

**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN**

To explain how regions may be defined by cultural features

**READING STRATEGY**

Create a diagram like the one below. In each section, write one element of culture and give an example of it from the United States.

**TERMS TO KNOW**

industrialization, developed country, developing country, economic system, free enterprise, socialism, culture region

**H**ave you ever traveled to a place where the people were very different from you? What made them different? Was it the language they spoke? The clothes they wore? Did they use money that was strange to you?

A people's way of life is called culture. Culture includes many things, however, some of the most important elements of culture are language, religion, government, the use of technology, and type of economic system.

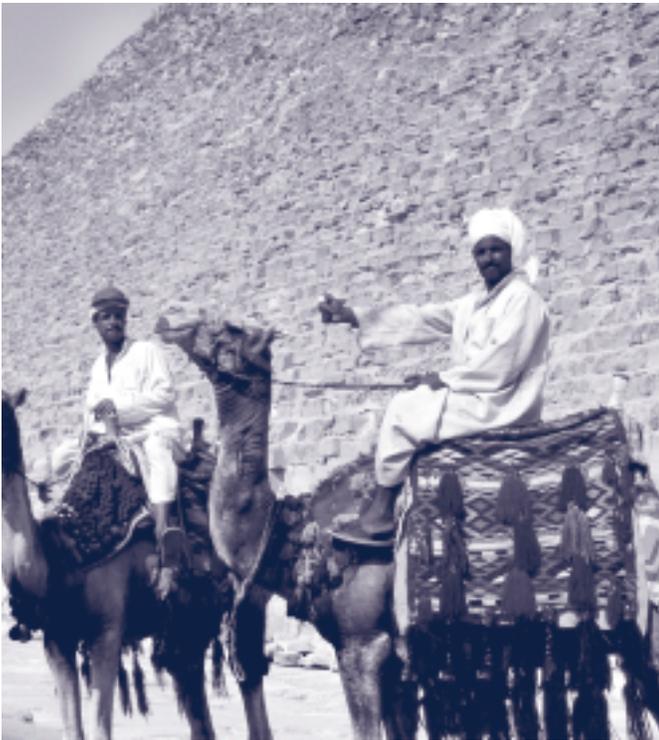
**Elements of Culture**

Language is an important element of culture. People who speak the same language feel that they are part of the same group. Think about how you feel when you hear people speaking a language you cannot understand. Speaking different languages keeps people apart. Speaking the same language draws people together. Geographers sometimes divide the world into regions based on the languages that people speak.

Another element of culture is religion. There are many different religions in the world. In some countries, most of the people follow one religion. In other countries there are several religions that different groups of people practice. The world can be divided into regions based on the religions that people follow.

The type of government a people has is an important part of culture. In some countries, people make their own laws. In other countries the rulers make the laws. In Lesson 7 of this unit you saw an example of how the world can be divided into political regions based on the kind of government people have. In the past, there were many countries in Europe that had communist forms of government. Together these countries were called the Communist World. However, great changes took place in the 1980s and 1990s and communist governments ceased to exist in some countries. As a result, there is no longer a region called the Communist World.

You have read that technology is the use of tools and skills to make life easier. In some parts of the world, people use a great deal of technology, which has led to industrialization. **Industrialization** is the process in which countries shift from agriculture to manufacturing. The United States, Canada, and Japan are examples of such countries. Countries that use a great deal of technology and are very industrialized are often grouped in a region called **developed countries**. Countries that use little technology and have experienced little industrialization are called **developing countries**. Guatemala, Ethiopia, and Cambodia are examples of developing countries.



The Pyramids at Giza in Egypt symbolize the North African culture for many people.

The way in which people use their resources to satisfy their needs and wants is called their **economic system**. In some countries, people are

mostly free to decide for themselves what kind of work they will do. In such countries, a person can own a business and keep the profits from that business. This kind of economic system is called **free enterprise**. The United States is one of the leading free enterprise countries.

In other countries, the government decides what kind of work people will do. In such countries, the government owns most businesses. This kind of economic system is called **socialism**.

## Culture Regions

It is possible to divide the world into regions based on any of the elements discussed in this lesson, plus many others. Any one country could fit into many different regions. However, the study of the world would be very confusing if regions kept changing all the time. One way to make things simpler is to group the countries of the world into broad regions based on a combination of many elements. **Culture regions** are based on the elements discussed in this lesson. Using these elements, it is possible to group the countries of the world into 10 major culture regions.

## Using Your Skills

### A REVIEWING KEY TERMS

Choose the correct term from the pair in parentheses in each sentence. Underline the correct term.

1. A country that uses little technology and has low levels of industrialization is called a (culture region, developing country).
2. A country with an economy based more on industry than agriculture is called a (developed country, developing country).
3. The way in which a country uses its resources to satisfy its people's wants and needs is called its (culture region, economic system).
4. In a free enterprise system, businesses are owned by the (people, government).
5. The United States is one of the leading countries with a (free enterprise, communist) system.

