

Building a Society Web Project

A society web is a visual organizer that identifies the key parts of a society within a country. While culture is a part of society, it is not the only indicator of what a country is like. In this project, you will create a society cascade for an assigned country in Africa.

What is society? It is a group of people that live in close proximity to one another. These people represent a community and may be from different cultures, backgrounds or religions and may have different languages, values or beliefs.

Why do we need to learn about societies?

Learning Outcome 7.3 indicates that students should learn about “Elements of Societies”. Within this learning outcome student must be able to accomplish the following:

- Identify elements that all societies have in common.
- Identify ways that the natural environment impacts societies.
- Evaluate how societies are impacted by culture influences and expressions.
- Understand how history and politics impacts societies.
- Describe factors that affect the economy and well being of societies.

The Task:

You will create a cascade that includes the information of the societies in your assigned country. You will research the societies in your country and pick one indigenous group in your country specifically. Then, you will break down the elements of society and conduct research on each aspect of the society.

Things You MUST Include in Each Section Are:

Geography:

Location – You must identify the latitude and longitude coordinates for your country. You must identify the surrounding countries and bodies of water.

Population Distribution – You must indicate the 3 largest cities on the map of your country and how many people live there. You must identify the Population Density of these 3 cities and explain why these three cities are the most populous.

Natural Environment – What natural features exist in your country? Are there rivers, mountains, desert?

Technology

Transportation – How did people move around in your country 100 years ago? How about today? Identify the differences. Do all people in the country travel in the same way? Are there people that are isolated and have no mode of transportation?

Tools – What kinds of tools are specially created in your country? Provide a description and image for the tools.

Communication – How do people in your society communicate with one another? Is it the same today as it was 100 years ago?

Culture

Artforms – What types of art is your country known for? Provide a minimum of two types of artwork and give an example with an image.

Foods – Describe what types of food people in your society eat. Give at least 1 recipe for a classic dish from your society. What types of fruits and vegetables do people eat? What are specialized food items from your society?

Dress – What are the traditional clothes that people in your society wear? Provide descriptions and images.

Recreation – What do people in your society do for fun? Give a list of activities.

Beliefs – What religions does your society follow? Is there one predominant religion, or are there many different kinds of religions? How did your country come to follow these beliefs? Keep in mind that most African countries began with tribal religions and converted to other faiths later in history.

Social Organization – This is a description of the family structure in your society. Are families big or small? Do men have multiple wives? Are families patriarchal or matriarchal? Do children work, or do they stay home, or go to school? Do women work or stay home? What is the life expectancy?

Education – What types of education is followed in your society? Do all children go to school? What is the literacy rate? Do boys and girls both go to school?

Values – Try and find out what the people of your society value. This will be hard as it represents the core of the onion.

Economy

Trade – What kinds of items does your country produce for export? What do they import? Who do they trade with?

Basic Needs – How do people meet their basic needs? Remember, basic needs include, food, shelter, water and clothes. Do people in your society have access to clean water? If not, what do they do to get clean water? What about food? How do your people get food? What kinds of houses do they live in? Provide descriptions and images.

Work – What type of work is most prevalent in your society; primary, secondary or tertiary? Why do you think that is?

Politics

Government – Identify the type of government in your country and how it is run. Is your leader a dictator or are they democratically elected? What is the role of the government in your country? Are people generally happy with the government?

Laws and Justice – What happens when someone breaks the law in your country? Does the society have a clear set of rules? Are there trials, courts? Find some basic information about the laws in your society.

History

Historical Events – What has happened in the history of your society that would impact how your people live today? Create a timeline of events that would strongly impact the way your people live today. (Example, most African countries were colonized in the 1900's. This is significant to the political climate in many countries today).

People – What types of people have lived in your society throughout history? What types of people live there today?