



ISD Virtual Learning

# Sociology/Lesson 14

## Subcultures & Countercultures

April 9, 2020



## Sociology

Lesson: April 9, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:** The student will explain the difference between subcultures & countercultures.

# Warm Up:

## Review:

What is culture? Think back to previous lessons or topics we have covered. On a sheet of paper, write down your own definition of culture.



Can you think of any people who don't fit into the dominant group of culture? Any people that may not share the same characteristics with the majority of people in the culture? If so, jot your ideas down on the same sheet of paper.

# Warm Up:

## Review:

What is culture? Think back to previous lessons or topics we have covered. On a sheet of paper, write down your own definition of culture.



I know that culture is made up of the knowledge, values, beliefs, customs and objects (material culture) that is shared by members of a society.



Can you think of any people who don't fit into the dominant group of culture? Any people that may not share the same characteristics with the majority of people in the culture? If so, jot your ideas down on the same sheet of paper.

# Lesson Activity:

*Today we are going to learn about subcultures and countercultures.*

*Please familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary, and refer back to this slide as needed:*

**Culture**- includes knowledge, values, customs, & physical objects (material culture) that are shared by members of a society.



**Subculture**-Any group that exists within dominant, mainstream culture... “a world within a world.”

Subcultures have:

- Shared ideology...values, norms, beliefs
- Shared aesthetic...dress, pastimes, music, zines/blogs, etc.
- Shared vernacular...specialized language

**Counterculture**-A group whose values and norms deviate from or are at odds with those of dominant culture:

- Usually viewed as negative/dangerous, but not always.

# Lesson Activity:

**Read the following excerpt from the open source textbook, “Introduction to Sociology, 1st Canadian Edition, by William Little” & answer the questions on your paper when you have finished reading.**

A **subculture** is just as it sounds—a smaller cultural group within a larger culture; people of a subculture are part of the larger culture, but also share a specific identity within a smaller group.

Thousands of subcultures exist within the United States. Ethnic groups share the language, food, and customs of their heritage. Other subcultures are united by shared experiences. Biker culture revolves around a dedication to motorcycles. Some subcultures are formed by members who possess traits or preferences that differ from the majority of a society’s population. Alcoholics Anonymous offers support to those suffering from alcoholism. The body modification community embraces aesthetic additions to the human body, such as tattoos, piercings, and certain forms of plastic surgery. The post-Second World War period was characterized by a series of “spectacular” youth cultures: Beatniks, mods, hippies, skinheads, Rastas, punks, new wavers, ravers, hip-hoppers, and hipsters. But even as members of a subculture band together, they still identify with and participate in the larger society.

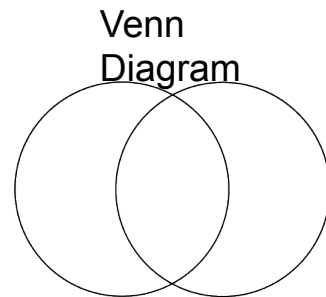
# Lesson Activity:

(Textbook reading, continued)

Sociologists distinguish subcultures from **countercultures**, which are a type of subculture that rejects some of the larger culture's norms and values. In contrast to subcultures, which operate relatively smoothly within the larger society, **countercultures** might actively defy larger society by developing their own set of rules and norms to live by, sometimes even creating communities that operate outside of greater society.

*On your paper, choose 2 questions to respond to:*

1. What is this passage mostly about?
2. Compare subcultures and countercultures using a Venn Diagram.
3. Did the passage leave you with any unanswered questions? If so, what are they?



# Lesson Activity:

*On your paper, choose 2 questions to respond to:*

1. What is this passage mostly about?
2. Compare subcultures and countercultures using a Venn Diagram.
3. Did the passage leave you with any unanswered questions? If so, what are they?

Possible Answers may include the following:

*This passage explains that there are many subcultures (smaller cultures) within a larger, dominant culture. It explains that countercultures counter or reject the dominant culture's values.*



# Practice:

*Make a T-chart on your paper. On one side, label it “Subcultures” and on the other side label it “Counterculture.”*

*Sort the following examples of subcultures and countercultures in the appropriate place. It’s OK if you are not sure, but give it a try!*

*Subculture or Counterculture? A few examples:*

**Goths**

**Hippies**

**Polygamists**

**Foodies**

**Skaters**

**Emos**

**Deaf Culture**

**LGBTQ**

**Cosplayers**

**Early Feminist Groups (1960s-1970s)**

# Practice (answer key):

## Subcultures:

Goths

Foodies

Skaters

Emos

Deaf Culture

LGBTQ

Cosplayers

## Countercultures:

Hippies

Polygamists

Early Feminist Groups (1960s-1970s)

# Reflection:

*Think about what you have learned about subcultures and countercultures. Can you identify any of the subcultures that are represented at your high school?*

*Do you consider yourself to be a part of any subcultures? Why?*



# Additional Resources:

Click on the following links if you would like some more information on subcultures and countercultures.

1. [Crash Course in Sociology, ep. 11 video](#) (9 min. 39 sec.)
2. [Subculture vs. Counterculture- Khan Academy video](#) (3 min. 30 sec.)

