

Middle East Ethnic and Religious Groups

Ethnic Group

A country may contain several culture regions within its borders.

Often, these culture regions are based on ethnic groups.

An ethnic group is a group of people who share a common culture and ancestry

Members of ethnic groups often share certain culture traits such as religion, language, and even special foods

For hundreds of years, immigrants from around the world have moved to the United States to make a new home here.

They have brought with them all the things that make up culture—language, religion, beliefs, traditions, and more

These people develop characteristics which make them different from other groups.

Ethnic and Religious Diversity in the Middle East

The Middle East is the home to many different ethnic groups.

Each ethnic group has unique cultural traits that make them different from other ethnic groups in the region.

However, within those same ethnic groups are different religious groups.

SS7G8 The student will describe the diverse cultures of the people who live in Southwest Asia (Middle East).

a. Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group.

What is Culture

Culture is all the characteristics which make one group different from other groups such as

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|------------|------------|
| language | traditions |
| music | attire |
| foods | religion |
| landscapes | ideas |

What is a Religious Group?

Religious groups differ from each other in that their only common feature within a religion is their faith

Religious groups differ from each other in the way they worship, the way they pray, the gods they worship and to whom they pray

Religious groups are also different in their place of worship, religious traditions, celebrations, etc.

Members from an ethnic group may have similar cultural traits but may have different religious beliefs.

This means that members from the same ethnic group may belong to different religious groups.