

Activity: What is culture?

Time: 15 - 20 minutes

Resources:

Handout "The Iceberg Model of Culture" (could be used as a poster)

Handout "Features of culture"

Post-it notes

Aims:

To introduce the concepts of culture and the importance of intercultural awareness

To raise awareness of visible and non-visible features of culture using the Iceberg Model

To identify visible and non-visible features of culture

Procedure:

Start the introductory part of the by asking participants the following questions: What do the words "culture", "intercultural" and "multicultural" mean to you? Do these words evoke any emotions? Present some of the most important concepts and latest findings about culture and intercultural learning.

Ask participants to reflect on the following question: Why intercultural knowledge and awareness might be important when interacting with people from other countries?

Prepare Post-it notes with features of culture. Give out a certain number of post-it notes with features of culture to each participant. Ask participants to place the post- it notes on the sketch of the iceberg, either below or above the indicated water line.

Discussion:

Why did they place particular post-it notes in particular places?

Source:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303736060_Intercultural_toolkit_for_Adult_Educators

Handout "The Iceberg Model of Culture"



Handout "Features of culture"

PERCEPTION OF JUSTICE	DRESS	TEMPO OF WORK
UNDERSTANDING OF FRIENDSHIP	PERSONAL SPACE	STRATEGIES FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION
POWER OF SOCIAL CLASS	UNDERSTANDING OF ILLNESS	CONCEPT OF CLEANLINESS
THEATRE	ORDERING OF TIME	MUSIC
FLIRTING	EYE CONTACT	BODY LANGUAGE
BODY LANGUAGE	NATURE OF FRIENDSHIP	LITERATURE
FAMILY STRUCTURES	EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP	DEFINITION OF SIN
NOTIONS OF MODESTY	FOLK DANCING	CONCEPT OF BEAUTY
CUISINE	DEALING WITH MONEY	PERCEPTION OF PAST AND FUTURE

COOKING	BRINGING UP CHILDREN	ORDERING OF TIME
CLASSICAL MUSIC	GAMES	DEFINITION OF INSANITY