

DIVERSIVE

Edition 7 - May 2023

WHAT DOES THE TERM 'CULTURE' MEAN TO CHILDREN?

By Dr. Shruti Shankar Gaur

The following research article is extracted from Pole Star, a children's book on the theme of culture & heritage, published by RIEDU in 2021.

In May 2020, RIEDU conducted a pilot study where we explored the understanding of culture among the children. We received a mixed bag of responses independent of variables such as gender and age. The question was simple, "What does the term 'Culture' mean to you?"

Children from Spain, India, Indonesia, Peru, Singapore, and the USA contributed to the study. The responses indicated that children had a basic understanding of culture, even if their perception varied. The omnipresent understanding included: 'culture was passed down through generations and needed to be conserved'.

Most children associate culture with religion. Other responses included customs, traditions, beliefs, lifestyles, food, language, art, music, dance, mythology, and folklore. Children from India and Indonesia associated culture with folklore and mythology. Meanwhile, children from Spain and Peru responded that culture was associated with history and monuments.

Culture is an umbrella term encompassing both the overt and not. It is hard to define such a ubiquitous concept properly. It is crucial to educate children about their culture and heritage and expose them to the richness and diversity of cultures worldwide. Be it their roots or the fruits of others; cultures are experiences well worth partaking in.

As parents, educators, and members of society, we are responsible for fostering a positive understanding of culture and heritage among children. Visiting museums, participating in cultural events, reading books, or watching movies portraying different cultures are good starting points.

Ask your child today: "What is your understanding of culture?"

Feel free to share the responses with us at themarshmallow.riedu@gmail.com



Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Shruti Shankar Gaur

Content Creator & Editor

Ayushman Harlalka

Designer

Riddhima Gangwal

INDEX

What Does The Term 'Culture' Mean To Children?

And The Greats Said...

