

## Social 8- Culture Topic One: What is Culture?

**Culture** can be defined as a learned way of living that is shared by a group of people. The way of life of a group of people.

Cultures tend to have similarities because all humans have similar needs and wants to be filled ~food, housing, transportation, family, love, creative expression, entertainment...etc

Cultures differ because of location, geography, beliefs, circumstances, etc.

**Diversity** is normal and should be respected by all.

### Cultural Patterns

Countries like Canada, which consist of people from many cultures and ethnic backgrounds are called **multicultural nations**.

- When diverse cultures are respected, people of many cultures live in harmony.
- Sometimes (in the past and today) one culture believes that it is superior and others should change- this is called **ethnocentric**.
- **Ethnocentrism**- this term describes the attitude that one culture is best and that all cultures should be compared with that.
- When cultures are absorbed into another (made to be the same) it is called **assimilation**.

When people of another culture enter a new country they must adapt or assimilate to some degree. The immigrants cultural patterns of economics, politics and education must comply with the laws and citizenship expectations of their new country. However, Canada has a multicultural policy that ensures that diverse cultures can maintain their own cultural heritages within the laws of Canada.

**Acculturation**- a process of intercultural borrowing resulting in new and blended patterns.

### Cultural Similarities

- Religion/spirituality ✓
- Values + Traditions
- Games ✓
- Music ✓
- Rites of passage
- Education ✓
- Leadership ✓
- Family units ✓
- Traditions

One way to look at cultural similarities is to use "patterns of culture".