



Social Studies: Notes

Bahamian Way of Life



What is culture?

Culture is simply our 'way of life'. Think about our way of life in The Bahamas.

- How do we dress?
- What food do we eat?
- What festivals do we celebrate?
- At what age do Bahamians leave school?
- What jobs do people do?
- How many people work in offices, how many in the open air?



What other things do you think are a part of our culture?

There are many different groups of people living in the world, each doing things in different ways. Different cultures may still have many things in common, though, because we are all human beings and we all have basic needs in order to live. For example,

- we all need food
- we all need clothing, and
- we all need shelter



It is the way in which we fulfill these needs that makes each culture different.

Sometimes these can be very small things – for example, the way in which we greet each other.

- Each culture is unique – the way of life in that group is different from that of any other group. But sometimes, particularly in more recent times, cultures change because people travel and exchange ideas. One culture may be influenced by another.
- Tourism affects our culture in many ways: how we dress, what we eat, how we treat each other is influenced by the people who visit our islands. Most of the tourists, who come to our islands, come from the continent of North America. As a result, the American culture influences ours, for example our music, our food, our clothing and even the way we worship.



1. State the name of the festival being celebrated in the photo



2. One culture maybe influenced by another:

3. Which of the following dishes is native to The Bahamas?

- (a) sweet & sour chicken
- (b) chicken & fries
- (c) peas soup & dough
- (d) ackee & dumpling

4. Which of the following is not a festival celebrated in The Bahamas?

5. Tourism is extremely important to the economy of The Bahamas. Most of our visitors come from the continent of



6. List three basic needs required by people around the world to survive regardless of where they live:

7. Select two reason why cultures around the world changes:

8. Select TWO ways in which the American culture has influenced Bahamian culture: