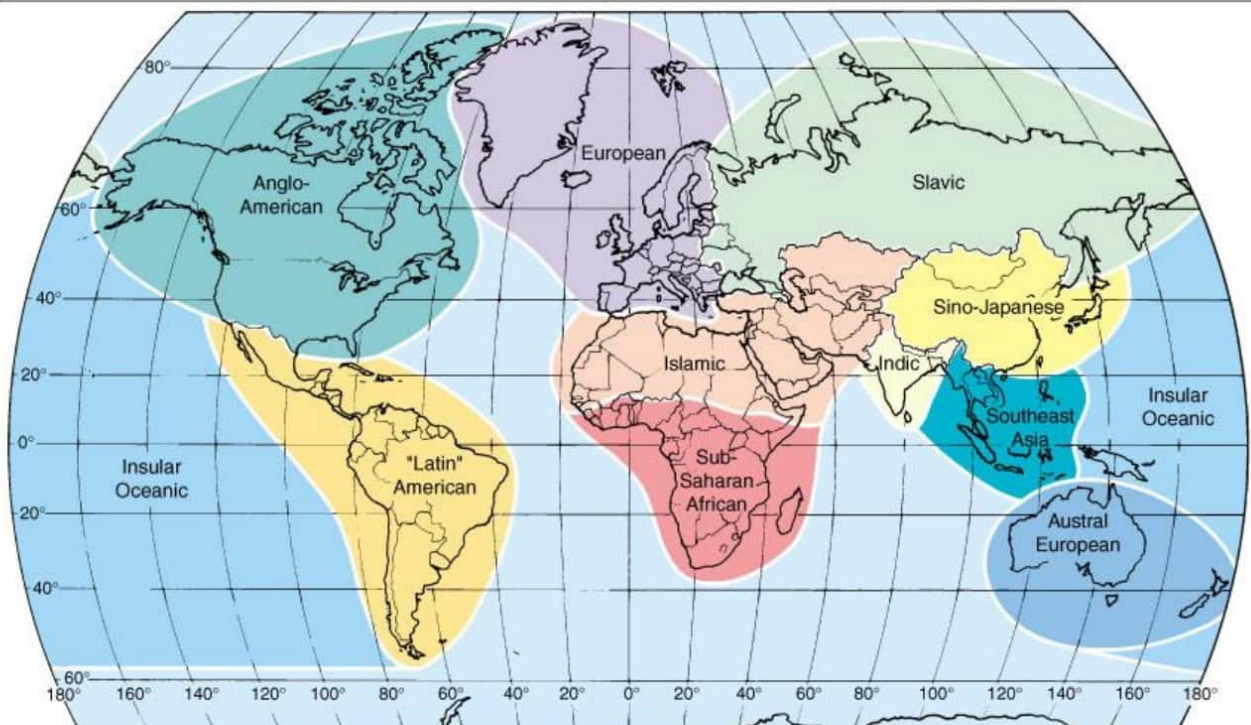


- Culture traits and complexes have areal (spatial) extent.
- Used to show the spatial extent of similar cultural areas.
- Examples - Cajun Region

http://www.louisianamuseums.org/trail/images/map/map_cajun.gif

Culture Realm

- Cultural regions showing similar complexes and landscapes are grouped to form a larger area.



