Chapter 3
Population and Culture
Chapter 3: Population and Culture

Section 1: The Study of Human Geography

Section 2: Political and Economic Systems
• Why is population density distributed unevenly around the world?
• What are some possible effects of population growth?
• What are some of the elements of culture?
• How do cultures change?
Chapter 3, Section 1
Where People Live
More than 6 billion people live on the earth, and in some areas the population density, or average number of people who live in a square mile or square kilometer, is very high.

Only a small portion of the earth’s surface is suitable for human habitation.

People have adapted to different environments, and at the same time human activity has altered the earth’s physical landscape.
• The world’s population has grown dramatically in recent centuries.
• Modern technology, such as improved medical care and increased food production, has enabled people to live much longer, but it poses a special problem for poorer countries.
• Some demographers predict population growth will bring famine, disease, and resource depletion, but others predict that levels of technology and creativity will increase.
• Different countries have different balances between the birthrate, or the number of live births per 1,000 people per year, and the death rate.
• Population is affected by the number of immigrants and emigrants.
• Many people live in metropolitan areas, and the process of growth of city populations, or urbanization, is going on throughout the world.
• Culture is reflected in material ways, such as food, clothing, and architecture, and in nonmaterial ways, such as language and government.

• A culture hearth is a place where important ideas begin and spread to surrounding cultures.

• Language is the cornerstone of culture and reflects a culture’s identity.

• Religion helps people understand basic questions about the meaning of life, and religious beliefs vary from culture to culture.

• Every culture has a way of organizing its society, and most have social classes that rank people in order of status.

• In many cultures, social mobility is restricted, and limits are often imposed upon women and ethnic or religious minorities.
### Cultural Change

#### Meaning | Outline character about 3000 B.C. | Sumerian about 2000 B.C. | Babylonian about 500 B.C.
--- | --- | --- | ---
Sun | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol]
God or heaven | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol]
Mountain | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol]
Ox | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol]
Fish | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol] | ![Symbol]
Cultures are changed by both internal and external influences.

Many cultural changes result from the invention of new items or new ways of doing things.

**Cultural convergence** occurs when the skills, arts, ideas, habits, and institutions of one culture come into contact with those of another culture.

**Diffusion** is the process by which a cultural element is transmitted from one group to another.

**Cultural divergence**, or restriction from outside influences, occurs when cultural contact is limited.
Section 1 Review

How has improved medical care affected population growth?

a) It has reduced population growth.
b) It has dramatically increased population growth.
c) It has led to a decline in population.
d) It has had no effect on population growth.

The process by which a cultural element is transmitted between groups is called

a) convergence.
b) divergence.
c) diffusion.
d) revolution.

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Want to connect to the World Geography link for this section? [Click Here!]
• What are four characteristics shared by all countries?
• How do various types of government differ from one another?
• How do various types of economic systems differ from one another?
Each country has four specific characteristics: a defined territory, a population, a sovereignty, and a government.

A country’s territory includes the land, water, and natural resources within its boundaries.

Natural resources can be more important than a country’s size.

In return for taxes, military service, or other obligations, citizens of countries are usually assured protection by their government.

Sovereignty is a nation’s freedom from outside control.

A sovereign country is one that determines its own policies and actions.
Government is the institution through which a society makes and enforces its public policies and provides for its common needs.

**Government Structure**
- A **unitary system** is one in which the central government makes decisions for the entire country.
- In a **federation**, the national government has some powers and others are reserved for local governments.
- Smaller political units keep their sovereignty and give the central government few powers in a **confederation**.

**Government Authority**
- Until modern times, most countries had **authoritarian** governments.
- A **dictatorship** is a government in which power is concentrated in few people, and **totalitarianism** is the most extreme form of dictatorship.
- The most common form of authoritarian government has been **monarchy**.
- Any country in which people choose their own leaders and set government policy is a **democracy**.
Types of Economic Systems

- **In a traditional economy**, nearly all goods and services produced by people are consumed by their own families or villages.

- **A market economy** is an economy in which individuals and groups have a great deal of freedom, and decisions are influenced by the “laws of supply and demand.”

- **A command economy** is an economic system that is controlled by a single, central government, and decisions are made to achieve political or social goals.

- **A mixed economy**, like socialism, includes elements of market and command economies.
In a confederation, smaller political units

a) have little power, and the central government makes all the decisions.

b) have powers reserved to them that the central government does not have.

c) retain their sovereignty, while the central government is very limited.

d) do not exist at all.

Socialism is an example of a

a) traditional economy.

b) market economy.

c) command economy.

d) mixed economy.

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