

Defining Cultural Appropriation

cultural appropriation

noun [U] • UK () / kʌl.tʃ^ər.^əl ə prəʊ.pri'eɪ.ʃ^ən/ / kʌl.tʃə.^əl ə proʊ.pri'eɪ.ʃ^ən/ 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:

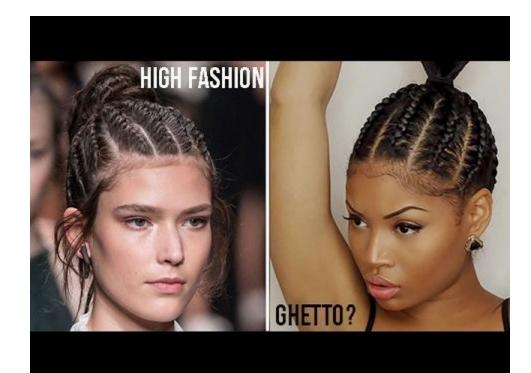
Some see his use of African music as cultural appropriation.

- 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



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-kat y-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 fashian/trend. I certainly don't wear it with the intention of exploiting a group of people, it's just the tatest style.