Cultural Anthropology 15th edition Ember Test Bank

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CHAPTER 2: Culture and Culture Change

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Anthropologists, as well as other social scientists, feel that culture is _____.
A) learned and shared
B) inherited
C) transmitted only from one group to another
D) only a small part of how people learn their behaviors

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

2. A _____ is a group of people who occupy a particular territory and speak a common language.
A) family
B) culture
C) subculture
D) society

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

3. The most powerful transmitter of culture is probably _____.
A) the school system
B) language
C) the elders of a society
D) parents

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Emile Durkheim stressed that culture is something _____ us exerting a strong _____ power on us.
A) outside; limiting

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B) inside; limiting
C) outside; coercive
D) inside; coercive

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe direct and indirect cultural constraints and how they relate to norms.
Topic: Cultural Constraints
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

5. When a member of a group diverges from acceptable standards, or norms, of social behavior, he/she may be ridiculed, arrested, or otherwise pressured into conformity through what Emile Durkheim referred to as _____.
A) cultural constraints
B) cultural relativism
C) cultural penalties
D) ethnocentrism

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe direct and indirect cultural constraints and how they relate to norms.
Topic: Cultural Constraints
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

6. The tendency to judge other cultures without trying to grasp the reasons behind their customs is what anthropologists refer to as _____.
A) diffusion
B) acculturation
C) ethnocentrism
D) cultural relativism

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.3 Identify attitudes that hinder the study of cultures.
Topic: Attitudes That Hinder the Study of Cultures
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

7. Which important tenet of anthropology was first championed by Franz Boas to challenge the attitude that Western culture was inherently superior to others?
A) evolutionism
B) cultural relativism
C) participant-observation
D) ethnocentrism

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.4 Critically assess the concept of cultural relativism.
Topic: Cultural Relativism
Skill Level: Remember the Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

8. The ideal cultural traits of a society _____.
A) consist of the cultural patterns that most people always exhibit
B) generally reflect the way a society was in the past
C) consist of the ideas people have about how they ought to behave
D) are usually followed by the most respected members of a community, but not necessarily by others

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.5 Describe the methods by which anthropologists describe cultures.
Topic: Describing a Culture
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

9. What is the modal response for a cultural rule?
A) the most frequently encountered response
B) the most rarely encountered response
C) the response that most people report as the ideal
D) the most extreme variation of a response

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.5 Describe the methods by which anthropologists describe cultures.
Topic: Describing a Culture
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

10. An adaptive custom is one that _____.
A) enhances survival and reproduction
B) changes with other cultural fluctuations
C) persists over several generations
D) was learned from other cultures

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.6 Explain why culture is integrated, patterned and cumulative.
Topic: Culture Is Patterned
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

11. What are the ultimate sources of all cultural change?
A) discovery and modification
B) invention and discovery
C) diffusion and discovery
D) modification and diffusion

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.

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Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

12. Which of the following is a basic pattern of diffusion?
A) invention
B) historical interaction
C) discovery
D) intermediate contact

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Remember the Facts
Difficulty Level: Easy

13. How does the everyday usage of the term "culture" differ from its academic definition?
A) The academic definition reflects traits that are only possessed by a segment of the population.
B) The common usage deals only with patterns that have been passed down for generations.
C) The academic definition is narrower than the common usage.
D) The common usage reflects a desirable quality that can be acquired.

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

14. Individuals have _____, but groups share _____.
A) behavior; culture
B) culture; society
C) society; beliefs
D) beliefs; behavior

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Which of the following is a major source of new culture?
A) peer pressure
B) individual variation
C) tradition

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D) revolution

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

16. The fact that monkeys and apes can learn new behaviors from each other _____.
A) does not necessarily mean that they have a culture
B) suggests that they are ancestral to modern humans
C) suggests that they have a culture
D) indicates that they have a rudimentary language

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

17. Because a word or phrase can represent what it stands for, whether or not that thing is present, we say that language is _____.

