



Global Studies
Unit 4, Lesson 4

Understanding Culture




Unit 4, Lesson 4: Understanding Culture

Lesson 4: Understanding Culture
Global Studies A Unit 4: Celebrating Diversity

Global Studies

Briefing

Understanding Culture


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Your goals are to learn how to complete these objectives:

- Explain how culture is a way that humans address their needs and concerns
- Analyze and explain elements of culture

A cub reporter sees some interesting things in the pursuit of knowledge. In doing so, you may even learn how icebergs and mosaics are similar.

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We all belong to a culture.

What is culture?

What is YOUR culture?


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Global Studies

Assignment


Understanding Culture



Mosaics are an ancient art form made by setting tile, stone, or other materials into a surface to create pictures or decorative designs. Examined up close, mosaics appear to be nothing more than a collection of different pieces. However, it is the unique quality of each individual piece, when combined in the right pattern, which gives the final product its unique beauty. **Pass your cursor over the mosaic image to the left.**


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In some ways, the world is like a mosaic. Divided into a collection of people and places, the world can be viewed as a marvelous work of art or as a fearsome collection of differences. The goal is to learn an appreciation for the global mosaic rather than creating a fear of diversity.




There are many physical divisions on earth such as rugged mountains, raging rivers, and severe climates. Human divisions include differences between language, religion, and ethnic backgrounds. Ironically, the human barriers are often the most difficult to overcome.

One of the remarkable differences between humans and all other life forms on earth is the ability of humans to knowingly change their environment based on their experiences. This is what forms the basis of culture. What does this mean? It means that culture is a result of how humans experience their world and how they adjust and modify themselves or their environment to create a distinct way of life.



Our culture determines what feels normal, right, and real to us, and what we take for granted. Imagine someone asking you why you eat with a fork and knife. You would probably smile and say, "Because that is the way we eat here." You might even think to yourself, "How can he be so stupid? Isn't that the way everyone eats his food?" Other cultures have developed other ways to live that may seem strange to outsiders. While it is common for people to have pride in their way of life, there is also the danger of developing prejudice toward the differences in other cultures as a result of such cross-cultural misunderstandings.

This is why it is important to learn about culture and to study the culture of other people. We live in a complex and increasingly interdependent society. Gaining knowledge about other people will help us be more understanding and tolerant of different ways of doing things. As we broaden our understanding of other cultures, we learn new things that can possibly help us in our daily lives. Think about that! Not everything you use was "invented" by the culture of which you are a member.



Here's the scoop. You are going to have a chance to look into some very interesting things about other people. You can do that, you really need to have a good understanding of the meaning and importance of culture. Your teacher has asked for you to look at and read some information to help you prepare for your next big assessment. **Use the links below to access this information.** There's no need to tell a great cub reporter like you that it is a good idea to take notes! You may want to refer to the [Taking Notes](#) resource.

- [Culture: What Is It?](#)
- [Chapter One: Understanding Culture](#) for Coverdell World Wise Schools (CWWS) by Paul D. Coverdell

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Culture is how we humans react to our environment, thus creating a distinct way of life.

Read the lesson to find out how culture defines what feels "normal" to us.


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Assignment

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Pass your cursor over the mosaic as you read the lesson.

Unit 4, Lesson 4: Understanding Culture

Click on these links to explore the meaning of culture.

This is an important topic, so there will be a lot of information. It is strongly suggested that you take notes. Click the "Taking Notes" link for a refresher.

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If you have not done so already, go to the **Lesson Resource Packet** in the **backpack, Materials** section to find out how to view Discovery Education videos. Then use the links below to access different segments of the video called *Culture: What Is It?*

Video Segment	Video Segment
The Components of Culture (Time: 00:59) High speed users	Culture is a Whole Way of Life (Time: 01:29)
Material and Non-Material Culture (Time: 02:49) High speed users	

The Broad M... (Time: ...)
[High](#)

Worldwise Schools

Publications

Culture Matters

The Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook

Introduction

Designed for Peace Corps volunteers, this practical, hands-on guide is also a rich and useful resource for students who want to look into their own culture and become more understanding of people of other cultures. Read the introduction to *Culture Matters*. [Page](#) (pdf-361-kb)

Contents

- Chapter 1: [Understanding Culture](#) (pdf-491-kb)
- Chapter 2: [Language, Culture and Cross-Cultural Diversity](#) (pdf-444-kb)
- Chapter 3: [Style of Communication](#) (pdf-322-kb)
- Chapter 4: [Culture in the Workplace](#) (pdf-322-kb)
- Chapter 5: [Social Interactions](#) (pdf-324-kb)
- Chapter 6: [Adaptation to New Culture](#) (pdf-349-kb)

Keywords: [Cross-cultural](#), [Cross-cultural](#) (pdf-324-kb)

Related Resources

- Download *Culture Matters* (pdf-319-kb)
- Download *Culture Matters* in Spanish (pdf-346-kb)

Other cultures have developed other ways to live. To have pride in their way of life, there is also the danger of developing prejudice toward the different cultures as a result of such cross-cultural misunderstandings.

