

# Sociology Unit 2 - Age by AlexHoratio (Horatio) via cheatography.com/21127/cs/8239/

## Types of Age

#### Chronological Age

This refers to the amount of time in years that someone has been alive. This is used for mainly legal purposes.

#### **Biological Age**

This is linked to chronological age, as people for instance experience grey hair later in life. However, it varies a lot when this happens, as some people can be very old and get grey hair while others can be very youing.

#### Social Age

This is interested in the way that age is seen in society, for instance a 70-year-old is not expected to play with children's toys.

#### Childhood

#### In the Past

The definition of a child has varied over time. For example, in the Middle Ages, children were considered "miniature adults" from the age of 7 and were expected to work.

In the 19th century, child labour was the norm among the working class.

### In Other Cultures

Many societies consider childhood ending after a specific **rite of passage** rather than an age. This may be an elaborate ritual in some parts of the world.

## Adults

#### Life Expectancy

There are more adults and older people than there used to be. This may be because of:

- Better healthcare
- Better access to healthcare
- Better general health knowledge

In the future, it is expected that there will be many more older people.

## Ageism

In Britain, getting old is often seen as being a negative thing, or something to be avoided.

#### Adolescence

#### **Teenagers**

This is a recent development, only becoming recognized as a distinct subculture until the 1950s or so. This may be due to:

- Affluence. With a multitude of jobs and a lot of disposable income, the youth could spend their wages on leisure.
- New Industries. New things developed to encourage the youth to spend money, such as pop music, rock and roll and discos.
- Education. Compulsory education meant that more young people spent more time with people their own age.

#### Youth Culture

The development of youth culture into subcultures such as Mods, Rockers, Skinheads and Punks led to a generation gap developing.



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