Cultural Patterns and Processes

AP Human Geography · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
Culture /ˈkʌltʃə/	Food, music and religion are all parts of **culture**.
Material culture /məˈtɪərɪəl ˈkʌltʃə/	Clothes, houses and tools are **material culture**.
Nonmaterial culture /ˌnɒnməˈtɪərɪəl ˈkʌltʃə/	Beliefs, values and language are **nonmaterial culture**.
cultural trait /ˈkʌltʃərəl treɪt/	Eating with chopsticks is a **cultural trait**.
Cultural relativism /ˈkʌltʃərəl ˈrelətɪvɪzəm/	**Cultural relativism** means judging a custom by the values of its own culture.
cultural landscape /ˈkʌltʃərəl ˈlændskeɪp/	Temples, rice fields and street signs are part of the **cultural landscape**.
Sequent occupance /ˈsiːkwənt ˈɒkjʊpəns/	Old Dutch houses next to new Chinese shops show **sequent occupance** in the town.
Ethnic enclaves /ˈeθnɪk ˈeŋkleɪvz/	Chinatown in San Francisco is one of the oldest **ethnic enclaves** in the USA.
Centripetal forces /senˈtrɪpɪtl ˈfɔːsɪz/	A shared language and a national flag are **centripetal forces** that hold a country together.
centrifugal forces /ˌsentrɪˈfjuːgl ˈfɔːsɪz/	Religious conflict is one of the **centrifugal forces** that can pull a country apart.
Acculturation /əˌkʌltʃəˈreɪʃn/	**Acculturation** happens when migrants start to use some customs of their new home.

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assimilation /əˌsɪmɪˈleɪʃn/	**Assimilation** happens when migrants fully adopt the new culture.
syncretism /ˈsɪŋkrɪtɪzəm/	Mixing old local gods with a new religion is an example of **syncretism**.
lingua franca /ˈlɪŋgjuːə ˈfræŋkə/	English is a **lingua franca** in many international meetings. English
Diffusion /dɪˈfjuːʒn/	The **diffusion** of mobile phones around the world was very fast.
hearth /hɑːθ/	The Middle East was a **hearth** of early farming.
Relocation diffusion /rɪləʊˈkeɪʃn dɪˈfjuːʒn/	Migrants who open Chinese restaurants abroad cause **relocation diffusion**.
Expansion diffusion /ekˈspænʃn dɪˈfjuːʒn/	**Expansion diffusion** spreads an idea outward while it stays strong where it began.
Contagious /kənˈteɪdʒəs/	**Contagious** diffusion spreads an idea from person to person, like a disease.
Hierarchical /haɪəˈrɑːkɪkl/	**Hierarchical** diffusion spreads a trend from big cities to smaller towns.
Stimulus /ˈstɪmjʊləs/	**Stimulus** diffusion spreads the idea but changes its form, like a vegetarian burger in India. India
colonialism /ˈkɒləʊnɪəlɪzəm/	Under **colonialism**, European countries ruled large parts of Africa and Asia. Europe Africa Asia
imperialism /ɪmˈpɪərɪəlɪzəm/	**Imperialism** is one country ruling others.

Word	Example
globalisation /ˌgləʊbəlaɪˈzeɪʃn/	**Globalisation** links countries through trade, money and ideas.
Universalising religions /juːnɪˈvɜːsəlaɪzɪŋ rɪˈlɪdʒnz/	Christianity and Islam are **universalising religions** that try to win new followers everywhere. Christianity Islam
Ethnic religions /ˈeθnɪk rɪˈlɪdʒnz/	Hinduism and Judaism are **ethnic religions** linked to one people and place. Hinduism Judaism
language families /ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ ˈfæmɪliz/	English and German belong to the same **language families**. English German
dialects /ˈdaɪəlekts/	People in the north and south of the country speak different **dialects**.
Cultural convergence /ˈkʌltʃərəl kənˈvɜːdʒəns/	**Cultural convergence** happens when people around the world watch the same films and eat the same food.
Cultural divergence /ˈkʌltʃərəl daɪˈvɜːdʒəns/	**Cultural divergence** happens when a group keeps away from outside ideas.
toponym	"Newcastle" is a **toponym** that tells us a new castle was once built there. "Newcastle"
time-space compression /taɪm speɪs kəmˈpreʃn/	The internet causes **time-space compression**: a friend far away now feels close.
Korean Wave	The **Korean Wave** brought K-pop and Korean TV dramas to fans around the world. K-pop
multiculturalism /ˌmʌltɪˈkʌltʃərəlɪzəm/	**Multiculturalism** lets many groups keep their own traditions in one country.

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