



Forces

Forces can oftentimes be tricky things to identify. We cannot see, hear, smell, or taste them and yet they exert enormous influence upon us both collectively and individually. Forces attract, hold, or repel us. The force of gravity is invisible but has a tremendous ability to attract physical objects to one another. Likewise, culture is a force that can sometimes be difficult to identify or define and yet it exerts significant influence on our lives.

Some characteristics of culture are:

- culture is learned and not inherited
- it uses symbols
- it is shared
- it adapts and transforms over time
- it is functional
- it is patterned

You will explore all of these aspects of culture and cultural forces throughout this cycle. Additionally, you will investigate the ways culture is disseminated across time and space from one group to another. You will consider the important role religion plays in culture and in the lives of people throughout the world. You will also study the role culture plays in political boundaries, conflicts, and relationships between nations.

Guiding Questions

1. What do you think are the forces that act upon culture? How is culture a force that acts upon individuals?
2. How would you describe the forces of art and artifacts in making cultures uniquely themselves?
4. What are some ways religions from around the world are represented through artistic creations?

What You Will Learn

1. How to identify and describe the essential defining characteristics and functions of culture.
2. The causes, methods, and effects for the diffusion of and distribution of cultural characteristics among different places and regions.
3. How the basic tenets of world religions affect the daily lives of people.

What You Will Do

1. Attend a Field Experience at the Utah Museum of Fine Art
2. Perform research on a world country of your choosing
3. Write a paper informing the reader about the culture of the country you have chosen
4. Create a poster-board presentation for the International Festival
5. Art students will create an artistic artifact inspired by the culture of the country you have chosen.