

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 relationship 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)			

