



Seeing “American Culture”

Seeing Influences to American Culture through Food and Housing Styles

Examining Housing Styles

- Through looking at the different housing styles in America it is possible to see the different areas that influences the United States over time.
- Most of the housing styles are based off European designs with distinct American additions
 - Larger in size, addition of garages

Shotgun House



- Unique to North America
- Originally popular in African American communities of the south, diffused to the North in post-Civil War Era

Dutch Colonial



- Housing style inspired by buildings in the Netherlands
- Housing style popular in early 20th century featured distinctive roof shape

Georgian Style



- Housing style based off British design
- Extremely popular in colonial America but has continued through to the current, primarily featuring symmetry form

Victorian/Queen Anne Style



- Design based off British design
- Similar to Jacobean style of early 17th century England, became popular in United States in late 19th century

Bungalow



- Modeled after Bengali style housing, spread to England during Imperial era and became common in post-World War I America

Craftsman or Prairie School



- Uniquely American Design
- Developed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, especially popular design style in Midwest suburbs

French Provincial/French Revival



- Modeled after French country Manors, these styles of houses were built to give off air of sophistication in inter-war architecture

Italianate Style



- Diffused from England but style contains hints of Italian origins, features symmetry and use of columns

Spanish Revival



- Inspired by architecture of Spain and Latin America, especially popular in southern US where it is resistant to the elements and stays cooler

Examining American Food

- The food of the United States is as diverse as the people itself. Again the United States owes a lot of its culture to that of Europe, but the food has developed a unique American taste to distinguish it from its European originals
 - Food Slides selected from CNN Travel's Top 50 American Foods
- Most American foods are the result of Stimulus Diffusion – The general idea of something is adopted, but it is changed to regional tastes and preferences

Pot Roast (Consumed Everywhere)

- English in Origin
- Healthy amounts of Beef and fresh vegetables.
- Carries on the English tradition of a Sunday Roast



Chicken Fried Steak (Consumed mostly in Texas)

- Veal recipe from Austria adapted for Texas beef
- born to go with all-American sides like mashed potatoes and black-eyed peas.



Meatloaf (Everywhere)

- German/Belgian in Origin
- Been a staple of most American households since 1918



Mac and Cheese (Consumer Everywhere)

- Origins in Italy
- Recipe brought to the United States by Thomas Jefferson



Baked Beans (Consumer Everywhere)

- Native American in Origin
- Pioneers in Boston came up for recipe of navy beans and molasses
 - Famously gave town nickname of “Beantown”



Enchiladas (Southwest)

- Mesoamerican in Origin
- Brought to the United States by Mexican Immigrants
- Quickly spreading as immigrants move around the USA



Sandwich (Everywhere)

- English in Origin
- Ham sandwich reigns supreme followed closely by the BLT



Apple Pie (Everywhere)

- English in Origin
- Pilgrims actually introduced Apples to North America
- Has become quintessential American Desert



Pizza (Everywhere)

- Italian in Origin
- Americanized in Chicago
- UNOs Pizza Made it big and healthy enough to be eaten as a meal



Hot Dogs (Everywhere)

- Brought to the United States from Germany
- Best grilled! Goes best with summertime and a baseball game
- Brats (bigger meatier) only really in heavy German Areas



Reuben Sandwich (Everywhere)

- Origins in Germany
- Eaten now where ever Germans could have been found at one point.
- Best served along with Sauerkraut



Hamburger (Everywhere)

- German in Origin
- American purists will only eat if it comes off a grill
- Commercialized by McDonalds
☹️



Thanksgiving Dinner

- Distinctly American
- Turkey, Corn, Cranberries, Potatoes all native to the Americas

