Customs and Traditions in the United States  
  
The traditions and practices of the United States are included in the American culture. According to Cristina De Rossi, an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in London, "culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music, what we believe is right or wrong, how we sit at the table, how we greet visitors, how we behave with loved ones, and a million other things."  
  
With a population of almost 35 million, the United States is the third-largest nation in the world. Every nine seconds a kid is born, and every eleven seconds someone passes away.  
  
The population of the United States was created through immigration from other nations, in addition to the Native Americans who already resided on the continent. The Census Bureau estimates that a new immigrant enters the country every 10 minutes.  
  
The London School claims that, as a result, the United States is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world. According to the Library of Congress, nearly every region of the world has had an impact on American culture, most notably the English, who began colonizing the nation in the early 1600s. The civilizations of Native Americans, Latin Americans, Africans, and Asians have also influenced American culture.  
  
Melting Pot  
  
According to Golden Beacon USA, the United States is commonly referred to as a "melting pot" where other cultures have added their own unique "flavors" to American culture. American culture now has an impact on other cultures, just as other cultures have had an impact on American culture in the past. According to ScienceDaily, the term "Western culture" is frequently used to refer generally to the cultures of the United States and Europe.  
  
In the US, people "melt" in a different way. Different immigrant groups integrate in  
various ways, according to De Rossi, according to Live Science. For instance, Catholic Spanish-speaking communities in the United States may maintain their native tongue and other cultural family customs while integrating into urban society and adopting many other aspects of the American way of life.  
  
Unique Traditions, Languages and Customs  
  
The traditions and customs of the Northeast, South, Midwest, Southeast, and Western areas of the United States are all unique. Here is a succinct description of American culture.  
  
The US government claims that there isn't an official language in the country. Although nearly every language in the world is spoken in the United States, Spanish, Chinese, French, and German are the non-English languages that are most commonly heard.   
  
The majority of official business is handled in English, which is spoken and understood by 90% of Americans. There are official or favored languages in certain states. For instance, according to the Washington Post, English and Hawaiian are both recognized as official languages in Hawaii.  
  
According to the Census Bureau, Americans speak more than 350 different languages. These languages are divided into four groups by the bureau: Other Indo-European languages include Spanish and German, Yiddish, Swedish, French, Italian, Russian, Polish, Hindi, Punjabi, and several others. Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Tamil, and other Asian and Pacific Island languages are also covered.   
  
For languages that didn't fit into the first three groups, such as Hungarian, Arabic, and Hebrew, languages of Africa, and native languages of North, Central, and South America, there is also a category called "all other languages."  
  
Religious Freedom  
  
In the United States, which was founded on the principle of religious freedom, almost every known religion is practiced. According to data gathered by the impartial research organization Pew Research Center in 2017, almost 70% of Americans identify themselves as Christians.  
  
The study also discovered that 6% of people who practice non-Christian religions, or roughly 23% of people, have no religious identification at all.  
  
People who identify as having no religion appear to be fewer in number. The Pew Research Center predicts a decline in this category from 16% in 2015 to 13% in 2060.  
  
American Styles  
  
Styles of dress differ according to socioeconomic class, geography, profession, and climate. According to InterExchange, there have been many different fashions over the years, but several clothing pieces are strongly identified with Americans, like jeans, sneakers, baseball caps, cowboy hats, and boots. Some well-known American companies include Victoria's Secret, Calvin Klein, Michael Kors, and Ralph Lauren.  
  
Celebrities and the media have a big impact on American fashion; in 2019, US clothing and accessory sales reached 24 billion USD, according to Statista. More and more Americans are shopping online for clothing, electronics, and other items. The third quarter of 2021 saw $214.6 billion in U.S. retail e-commerce sales, according to the Census Bureau.  
  
American Cuisine  
  
Native Americans and Europeans both had an impact on early American food. Today, a variety of meals, including hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips, macaroni and cheese, and meatloaf, are frequently associated with America. Despite the dish's non-American beginnings, "as American as apple pie" has evolved to denote something that is truly American, according to the Smithsonian.  
  
There are regionally specific cuisine varieties and cooking techniques. According to Southern Living, "American comfort cuisine" in the South includes foods like fried chicken, collard greens, black-eyed peas, and cornbread.   
  
According to Culture Trip, Tex-Mex, which is popular in Texas and the Southwest, is a fusion of Spanish and Mexican cooking techniques and includes foods like chili and burritos and largely relies on shredded cheese and beans. According to NPR, jerky, which is dried meat served as a snack, was also developed in the United States.  
  
Media and Entertainment  
  
The United States is well-known around the globe for being a leader in the production of mass media, such as television and movies. The Select USA estimates that the media and entertainment market in the US is worth $717 billion, or one-third of the global market.  
  
According to PBS, the American television broadcasting industry began to take off in the United States in the early 1950s. Today, American television shows are transmitted all over the world. Additionally, the United States has a thriving film industry with its heart in Hollywood, California, and American films are well-liked all over the world. Forbes estimates that the U.S. film business made a record $100 billion in revenue in 2019 before declining because of the COVID pandemic in 2020.  
  
However, American artistic culture goes beyond the realm of movies and television. According to Arcadia Publishing, Broadway is located in New York, and Americans have a long theatrical tradition. According to the Folk Art Museum, quilts and other handmade products are representative of American folk art. The types of American music are incredibly varied and include rock 'n' roll, hip hop, gospel, country & western, rhythm and blues, jazz, and many more.  
  
American Origins  
  
The English and Spanish colonists of colonial North America under British and Spanish authority are where the European roots of the United States are found. In the 17th century, when 250,000 people were living in the colonies and 3.9 million people overall, English-speaking people made up 47.9% of the population, far outnumbering any other ethnic group in the British Isles.   
  
