AMERICAN CULTURE

INTRODUCTION

The United States is one of the largest countries in the world with a population of more than 320 million, according to the US census bureau because of this the United States is one of the most *culturally diverse* countries in the world, nearly every region in the world has influenced American culture, as it is a country of *immigrants*, most notably the English who colonized the country, US culture has also been shaped by the cultures of *native Americans*, Latin Americans, Africans and Asians.

The United States is sometimes described as "melting pot" in which different cultures have contributed their own distinct "flavors" to American culture. Just as cultures from around the world have influenced American culture, today American culture influences the world, the term "Western Culture" often refers broadly to the cultures of the United States and Europe.

The way people "melt" in the United States differs. Different groups of immigrants integrate in different ways, for example in the United States; Catholic Spanish-speaking communities might keep their language and other family traditions, but are integrated in other ways. The Northeast, South, Midwest, Southeast and Western regions of the United States all have distinct traditions and customs.