Learn about culture and to study the culture of other people. We live in a complex and increasingly interdependent world. Learning about other people will help us become more understanding and tolerant of different ways of doing things. In different cultures, we learn new things that can possibly help us in our daily lives. Think about that! Not everything is the same of which you are a member.

Here's the scoop: You are going to have a chance to look into some very interesting things about other people. Before you can do that, you really need to have a good understanding of the meaning and importance of culture. Your editor has asked for you to look at and read some information to help you prepare for your next big assessment. **Use the links below to access this information.** There's no need to tell a great cub reporter like you that it is a good idea to take notes. You may want to refer to the [Taking Notes](#) resource.

- [Culture: What Is It?](#)
- [Chapter One: Understanding Culture for Coverdell World Wise Schools \(CWWS\)](#) by Paul

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How to Take Notes

Throughout this and many of your other courses, you will be asked to take notes. Taking notes can help you to organize your thoughts and make sense out of confusing concepts. There are many formats for taking notes, but one of the easiest and most efficient is the "Two Column Note Taking Format." Below is an explanation of how to use this format.

Two Column Note Taking - You will need a sheet of paper. Either fold it in two lengthwise or draw a line down the center. In the left hand column you will include specific information like terms, dates, topics, or names. These are your top-level notes. In the second column, you will briefly explain the specific information from the first column. It is a way to help you quickly recall the information about the specific topic you are studying.

Below is an example of Two Column Note Taking comparing "Types of Fruit."

Types of Fruit	
Specific Information - names, dates, terms or topics	Explanation of the Specific Information
Apples	Can be red, green, or yellow Somewhat round in shape Have stems Can be eaten peeled or unpeeled Great in pies
Bananas	Mostly yellow, green if not ripe Curving shape Have stems Must be peeled to be eaten
Oranges	Change in color Must be peeled to be eaten No stems Fleets in addition to fruit can be used in recipes
Strawberries	Red when ripe, can be somewhat green when not Somewhat triangular in shape Have stems with leaves Do not need to be peeled

Whitworth

Culture: What is it?

Click on the "High speed users" button to view each segment.

If you are not able to view these videos, be sure to visit the Lesson Resource Packet in the yellow backpack. Call the Help Line 1-800-382-6010 if you need more technical assistance.

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Global Studies" with a blue header. Below the header, there is a paragraph of text and a "Discovery Education streaming" logo. The main content is a table with two columns, each titled "Video Segment".

Video Segment	Video Segment
The Components of Culture (Time: 00:59) High speed users	Culture is a Whole Way of Life (Time: 01:29) High speed users
Material and Non-Material Culture (Time: 02:49) High speed users	Cultural Differences (Time: 04:40) High speed users
The Broad Meaning of Culture (Time: 00:56) High speed users	

A red circle highlights the "High speed users" button for "The Components of Culture". A red arrow points from this button to a red callout box.

***Don't forget to take notes!**

Chapter One: Understanding Culture

This resource contains a document called "Culture Matters" for you to explore.

*Don't forget to take notes!

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Culture Matters

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Contents

Chapter 1: [Understanding Culture](#) (pdf-409 KB)
Chapter 2: [American Culture and American Diversity](#) (pdf-449 KB)
Chapter 3: [Styles of Communication](#) (pdf-322 KB)
Chapter 4: [Culture in the Workplace](#) (pdf-526 KB)
Chapter 5: [Social Relationships](#) (pdf-334 KB)
Chapter 6: [Adjusting to a New Culture](#) (pdf-598 KB)
Appendix: [Continuing Your Learning](#) (pdf-251 KB)
[Answers](#) (pdf-170 KB)

[Download Culture Matters](#)
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[Download Culture Matters in Spanish](#)
[Download Culture Matters \(Workbook\) in Spanish.](#) (pdf-746 KB)

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You can download the full document by clicking the "Download Culture Matters in one file" link here.



The Iceberg Analogy

Page 10 in the "Culture Matters" document uses a common analogy for culture: The ICEBERG. Read the paragraph below for an explanation.

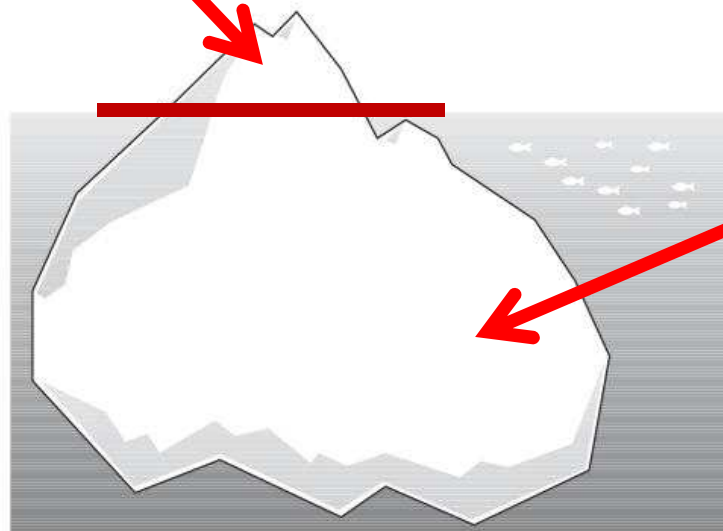
THE ICEBERG

Culture has been aptly compared to an iceberg. Just as an iceberg has a visible section above the waterline, and a larger, invisible section below the water line, so culture has some aspects that are observable and others that can only be suspected, imagined, or intuited. Also like an iceberg, that part of culture that is visible (observable behavior) is only a small part of a much bigger whole.