A) adaptive
B) interpretive
C) naturalistic
D) symbolic

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

18. Which of the following is true of conformity studies across culture?
A) The degree of conformity varies, but most studies still show a conformity effect.
B) The degree of conformity is relatively stable across cultures.
C) The number of studies showing a conformity effect is about equal to those that find no effect.
D) There is no conformity effect in most non-Western societies.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe direct and indirect cultural constraints and how they relate to norms.
Topic: Cultural Constraints
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

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19. Ethnocentrism both hinders our understanding of other peoples' cultures and _____.
A) helps us adopt other peoples' customs for our own uses
B) ensures that our culture will never change
C) keeps us from understanding our own customs
D) reminds us of how much our culture has evolved

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.3 Identify attitudes that hinder the study of cultures.
Topic: Attitudes That Hinder the Study of Cultures
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

20. What is the conceptual opposite of ethnocentrism?
A) the glorification of other cultures
B) an understanding of the nuances of other cultures
C) thinking your own culture is better than others
D) believing that all cultures are essentially the same

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.3 Identify attitudes that hinder the study of cultures.
Topic: Attitudes That Hinder the Study of Cultures
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

21. How did early evolutionists tend to think of Western cultures?
A) They believed they were lacking in important knowledge that other cultures already possessed.
B) They were extremely relativistic in their thinking, seeing all cultures as morally equivalent.
C) They viewed Western cultures as being at the most progressive stage of evolution.
D) There was a rift between ethnocentric and relativistic evolutionists at the time.

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.4 Critically assess the concept of cultural relativism.
Topic: Cultural Relativism
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

22. How do anthropologists deal with the range of individual behaviors they meet when trying to describe a culture?
A) They use the variations to define acceptable limits of behavior.
B) They ignore all but the most common few variations.
C) They describe all possible variations instead of looking for patterns.
D) They focus on the most unusual variations and the people involved in them.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.5 Describe the methods by which anthropologists describe cultures.
Topic: Describing a Culture

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Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

23. Studies of culture change and cultural diversity suggest that _____.
A) culture change will slow down in the next decades
B) differences between people of different cultures are minimal
C) ethic identities are lost in the process of culture change
D) cultures tend to retain some of their original characteristics

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.11 Characterize what anthropologists predict about future cultural diversity.
Topic: Cultural Diversity in the Future
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

24. What does the concept of cultural integration mean?
A) Cultural elements are mostly consistent with one another.
B) Cultural elements are constant.
C) Cultural traits that are maladaptive can be made to work with adaptive traits.
D) Cultural elements are a fairly eclectic assortment.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.6 Explain why culture is integrated, patterned and cumulative.
Topic: Culture Is Patterned
Skill Level: Understand
Difficulty Level: Moderate

25. The conscious or unconscious pressure for cultural _____ will often produce cultural change.
A) innovation
B) consistency
C) relevance
D) superiority

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

26. The process of cultural change known as _____ describes a situation in which a subordinate society adopts cultural traits or technologies through contact with a more powerful society, either through force or due to perceived economic or social advantages.
A) unconscious invention
B) stimulus diffusion
C) enculturation
D) acculturation

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Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

27. Which of the following is an example of forced acculturation?
A) the popularity of McDonald's restaurants in Japan
B) teens across Europe watching MTV
C) schools for Native American children
D) Inuit hunters using snowmobiles and GPS technology

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

28. Populations that live closer to the equator tend to have _____.
A) more cultural/ethnic diversity than northern or southern latitude populations
B) less cultural/ethnic diversity than northern or southern latitude populations
C) more environmental unpredictability than northern or southern latitude populations
D) minimized ethnogenesis compared to northern or southern latitude populations

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.11 Characterize what anthropologists predict about future cultural diversity.
Topic: Cultural Diversity in the Future
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Moderate

29. While there are many negative consequences to globalization, the United Nations has suggested an improvement in _____.
A) the spread of disease
B) workers' wages
C) literacy rates
D) deforestation rates

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.9 Evaluate the problems and opportunities posed by globalization.
Topic: Globalization: Problems and Opportunities
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

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30. Often, in the aftermath of violent events such as depopulation, relocation, enslavement, and genocide by dominant powers, deprived peoples have created new cultures in a process called _____.

