



United States Culture: Crossing Borders

TERMS & NAMES

value
globalization
technology

MAIN IDEA

The American way of life reflects the cultures of people from many countries around the world.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

People around the world are more closely connected than ever before.

DATELINE

NEW YORK CITY, 1905—Visit Gennaro Lombardi's pizzeria—the first in the United States—to try a pizza. This baked, flat pie has a bread crust covered with cheese, tomato sauce, and seasonings.

Lombardi's pizzas are not exactly like the pizzas made in Naples, Italy, because different seasonings, flour, and cheese are available here. Also, instead of using sliced tomatoes like those put on Italian pizzas, Lombardi adds a spicy homemade tomato sauce. Customers say this pizza is as good as any from Naples. Judging by the warm reception it has received so far, pizza may become a popular U.S. food.



Place • Pizza, brought here by Italian immigrants, is becoming a popular food. ▲

American Way of Life

People in the United States have brought diverse customs, traditions, and foods, like pizza, from their homelands, but they share many of the same values. **Values** are the principles and ideals by which people live. U.S. citizens care about individual freedoms; equal opportunities for jobs and education; fair treatment of people regardless of race, religion, or gender; and private ownership of property. Many of these values are part of the U.S. Constitution and help define American culture.

TAKING NOTES

Use your chart to take notes about the United States today.

The United States Today	
History	
Government	

Education U.S. citizens believe they can improve their lives through education. In 1647, Massachusetts established the first colonial public school system. Today, state laws require that all children attend school or be taught at home until they are at least 16. More than 99 percent of U.S. children finish elementary school, and more than 85 percent complete high school.

Reading
Social Studies

Drawing Conclusions
Why do you think values such as freedom of religion were written into the U.S. Constitution?

U.S. Religions About 70 percent of all U.S. citizens are members of religious groups. Many colonists, such as British Protestants and Catholics, settled in America so that they could worship as they wished. Since then, people with many different religious beliefs have come to the United States. Most Spanish, French, and Italian immigrants were Catholic. In the 1900s, many European Jews settled in the United States. Asian immigrants practice Buddhism and Hinduism. North Africans and Southwest Asians brought Islam. Many Native Americans continue to practice their ancestors' religions.

The Arts and Entertainment

Leisure activities in the United States reflect the influence of other cultures. For example, sports such as tennis, golf, soccer, and even baseball originated in other countries. Tennis came from France, golf from Scotland, and soccer from England. Baseball is probably based on rounders, a game played in Great Britain in the late 1700s. Basketball was invented in the United States by a Canadian and later spread to other countries. Football is played chiefly in the United States and Canada.



Place • Americans eat foods from the traditions of many countries, such as Japanese sushi and sashimi. ▼

The movie and television industries and certain musical forms, such as rock 'n' roll, developed in the United States, although they were affected by other cultures. Jazz was greatly influenced by the blues, which is rooted in spirituals once sung by enslaved Africans. Today, artists and audiences around the world enjoy these American musical styles.

Culture • Baseball, often called America's national pastime, was probably adapted from a British game played in the 1700s. ▲



Globalization of Culture The international popularity of U.S. music is an example of the globalization of culture. **Globalization** means spreading around the world. Today, cultural influences often cross national boundaries. People around the world enjoy blue jeans, sodas, and fast food from the United States. McDonald's serves about 45 million people a day in 121 countries.

U.S. citizens eat Japanese sushi, listen to Italian operas, and drive South Korean cars. Literature from many nations is translated into different languages. Print and electronic communication, television, movies, and the Internet provide speedy ways to share the products and creations of different cultures.

U.S. Science and Technology

U.S. scientists are mapping DNA, discovering treatments and cures for diseases, and finding new energy sources for industry and homes. Once discoveries are made, inventors create **technology**, such as tools or equipment, to apply the new knowledge in practical ways. Modern technology enables U.S. scientists to work with other scientists from around the world.

Science and Technology Change the World Discoveries by U.S. scientists help people throughout the world. Polio, a disease that usually affects children, was widespread in the 1940s and 1950s.

