

STUDENT HANDOUT – Unit 6: Cultural Values (Reading – Cultural issues and values)

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Before you read

Look at the title and discuss the question with your partner:

"The world is becoming a small village." What does this sentence mean? Do you think this is good or bad? Why?

Read the text carefully, then do the tasks.

In the past, people used to live in separate communities and had very little contact with other cultures. Today, because of modern means of transport and communication, people from different parts of the world can meet, work and study together more easily. As a result, the world is becoming a small village where different cultures exist side by side.

This cultural contact has many advantages. It allows people to discover new ways of life, learn foreign languages and get new ideas. In many countries, cultural diversity has become a source of richness. For example, people can enjoy different kinds of food, music, clothes and festivals. They can also learn positive values such as tolerance, cooperation and respect for differences.

However, cultural contact can also create serious problems. Some people refuse to accept other cultures and think that their culture is superior. They may develop stereotypes and prejudice about people who are different from them. In some cases, these negative attitudes lead to racism, discrimination and even violence.

Moreover, when people move to a new country, they may experience culture shock. They feel confused because the customs, language and way of life are very different from what they know. If they do not receive help from the local community, they may feel isolated and homesick.

To avoid cultural conflicts, both visitors and local people should learn about each other's values and traditions. Schools, families and the media have an important role to play in teaching young people the importance of dialogue, tolerance and peaceful coexistence. Only then can cultural diversity become a real source of enrichment and not a cause of misunderstanding.

A. Choose the best title for the text.

1. Cultural conflicts in the world
2. Cultural issues and values
3. Travelling around the world

B. Read the text again and answer the questions.

1. Why is the world becoming a small village?
2. Give two advantages of cultural diversity mentioned in the text.
3. What problems can appear when people refuse to accept other cultures?
4. What is culture shock?
5. What should people do to avoid cultural conflicts?

C. Complete the table with words or expressions from the text.

Cultural values (positive)	Cultural issues (negative)

D. What do you think?

Discuss these questions with your partner, then report your answers to the class:

1. Give one example of a positive cultural value in your community and explain why it is important.
2. Give one example of a cultural issue (such as racism, prejudice or discrimination) that you have heard about. What can young people do to fight it?

ANSWER KEY – Unit 6: Cultural Values (Reading)

A. The best title is: 2. Cultural issues and values.

B. Suggested answers:

1. Because modern means of transport and communication allow people from different parts of the world to meet, work and study together more easily.
2. It allows people to discover new ways of life, learn foreign languages and get new ideas; people can enjoy different kinds of food, music, clothes and festivals; they learn values such as tolerance, cooperation and respect.
3. They may develop stereotypes and prejudice, which can lead to racism, discrimination and even violence.
4. Culture shock is a feeling of confusion that people have when they move to a new country where customs, language and way of life are very different.
5. Visitors and local people should learn about each other's values and traditions; schools, families and the media should teach dialogue, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

C. Suggested answers:

Cultural values: cultural diversity, tolerance, cooperation, respect for differences, dialogue, peaceful coexistence, enrichment.

Cultural issues: stereotypes, prejudice, racism, discrimination, violence, culture shock, isolation, homesickness, cultural conflicts.

D. Answers vary – accept any coherent and relevant ideas.