

# networks

There's More Online!

- ✓ GRAPHIC ORGANIZER  
Processes of Socialization
- ✓ MAP Rates of Imprisonment
- ✓ SELF-CHECK QUIZ



## LESSON 5 Processes of Socialization

Reading HELPDESK



### Academic Vocabulary

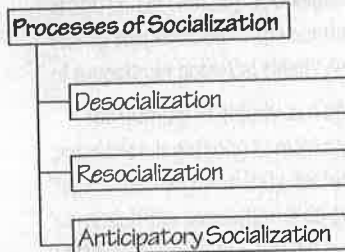
- unique
- voluntary

### Content Vocabulary

- total institution
- desocialization
- resocialization
- anticipatory socialization
- reference group

### TAKING NOTES: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

**GATHERING INFORMATION** As you read about the processes of socialization after childhood, use a graphic organizer like the one below to record details.



**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** • What factors influence an individual's development?

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Symbolic interactionism views socialization as a lifelong process. Desocialization is the process of having to give up old norms. Resocialization begins as people adopt new norms and values. Anticipatory socialization and reference groups are concerned with voluntary change as when moving from one life stage to another.

## Desocialization and Resocialization

**GUIDING QUESTION** What are desocialization and resocialization?

Whenever change occurs over the course of your life, you will learn new behaviors and skills. This learning is important to socialization. Symbolic interactionism describes four processes associated with socialization after childhood: *desocialization*, *resocialization*, *anticipatory socialization*, and *reference groups*.

### Desocialization

Military boot camps, mental hospitals, and prisons are examples of what sociologist Erving Goffman called **total institutions**—places where residents are separated from the rest of society. Residents of total institutions are not free to manage their own lives. They are controlled and manipulated by those in charge. They cannot come and go as they please, and they are expected to follow all orders without question. The end purpose of this control and manipulation is to permanently change the residents by having them shed their past identities and adopt new ones. In a military boot camp, for example, recruits shed their civilian identities and adopt the norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors of soldiers.

The first step in this transformation is **desocialization**—the process by which people give up old norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors. For those in total institutions, desocialization often means the destruction of old self-concepts of personal identity. Desocialization in total institutions is accomplished in many ways. The use of serial numbers to identify people and the loss of privacy contribute to the breakdown of past identity. So too does replacing personal clothing and possessions with standard-issue items. This promotes sameness among the residents by depriving them of

the personal items (long hair, hairbrushes, ball caps) they have used to present themselves as **unique** individuals. At military boot camp, for example, male soldiers have their heads shaved, and everyone dresses alike in the uniform of that branch of the military. One of the intended messages is that the recruits are not unique individuals; they are members of a team.

## Resocialization

Once the self-concept has been broken down, **resocialization**—the process in which people adopt new norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors—can begin. Those in control of total institutions use an elaborate system of rewards and punishments in an attempt to give residents new self-concepts. Rewards for taking on a new “identity” can include extra food, special responsibilities, or periods of privacy. Punishments for nonconformity involve shaming, loss of special privileges, physical punishment, and physical isolation.

The concepts of desocialization and resocialization were developed to analyze social processes in extreme situations. They still apply to other social settings, including basic training in the U.S. Marine Corps and plebe year (first year) at the United States Military Academy. In much less extreme form, these concepts illuminate changes in our normal life course. Desocialization and resocialization occur as a child becomes an adolescent, when young adults begin careers, and as the elderly move into retirement or widowhood.

### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Synthesizing** Why do total institutions desocialize and then resocialize people?