## B PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

**Map 2-8: World Culture Regions** on page 86 shows the world divided into 10 culture regions. Below is a list of countries. Write the name of each country on the list in the correct place on the map.

Argentina

Brazil

Canada

Venezuela

Colombia

United States

France

Ireland

Italy

Spain

United Kingdom

Ukraine

Germany

Poland

Russia

Egypt

Iran

Iraq

Israel

Saudi Arabia

Ethiopia

Kenya

Nigeria

South Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

India

Pakistan

China

Japan

Taiwan

Philippines

Vietnam

Australia

## C RECALLING FACTS

Answer the following questions about **Map 2-8**.

1. Japan is a part of what culture region?

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2. Germany is a part of what culture region?

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3. Russia is a part of what culture region?

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4. Mexico is a part of what culture region?

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5. Iraq is a part of what culture region?

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6. This map shows three continents each of which include only one culture region. What are the names of these three continents? Of what culture region is each continent a part?

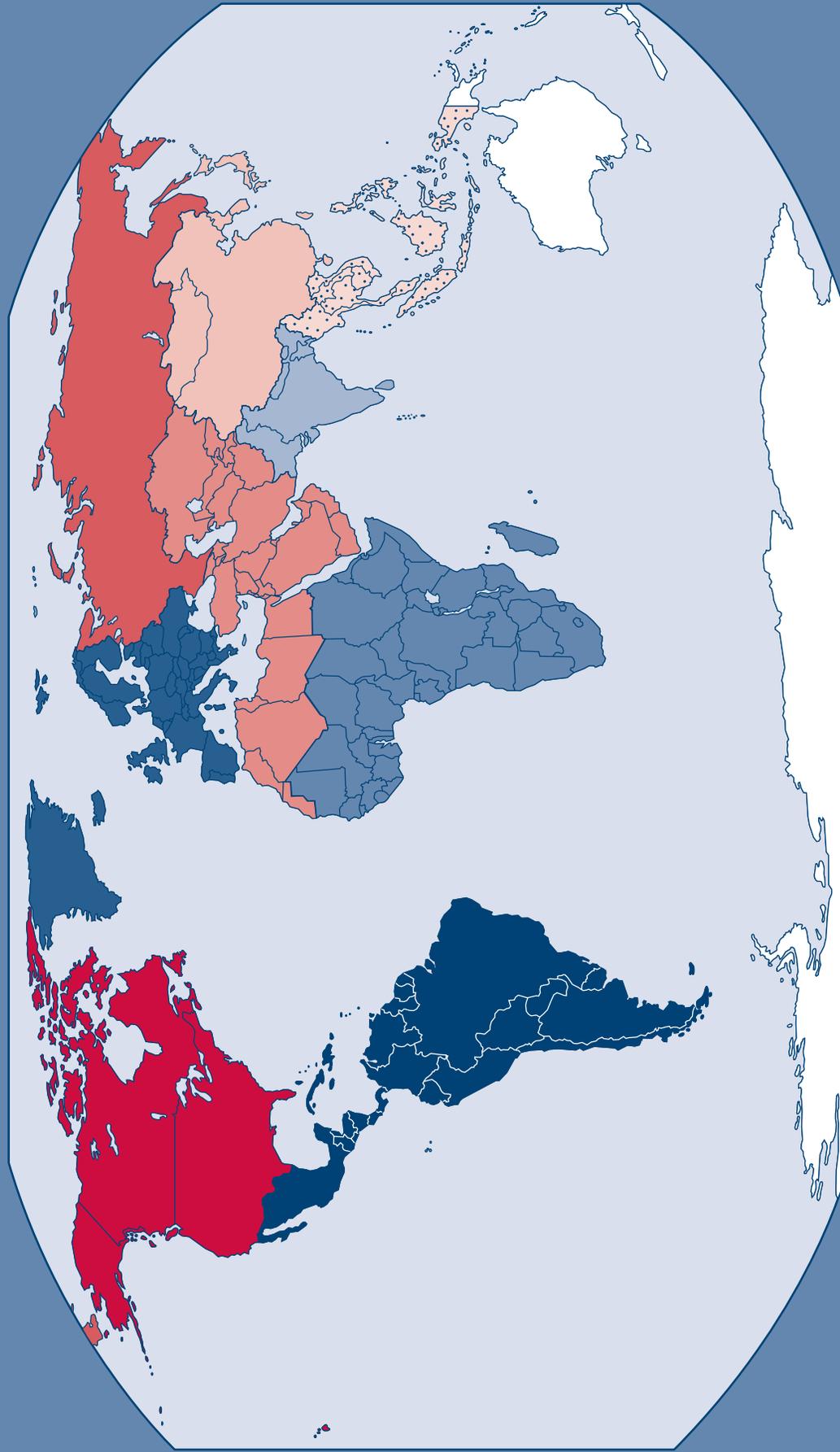
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**World Culture Regions**

**MAP 2-8**



- United States and Canada
- Latin America
- Europe
- Russia
- North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia
- Africa South of the Sahara
- East Asia
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Australia, Oceania, and Antarctica