Cultural Realms of the Modern World

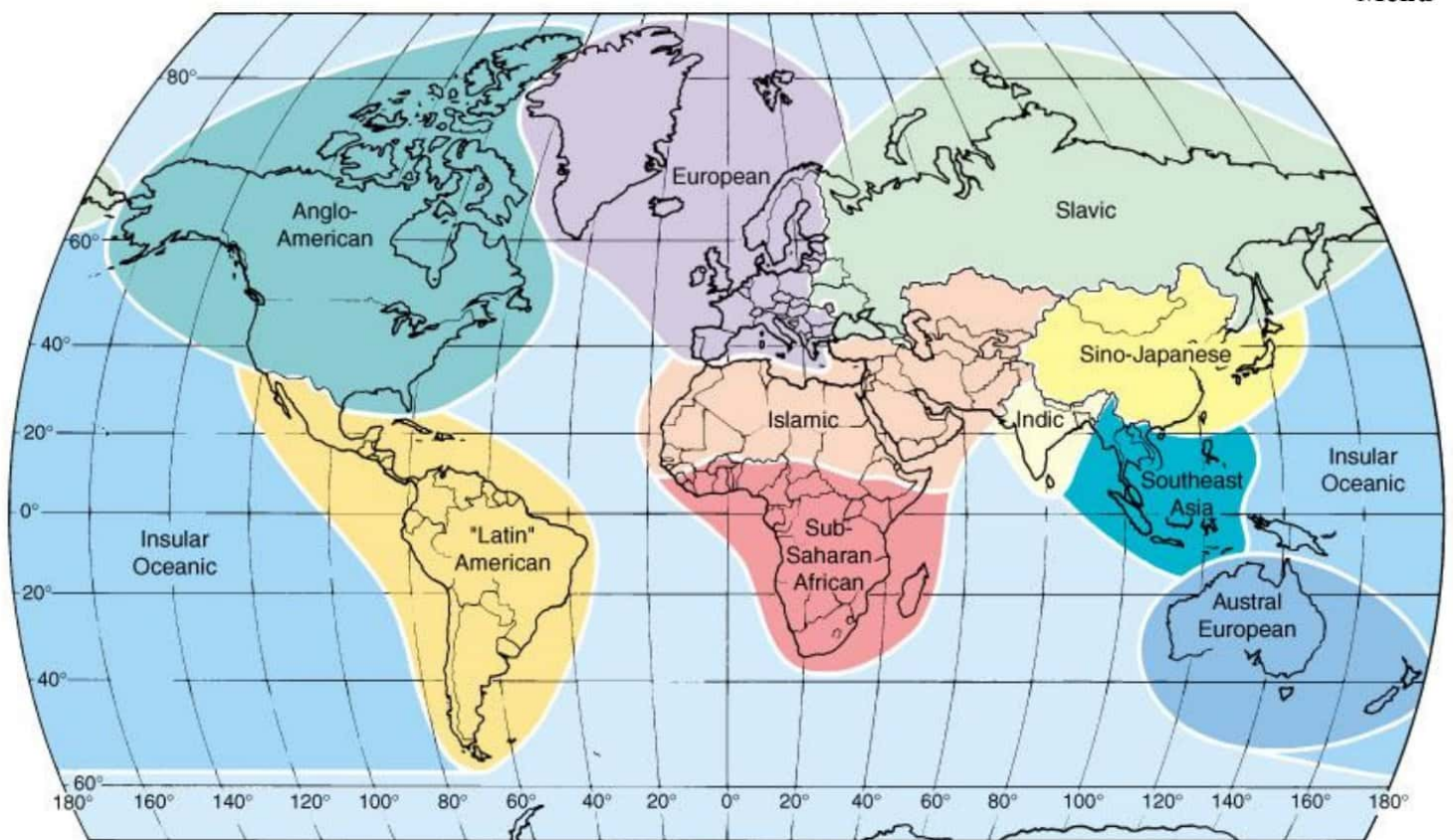
Activity 2 - Label

Realms

Activity 3 - McDonald's

Menu

Figure 2.4



2-1



Structure of Culture

*Two schools - different terms similar
ideas*

Two Schools of Thought to Structure Culture

- Leslie White
 - **Ideological subsystem**
 - Ideas beliefs and knowledge of a culture and the ways these ideas are expressed in speech or other forms of communication.
- Julian Huxley
 - **Mentifacts -**
 - what we ought to believe, value and how we should act

Mythology, theology, legend, literature, philosophy, language, and religion.

White

- **Technological subsystem**
- Material objects, together with the techniques of their use. Tools and weapons.

Huxley

- **Artifacts**
- Material objects, together with the techniques of their use. Tools and weapons.

White

- **Sociological subsystem**
- Sum of those accepted and expected patterns of interpersonal relations that find their outlet in economic, political, military, religious, kinship and other associations.

Huxley

- **Sociofacts**
- Defines the social organization of culture.
- Dictates our social behavior.

Family is best example in our society

Identify each of the following pictures as **artifact**, **sociofact** or **mentifact** - briefly explain your reasons.

It is possible for elements of the pictures to represent a combination of categories.

1.



2. Catholic School Uniform



3.



4.