A) ethnogenesis
B) diaspora
C) acculturation
D) diffusion

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.10 Describe and give examples of ethnogenesis, or the emergence of new cultures.
Topic: Ethnogenesis: The Emergence of New Cultures
Skill Level: Understand the Concepts
Difficulty Level: Easy

31. Why is hair color not considered a cultural trait?

A) There are many different colors of hair within one culture.
B) Hair color may be shared by most members of a culture, but it is not a learned trait.
C) People learn which hair colors are preferred, but they cannot change their hair color.
D) Hair color is neither learned nor shared throughout the culture.

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

32. Which of the following behaviors would most likely be subject to direct cultural constraints in American society?

A) a young man's attempt to kiss his girlfriend
B) a woman carrying her child in a soft basket hung from her head
C) choosing to wear nothing
D) dancing in the street before going to work

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe direct and indirect cultural constraints and how they relate to norms.
Topic: Cultural Constraints
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

33. Which of the following American norms might be seen as immoral or inferior by someone from another culture?

A) putting a baby to sleep in its own room
B) wearing special clothing for sleep
C) sleeping in a bed
D) sleeping for 6–8 hours each night

Answer: A

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Learning Objective: 2.3 Identify attitudes that hinder the study of cultures.
Topic: Attitudes That Hinder the Study of Cultures
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

34. Which of the following statements is true regarding ethics across cultures?
A) All cultures have similar ethical standards.
B) All cultures have ethical standards, but what they emphasize varies.
C) All cultures have identical ethical standards.
D) Some cultures have no ethical standards.

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.4 Critically assess the concept of cultural relativism.
Topic: Cultural Relativism
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

35. Which of the following is an example of consistency of cultural traits?
A) Americans believe that eating dogs is wrong because they are sometimes kept as family pets, so they also avoid eating pigs.
B) The French often allow children to have wine, so they also have high rates of alcoholism.
C) The English drive on the left side of the road, so they also have their steering wheels on the right side of the car.
D) The Japanese diet contains a lot of seafood, so they disapprove of raising a garden for food.

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.6 Explain why culture is integrated, patterned and cumulative.
Topic: Culture Is Patterned
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

36. The !Kung hunter-gatherers of the Kalahari Desert in Africa live in small, nomadic groups and own few material possessions. Anthropologists refer to these cultural traits as _____ that help them survive in their social and physical environment.
A) adaptive customs
B) maladaptive customs
C) assimilations
D) backward traits

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.6 Explain why culture is integrated, patterned and cumulative.
Topic: Culture Is Patterned
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

37. The Tapirapé of Brazil maintained their tradition of having very small families even in the face of extinction. This is an example of a(n) _____ custom.

A) adaptive
B) maladaptive
C) integrating
D) constraining

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.6 Explain why culture is integrated, patterned and cumulative.
Topic: Culture Is Patterned
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

38. Which of the following groups is most likely to be an early adopter of innovation because they show less conservatism?
A) the upper-middle class
B) the wealthy upper class
C) the very poor
D) the lower-middle class

Answer: D
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Difficult

39. Which of the following describes the form of culture change known as diffusion?
A) James Hargreaves developed the spinning jenny to increase the efficiency of textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution.
B) Your parents teach you the proper way to speak to your elders.
C) Many of the foods we eat, such as pasta and chicken, were introduced to us through contact with different cultures around the world.
D) Medical experiments and discoveries led to the cure for an epidemic disease such as polio.

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

40. Sequoya's idea to create a writing system for the Cherokee, after encountering written English, is an example of _____.
A) discovery
B) innovation
C) acculturation
D) stimulus diffusion

Answer: D

Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

41. In what areas of American culture have the most drastic changes of cultural norms taken place in the last generation?
A) sex and marriage
B) economics
C) religious practices
D) our educational system

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: Introduction
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

42. _____ refers to commonly shared customs of a group within a society.
A) Subculture
B) Culture
C) Rituals
D) Cultural norm

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.1 Discuss the concept of culture as used in anthropology, its salient properties, and controversies surrounding the concept of culture.
Topic: Defining Culture
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

43. The strong form of cultural relativism suggests that _____.
A) tolerance should be the mode unless there is strong reason to behave otherwise
B) non-Western cultures are inherently more moral than Western cultures
C) all patterns of culture are equally valid
D) any sort of judgment can cloud accuracy of descriptions

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.4 Critically assess the concept of cultural relativism.
Topic: Cultural Relativism
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

44. Some scholars argue that cultural relativists are acting hypocritically by _____.
A) pushing democracy on other nations

B) claiming that tolerance is a universal principle
C) prioritizing non-Western belief systems over Western ones
D) assuming that all cultures have similar ethical systems

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.4 Critically assess the concept of cultural relativism.
Topic: Cultural Relativism
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

45. Which of the following illustrates an ideal cultural trait in U.S. society that does not correspond to practical reality?
A) People of all classes and races are equal before the law.
B) Most children will go off to college, marry, and start households of their own.
C) Workers take the weekend off to have a chance to relax.
D) Children call their mothers on Mother's Day.

