

Assimilation and Amalgamation

The absorption of the culture and social structure of an incoming group into the dominant society is referred to as assimilation. Two forms of assimilation may be noted. In one form new immigrants change their socio-cultural structure to conform to that of the dominant culture and society. The second form of assimilation — the true melting pot — involves an intermixing or blending of the dominant culture with the sub-cultures of the immigrants in such a way that a new culture results.

Assimilation occurs more readily in some conditions than in others. It is more likely to take place easily and quickly when a minority group is similar to the dominant society both culturally and biologically.

While assimilation means a social and cultural merging, amalgamation refers to the biological merging of an ethnic or a racial group with the native population. Some amalgamation always occurs when two groups live together, but it is rare for amalgamation to be the dominant pattern of acceptance. True amalgamation can be seen, in Hawaii in Polynesia, where Caucasians, Negroes and Monogloids have intermarried frequently that the three races have partly melted into a single group.

Amalgamation is not necessarily a feasible solution to problems of intergroup relations even if it could be carried out.

COMPREHENSION:

1. Define "assimilation".
2. What is the difference" between assimilation and amalgamation?
3. What are the two forms of assimilation?
4. When does assimilation occur more readily?
5. Which is the more dominant pattern of acceptance), assimilation or amalgamation?
6. What is the result of "intermarriage"?
7. refers to biological merging
8. Some amalgamation occurs when two
9. Amalgamation is not a practical solution to
10. "Melting Pot" involves.....
11. Amalgamation refers to the absorption of culture (true/ false).

Translation:

1. Assimilation, amalgamation, coercion, exchange, intermarriage, conflict.
2. The true "melting pot" involves an inter-mixing, or blending of the dominant culture with the subculture of the immigrants in such a way that a new culture results.