

BIG IDEAS

Understanding the diversity and complexity of cultural expressions in one culture enhances our understanding of other cultures.

Interactions between belief systems, social organization, and language influence artistic expressions of culture.

Geographic and environmental factors influenced the development of agriculture, trade, and increasingly complex cultures.

Value systems and belief systems shape the structures of power and authority within a culture.

Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions • Assess and compare the significance of cultural expressions at particular times and places (historical significance) • Evaluate inferences about the content, origins, purposes, context, reliability, and usefulness of multiple sources from the past and present (evidence) • Analyze continuities and changes in diverse cultures at different times and places (continuity and change) • Assess the development and impact of the thought, artistic expressions, power and authority, and technological adaptations of diverse cultures (cause and consequence) • Explain different perspectives on past and present cultures (perspective) • Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment) 	<p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • definitions of culture and how these have changed over time • elements of culture and cultural expressions • conflict and conflict resolution within and between cultures • systems of power, authority, and governance • role of value systems and belief systems in the development of cultures • interactions and exchanges between cultures • interactions between cultures and the natural environment

Content – Elaborations

definitions of culture and how these have changed over time:*Sample topics:*

- terminology such as civilized and uncivilized
- Eurocentric perspectives when defining culture

elements of culture and cultural expressions:*Sample topics:*

- language
- key forms of artistic expression
- use of symbols and imagery
- cultural archetypes
- materials and techniques used by different cultures

conflict and conflict resolution within and between cultures:*Sample topics:*

- conquest of territory and the treatment of conquered people
- military alliances and diplomacy
- conflicts over values or ideas
- conflicts over resources and wealth

systems of power, authority, and governance:*Sample topics:*

- leadership roles within cultures
- informal and formal leadership
- institutions of authority
- process for making and enforcing laws

role of value systems and belief systems in the development of cultures:*Sample topics:*

- religious doctrines
- values and morals
- philosophical beliefs
- myths, legends, and heroes

interactions and exchanges between cultures:*Sample topics:*

- exchanges of ideas and cultural transmission

Content – Elaborations

- spread of technologies
- spread of religion and philosophy
- land-based and sea-based trade between cultures

interactions between cultures and the natural environment:*Sample topics:*

- climate and native plants and animals
- natural resources and economic development

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