

7 Elements of Culture (2008) Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: _____ /20

Directions: **Highlight the answers in the text on the left before answering the questions on the right.**

Region is defined as an area that can be grouped together by common characteristics or traits.

There are many regions in the world ~ physical (mountain ranges,) vegetation, political, & religious to name a few. However, there are other types of regions that are invisible & can't be "seen." These regions are based on culture.

Culture is the way of life of a specific group of people including their daily habits, beliefs & arts. Their language, religion, & ethnic heritage are parts of the culture that make up their cultural region. Cultures are *constantly* changing through their interaction with other cultures. This interaction is the exchange of ideas & customs leading to a fascinating & complex world that we live in today.

Geography is the "key element" of culture because **environment** *shapes* each region. Where we live *affects* a culture's customs & traditions (a way of life). It also influences what a people will value or or worship. It affects the color of one's skin based on the amount of pigment in one's skin (**melanin**) & even the shape of their eyes. The amount & types of resources in their environment will also influence their economy (or wealth of a country). Lastly, what is grown agriculturally will determine what crops are harvested & provided for its people based on their geography.

The way a society is built on a **hierarchy** (or order of importance) within a group of people is called **social organization**. Therefore, most (though fewer in number) of the *important* people are at or near the top with those of *less* importance or status below. Family lineage (or **ancestry**) are usually based on **patrilineal** or **matrilineal** heritage. **Pa**trilineal is based on the father's family history while **ma**trilineal is based on the mother's history.

Another element of culture is made up of **customs & traditions**. These are the *rules of behavior* for a given society & can also be thought of as "unwritten rules" that keep people in line. These customs also include **taboos** ~ things that are *forbidden* by or are considered *unmentionable* by a society.

Define region: _____

_____ (2 pts)



Culture is _____.

- based on one's ethnic heritage, religion & language
- a way of life of a specific group
- constantly changing
- a combination of their habits, arts, & beliefs
- an exchange of ideas & customs
- all the above

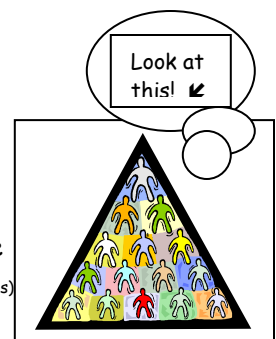
A **synonym** for **environment** is _____. (Use a thesaurus!)

- setting
- milieu
- location
- surroundings
- a, c, & d only
- all the above

Drawing conclusions: If someone develops a **melanoma**, you could *conclude* that it is a *disease of the* _____.

(Clue: It's a **synonym** for **epidermis**.) ☺

Note: (**Few / most** ← circle 1) of the people are *at the top* & (**few / most** ← circle 1) of the people are *at the bottom* of the **hierarchical social pyramid**. (2 pts)



Matching: (2 pts)

- _____ **matrilineal** a. based on the man's family
_____ **patrilineal** b. based on the woman's family

Making connections to your culture:

Give an **example of a custom** you & your family share: _____

Give an **example of a taboos** in our society: _____ (2 pts.)

