

Different Family Types	Murdock's theory of family	Murdock's four functions of family (cont)	Evaluation of Murdock
The Nuclear Family- one adult male and female and dependent offspring	Functionalist sociologist G P Murdock 1949 argues nuclear family is universal, meaning that it exists in every known society.	all societies require new members to ensure physical survival	-family diversity, failed to keep up with modern changes like feminisation of workplace, increases in life expectancy & changes in fertility rates
The symmetrical family- conjugal roles are equal unlike nuclear family	Defined nuclear family as "a social group characterized by common residence includes adults of both sexes at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship and one or more children of the two adults.	ensures order e.g. marriage sends out message couple belongs to another	-feminists critique, doesn't account for womens changing role in family as not nutring children but as a earner as well, the function has transferred to childminders, nurseries and grandparents
Lone Parent family- headed by a single parent	See's family as foundation stone of society.		-ethnocentrism, as it sees nuclear families as superior. discriminates against other family types
The matrifocal family- women who are at the centre of the family	Uses human body analogy, family is the heart of society.	children symbol of couples emotional attachment. Stabilise marital relationships p and family life.	-too much emphasis on benefits and not on dysfunctions e.g domestic violence
The beanpole family- nuclear family with a wider extended kinship network	Murdock's four functions of family Procre Sexual Economic Education ation	it reinforces emotional commitment for several years	-family functions not effective e.g reproduction as many women's deciding not to have children and sexual as premarital and alternative sexuality's are becoming increasingly acceptable
The extended family- vertical (grandparents) and horizontal (auntie/cousins/uncles)		children dependent on parents for several years	-The Nayarr, nuclear families don't exist in all societies e.g Nayarr societies in India.
The reconstituted family- includes step brothers/sisters, stepfamily/blended		children learn how to fir into society by learning key norms and values.	
Dual-career family- both parents full time employed			
Cereal packet family- idealised nuclear family shown in media			
Empty nest family- children grown up and left home			
Cohabiting family- nubile(couples who cohabit before marriage) post marital (couples who cohabit after being married before)			

