

Unit 3

Race and Ethnicity

Cultural Geography

The following information corresponds to Chapter 31 in your textbook. Fill in the blanks to complete the definition or sentence. Note: All of the following information in addition to your reading is important, not just the blanks you fill in.

A Geography of Race

- _____ - a categorization based on skin color and other physical characteristics; racial categories are political and social constructs since they are predicated on the fact that some _____ differences (especially skin color) are more important than others (e.g. height).
- _____ - a combination of genetic traits (e.g. eye color, body size).
- _____ - the expression of those traits (e.g. brown eyes, tall build).

THE TRUTH ABOUT SKIN COLOR

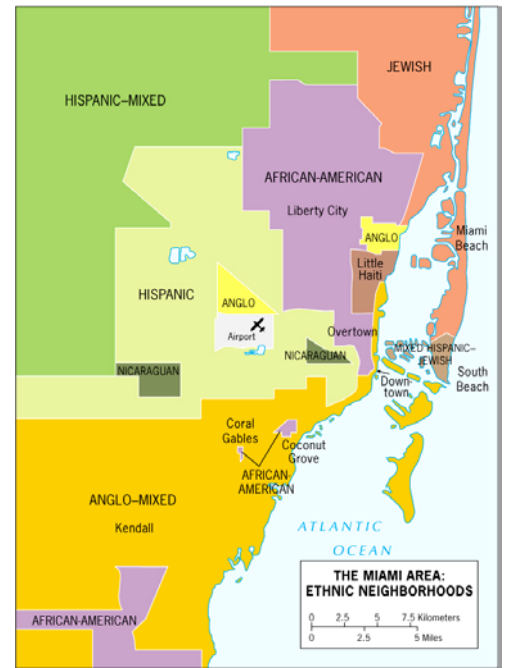
- Sunlight stimulates the production of _____, which protects the skin from ultraviolet rays (more melanin = darker skin); also, vitamin ___ production is stimulated by the penetration of ultraviolet rays (less melanin = less skin pigmentation = more production of vitamin D).
- Natural selection in areas with _____ days in the winter and more oblique sun angles (e.g. higher _____, as in Northern Europe) favored those with less skin pigmentation.
- Most conflicts arise out of cultural, or _____ differences (especially concerning ties to land), not race. Give one real-life example:
- _____ - an ideology of difference that ascribes significance and meaning (usually negative) to culturally, socially, and politically constructed ideas based on phenotypical features.
- Notions of _____ supremacy are premised on the idea that groups with particular physical characteristics are more advanced, capable, or intelligent (_____ often arise out of these notions).

A Geography of Ethnicity

- The term "ethnic" comes from the _____ word *ethnos*, which means *people* or *nation*, but it is used in the contemporary world to label groups that share some prominent trait (but no single trait).
- The adjective, *ethnic*, refers to culture (traditions, customs, language, religion,...) and, in a more vague sense, to racial ancestry (but it is different from race).
- _____ groups are populations that feel a common bond and have a sense of common origin that distinguishes them from other groups (e.g. religion, language, national origin, skin color,...).
- It is estimated that the 200 or so independent countries recognized by the United Nations are made up of about _____ ethnic groups (increased migration has complicated this even further).
- Ethnicity is a spatial concept. Ethnic groups are associated with clearly recognized _____, either some large homeland district or some smaller urban or rural enclaves in which they are the primary or exclusive occupant (often marked with certain distinguished cultural signs).
- The concept of ethnicity is very _____. For example, the various language groups that occupied North America before the arrival of the _____ (e.g., Iroquois, Apache, etc.) are generally not described as ethnic groups, while individual populations migrating from patterns of similar complexity in Europe are always called ethnic groups (e.g. Germans, Bohemians, etc.).
- Ethnicity is often directly linked to immigration, and even nationalism, which argues that distinctive groups (perhaps ethnic groups) should have _____ and control their own internal political and economic affairs.
- Ethnicity thus arises out of different combinations of _____ traditions, _____ backgrounds, and _____ environments...

