Macie Kolb

Mrs. Leaver

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Culture varies across time and space, and the historical events that have occurred in the past affect the distribution and spatial perspective of cultures in the present and future.

Culture tends to vary in different locations at different times, due to the change in the interaction and exchange between a variety of people throughout history. Our society depends on this development of exchange between two people in order to share ideas, globalizing certain customs, while also ensuring different cultures have unique characteristics that define them. As history changes over time, these interactions help develop cultures that affect our lives today, and will continue to affect us in the future.

A majority of my family on my father’s side lives in Lawrence, Kansas, thus I often travel there in the summer, or during winter break in order to see them. In Kansas, there are a variety of cultural institutions devoted to the interpretation of historic transpiration routes that were used in order to settle the area and its surrounding states. Last summer, I had the opportunity to visit the Santa Fe Trail Center Museum, which preserves artifacts and manuscripts related to the blending of the major cultures along the Trail in Kansas. Visiting this museum allowed me to learn about the development of these cultures along the trail, and how that trail helped them establish themselves in Kansas. As I traveled through the museum and marveled at the different exhibits, I was able to imagine life in Kansas, when the area was covered in plains from which thousands of buffalos fed, while Wichita Indians lived in grass hunting lodges, pursuing the herds. Unlike other Western trails at the time, the Santa Fe Trail was a two way route between two different countries; the United States and Mexico. Thus, there was a extraordinary mix of culture, as a variety of people integrated or interacted with others, trading goods, ideas, people, and customs. In the museum, artifacts from both prehistoric and historic American Indians are on exhibit, allowing me to experience the different customs, clothing, or ways of life that these native people experienced on their own journey through the Santa Fe Trail. Furthermore, the museum had an in depth exhibit on the development of music in these communities, and the popular forms of entertainment for the people that settled along the routes of the old Santa Fe Trail. Thus, my visit to this museum allowed me to learn about the culture, and the life, of those that lived before me in a different place, and a different time, allowing me to experience the change in culture that occurs throughout history.

Cultures in a certain area change frequently, as one culture integrates, exchanges, and interacts, with another. This allows the culture to maintain characteristics that keep it unique, as well as adopt other customs that may help them in their everyday lifestyle. My experience at the Santa Fe Trail Center allowed me to understand how cultures change; for two hundred years ago, the area was not industrialized and Native Americans were forced to live in huts, while they preyed on bison and other small animals. Now, however, the area is very modernized, with grocery stores and fast-food chain restaurants lined up on street corners, cars that provide access to work, instead of horses, and roads that crisscross each other throughout the city, instead of trails. Thus, after I visited this museum and learned about the extraordinary journey that these Native Americans went on, as well as their lifestyle and their experiences, I was able to understand how culture changes frequently depending on the time and place.

Culture tends to vary in different locations at different times, due to the interaction and exchange between different people, and its effects on their societies. Our community, today, depends on this development of exchange between two people in order to share ideas, globalizing certain customs, while also ensuring different cultures continually stay unique. As history changes over time, these interactions help develop customs that still effect our lives today, and will continue to affect us in the future.