

# Landmarks and culture

Culture is complex. It encompasses attitudes, values, beliefs, behaviours, practices and lifestyles. It also includes the artefacts people in a cultural group produce and the institutions they create.

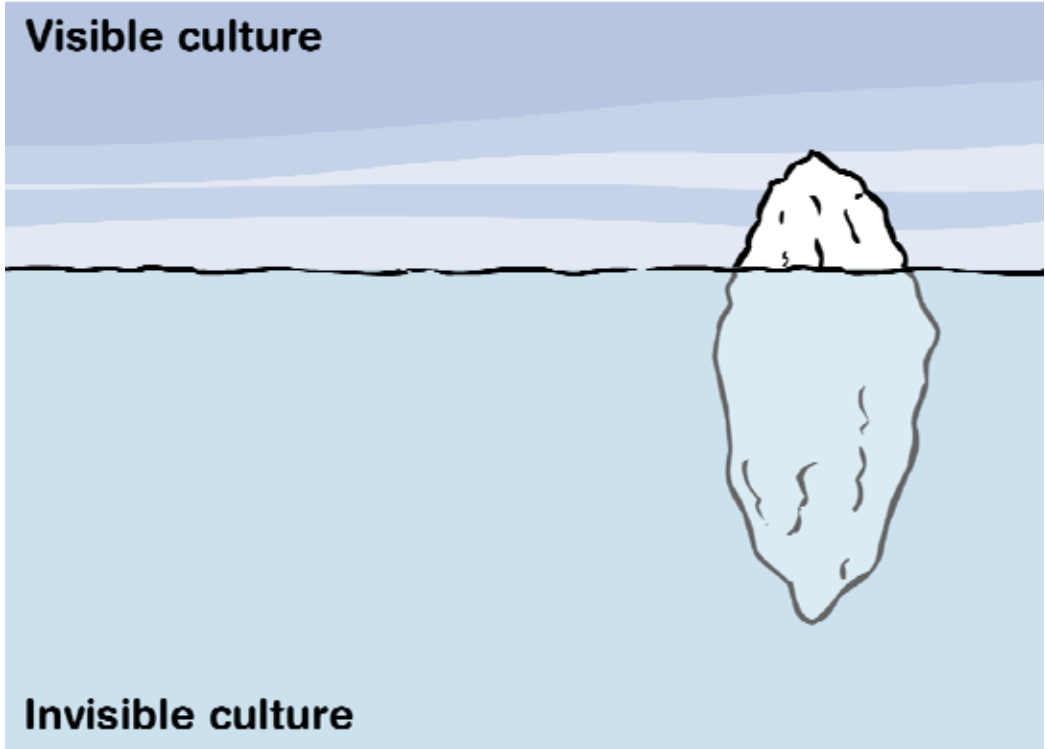
Culture can be visible or invisible.

- The iconic buildings and landmarks you saw in this module are a **visible** aspect of culture. Visible aspects of culture are easy to see. Often, it is not so easy to understand *why* they are important or what they represent. In Australia, for example, most towns and cities have a war memorial. These are visible structures but what do they mean to Australians? What do they show about our culture?
- **Invisible** aspects of culture may be outside our conscious awareness. An invisible aspect of culture might be a belief or an attitude that is taken for granted. In Australia, for example, we like to think we are an egalitarian society. How does this influence our behaviour and attitudes?
- One **analogy** for culture is an iceberg. The iceberg graphically demonstrates the idea of something having both visible and invisible aspects. Only a very small portion of the iceberg can be seen above the waterline. The tip of the iceberg is supported by a much larger, although invisible, part underneath the waterline. This part of the iceberg is its foundation.
- The iceberg model of culture highlights why it can be difficult at times to understand people with different cultural backgrounds. We may spot the visible parts of their culture but we cannot immediately see or understand the foundations that these aspects are based on.

## Exercises



1. Consider the aspects of culture listed in the table below the picture of the iceberg. Are they visible or invisible? Write them onto the graphic above or below the waterline.

Visible and invisible aspects	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 10px;"> <div style="width: 40%;"><b>Visible culture</b></div>  </div>	
<b>Invisible culture</b>	
Aspects of culture	
museums expectations values concept of beauty gestures religious beliefs religious practices holiday customs	paintings monuments concept of fairness literature eating habits understanding of roles assumptions style of dress

## Landmarks and culture



2. Why are famous places important to people?

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3.  
a) There are three headings in the table below. Sort the eight places, attractions and landmarks you encountered in Learning Object 4: 'Famous Places' into an appropriate column. Some of them may go into more than one column.

Daily life	History	Values and beliefs

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b) Now, select at least one of the eight places from each column and write a short paragraph about it, explaining why it fits under the heading.

- daily life in Indonesia
- the history of Indonesia
- Indonesian values and beliefs

### Daily life

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