

Universals of Culture

Over the years many anthropologists have developed lists of cultural universals – functions which culture serves and which are found in some form in every culture on earth. This list is from *Universals of Culture* by Alice Cleaveland, Jean Craven, and Maryann Danfelter (New York: Global Perspectives in Education [American Forum for Global Education], 1979). It may help your students organize their study of your Peace Corps Volunteer's host country. Reprinted with permission.

I. Material Culture

- A. Food
- B. Clothing and Adornment
- C. Tools and Weapons
- D. Housing and Shelter
- E. Transportation
- F. Personal Possessions
- G. Household Articles

II. The Arts, Play, and Recreation

- A. Forms of the Arts, Play, and Recreation
- B. Folk Arts and Fine Arts
- C. Standards of Beauty and Taste

III. Language and Nonverbal Communication

- A. Nonverbal Communication
- B. Language

IV. Social Organization

- A. Systems and Governmental Institutions
- B. Families
- C. Kinship Systems

V. Social Control

- A. Systems and Governmental Institutions
- B. Rewards and Punishment

VI. Conflict and Warfare

- A. Kinds of Conflict
- B. Kinds of Warfare

VII. Economic Organization

- A. Systems of Trade and Exchange
- B. Producing and Manufacturing
- C. Property
- D. Division of Labor
- E. Standard of Living

VIII. Education

- A. Informal Education
- B. Formal Education

IX. World View

- A. Belief Systems
- B. Religion