

What is Culture and Society?

Worksheet

Culture refers to the shared values, norms, symbols, and material objects of a group, while society is the organized population that shares and reproduces that culture across generations.

Questions

1. Which of the following is an example of material culture?

- A) A religious belief
- B) A handshake custom
- C) A wooden statue
- D) A moral value

2. Language, norms, and symbols belong to which type of culture?

- A) Material culture
- B) Non-material culture
- C) Subculture
- D) Counterculture

3. A society is best defined as:

- A) A single ethnic group
- B) An organized population sharing a culture within a territory
- C) A government institution
- D) A religious organization

4. Judging another culture's practices by the standards of your own culture is called:

- A) Cultural relativism
- B) Ethnocentrism
- C) Socialization
- D) Assimilation

5. In Japan, bowing is a common greeting, while in the US, a handshake is standard. Are these examples of material or non-material culture, and why?

6. A national flag is displayed at government buildings and sporting events. Classify this and explain why it matters to society.

7. An immigrant family adopts the language and eating habits of their new country while keeping their traditional religious holidays. What sociological concept does this illustrate?

8. Define: What is culture?

9. Define: What is society?

10. Define: What is material culture?

Answer Key

1. C) A wooden statue - A wooden statue is a physical, tangible object, making it material culture.
2. B) Non-material culture - Non-material culture consists of intangible elements like language, values, and norms.
3. B) An organized population sharing a culture within a territory - Society refers to a structured group of people who share culture and interact within a defined area.
4. B) Ethnocentrism - Ethnocentrism is evaluating other cultures using one's own culture as the standard, often leading to bias.
5. These are examples of non-material culture. Bowing and handshakes are learned norms/customs, not physical objects. They carry symbolic meaning (respect, greeting) shared and understood within each society. Differences show how non-material culture varies across societies while serving a similar social function.
6. A flag is an example of material culture - it is a physical, tangible object. However, it also carries strong non-material meaning (national identity, values, unity). This shows material and non-material culture are often linked: an object symbolizes shared beliefs. Societies use such symbols to reinforce collective identity and cohesion.
7. This illustrates cultural adaptation / partial assimilation, alongside cultural retention. The family adopts new non-material culture (language) for practical integration into the new society. They retain their original culture (religious holidays), showing culture is not simply replaced but blended. This demonstrates how individuals navigate multiple cultural memberships within one society.
8. The shared beliefs, values, norms, symbols and material objects that members of a group use to understand their world.
9. An organized group of people who share a culture and interact within a defined territory.
10. The physical, tangible objects a group creates and uses, like tools, clothing, and buildings.

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.