A Cultural (Hi)Story

Music Evolution Infographic

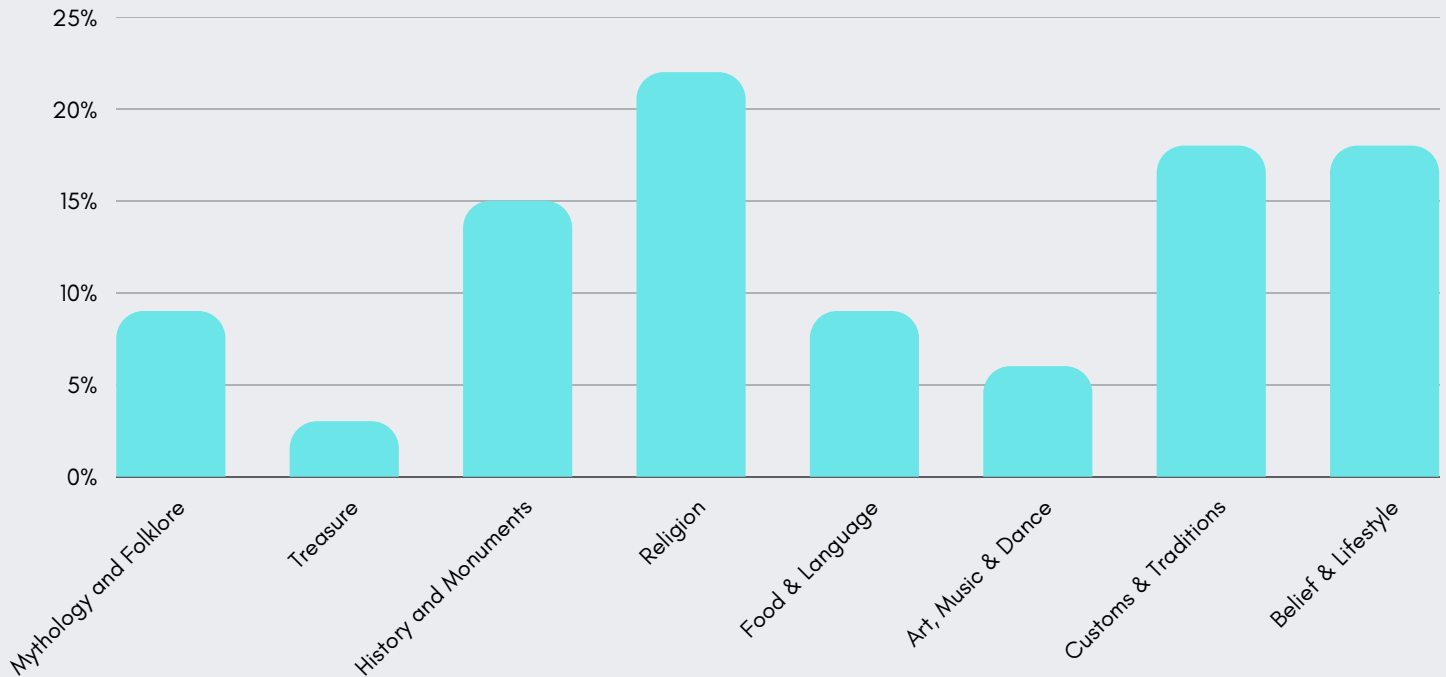
PUBLICATIONS



A movement to build a generation of thinkers & empaths.

[Paperback](#) | [Kindle](#)

WHAT DOES THE TERM "CULTURE" MEAN TO CHILDREN?



Insights

Children consider culture as something passed through generations that must be preserved.

The responses were independent of the following variables - gender, geography & age.

Indian & Indonesian children associated culture with folklore & mythology. Similarly, children from Spain & Peru associated culture with history & monuments.

AND THE GREATS SAID.....

A few quotes to live by, from the World Heritage Day 2023 -



"A rich cultural heritage depends on the ability of people to maintain their distinctiveness and unique identities".



"Sometimes it is impossible to know where you are headed without reflecting on where you came from. Understanding your heritage, your roots and your ancestry is an important part of carving out your future."

A CULTURAL (HI)STORY

An article by Ayushman Harlalka

Do you know you have been listening to black music in various formats? Even very influential bands like the Beatles were inspired by it while creating their own music! Black music is the music brought to American soil from Africa by the plantation slaves. It is the predecessor to soul music; rhythm & blues is another stylistically-diverse genre with roots in jazz, the blues and gospel music.

Back in the 18th century, when Africans were kidnapped and taken from their homeland to work in plantations, they brought their music to the USA. Their experiences of slavery and oppression in this new land seeped into their music. Thus, blues music was born in the late 19th century, characterised by its soulful melodies, passionate vocals, and distinctive chord progressions. It served as catharsis and an expression of the hardships and struggles faced by the plantation workers.

The blues continued to evolve, incorporating jazz, gospel, and country elements. In the 1940s and 1950s, the rise of electric instruments added a new dimension to its sound. Artists like Muddy Waters, B.B. King, and Howlin' Wolf became electric blues pioneers. Their music resonated with people from different cultures and backgrounds.

In the 1950s, rock music emerged as a fusion of various musical genres, including blues, country, and rhythm and blues (R&B). Rock was rebellious, energetic, and youth-centric, challenging the social norms of the time. Its amplified sound, powerful vocals, and catchy guitar riffs characterised it.

In the 1960s, rock diversified into sub-genres like psychedelic, folk, and garage rock. It became a global phenomenon, transcending cultural and geographical boundaries and influencing youth culture and social movements. The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin pushed the boundaries of rock music, experimenting with different sounds and styles. Rock music also played a significant role in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s and 1970s, with artists using their music as a form of protest and social commentary.

Rock music continued to diversify in the 1980s and 1990s, giving rise to sub-genres like punk, grunge, and alternative rock. Each sub-genre represented different attitudes, values, and beliefs.

From the blues music of plantation workers to rock music that continues to thrive, culture often intermingles and takes on interesting, unpredictable forms. Contrary to popular belief, it is a highly dynamic concept.

Article inspired by work by Prof. Portia K. Maultsby. Find her work in collaboration with Carnegie Hall [here](#). The extensive infographic used below is also her work.