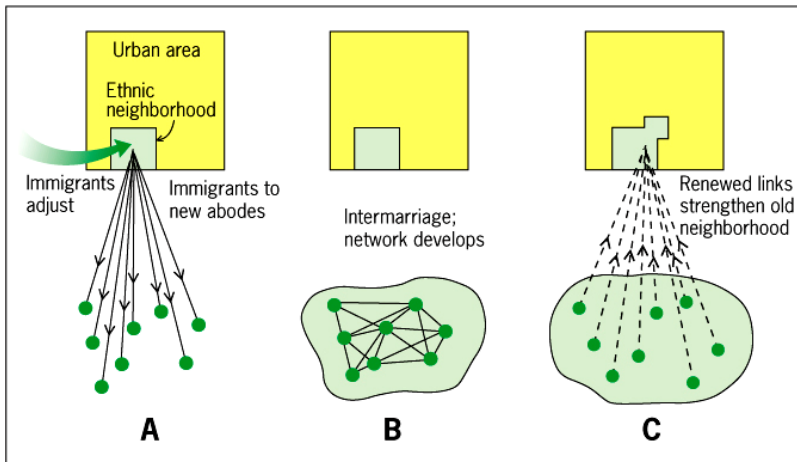
Ethnic Issues

- Ethnic enclaves, or _____, in the cultural mosaic reflect their inhabitants' perceptions of the natural environments they left behind (and the one selected upon arriving), as well as social ties to their place of origin - Examples:
- In Northern Ireland there is no racial distinction between the two ethnic groups; the main difference deals with religion with _____ for one group, _____ for the other.
- Belgium has language at the heart of its ethnic differences with Dutch-speaking _____ in the north, and French-speaking _____ in the south.
- Like the United States, Canada is a _____ society (many ethnicities); the push for separation may be waning in _____ due to immigration, and their desire to find alternate ways in maintaining their ethnic identity.
- Thus, like other aspects of culture, ethnicity is a _____ phenomenon that must be understood in terms of the geographic context in which it is situated:



Example: Some urban ethnic neighborhoods are being eroded by the process of _____; the old values of "Little Havana" (e.g. strong family ties, Catholic, ...) still prevail, but young Cuban Americans are more apt to adopt dominant _____ cultural norms (e.g. dress, music, food,...).

- Some basic factors promote stabilization in the face of the pressures of acculturation:



- _____ - people from similar ethnic backgrounds initially clustered in certain areas diffuse outward [A]; over several generations the dispersed migrants intermarry, and form a loose network of families still conscious of their shared ethnicity [B]; after the migrants become more affluent and revive their ties, the old neighborhood is reenergized by these renewed links [C] (e.g. newspaper circulation)
- Renewed awareness of _____ also counters acculturation (and assimilation); enhanced by the flow of _____ through modern technology.

- Finally, the _____ (e.g. religious buildings, village layout, signs, clothing,...) can be powerful in promoting and sustaining ethnic distinctiveness.

Ethnic Conflict

- 2 kinds of segregation: one is _____ segregation, in which individuals are coerced by majority powers to stay in a certain area. The other pattern is known as _____ segregation, in which groups choose to live with one another, even though there is no official sanction against them.
- The distinction between ethnicity and nationalism, in many respects, is a question of scale. _____ are ethnic groups that have control of a territory or a country which may or may not be completely independent. When members of a nation move into another _____, they become an ethnic group in the new country. So the distinction between these two concepts is one of time and place.
- One feature that characterizes ethnic and nationalist warfare is what is now called *ethnic* _____ (in which the victors relocate the vanquished by moving them) For example, the _____ Americans were moved from almost the entire area they occupied in the eastern section in the United States. More recently, during the breakup of _____, the Albanians were forced out of the Serbian province of Kosovo.