

## Cultural Universals

**Cultural Universals** are basic needs and social experiences found in all societies, past and present (Alleman & Brophy, 2002)

**Social Aspects:** how humans live together in communities and groups

- Family life
- Customs
- Class
- Roles (gender, familial, leadership, community)
- Education
- Leisure activities
- Community life (cities, farms etc.)
- Food
- Clothing and Beauty
- Mathematics
- Decision-making

**Cultural Arts:** how humans create, express, and appreciate beauty

- Art
- Music
- Dance
- Literature
- Science
- Leisure activities

**Economics:** decision making that relates to the production, development, management and consumption of goods and services

- Resources (natural and productive-things used by producers to make goods and services)
- Goods (objects people can see or touch that can satisfy wants)
- Services (activities that workers provide to satisfy wants)
- Needs and wants
- Scarcity (imbalance between unlimited wants and limited resources)
- Production and distribution of goods (factories, farms, workers, stores)
- Type of economy

- Type of community (cities, farms, island etc)
- Technology
- Transportation
- Mathematics

**Beliefs:** convictions held by a community, group, or individual

- Religion
- Myths
- Rituals, traditions, customs
- Science

**Politics:** How humans relate to government and governing

- Citizenship
- Leadership
- Laws
- Institutions
- Decision-making

Alleman, J., & Brophy, J. (2002). *Social Studies Excursions, K-3: Powerful Units on Communication, Transportation, and Family Living*. New Hampshire: Heinemann.