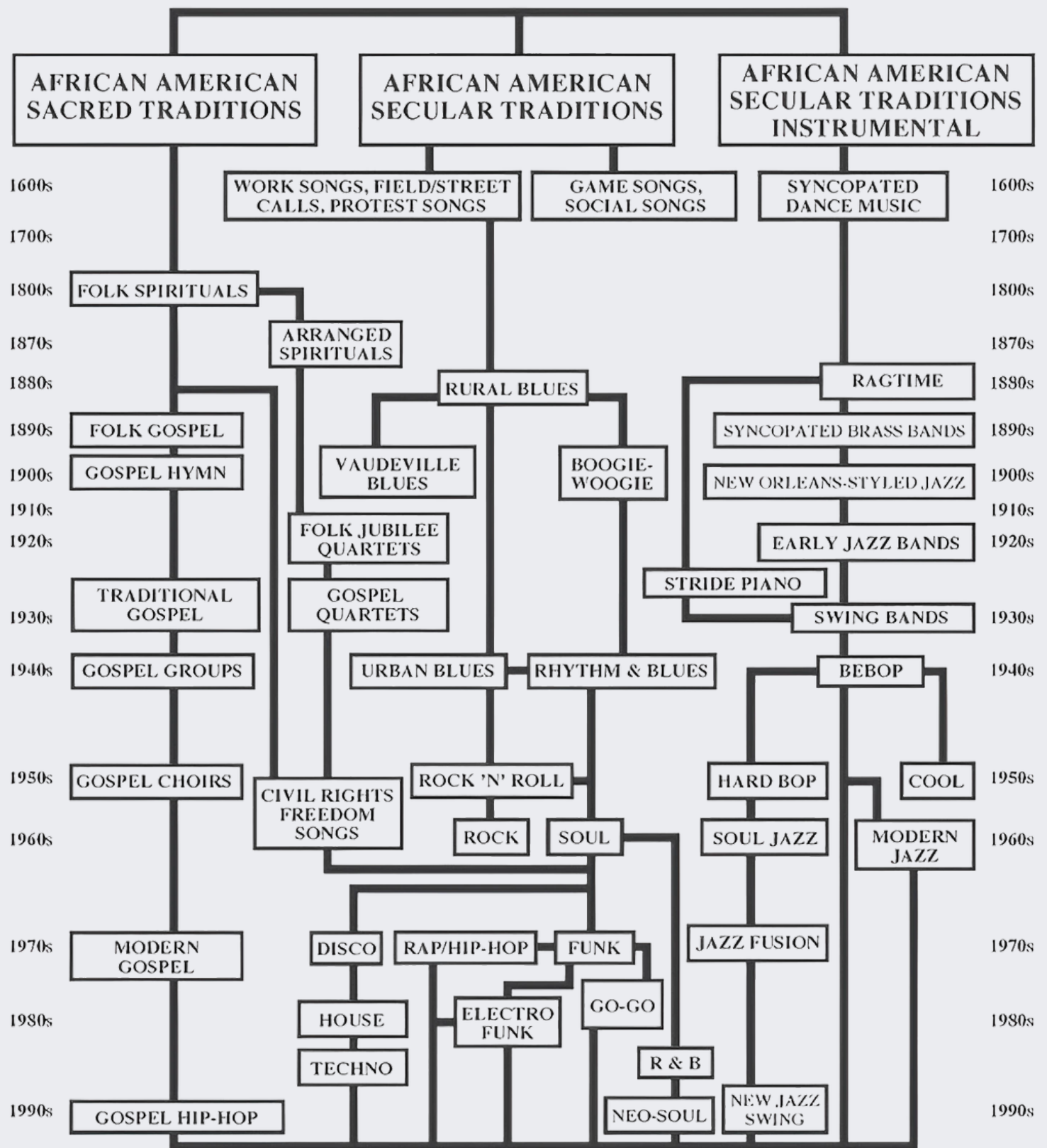


Figure 1. The evolution of African American music. © Portia K. Maultsby, Ph.D. Revised 1995, 2005, 2008. All rights reserved.