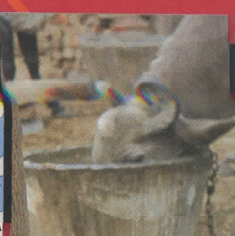
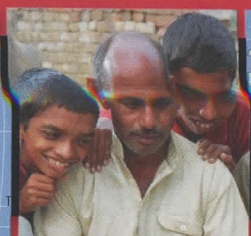


There's More Online!

- ✓ CHART Cultural Universals
- ✓ MAP World Language Families
- ✓ MAP World Culture Hearths
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ VIDEO Global Cultures



LESSON 1

Global Cultures

Reading HELPDESK

Academic Vocabulary

- similar
- major

Content Vocabulary

- culture
- language family
- ethnic group
- culture region
- cultural diffusion
- culture hearth

TAKING NOTES: Key Ideas and Details

IDENTIFYING Use a graphic organizer like the one below to take notes as you read about global cultures in this lesson.

Elements of Culture	Cultural Change

ESSENTIAL QUESTION • How do the characteristics and distribution of human populations affect human and physical systems?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

The world's people organize communities, develop ways of life, and adjust to the differences and similarities they experience. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, cultures spread and are shared. To help understand this cultural diversity, geographers divide the Earth into culture regions, which are defined by the presence of common cultural elements such as language and religion.

Elements of Culture

GUIDING QUESTION What are the elements of culture?

Geographers study **culture**, the way of life of a group of people who share **similar** ways of thinking, believing, and living, expressed in common elements or features. For example, a particular culture can be understood by looking at language, religion, daily life, history, art, government, technology, and economy.

Language is a key element in a culture's development. Through language, people communicate information and experiences and pass on cultural values and traditions. Even within a culture, however, there are language differences. Some people may speak a dialect, or a local form of a language, that differs from the main language. These differences may include variations in the pronunciation and meaning of words.

Linguists, scientists who study languages, organize the world's languages into **language families**—large groups of languages having similar roots. Seemingly diverse languages may belong to the same language family. For example, English, Spanish, and Russian are all members of the Indo-European language family.

Religion is another important element of a culture. Religious beliefs vary significantly around the world. For many people, religion provides an important sense of identity. It also influences many aspects of daily life, from the practice of moral values to the celebration of holidays and festivals. Throughout history, religious symbols and stories have shaped cultural expressions such as literature, painting and sculpture, architecture, and music.

A social system develops to help the members of a culture work together to meet basic needs. In all cultures, the family forms an important group. Most cultures are also made up of social classes, groups of people ranked according to ancestry, wealth, education, or other criteria. Moreover, cultures may include people who belong to different ethnic groups. An **ethnic group** is made up of people who share a common language, history, or place of origin.

Geographers also analyze governments to help understand a culture. Governments of the world share certain features, such as maintaining order within the country, providing protection from outside dangers, and supplying other services to the people. Governments can be categorized by levels of power—national, regional, and local—and by type of authority—a single ruler, a small group of leaders, or a body of citizens and their representatives.

Economic activities also influence and shape a culture. People must make a living, whether in farming, industry, or by providing services. Geographers study how a culture utilizes its natural resources to meet such needs as food and shelter. They also analyze the ways in which people produce, obtain, use, and sell goods and services.

To organize their understanding of cultural development, geographers divide the Earth into culture regions. Each **culture region** includes areas that have certain traits in common. They may share similar economic systems, forms of government, or social groups. Their histories, religions, and art forms may share similar influences.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Explaining Why are social groups important to the development of a culture?

culture way of life of a group of people who share similar culture traits, including beliefs, customs, technology, and material items

similar comparable

language family group of related languages that have all developed from one earlier language

