

Social System



~a culture's organization of families, lineage, classes/status, roles of men and women, customs, traditions, values, religion, art, music and language



A. Families pass culture on from one generation to the next



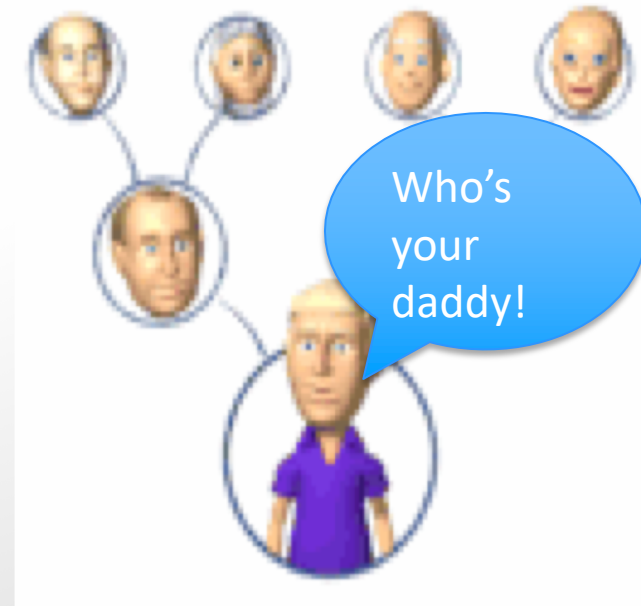
1. **Extended family** –
parents, children, aunts, uncles,
cousins, grandparents live in the same
household



2. **Nuclear family** – parents and
children live in the same household



3. Patrilineal – to trace descendants through the father's side of the family



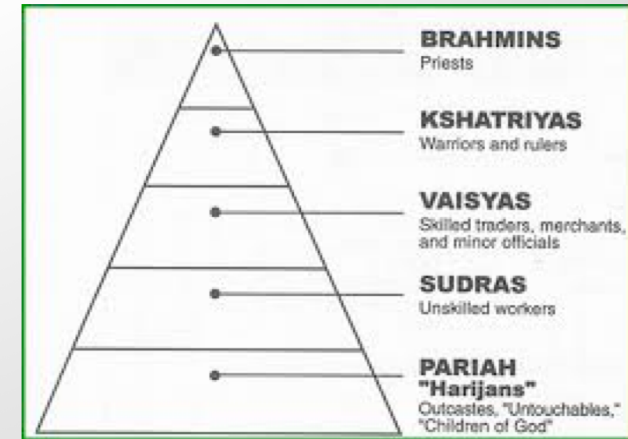
4. Matrilineal – to trace descendants through the mother's side of the family



Class Systems organize society

- Rigid social classes – members of the society are born into and stay in the same class until death

Ex. Caste system - India



- Flexible class system- members of the society may move up or down in the classes

Ex. United States



c. Religion – answers the question of why we are here, how we should behave, and where are we going after death



Polytheism – belief in many gods

Ex. Hinduism

Monotheism – belief in one god

Ex. Judaism

Customs – common practices of a group

Ex. Celebrating Thanksgiving

Mores – common moral practices (right behavior) of a group

Ex. Telling the truth/no stealing

D. Cultures vary from simple to complex



Traditional culture –
has very few outside
influences – may be
cut off by geographic
features and contains
little or very simple
technology



Complex culture – is influenced by and influences other cultures, contains a lot of very complex technology



E. Cultures influence each other through diffusion, which means the spreading of customs and ideas from one culture to another





Assimilation is the absorption of ideas from another culture, which changes the traditional culture to which they are spread

Ethnocentrism – is the belief that one's culture is superior to other cultures

