

# Social System



~a culture's organization of families, lineage, classes/status, roles of men and women, customs, traditions, values, religion, art, music and language



A. Families pass culture on from one generation to the next



# 1. Extended family –

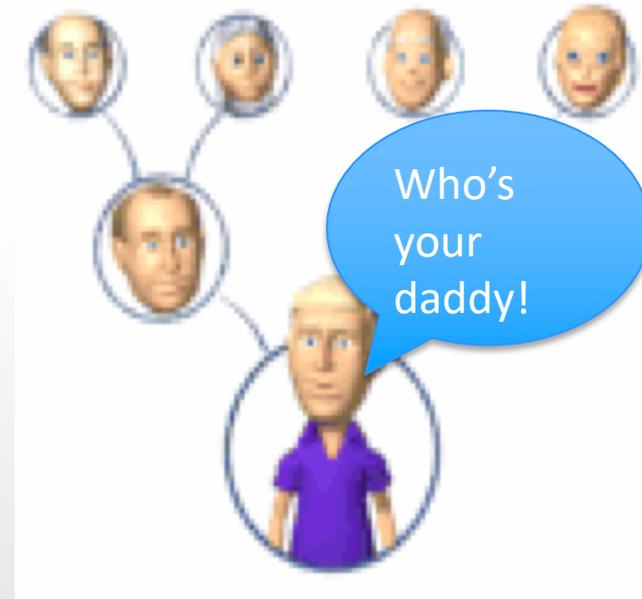
parents, children, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents live in the same household



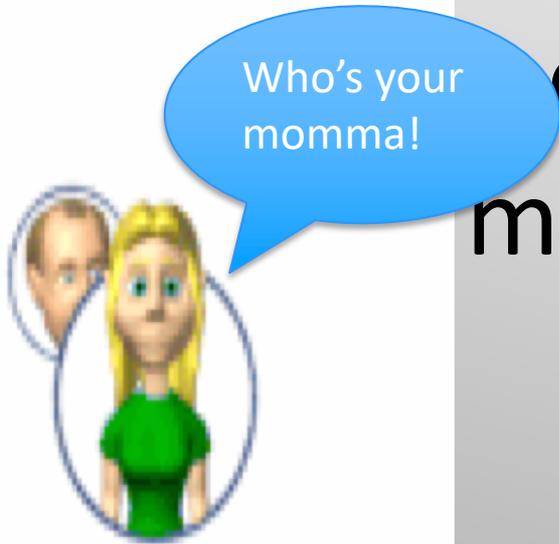
# 2. Nuclear family – parents and children live in the same household



3. Patrilineal – to trace descendents through the father's side of the family



4. Matrilineal – to trace descendents through the mother's side of the family



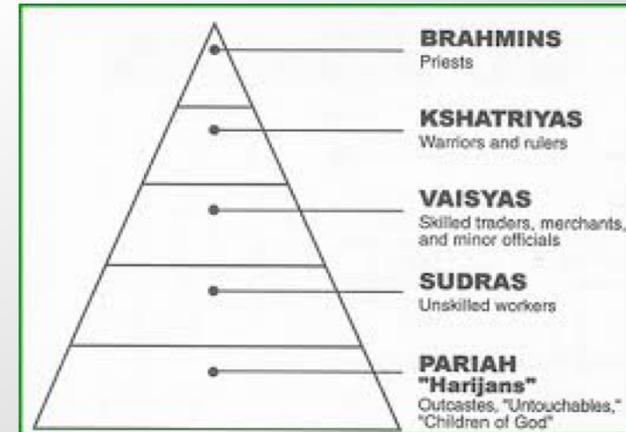
# Class Systems organize society

- Rigid social classes – members of the society are born into and stay in the same class until death

Ex. Caste system - India

- Flexible class system- members of the society may move up or down in the classes

Ex. United States



c. Religion – answers the question of why we are here, how we should behave, and where are we going after death



**Polytheism** – belief in many gods

Ex. Hinduism

**Monotheism** – belief in one god

Ex. Judaism

**Customs** – common practices of a group

Ex. Celebrating Thanksgiving

**Mores** – common moral practices (right behavior) of a group

Ex. Telling the truth/no stealing

# D. Cultures vary from simple to complex



**Traditional culture** –  
has very few outside  
influences – may be  
cut off by geographic  
features and contains  
little or very simple  
technology



Complex culture – is influenced by and influences other cultures, contains a lot of very complex technology



E. Cultures influence each other through diffusion, which means the spreading of customs and ideas from one culture to another



Assimilation is the absorption of ideas from another culture, which changes the traditional culture to which they are spread



Ethnocentrism – is the belief that one's culture is superior to other cultures