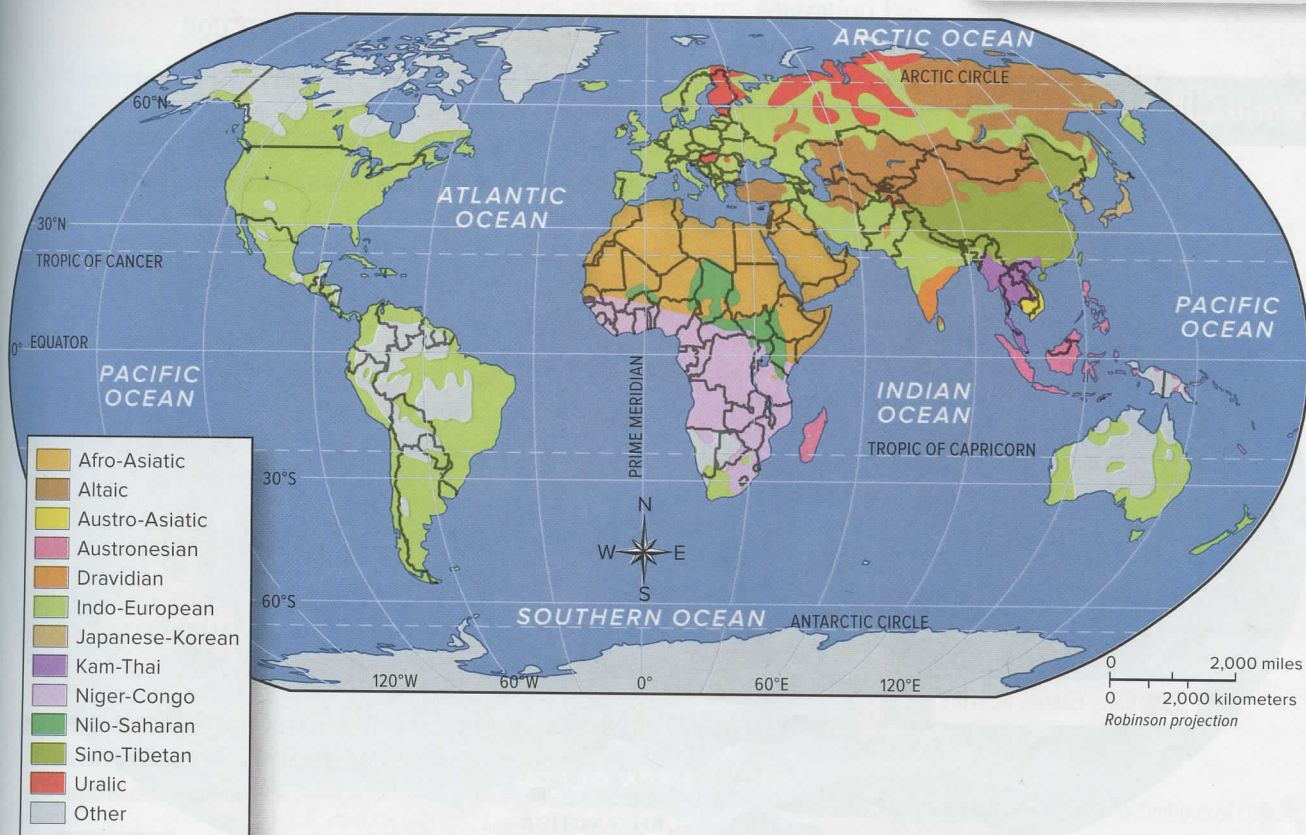
ethnic group group of people who share common ancestry, language, religion, customs, or place of origin

GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

Most languages spoken throughout the world belong to one of 12 language families. Languages within a family have a common origin.

1. **PLACES AND REGIONS** Where are the Dravidian languages spoken?
2. **HUMAN SYSTEMS** Do people within the same language family necessarily speak the same language? Explain your response.

World Language Families



culture region division of the Earth in which people share a similar way of life, including language, religion, economic systems, and values

cultural diffusion the spread of culture traits, material and non-material, from one culture to another

major greater in importance or interest

culture hearth a center where cultures developed and from which ideas and traditions spread outward

Cultural Change

GUIDING QUESTION What are two major ways in which cultures change over time?

Cultures are dynamic and continually changing. Internal factors—new ideas, lifestyles, and inventions—create change within cultures. Change can also come through spatial interaction such as trade, migration, and war. The spread of new knowledge from one culture to another is called **cultural diffusion**. Cultural diffusion has been a **major** factor in cultural development since the dawn of human history, and the pace of cultural change has accelerated in contemporary times. The earliest humans were small groups of hunters and gatherers, who moved from place to place in search of animals to hunt, plants to gather, water, and useful materials. As they migrated, they helped spread culture traits from one group and place to another.