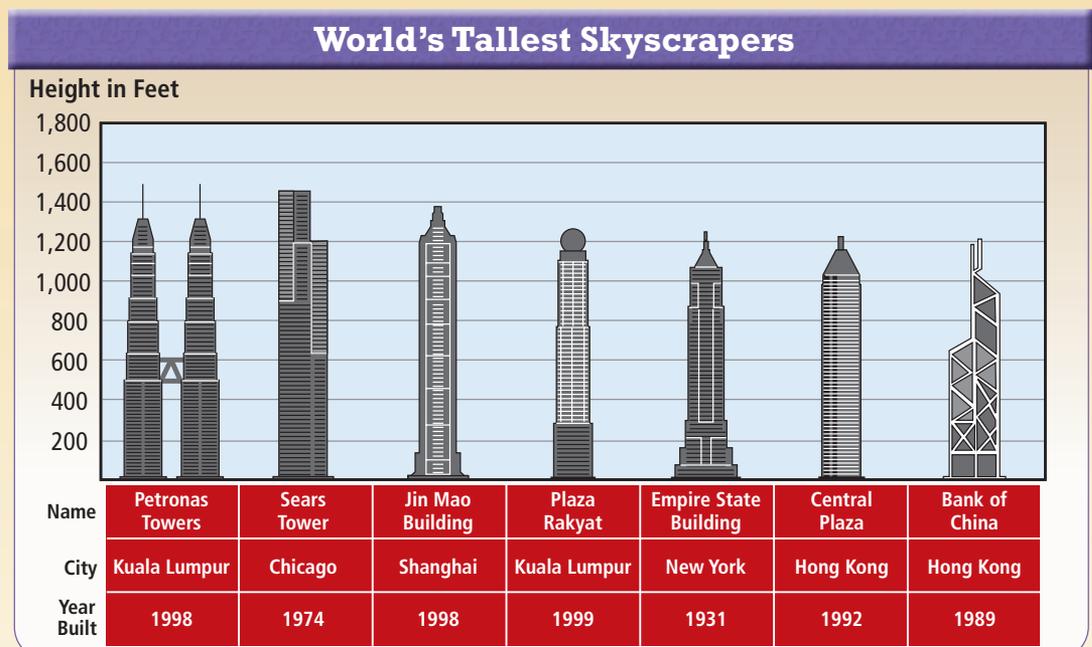
BACKGROUND

DNA is the molecule that carries the information that determines the characteristics of every living thing. It was first identified by Francis Crick, James Watson, and others in 1953.



Skyscrapers The skyscraper originated in the United States in the 1870s and has caught on in other countries. Limited space in cities, plus materials and technology, such as steel and elevators, have inspired architects to design taller buildings.

The height of each building is measured from the ground-level main entrance to the structural top, including spires but not antennas or flagpoles. Today, many of the tallest buildings are located outside the United States in places such as Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Hong Kong and Shanghai in China.



THINKING CRITICALLY

1. Finding Causes

What were two factors that led architects to design skyscrapers?

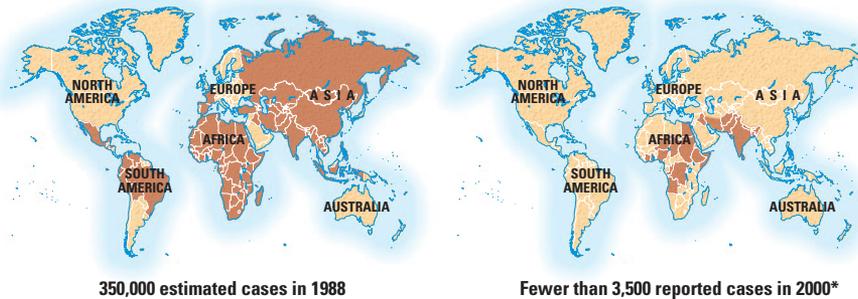
2. Recognizing Important Details

How is building height measured?

For more on skyscrapers, go to



Progress Toward Making the World Polio-Free



350,000 estimated cases in 1988

Fewer than 3,500 reported cases in 2000*



*Estimated by World Health Organization as of April 3, 2001

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

- Region** • Which continent had widespread polio in 1988 but was polio free in 2000?
- Region** • Which continent had the most polio cases in 2000?

Then, U.S. doctors Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin each developed a different vaccine. As a result, great progress has been made toward making the world free of polio.

Negative effects of technology include increased pollution of the environment and the loss of unique cultural features as countries share languages, foods, and customs. Poorer nations may lack the money and skilled labor needed to benefit from new applications of science.

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Explain the significance of: (a) value (b) globalization (c) technology

Using Graphics

2. Make a chart like the one below to show features of U.S. culture and science that have spread to other parts of the world.

U.S. Culture and Science Around the World	
Culture	Science and Technology

Main Ideas

3. (a) What are some values shared by people in the United States?
- (b) What are some examples of contributions from other cultures to the American way of life?
- (c) In what ways does American culture influence people in other countries?

Critical Thinking

4. Forming and Supporting Opinions

Do you think globalization has a positive or a negative effect on the world? Support your opinion.

Think About

- ♦ the effects of globalization
- ♦ the changes caused by international trade and communication
- ♦ the effects of scientific discoveries worldwide

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Reread "The Arts and Entertainment" on page 111. Think about the sports, music, and movies you enjoy. Write an **essay** describing how the cultures of other countries influence your activities.