Barrier
1. A fence or other obstacle that prevents movement or access.
2. A circumstance or obstacle that keeps people or things apart or prevents communication or progress.
   [http://www.onelook.com](http://www.onelook.com)

Cross-cultural contacts
Outside influences that stimulate cultural change. The Silk Road brought silk to the West and Buddhism to China in the East.

Cultural change
A shift that may occur within a culture usually as a result of outside influences.

Cultural communities
Groups that have a number of cultural traits in common. Most countries include a mosaic of many cultural communities.

Cultural competency
The ability to provide services to clients that honor different cultural beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes and behaviors and the use of multi-cultural staff in the policy development, administration and provision of those services.
Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Title V Block Grant Program Guidance, 2003
[https://www.childhealthdata.org/about-us/glossary](https://www.childhealthdata.org/about-us/glossary)

Cultural components
Attributes that vary from culture to culture, including religion, language, architecture, cuisine, technology, music, dance, sports, medicine, dress, gender roles, laws, education, government, agriculture, economy, grooming, values, work ethic, etiquette, courtship, recreation, and gestures.

Cultural diffusion
The spread of a culture and/or an individual trait, and the factors that account for such a spread.

Cultural interaction
The interconnectedness of various cultural components.

Cultural landscape
The natural landscape as modified by human activities and bearing the imprint of a culture group or society including buildings, shrines, signage, sports and recreational facilities, economic and agricultural structures, transpiration systems, etc.

Cultural practices
Ways of life that are unique to the inhabitants of a particular area.
**Cultural stereotype**
The misrepresentation of a culture that often involves a particular people’s clothing, good, and/or shelter, and most often rests on the notion that certain people live pretty much as did their distant ancestors (e.g., the Inuits are portrayed dressed in animal skins, carrying spears, and living in igloos with dog sleds parked outside; in reality, modern Inuits live much like other North Americans).

**Cultural traits**
Individual tool, act, or belief that is related to a particular situation or need. Seven major traits of culture are: culture is learned, culture is transmitted, culture is based on symbols, culture is changeable, culture is integrated, culture is ethnocentric, and culture is adaptive.
http://www.merriam-webster.com

**Culture**
1. The knowledge, attitude and behavior shared by a large group of people (manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, etc.) It is what a person has learned from their environment and surroundings and it is passed on from generation to generation. Culture is learned, is collective and changes over time.
www.dictionary.com
2. Culture is the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization (a corporate culture focused on the bottom line)
http://www.merriam-webster.com

**Culture areas**
Regions with shared cultural traits (e.g. sub-Saharan Africa).

**Diversity**
The condition of having or including people from different ethnicities and social backgrounds.
http://www.onelook.com

**Environment**
The overall setting, including natural elements and elements created by humans, in which a world community exists.

**Ethnic change**
A situation in which one cultural community is expanding or contracting in opposition to another, often leading to an atmosphere of tension and conflict between communities.

**Ethnic groups**
A collection of people distinguished, by others or themselves, primarily on the basis of cultural or nationality characteristics.

**Generalization**
A principle, statement, or idea having general application.
http://www.onelook.com

**Global diversity**
The existence of thousands of cultures having similarities and differences in language, socioeconomic class, religion, and other human traits.
**Human geography**
The study of the distribution of human populations, their cultures, their activities and behaviors, and their relationship with and impact on the physical landscapes they occupy.

**Language**
A symbol form of communication – perhaps the most important feature of a culture.

**Migration**
The permanent (or relatively permanent) relocation of an individual or group to a new usually distant, place of residence and employment.

**Multicultural**
Many cultures coexisting in a similar time and place.

**“Nature or Nurture”**
Whether it is our inherited genetic predisposition (“nature”) or what we learn as we grow up (“nurture”) that predominantly shapes us and our differences as individuals.

**Race**
Features (e.g., skin, hair, and eye color) that are genetic (inherited) and shared by a large group of people. Social scientists now doubt whether race is a useful concept.

**Rural**
Having to do with the countryside; rustic; away from cities and suburbs.

**Shrinking global communities**
As communication and transportation technology has improved, the ability of groups of people to interact quickly across time and space has made distance across the globe and between communities seem shorter.

**Stereotype**
Conventional, formulaic, and oversimplified conception, opinion or image. One that is regarded as embodying or conforming to a set image or type.

**Suburban**
Having to do with a district, town, village, etc. on the outskirts of a city.

**Symbolic meanings**
Words or other communicative things such as gestures or pictures that stand for something else.

**Tolerance**
The capacity for or the practice of recognizing and respecting the beliefs or practices of others.

**Urban**
Having to do with cities, or characteristics of cities.

**Westernization**
The process in which non-Western societies acquire Western culture traits, which are adopted in varying degrees of thoroughness.