

Characteristics of Folk Culture Vs. Popular Culture

Category	Folk	Popular	Paradox?
Locations	Small isolated communities	Covers large area and multiple communities or societies.	
Origins	Has a hearth, but no recorded reason for where when, or why a tradition formed.	Almost always a documented beginning, event, or people that started a tradition.	Traditions with mass appeal have a distinct start, traditions with specific appeal do not.
Diffusion	Relocation Diffusion, resistant to diffusion from outside sources.	Hierarchical Diffusion	
People	Unique and easy to distinguish from people from other places. Connect to family, tribe, traditions.	People are into same sorts of activities and occupations and are connected.	
Psychology	People know their place and role in society. Feel free inside their traditions. Coming of age ceremonies	People have to find their role, engage in a "voyage of discovery." Feel free in ability to shake off the past.	People in a popular culture are easily persuadable. They reject tradition, thus look for something to believe in.
Sociology	People are committed to the health of tribe or community.	People are committed to own well being. Youth focused.	Create tribes.

Clothing and Fashion	Styles passed down from generation to generation.	Change constantly. Influenced by media and celebrities.	
Music	Tells a story or conveys information about life. Probably no recorded writer. Distinct sound.	Created for entertainment. High degree of professional expertise. Probably focused on love.	
Food	Unique and related to what can be grown in physical environment.	Multiple sources of ingredients. Many different kinds of ingredients. Food tends to be blander.	
Food Taboos	Many	Few	Popular culture tends to not eat exotic
Housing	Materials are restricted to local environment. Design is distinctive, limited styles, and easier to build. Adapted to local environment. May have religious influence. Probably built by home owner.	Many styles, created in mass, less connected to local building materials, and local environmental conditions. May have engineered design and be built by professionals.	
Physical Environment	Connected top physical environment. Stewards of the land. May have religious sites in local landscape.	Tends to shape the physical environment to needs. Less concerned with "using up" the land.	

How does each influence each other?

Popular Culture tends to overwhelm and destroy folk cultures.

Folk culture provides sources for popular culture to draw constantly changing ideas.

Popular culture loses sources to draw ideas from as it destroys folk.