

Now and Then: A Hierarchy of Human Needs

Society helps each of us stay alive and be healthy, to meet our needs. The first column in this chart shows a hierarchy of human needs. A “hierarchy” is a list that has, at the top, the most important item—or the first step in a series of steps.

What inventions, innovations, or institutions does **modern society** provide to help people meet their needs? List some of these in the second column. Use examples from your own experience.

What inventions, innovations, or institutions did an **ancient society** provide to help people meet their needs? List some of these in the third column. Use examples from an ancient civilization that you are studying.



UNICEF/Boris Hege

Humans need approval from their peers in order to thrive. These boys are celebrating a goal during a 2004 school football tournament in Chiatura, one of the poorest regions of the nation Georgia.

Hierarchy of Needs*	Modern Society	Ancient Society
1. Basic Physical Needs a. Air, food, and water b. Shelter and clothing		
2. Safety Needs a. Health care b. Law and order c. Employment		
3. Basic Social Needs a. Love, affection, and a sense of belonging b. Recreation		
4. Needs for Esteem a. Self-respect and respect from others b. Hope for the future, a sense of advancement		
5. Needs for Self-Actualization a. Pursuit of beauty and creativity b. Spirituality and gratitude		

*This list is based on Abraham Maslow's *Hierarchy of Needs*. See the article on pages 14 and 15 of this issue of MLL.