**What is Culture**

Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, defined by everything from language, religion, cuisine, [social](http://www.livescience.com/21478-what-is-culture-definition-of-culture.html) habits, music and arts. It also could be defined as shared patterns of behaviors and interactions, cognitive constructs and understanding that are [learned](http://www.livescience.com/21478-what-is-culture-definition-of-culture.html) by socialization. Thus, it can be seen as the growth of a group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group.

The word "culture" derives from a French term, which in turn derives from the Latin "colere," which means to tend to the earth and grow, or cultivation and nurture. Many countries are populated by immigrants who bring their own cultures with them, which influences the culture of their new home country. This is also a part of growth, as the countries grow, so does its cultural diversity.  This diversity can cause occasional problems when one group of people is unfamiliar with another group’s culture. Another person’s or group’s culture might seem strange and even offensive when someone doesn’t understand another’s culture.



**Western culture**

The term "Western culture" has come to define the culture of European countries as well as those that have been heavily influenced by European immigration, such as the United States. Western culture has its roots in the Classical Period of the Greco-Roman era and the rise of Christianity in the 14th century. Other drivers of Western culture include Latin, Celtic, Germanic and Hellenic ethnic and linguistic groups. Today, the influences of Western culture can be seen in almost every country in the world.

**Eastern culture**

Eastern culture generally refers to the societal norms of countries in Far East Asia (including [China](http://www.livescience.com/28823-chinese-culture.html), Japan, Vietnam, North Korea and South Korea) and the Indian subcontinent. Like the West, Eastern culture was heavily influenced by religion during its early development, but it was also heavily influenced by the growth and harvesting of rice. In general, in Eastern culture there is less of a distinction between secular society and religious philosophy than there is in the West.

**Latin culture**

Many of the Spanish-speaking nations are considered part of the Latin culture, while the geographic region is widespread. Latin America is typically defined as those parts of the Central America, South America and Mexico where Spanish or Portuguese are the dominant languages. Originally, the term “Latin America” was used by French geographers to differentiate between Anglo and Romance (Latin-based) languages. While Spain and Portugal are on the European continent, they are considered the key influencers of what is known as Latin culture, which denotes people using languages derived from Latin, also known as Romance languages.

**Middle Eastern culture**

The countries of the Middle East have some but not all things in common. This is not a surprise, since the area consists of approximately 20 countries. The Arabic language is one uniting element that is common throughout the region; however, the wide variety of dialect can sometimes make communication difficult. Religion is another cultural area that the countries of the Middle East have in common.  The Middle East is the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**African culture**

The continent of Africa is essential to all cultures. Human life originated on this continent and began to migrate to other areas of the world around 60,000 years ago. Africa is home to a number of tribes, ethnic and social groups. One of the key features of this culture is the large number of ethnic groups throughout the 54 countries on the continent. Nigeria alone has more than [300 tribes](http://www.onlinenigeria.com/tribes/), for example.

Currently, Africa is divided into two cultural groups: North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. This is because Northwest Africa has strong ties to Middle East, while Sub-Africa shares historical, physical and social characteristics that are very different from North Africa. The harsh environment has been a large factor in the development of Sub-Saharan Africa culture, as there are a number of languages, cuisines, art and musical styles that have sprung up among the far-flung populations.

**Group Culture**Traditionally culture has only been based on what part of the world a particular group originated. Currently, culture isn’t just based on the country you come from or where you live now, it also is based on informal group associations. These groups could be based on your interests, neighborhood, family, style of clothing, age, and even your sexual orientation.