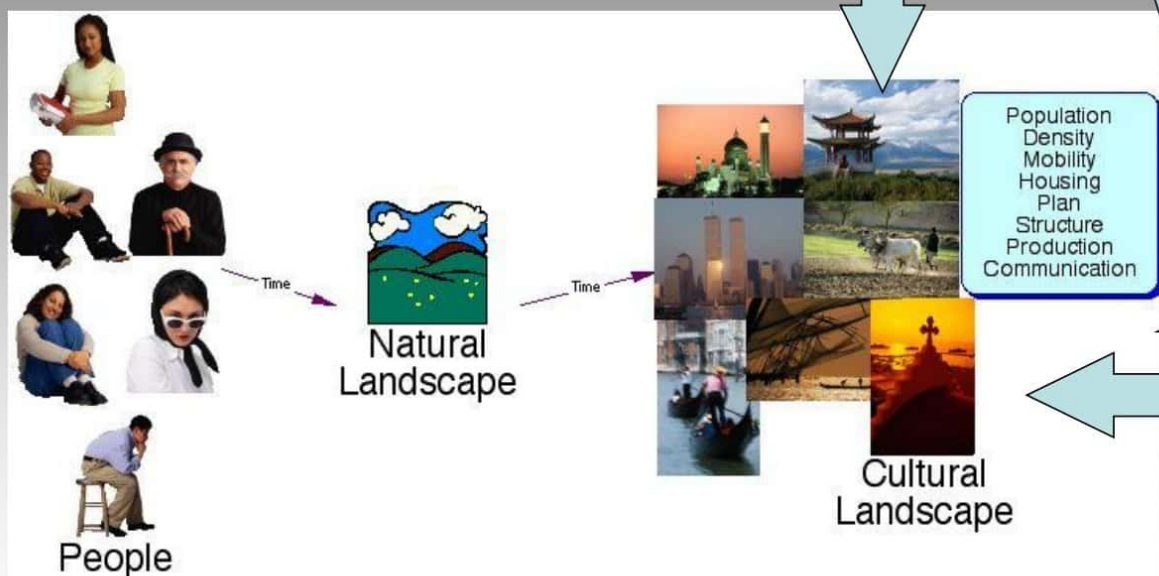


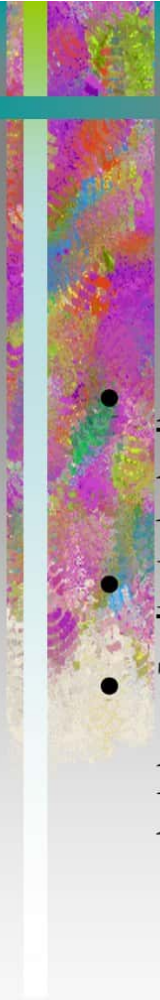
Cultural Landscape - Carl Sauer

Read the passage and draw a graphic illustrating the main ideas of the passage and the relationships between the ideas.


- “The cultural landscape is fashioned from a natural landscape by a cultural group. *Culture* is the agent, the *natural area* is the medium, the *cultural landscape* is the result. Under the influence of a given culture, itself changing through time, the landscape undergoes development, passing through phases, and probably reaching ultimately the end of its cycle of development. With the introduction of a different -that is an alien-culture, a rejuvenation of the cultural sets in, or a new landscape is superimposed on remnants of an older one.”

Sample Cultural Landscape Graphic



- 
- Acculturation: the adoption of the behavior patterns of the surrounding culture
 - Built environment:
 - The part of the physical landscape that represents material culture, including buildings, roads, bridges, etc.

- Cultural convergence: the tendency for cultures to become more alike as they increasingly share technology and organizational structures in a modern world united by improved transportation and communication.
- Environmental determinism: A nineteenth- and early twentieth-century approach to the study of geography that argued that the general laws sought by human geographers could be found in the physical sciences. Geography was therefore the study of how the physical environment caused human activities.

- 
- Environmental perception: The concept that people of different cultures will differently observe and interpret their environment and make different decisions about its nature, potentialities and use.



Mentifacts

- The central, enduring elements of a culture expressing its values and beliefs, including language, religion, folklore, etc.



artifacts

- the material manifestations of culture, including tools, housing, systems of land use, clothing, etc.



sociofacts

- The institutions and links between individuals and groups that unite a culture, including family structure and political, educational and religious institutions.