

# **The American Culture (At a Glance)**

**By Cathy Chang**



# Starting Question

- Do we have a Taiwanese culture that is unique and different from other countries/cultures?
- What is your impression of America?
- What do you know about the American culture?

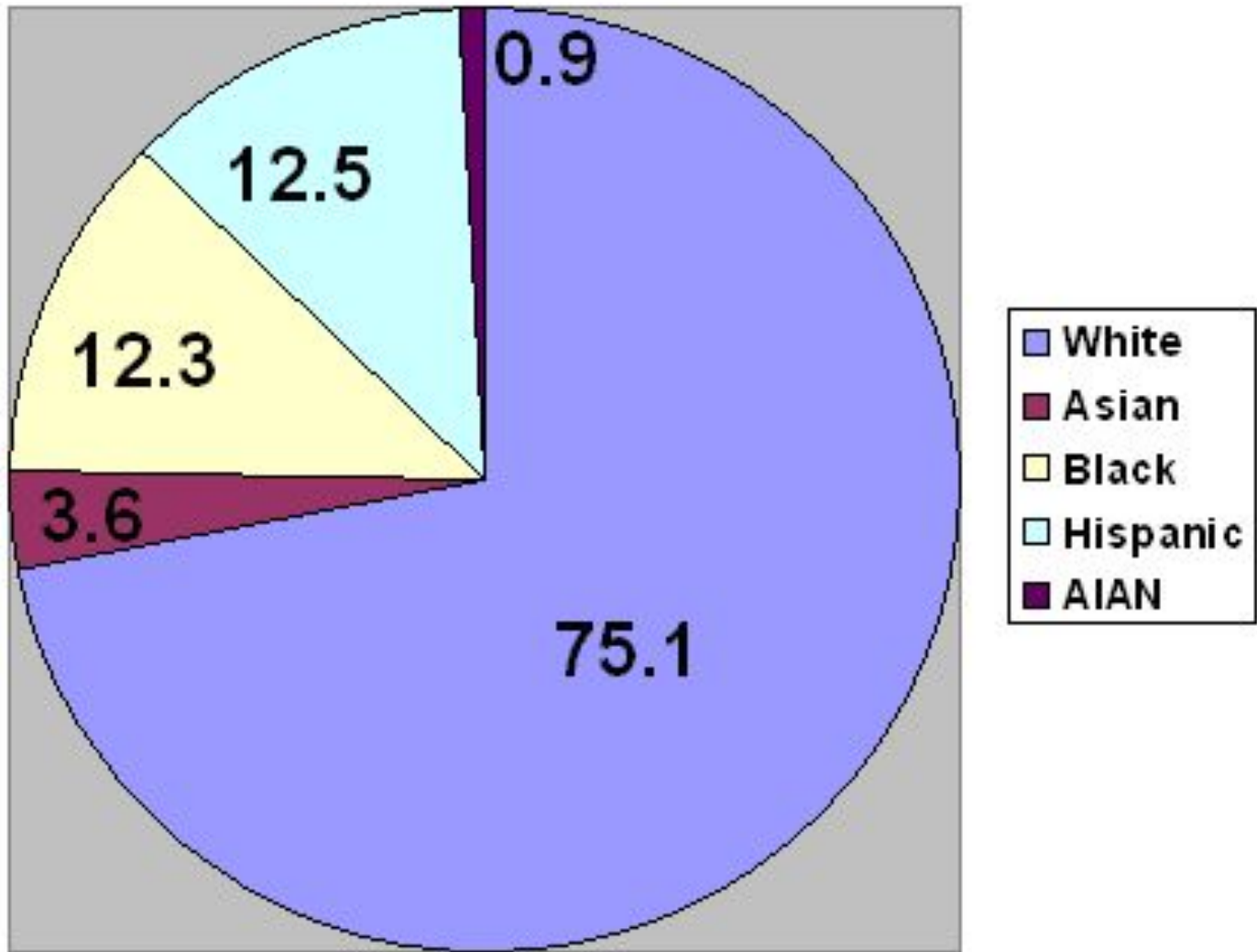




# United States

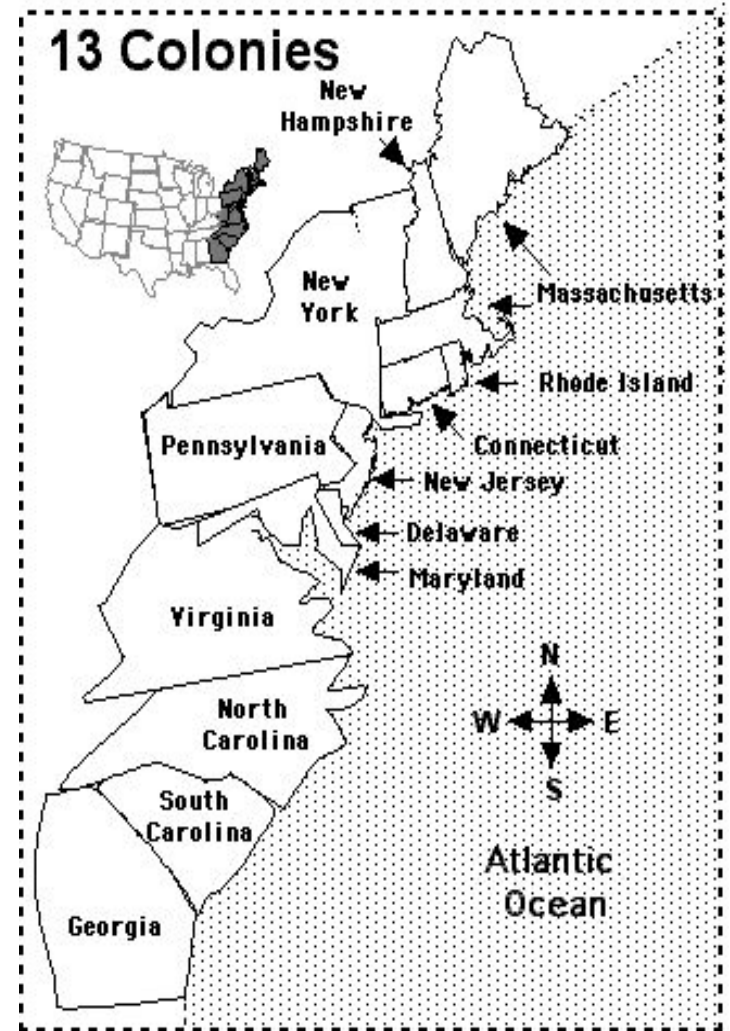
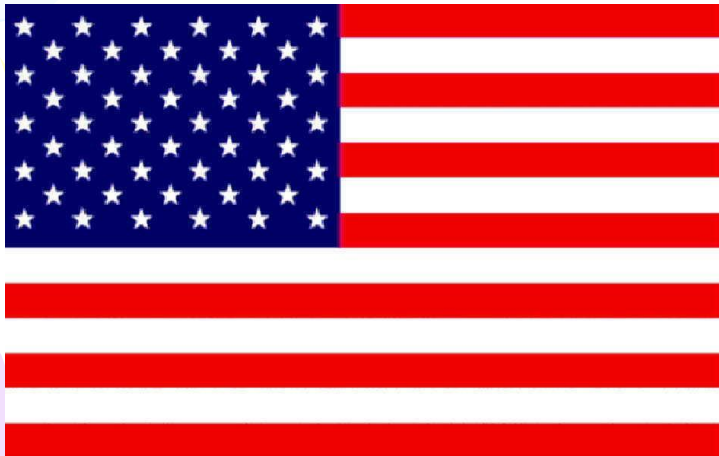
- Known as the “melting pot”
  - Academics = “salad bowl” (cultural diversity)
  - Immigrations = Ireland, Germany, Poland, Italy, and Western Africa
- Four races = Native American or American Indian, African American, Asian and White

# Graph



# Flag

- Stars = the 50 States
- Stripes = the 13 colonies







# Interesting State Facts

- Nevada = Only State that has legalized prostitution
  - Brothels Brothels are heavily regulated
- Utah = has the largest population Utah = has the largest population of Mormons
  - Main church = The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Hawaii = used to be it's own country as a monarchy
- Texas = used to be part of Mexico
- Massachusetts = the only States that legalizes same-sex marriage
- Washington D.C. = the countries capital
  - Not a State but a district
  - Mostly African Americans live there



# New York City

- The Statue of Liberty
  - Given by France after the American Revolution
  - Represents freedom and democracy
  - Torch: symbol of enlightenment
  - Crown (25 windows): symbolizes gemstones
  - Crown (25 windows): symbolizes gemstones and heaven's rays shining over the world
  - Crown spikes (7): seven seas and continents
  - Tablet: a book of law