**total institutions** places in which people are separated from the rest of society and controlled by officials in charge

**desocialization** the process of giving up old norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors

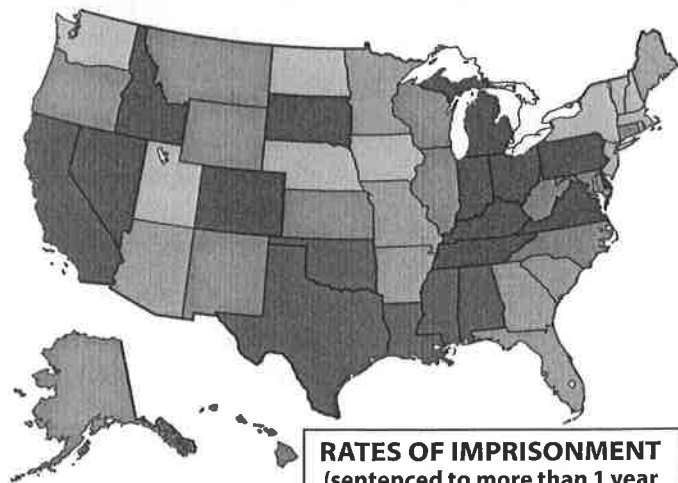
**unique** like no other, distinct

**resocialization** the process of adopting new norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors

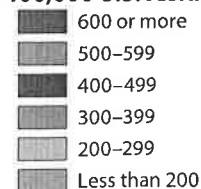
## A Diverse America

### RATES OF IMPRISONMENT

The United States has one of the highest rates of imprisonment in the industrialized world. Justice officials worry that some prisons function as “schools for crime.” If prisons first desocialize and then resocialize inmates toward a criminal identity, then the U.S. prison system is unintentionally increasing the criminal portion of the population. This map shows the number of prisoners (per 100,000 U.S. residents) with sentences of more than one year.



### RATES OF IMPRISONMENT (sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 U.S. residents)



SOURCE: Bureau of Justice Statistics  
Bulletin: Prisoners in 2009

### Geography Connection

- 1. Environment and Society** Where does your state rank in terms of imprisonment rates? Can you relate the extent of imprisonment in your state to the nature of the socialization that occurs in your state?
- 2. Places and Regions** Do the states adjoining your state have imprisonment rates that are similar or dissimilar to your state?

## Quick Case Study

### HOW DO YOU COMPARE TO YOUR BIRTH COHORTS?

Studying birth cohorts—people born in the same time period—is one way that sociologists determine patterns within developmental stages. How do you compare with your birth cohorts on anticipatory socialization?

#### Procedure

1. Write a paragraph titled “What I Am Doing to Prepare for the Next Stage in My Life.”
2. Ask five of your classmates who were born in the same year as you to do the same.

#### Analysis

As you read the paragraphs, consider these questions.

1. In what ways are your paragraphs similar? In what ways are they different?
2. Why does this type of research make sense to study birth cohorts?

## Anticipatory Socialization

**GUIDING QUESTION** *How does anticipatory socialization lead to voluntary change?*

**anticipatory socialization** the voluntary process of preparing to accept new norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors

**voluntary** done by free choice

**reference group** group whose norms and values are used to guide behavior; group with whom you identify

**Anticipatory socialization** is the process of preparing (in advance) for new norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors. It does not generally occur in prisons or mental hospitals because it involves **voluntary** change.

Anticipatory socialization may occur in people who are moving from one stage in their lives to another. For example, because they want to resemble those their own age, adolescents may voluntarily abandon many of the norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors learned previously. This process generally begins in pre-adolescence. Preteens adopt adolescents as their new **reference group**—the group they use to evaluate themselves and from which they acquire attitudes, values, beliefs, and norms. In this situation, the new reference group is a tool for anticipatory socialization.

Seniors in college, normally seen on campus only in jeans and other casual clothing, suddenly, as graduation nears, are wearing tailored clothing and much more serious expressions. In preparing for entry into the business world, they are talking with friends who have graduated as well as company recruiters. In effect, they are preparing themselves for the resocialization they know awaits them.

#### **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

**Identifying Cause and Effect** How does anticipatory socialization ease the transition between stages in life?

## LESSON 5 REVIEW



### Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Identifying** What is a total institution?
2. **Observing** Describe two reference groups that are important to you now.

### Using Your Notes

3. **Making Connections** Use your notes to identify how desocialization and resocialization help people adapt to changing situations.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

4. **Differentiating** What are desocialization and resocialization?
5. **Analyzing** How does anticipatory socialization lead to voluntary change?

### Writing Activity

6. **Narrative** Think back to your preadolescent years. Write a description of the anticipatory socialization you went through in preparation for adolescence.