Anthropology and Social Change
Social Change: Any significant alteration over time in behavioral patterns or cultural norms.
Reminder from unit one: Anthropologists regard CULTURES, the focus of their studies as constantly changing organisms.
Anthropologists say the social change happens because of:

Internal Factors

External Factors

- Physical Environment
- Population Change
- Proximity
- Technology
- Social Environment
Invention: A new product, idea, or social pattern that impacts how a large group lives their daily lives.

Example: Invention of the plough
Climate, weather, vegetation, animal populations all have impacts on society.

External Factors:
1) Physical Environments

Example: Natural disasters
Immigration can lead to cultural exchanges between different groups.

Example: Immigration and Racial Tolerance
If there is not enough people in an area due to emigration, social institutions must change.
External Factors: 3) Proximity

* Societies in close proximity tend to change and develop more than those in isolated areas

Example: Ethnic Food
Two Types of Proximity Influences

* Diffusion: the spread of culture from one society to another through contact

Write this down

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**Two Types of Proximity Influences**

*Acculturation*: blending between 2 cultures after close interaction over time, results in changes to both groups

*Write this down*
Acculturation Occurs because of:

* Incorporation:
  - It can be freely borrowed
  - Canoe is Canadian cultural borrowed from Natives
Acculturation Occurs because of:

* **Directed change:**

* It can be forced; when one culture overtakes another and suppresses its people

* We speak English & French... colonization
External Factors: 4) Technology

* Technology alters the way we interact with our environment

Write this down
External Factors: 5) Social Environment

* Collectivist Society: Value include conformity, uniformity, cooperation

Write this down
External Factors: 5) Social Environment

* Collectivist Society: Value include conformity, uniformity, cooperation
* Duties and obligation to the group more important than personal privilege
* Difficult for social change to happen
Individualistic Society: Social behavior guided by rights and freedoms
Individualistic Society: Social behavior guided by rights and freedoms

* Tolerant of cultural variability

* Easier for social change to happen
Anthropology and Mental Wellness

Question:

* Do you consider yourself an adult?
* In this society how do you know you are an adult?
Rites of Passage

* What are some rites of passage in your culture?
* Do you think they are important in the development of mental wellness
Anthropology
Schools of Thought on Social Change
There are two schools of thought in cultural anthropology that look at social change:

- Cultural Materialism
- Functionalism
Functionalism

* All cultures are set up to deal with various physical or psychological needs
* Every custom serves a function
**Functionalism**

* For social change to happen, it has to be in the best interest of the majority

*Write this down*
Cultural Materialism

* Believe there are three levels of structure in all cultures:
  * Infrastructure
  * Structures
  * Superstructures

Write this down

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Cultural Materialism

- Infrastructure
- Technological and economic factors of culture
- Material stuff they produce
Cultural Materialism

- Structures
- How culture is organized
- Social classes and the distribution of wealth

Write this down

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Cultural Materialism

* Superstructures
* Ideology of culture.
* Music, art, religion, values

Write this down

Tuesday, March 20, 18
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Thought</th>
<th>Big Idea</th>
<th>Theorist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Materialism</td>
<td>Physical materials, conditions, and economic activities determine how a culture develops.</td>
<td>Marvin Harris (1927 - 2001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functionalism</td>
<td>The function of beliefs and institutions in a society is to meet the needs of the majority of its members.</td>
<td>Bronislaw Malinowski (1884 - 1942)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I don't see how you can write anything of value if you don't offend someone.

— Marvin Harris —

AZ QUOTES
Activity: Functionalism and Kinship

* In groups analyze the various kinship patterns and family structures from around the world.

* State how each pattern may serve a function that helps its society.
Polygamy

* Polygyny: Man may have multiple wives

* Levirate Marriage: Some cases where a deceased man’s heir may inherit his widows
Polygamy

- **Polygyny:** Man may have multiple wives
- **Benefits:**
  - Men can have more children (workers), gives them access to various political ties
Polygamy

* Polygyny: Man may have multiple wives

* Benefits:
  * Senior wives gain social status, senior wives work load is lessened.
Polygamy

* Polyandry: Woman may have multiple husbands

* Benefit: Often seen in societies with high male death rates.
Polygamy

- Polyandry: Woman may have multiple husbands
- Benefit: Prevents breaking up land in countries lower economic classes.

Nepal, Tibet
Polygamy

* Polyandry: Woman may have multiple husbands

* Benefit: Limits population
Arranged Marriages

* Child Marriages:
  Seen in areas of poverty where parents are able to ensure child’s financial security

* Niger, Chad, Bangladesh
Arranged Marriages

* Late Marriages: In many cultures, individuals past the age of 30 have a limited applicant pool.

* Japan
Arranged Marriages

* Limited Choices: Allows immigrant cultures to keep homogamy.

* Sikh culture in Canada
Arranged Marriages

* **Politics:** In many cultures arranges marriages are a political move to acquire titles.

* **Dowry:** Property or money brought by the bride to her husband on marriage.

* **India**