

What
is
**Cultural
Appropriation?**

Defining Cultural Appropriation

cultural appropriation

noun [U] • **UK**  /,kʌl.tʃʊr.əl əˌprəʊ.priˈeɪ.ʃən/
/ ,kʌl.tʃə.əl əˌprəʊ.priˈeɪ.ʃən/ **DISAPPROVING**

- ★ the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture:

Some see his use of African music as cultural appropriation.

– Cambridge Dictionary

Appropriation, Appreciation or Assimilation?

Cultural (mis)appropriation differs from ***assimilation***, or ***cultural exchange*** in that the "appropriation" or "misappropriation" of cultural elements plays out in a dynamic of inequality:

elements are copied from a minority culture by members of a dominant culture and used outside of their original cultural context.

Video on Cultural Appropriation



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What makes the non-South Asian person's use of the bindi problematic is the fact that a pop star like Selena Gomez wearing one is guaranteed to be better received than I would if I were to step out of the house rocking a dot on my forehead. On her, it's a bold new look; on me, it's a symbol of my failure to assimilate...."

- Jaya Sundaresh,

<http://theaerogram.com/beyond-bindis-why-cultural-appropriation-matters/>



Katy Perry and Misappropriation



“Katy Perry’s recent geisha-styled performance on the American Music Awards (AMA), broadcast nationally on ABC television, served as the latest rendition of the bad movie we’ve all seen before. There is a persistent strain in our culture that refuses to move beyond the stereotype of Asian women as exotic and subservient.”

- Japanese American Citizens League, <https://jacl.org/jacl-statement-on-katy-perry-performance/>

Photo Collection

“Cultural Appropriation: a Conversation”

By Saana Hamid

<http://cargocollective.com/sanaahamid/Cultural-Appropriation-A-Conversation>

Discussion Questions

- What similarities or differences did you notice between what people were saying?
- What stuck out to you the most?
- What did you find surprising?
- If their goal was culture appreciation, what could they have done instead?

Cultural Exchange and Appreciation



*As my confidence and
desire for African designed
apparel grows, I hope
so will others.*



*I don't feel as though I am
appropriating African culture, it's
just the fashion/trend.
I certainly don't wear it with the
intention of exploiting a group of
people, it's just the latest style.*