

**Create a Culture
Ecosystem Characteristics Table**

Ecosystem	Moisture	Temperature	Vegetation	Soil	Plants and Animals
Tropical Rainforest	Year round rainfall	Year round warmth	Forest with 3 layers (a few giants, closed tree canopy and open floor)	Very poor fertility	Very diverse (mammals, reptiles, birds, insects)
Savanna	Summer-wet season Winter-dry season	Very hot summer Cool winter	Tall grasses, isolated trees	Not very fertile	Birds, snakes, large mammals
Steppe	Winter snow Summer thunderstorms	Cold winter Warm summer	Grassland (short grass)	Very fertile	Migrating herds of large animals and colonies of small rodents, birds, insects, reptiles
Warm Desert	Little and unreliable	Cool winter Hot summer Great daily range	Scrub trees and bushes, cacti	Poor soil lacking nitrogen	Nocturnal animals, reptiles, birds
Taiga	Winter snow Summer rain	Very cold winter Cool summer	Evergreen trees like spruce and fir	Poor soil, needs fertilizer	Migrating herds of large animals
Tundra	Adequate	Always cold except in a very short summer	Lichens, mosses, small bushes	Frozen soil	Migrating herds of large animals

Create a Culture Ecosystem Cards—cut apart and give one per group

tundra

tropical
rainforest

steppe

savanna

taiga

warm
desert

Create a Culture Planning Form

Names of Group Members:

What is your culture's ecosystem? (Look on your card.)

What are the characteristics of your ecosystem? (Use your Ecosystem Characteristics chart.)

Moisture:

Temperature:

Vegetation:

Soil:

Plants and Animals:

As a group, now decide on a location, name and cultural characteristics for your hypothetical culture which would logically live in the ecosystem you are assigned.

1. Location: Where does your culture live? (Specify a real country or part of a continent.)

2. Name of your culture:

3. What are the cultural characteristics of your culture? (These must be logical for the ecosystem that you are assigned.)

A. Economic Systems: *This would include--Ways of making a living? Occupations? Hunters & gatherers and if so, what animals are hunted and what plants are gathered? Agriculture and if so, what major crops are grown? Herders and if so, what type of animal? Industries and if so, what types of products are manufactured or types of services are provided? Tourism and if so, what do tourists come to see or do? Think about the level of technology your culture has attained. It can range from primitive & rudimentary to modern & sophisticated.*

B. Clothing: *This would include--How & of what materials are they made? Everyday vs. formal dress? Traditional costumes? Are there differences between male vs. female clothing and if so, why? How is your culture's clothing adapted to the ecosystem (climate & vegetation)? Don't forget to create footwear and hats or headgear.*

C. Architecture: *This would include-- Types & structures of buildings? How & of what materials are they constructed from? Are these materials readily available in your ecosystem? What are the purposes of buildings--everyday dwellings, places of worship, government buildings, sports arenas, monuments, shopping centers, market places, etc?*

D. Ideas of Beauty or Art: *This would include-- What is considered of great worth, beauty, or value? What forms of artwork produced? Primitive or sophisticated? Where is the artwork displayed? How is the artwork an expression of this culture?*

Create a Culture Mini Poster Guide

DIRECTIONS: After the group has completed the Create a Culture Planning Form, assign one group member to be responsible for one cultural characteristic. Each group member will design an original Create-a-Culture Mini Poster that clearly illustrates his/her assigned cultural characteristic. Each group member should utilize the information on the PLANNING FORMS and collaborate with his/her group for ideas, BUT THE FINAL MINI POSTER PRODUCT SHOULD REFLECT INDIVIDUAL WORK!

Project is Due _____

Person Responsible for:

Economic System _____

Clothing _____

Architecture _____

Ideas of Beauty or Art _____

Guidelines:

- ✓ The poster must be on 8.5 by 11 inch white unlined paper.
- ✓ Poster must have student's name on the back or the front of the poster.
- ✓ The illustrations should logically match the ecosystem assigned and be logical to the other posters for this culture.
- ✓ The title must include your culture's name and the cultural characteristic on the front of the poster.
- ✓ The illustrations should match the descriptive essay that you wrote.
- ✓ All work is neatly done.
- ✓ The poster must be colored. No crayons please.

Scoring:

- Student name is present (5pts)
- Poster has title and cultural characteristic clearly labeled. (5pts)
- Used color and white paper (20 pts)
- Illustrations are logical and match descriptive essay (30 pts)
- Neatly done (10 pts)

Create a Culture Descriptive Essay

DIRECTIONS: Each group member will compose a one-page essay describing their assigned Cultural Characteristic (Economic System, Clothing, Architecture, OR Ideas of Beauty or Art). Again, group collaboration and sharing of ideas is encouraged, BUT THE FINAL ESSAY SHOULD REFLECT INDIVIDUAL WORK! Your essay will be graded on the following:

Ideas (20 pts)

- Clear and focused
- Vivid details
- Logical to your ecosystem
- Uses details from your ecosystem

Organization (10 pts)

- Has strong introduction
- Has strong conclusion
- Has logical connections

Word Choice (10 pts)

- Vivid details
- Elevated vocabulary

Conventions (10 pts)

- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Grammar

Using computer technology, reading and writing skills (50 pts)

- Used Internet to find logical illustrations and information for your hypothetical culture by researching the ecosystem you were assigned (20 pts)
- Cited your sources of information in a standard format (10 pts)
- Have written information in your own words (10 pts)
- Used multiple internet sources (at least 3) (10 pts)

Total 100 pts