What is Culture?

Culture is the patterns of daily life learned consciously and unconsciously by a group of people. These patterns can be seen in language, governing practices, arts, customs, holiday celebrations, food, religion, dating rituals and clothing, etc.

**Culture Shapes . . .**

* The way we think (cognition)
* The way we interact (behavior)
* The way we communicate (language)
* The way we transmit knowledge to the next generation (education)

*Adapted From Catherine Collier, 1998*

**Iceberg of Culture**



**Surface Culture**

* Music, visual and performing arts, drama
* Holiday celebrations and folklore
* Food/drink
* Traditional dress
* Historical contributions
* Outward displays of behavior and identity

**Deep Culture**

* Thoughts, beliefs, superstitions, religion
* Concerns, hopes, fears, worries, ethics, and how you organize your thinking and world
* Symbolic and intangible aspects of identity
* Subtle interpersonal relationships as expressed in actions and words
* Day-by-day details of life as it is lived