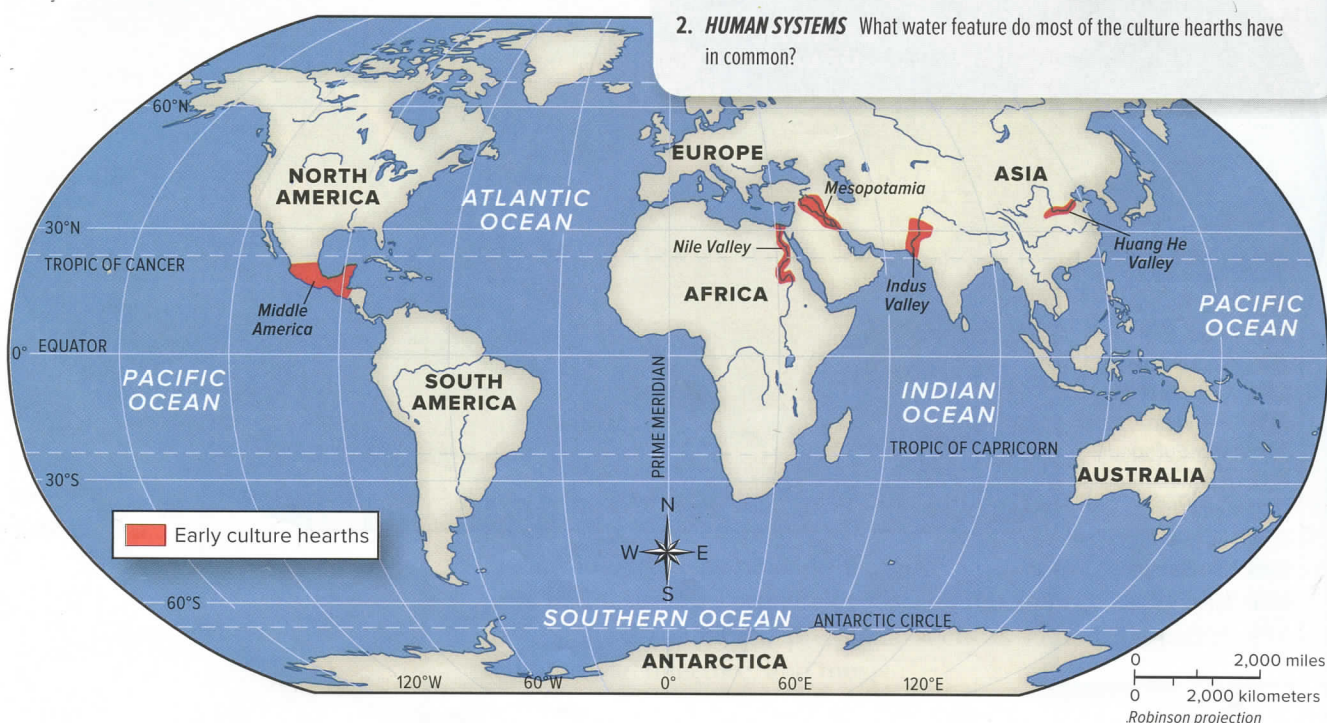
Cultural Change in History

The world's first civilizations arose in **culture hearths**—early centers of civilization whose ideas and practices spread to surrounding areas. The map shows that some of the most influential culture hearths developed in areas that make up the modern countries of Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, China, and Mexico.

These five culture hearths had certain geographic features in common. They all emerged from farming settlements in areas with a mild climate and fertile land. In addition, all five culture hearths were located near a major river or source of water. Making use of favorable environments, the people dug canals and ditches to irrigate the land. All of these factors contributed to what is known as the agricultural revolution, a major shift from food gathering to food production that enabled people to grow surplus crops.

Surplus food set the stage for the rise of cities and civilizations and the development of long-distance trade. The increased wealth from trade led to the rise of cities and complex social systems. These new cities needed a well-organized

World Culture Hearths



GEOGRAPHY CONNECTION

Culture hearths are centers where the world's first civilizations arose.

1. **PLACES AND REGIONS** Where in Asia were the first major settlements located?
2. **HUMAN SYSTEMS** What water feature do most of the culture hearths have in common?

government to coordinate harvests, plan building projects, and manage an army for defense. Officials and merchants created writing systems to record and transmit government and trade information.

Cultural diffusion has increased rapidly during the last 250 years. In the 1700s and 1800s, some countries began to industrialize, using power-driven machines and factories to mass-produce goods. This period is known as the Industrial Revolution. With new production methods, these countries produced goods quickly and cheaply, and their economies changed dramatically. These developments also led to social changes. As people left farms for jobs in factories and mills, cities grew larger.



Cultural Change in the Contemporary World

At the end of the twentieth century, the world experienced a new turning point—the information revolution. Computers now make it possible to store huge amounts of information and instantly send it all over the world, thus allowing more rapid spread of ideas and traditions among the cultures of the world. The Internet has been responsible for communication and socialization around the world via social networking sites and other sites that allow users to share many types of information and stay connected with others. Consequently, the world feels much smaller than it might have previously.

Cultural contact among different peoples promotes cultural change as ideas and practices spread. Computer technology certainly accelerates the spread of cultural change, but other connections among people do as well. Trade and travel are important avenues by which cultural change occurs. Migration has also fostered cultural diffusion. People migrate for many reasons. Positive factors—better social and economic conditions and religious or political freedoms—may draw people from one place to another. Most people move from one place to another in search of better economic opportunity. Negative factors—wars, persecution, and famines—also motivate people to migrate. In some instances, as in the case of enslaved Africans brought to the Americas, mass migrations have been forced. Regardless of the reasons, migrants carry their cultures with them, and their ideas and practices often blend with those of the people already living in the migrants' adopted countries.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Identifying Where were the five earliest culture hearths located?

Contact between different cultures usually leads to change in both systems.

▲ CRITICAL THINKING

- 1. Describing** In what way is this picture an example of cultural contact?
- 2. Speculating** What types of ideas and practices might be exchanged due to this example of cultural contact?

LESSON 1 REVIEW

Reviewing Vocabulary

- 1. Explaining** Explain the relationships between culture, ethnic group, culture region, cultural diffusion, and culture hearth.

Using Your Notes

- 2. Describing** Use your graphic organizer to describe the external factors that change cultures.

Answering the Guiding Questions

- 3. Identifying** What are the elements of culture?
- 4. Drawing Conclusions** What are two major ways in which cultures change over time?

Writing Activity

- 5. Explanatory** Research to find three different definitions of culture. Write a paragraph comparing the definitions.