  - Broken chains Broken chains: freedom as movement Broken chains: freedom as movement forward







# Personal Spaces

- **Intimate distance:** about 18 inches (45.7 cm) apart
  - For family, pets and very close friends
- **Personal distance:** about 4 to 5 feet (1.2 - 1.5 meters)
  - For friends and acquaintances
  - Handshakes with strangers = at least 2 to 4 feet apart
- **Social distance:** about 4 to 12 feet (1.2 - 3.7 meters)
  - For formal, business and other impersonal interactions such as meeting a client
- **Public Space:** more than 12 feet (3.7 meters)

# The American Dream

- Land of opportunity
- (1) individual freedom of choice in life styles
- (2) equal access to economic abundance
- (3) the pursuit of shared objectives mutually advantageous to the individual and society



# September 11, 2001

- Do you remember what you were doing at this time?
- What was your first reaction when you heard about the news?
- What is your attitude now towards the United States?



# Vocabularies

- A Glance 一瞥
- Academics 學術
- Diversity 多樣性
- Immigration 移民
- Race 種族
- Colony 殖民地
- Legalize 合法的
- Brothel 妓院
- Regulate 管制
- Population 人口
- Mormon 摩門教徒
- Monarchy 君主國
- District 行政區
- Revolution 革命
- Represent 象徵

- Enlightenment 啟蒙 開明
- Gemstone 寶石
- Rays 日光
- Continent 大陸 陸地
- Tablet 刻寫板
- Chain 鎖鍊
- Movement 動向
- Oppression 壓制
- Servitude 奴役 束縛
- Impersonal 非個人的 客觀的
- Abundance 豐富 充足
- Objective 目標
- Mutually 互相 彼此
- Advantageous 有利的 有益的



# Reference

- Wikipedia:
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States#\\_note-The\\_Hidden\\_Dimension](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_the_United_States#_note-The_Hidden_Dimension)