**Comparative Cultures**

**Food and Culture**

**/25**

**Preamble**

As you well know, cultural expression comes in many forms, and certainly this is no different at the table, in kitchens all around the world. People take great pride in preparing special food from a specific region, not only to celebrate the fruits of their own farming labour, or a family recipe passed through the generations, but also to show their caring and cultural uniqueness. Smells and tastes become attached to memories and can elicit strong emotional responses as a result. Ever smell a certain smell and drift back to a childhood memory? Taste a certain food and had an emotional reaction? This is the power of food. (As an aside, are you a foodie? Read the book *Like Water for Chocolate* or watch the movie. Worth your time. Come chat with me about it!)

Spending time with others around a table and ‘breaking bread’ is an integral part of every culture and has been since time immemorial. Sitting together, eating and drinking together, is a part of celebrating togetherness, unity, and has been an integral part of historical peace processes globally.

**Assignment**

Watch the following video (About Culture and Food) and take notes in the space provided. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=is7IJgibSxE>.

Look at the index in *Echoes* and highlight the unique foods that have existed historically around the world. Look for key words like ‘food’ (obviously!) but also agriculture, customs, drinks, and trade. Then, using the map provided, create a key and map out the cultures/people you found, what their unique cultural foods are, and when the culture existed (many will still be in existence today!). Symbols must be explained!

Colour if time permits. Due at end of class, so use your time wisely.

**Assessment**

/20 content accurate and complete (answers will vary)

/5 key and map is legible and well-presented