

Name _____ Global Studies-Northway/Brooks
Date _____ Period # _____

Notes on Simple and Complex Cultures

Cultures vary from simple to complex. Simple cultures are often called traditional cultures and existing developing nations. Complex cultures are often called modern or Western cultures and exist in developed nations.

Traditional Cultures(Simple)

- a. small groups, usually live in rural areas(100's)
- b. have few ways to make a living-usually farmers
- c. lower standard of living
- d. work harder and longer to survive
- e. male dominated
- f. slow to change/prefer the old ways to new
- g. large extended families
- i. most work is done by hand/little technology
- j. problems of overpopulation, starvation, international debt, desertification, deforestation
- k. developing economies
- l. unstable to somewhat unstable political systems

examples: most of Latin America, Asian and African nations.

Modern Cultures or Western Cultures(Complex)

- a. large groups living in urban areas(1,000's-1,000,000's)
- b. have many ways to make a living: farming, industry, services
- c. high standard of living
- d. more leisure time
- e. men and women are more equal
- f. change occurs rapidly
- g. smaller nuclear families
- i. most work is done by machines/much technology
- j. problems with crime, pollution and technology
- k. developed economies
- l. stable political systems

Example: US, Germany, Japan, Great Britain, South Africa

Simple cultures and complex cultures may exist in the same nation.

Example: Amish in America

Assignment: create a 10+ sentence paragraph or diary enter on the topic, "a day in the life of a simple culture." Be sure use examples reference to 8 or more characteristics.