

Global Cultural Literacy



Facilitation Protocol

Standards

Global Literacy,

-> that is, understanding people from other cultures who speak different languages, and being able to interact and cooperate with them

SDG Connection: 16

Format

This lesson is designed for small group, and/or full class discussions to occur over 1-2 50-minute sessions.

Materials

- Videos (embedded in lesson)

Purpose

As our world becomes increasingly interconnected, it's not only a great trait but fundamental to understand world cultures. In this lesson, we will explore how cultural norms differ from region to region, highlighting the importance of recognizing differences, cooperating with others, and communicating properly.

Introduction

Social norms are a key part of communication. No matter where you live, there are commonplace social "rules" that you must follow. For example, consider the following:

Imagine that you're meeting a friend at a restaurant. You show up first. What do you do? Be as descriptive as possible.

After your friend arrives, what happens next? What do you say to them? What movements do you make?

As you eat/drink, how do you interact with your friend? How do you look at them? How do you show that you're listening to them?

Although these might seem like simple day-to-day things, they do vary drastically by country and community!

For example, in France the practice of *la bise*, a series of light kisses on the cheek (which change in number and position in different regions) is commonplace as a greeting for friends and family.

Or in the United States, it's nearly mandatory to leave a 10-20% tip on every drink or meal. Because employees work for tips, it's considered to be highly disrespectful to not leave a sizable tip.

And in Japan, consuming noodle or broth-based dishes involves actively "slurping" the food. Rather than using a fork or chopsticks to swirl noodles, it is customary to simply drink from the

bowl. It is considered respectful to “slurp” the food as a way to show delight and satisfaction toward the dish.

For each of these practices, what would happen if you did this in another culture? For example, if you practiced *la bise* in South Africa, tipped in Spain, or slurped your food in Brazil?

Deep Dive

What would you *not* do if you visited your country? Many popular YouTubers create content for traveling, offering suggestions for navigating other cultures. Check out some of the following:

*Note that this YouTuber does bring up attention to alcohol-use which may not be appropriate for some audiences. Otherwise, all content is family friendly.

United States: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w6ephOxnTY>

Japan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w6ephOxnTY>

Italy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98_9AS89R3Y

Puerto Rico: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihPDUtCsFm0>

Argentina: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e_0giV1yHw

Consider the cultural differences in your area.

Create a poster or video about your culture, community, city, or region. What do people need to know about visiting your space? What recommendations would you offer them to do? How should they communicate with others? What’s different about your area versus others? What should they avoid?

Think about including concepts like...

- What should people avoid? What should they not avoid?
- How should people interact with others?
- What should people try?
- What’s odd about where you live to foreigners? Why?
- What should people be concerned about, if anything?
- What’s a common misconception about your area?

Feel free to add protocols as you see fit for length and time requirements. We recommend a ~2 minute video and/or poster, depending on the time available. This information could be shared

in a variety of ways, including as a skit, poem, rap song, cartoon/animation, interpretive dance, speech, or illustration.

Reflect

How would you rate your understanding of this concept? <i>Place an "X" in the corresponding box below.</i>				
				

How has your understanding of this concept changed as a result of this lesson?

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Which individual or community actions could this activity inspire?

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Different cultures around the world have different social norms. Why would it matter to understand this?

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Take it Further

Community Connection Perform in-depth research about a community in your neighborhood. Interview and speak to the residents and learn about their traditions, celebrations, and lifestyles. How does it differ from what you do at home? Prepare a report that can be shown off to other residents.	Take Action Consider historical events, works of art, novels, movies, and music that are popular in other countries but not your own. Using subtitles or a translation service, analyze the works and highlight their popularity in the other country. Create a collection of various works that can be shown off to others to appreciate the culture.	Peer Assistance Partner up with another family and analyze each other's lifestyle. Learn about what they do everyday, their family traditions, and what they enjoy doing. Compare and contrast how this differs from your own. If time, expand this analysis to other families to showcase and celebrate the differences of your classroom community.
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Media

<u>If the World Were a Village</u> (Picture Book) "If the World Were a Village has been newly revised with updated statistics, several new activities and completely new material on food security, energy and health. By exploring the lives of the 100 villagers, children will discover that life in other nations is often very different from their own."	<u>The World in Words</u> (Podcast) This podcast highlights linguistics all around the world, showcasing how various cultures build and develop ideas, and how they've invented words and concepts that reflect their lifestyle.	<u>HiHo Kids</u> (YouTube Channel) This channel features various episodes with young people highlighting concepts and ideas from their culture, such as sharing traditions, meals, music, and language.
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Extend

Language Arts Have students write about one of their family traditions. Optionally, this can be shared with	Mathematics How many cultures are there in the world? How many cultures exist in a country?
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the class to create a shared story that highlights the diversity of students' lives.	Conduct research and figure out, roughly, what this number may be!
Science Learn about how linguists use the scientific method to understand the use of, and develop of, language. Utilize this technique to analyze audio files and determine dialects, regions, or language development.	Social Studies Learn about major historical events that occur in another country that are rarely, if ever, spoken about in your country's curriculum. Consider if these historical events matter to you, and if the historical events of your country would impact them.
Art Demonstrate how artists have been inspired by global art movements over time. Showcase how the development of art movements and <i>intersection</i> of regional developments has led to masterful works over decades and centuries.	Physical Education Although many workout routines have been standardized across cultures, there are certainly unique ideas present in all countries. Learn about physical activities in other countries, then practice them yourself!