Cultural Geography
What is cultural geography?
Cultural Geography is a relatively new sub-field within human geography.

A very simple and broad definition of Cultural Geography is the study of geographical aspects of human culture.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_geography
characteristics of the people in a location, such as language, predominant religion and ethnic/racial group(s), education, life style ...
The world is an interesting place…

But in some parts, roast beef is a food of choice.

If you went urrh, you are judging the culture of others by your own Western values, called cultural imperialism.

The cow is sacred in some parts of the world.

Dogs are kept as pets, they are sacred parts of the family.

Dogs are specifically raised for human consumption.
What is cultural geography?

Globalisation

Use of space

Identity

Representation of place

Cultural Landscapes

Modern View
What is culture?

This is difficult to define, but a general definition is

‘Culture can be defined as all the behaviours, ways of life, arts, beliefs and institutions of a population that are passed down from generation to generation. Culture has been called "the way of life for an entire society".’

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture
What is culture?

The previous definition may in reality reflect dominant culture.

Dominant culture, sometimes called state culture, is promoted by a nation-state (country), most of the population are likely to identify with it.

What is the dominant culture of the UK?
What is culture?

Visit Britain.

Write down some examples that illustrate Britain’s dominant culture on the following video and slide.
What is culture?

Dominant culture

Cultural Geography

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
What is culture?

The term culture can also be sub-defined...

Results of culture quiz.
What is culture?

High Culture/Elite culture

This is culture that is favoured by the most powerful in society (the ruling class), and therefore a minority of a population, it represents what they feel is the best cultural products that humans have produced.
What is culture?

High Culture/Elite culture

Music

Literature

Art

Philosophy

Objects of desire...

Food and drink
What is culture?

Popular Culture/Pop Culture/Low Culture

This is culture that is enjoyed by the majority of the population. It reflects our wants, needs and desires. It may be the result of mass media or trends that just hit a ‘chord’ and become popular through word of mouth.

‘Low’ culture is a derogatory term used by the elite to describe popular culture. The term popular was first used in the 5th century to define something as vulgar.
What is culture?

Popular Culture/Pop Culture/Low Culture
Cultural Objects
Teenage years 1987-1997

Clothes
Levi's
Jeans
United States

Music
Alternative Grunge Rock
Nirvana
United States

Film
Goodfellas
United States

Food and Drink
Coke
Coca-Cola
United States

Fast Food
McDonald's
United States

Gadget
Sega Master System
Japan

Book
Trainspotting
Irvine Welsh
United Kingdom

Sci-fi
The X-Files
Mr Cassidy
United States

T.V. Programme
Mr C

@ Mr C
What is culture?

Does a gulf still exists between the 'elite' and the rest of the population?
What is culture?

But because of education, the media and mass production, the distinction between high culture and popular culture has become blurred, as have class divisions.
What is culture?

Subculture

Subculture is a set of people with behaviours and beliefs that are distinctly separate from the mainstream culture of the population.
What is culture?

Cultural Geography

Hoodie Subculture Skater

Chav Emo Cyber

Youth sub-cultures?
What is culture?

Subculture

Where the subculture provides a threat/challenge to the dominant culture we call it counterculture.

Some Islamists believe that the U.K. should be governed by Islamic Sharia law.

Some people believe that the U.K. should be a republic.
What is culture?

1980's Subculture 2007-

Underground dance culture

We need to remember that subcultures sometimes become part of popular culture.

Now available in Tesco
What is culture?

So, what is your 'culture'?