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.5 Describe the methods by which anthropologists describe cultures.
Topic: Describing a Culture
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

46. According to Ralph Linton, what is the difference between discovery and invention?
A) Discovery is technological, and invention is ideological.
B) Discovery is an addition to knowledge, and invention is a new application of knowledge.
C) Discovery is ideological, and invention is technological.
D) Discovery is a new application of knowledge, and invention is an addition to knowledge.

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

47. Why might a superior innovation not be adopted?
A) People may not be intelligent enough to master the new technology.
B) The habits of the old system are more important than finding something that works better.
C) The costs of adopting the new innovation might exceed the benefits.
D) New innovations are generally viewed suspiciously for a while.

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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48. What is one reason why cultural diffusion is a selective process?
A) Cultures may only allow certain traits to be borrowed by other groups.
B) Technological traits diffuse easily, while ideological traits are much harder to borrow.
C) The overt form of a trait determines how it will be received by other cultures.
D) Diffusion is a slow process, so only a small fragment of cultural traits will be transmitted.

Answer: C
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

49. The fact that a new behavior is not likely to become cultural if it has harmful reproductive consequences is consistent with what theory?
A) cultural relativism
B) natural selection
C) optimal foraging
D) historical particularism

Answer: B
Learning Objective: 2.8 Relate culture change to the process of adaptation to a changing environment.
Topic: Culture Change and Adaptation
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

50. What is one social condition that may give rise to rebellion and revolution?
A) threats to recent economic improvements
B) high esteem given to authority
C) decisiveness of government
D) increasing support of the intellectual class

Answer: A
Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Moderate

Essay Questions

51. Explain how cultural constraints regulate cultural norms by giving specific examples of both direct and indirect cultural constraints common to your own culture.

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. A clear distinction between direct and indirect cultural constraints

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2. Specific examples of the two types of constraints
3. Application of these constraints to specific norms within the student's culture

Learning Objective: 2.2 Describe direct and indirect cultural constraints and how they relate to norms.
Topic: Cultural Constraints
Skill Level: Apply What You Know
Difficulty Level: Moderate

52. Compare and contrast the attitude of ethnocentrism and glorification of other cultures. How can an awareness of these conflicting attitudes lead to more reliable anthropological data?

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. An adequate definition of ethnocentrism
2. A brief discussion or examples of when/why people might glorify other cultures
3. A clear application of these concepts to anthropological field research

Learning Objective: 2.3 Identify attitudes that hinder the study of cultures.
Topic: Attitudes That Hinder the Study of Cultures
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

53. Do you believe that cultural relativism prevents anthropologists from finding fault with another culture's practices or from trying to make social change? Why or why not?

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. A suitable definition of cultural relativism
2. A clear position justified by key concepts from the chapter

Learning Objective: 2.4 Critically assess the concept of cultural relativism.
Topic: Cultural Relativism
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

54. How do anthropologists take into account the wide range of behavioral variation seen in any culture? Explain the use of a modal response when describing a culture.

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Distinction between individual behavior and culture
2. Definition of modal response or modal behavior
3. Description of the usefulness of identifying a modal response

Learning Objective: 2.5 Describe the methods by which anthropologists describe cultures.
Topic: Describing a Culture
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

55. Outline the major patterns through which cultures change, providing a definition and example for each.

Answer: The ideal answer should include:
1. Distinction between discovery and invention
2. Various methods of diffusion

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3. Forced and passive acculturation

Learning Objective: 2.7 Describe and give examples of how cultures change through discovery and invention, diffusion, and acculturation.
Topic: How and Why Cultures Change
Skill Level: Analyze It
Difficulty Level: Difficult

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