At the first census in 1790, they made up 60% of the white population (%: 3.5 Welsh, 8.5 Scotch Irish, 4.3 Scots, 4.7 Irish, 7.2 German, 2.7 Dutch, 1.7 French, and 2 Swedish). The major cultural and social mindsets and attitudes that helped shape the American character were mostly influenced by the English ethnic group. They made up anything from 30% in Pennsylvania to 85% in Massachusetts of the overall population in each colony.   
  
Between the 1720s and 1775, substantial non-English immigrant populations—such as the Germans (100,000 or more), Scotch Irish (250,00), and others—added to, enriched, and altered the English cultural foundation. There were some forms of Protestantism prevalent (1.6% of people were Catholics in England, Germany, and Ireland).  
  
Jeffersonian Democracy  
  
A fundamental American cultural innovation that continues to be essential to the nation's identity is Jeffersonian democracy.  
  
Thomas Jefferson's Notes on the State of Virginia, which was produced in response to the ideas of certain influential Europeans that America's native flora and fauna (including humans) were degenerate, was possibly the first influential domestic cultural critique by an American.  
  
Immigration  
  
Historical immigration brought with it significant cultural impacts, particularly from Germany in a large portion of the nation, Ireland, and Italy in the Northeast, and Japan in Hawaii. Although it has also been brought about through immigration, Asian American cultures and Latin American cultures are particularly noticeable in places that were once under Spanish rule (especially in the Northeast and West Coast regions).  
  
Caribbean culture is now more prevalent in many urban areas as a result of immigration. The Caribbean has been the origin of the first and largest Black immigrant group since the end of slavery, a substantial contributor to the increase of the Black population in the United States, and has had a considerable cultural impact in entertainment, music, sports, and education.  
  
Native culture, including traditional administration and communal organization of land now officially controlled by Indian reservations, is still prevalent in locations with significant unaltered or moved populations (large reservations are mostly in the West, especially Arizona and South Dakota). After interaction with Europeans, aboriginal cultures experienced a variety of outcomes.   
  
For instance, the Tano culture in U.S. Caribbean islands is on the verge of extinction, and the Tano language, like most Native American languages, is no longer spoken. The Hawaiian language and culture of the Native Hawaiians, on the other hand, have persisted in Hawaii and have coexisted in some measure with immigrants from the mainland United States (beginning before the annexation in 1898) and Japanese immigrants.   
  
It occasionally has an impact on popular culture in the United States thanks to notable exports like surfing and Hawaiian shirts. The majority of the original native languages of what is now U.S. territory have vanished, and the economic and cultural hegemony of English threatens the majority of the remaining ones.   
  
Samoan, Hawaiian, Navajo, Cherokee, Sioux, and a variety of Inuit languages are among the most widely spoken native tongues, while Chamorro and Carolinian are spoken in the Pacific territories. While Chamorros remain Guam's largest ethnic group (despite being a minority), ethnic Samoans make up the majority in American Samoa. Refaluwasch and Chamorros make up smaller minorities in the Northern Mariana Islands.  
  
Political frameworks, risk-taking and free expression, materialist and moral aspects, as well as conservative and liberal elements, are all features of American culture. American culture has a range of expressions because of its geographic scope and population, despite some persistent ideological ideas (such as individualism, egalitarianism, and trust in freedom and republicanism).  
  
Cultural Plurality  
  
The idea of the United States as a melting pot has long been prevalent, with immigrants contributing to but eventually blending into the country's dominant culture. But since the 1960s and up until the present, the nation has tended toward partisanship and cultural plurality.   
  
Throughout the history of the nation, distinct subcultures—whether based on ethnicity or another shared characteristic, such as ghettos—have dominated particular districts and have only partially assimilated into the larger society. Due to the breadth of American culture, the country is home to numerous integrated yet distinctive social subcultures, some of which are not geographically bound.   
  
In the United States, a person's political ideology, social status, and a wide range of demographic factors like their occupation, ethnicity, and religious background all had a role in how they identified culturally.  
  
Different Languages  
  
Although there is no official language for the United States at the federal level, English is regarded as the de facto national language in 28 states where it has been made official by law. Over 97% of Americans can speak English proficiently, and 81% of them only speak English at home, according to the 2000 U.S. Census.   
  
The national dialect is called American English, which is made up of a variety of regional dialects but stands apart from other national variants of English due to some shared characteristics. In addition to various dialects that are more concentrated in major cities like New York City, Philadelphia, and Boston, there are four major dialect regions in the United States: the North, the Midland, the South, and the West.   
  
Some people believe that there is also a standard dialect known as "General American" that lacks the distinctive noticeable features of any particular region and is occasionally associated with the Midwest. It is analogous in some respects to the received pronunciation elsewhere in the English-speaking world. American Sign Language, which is mostly used by the deaf, is also a native language of the country.  
  
In addition to English, there are native speakers of more than 300 languages in the United States; up to 800 languages can be heard in New York City alone. About 150 of these languages are still spoken by native Americans, while others were brought in by immigrants. The majority of immigrants to the US do not speak English as their first language, even though many do, especially those from nations where the language is widely spoken.   
  
This includes immigrants from nations where English is the official language, such as India, Nigeria, and the Philippines, as well as nations where English is the primary language, such as Canada, Jamaica, and the United Kingdom.  
  
In the United States, there are close to 30 million native Spanish speakers, according to the 2000 census. It has official status in the state of New Mexico and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, where it is widely spoken, as well as in some smaller Spanish-speaking enclaves across the nation.   
  
A condition known as Spanglish occurs when bilingual speakers may reasonably flip between using English and Spanish depending on their dialog partner or the situation. In the deep south, a language fusion of English and Spanish is also referred to as "Tex-Mex."