The Iceberg Analogy

Culture is often split into two categories: Material culture (observable) and Nonmaterial culture (nonobservable).

Material culture includes physical items such as architecture, clothing, technology, art, food, products, etc. Material culture is represented by the only visible part of the iceberg: the tip.



Nonmaterial culture includes ideas such as beliefs, values, language, norms, etc. Nonmaterial culture is represented by the majority of the iceberg, which is the part underneath the water - the part we don't see.

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The numbered items that appear below are all features of culture. In the drawing of the iceberg on the opposite page, write above the waterline the numbers for those features you consider observable behavior; write the remaining numbers beneath the line.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. facial expressions | 14. notions of modesty |
| 2. religious beliefs | 15. foods |
| 3. religious rituals | 16. eating habits |
| 4. importance of time | 17. understanding of the natural world |
| 5. paintings | 18. concept of self |
| 6. values | 19. work ethic |
| 7. literature | 20. concept of beauty |
| 8. childraising beliefs | 21. music |
| 9. concept of leadership | 22. styles of dress |
| 10. gestures | 23. general world view |
| 11. holiday customs | 24. concept of personal space |
| 12. concept of fairness | 25. rules of social etiquette |
| 13. nature of friendship | |

You can see that there is a relationship between those items that appear above the waterline and those that appear below it. In most cases, the invisible aspects of culture influence or cause the visible ones. Religious beliefs, for example, are clearly manifest in certain holiday customs, and notions of modesty affect styles of dress.

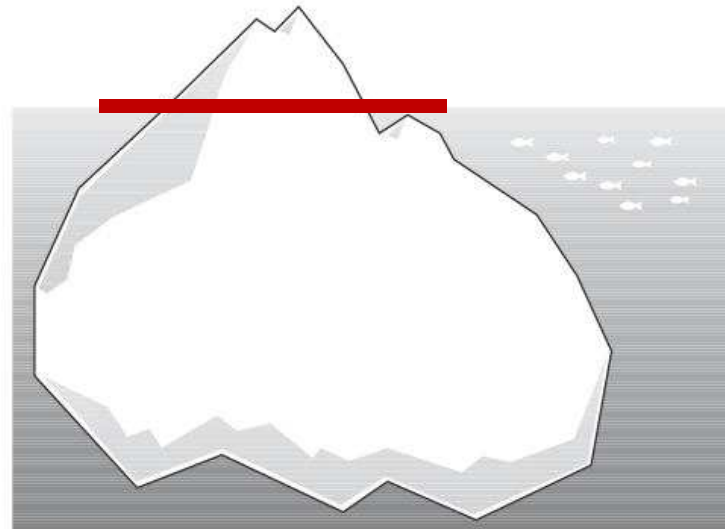
—INSIGHT—

Surface behaviors are influenced by beneath-the-surface values and assumptions.

Try to complete this exercise from the “Culture Matters” document. You can sketch an iceberg like the one in the previous slide. You can record your answers on your sketch, and then add them to your notes.

The Iceberg Analogy

How do you think you did? Which items did you place above the water line? Below?



*For suggested answers, see p. 233 of the "Culture Matters" document.

Interactive Word Game

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Report


Understanding Culture

There are a variety of ways you can learn about a new subject. Sometimes it's just fun to play a game that is meaningful. Take some time to complete the interactive word game provided in this assessment.

Access this game: [Interactive Word Game](#)

Complete Your Work

- When you are sure you have met the learning goals and each grading requirement of this lesson, complete the **Understanding Culture** assessment on the following page.

 [How will you be graded on this assessment?](#)

Are all necessary pages printed and placed in your notebook?
Is all work saved on a floppy, zip disk, or CD?

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Use the list of words below to help you solve this word puzzle.


Material	Clothing	Observation
Architecture	Non Material	Iceberg
Language	Culture	Manifestation
Cultural	Universal	Values
Custom		

Understanding Culture

Type your answer below, then click check answer.
Use the arrow buttons to see different clues.

Clue: One of the two components of culture; consists of things and objects in our lives

Type your answer here:



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Play the Interactive Word Game here in the Report Tab for a final review of the lesson.

Interactive Word Game

Using the words listed here, answer the question clues given in the yellow box.

First, type your answer. Then click "Check Answer." Then click the arrow to continue.

Global Studies

Use the list of words below to help you solve this word puzzle.

Material	Clothing	Observation
Architecture	Non Material	Iceberg
Language	Culture	Manifestation
Cultural	Universal	Values
Custom		

Understanding Culture

Type your answer below, then click check answer.
Use arrow buttons to see directions clues.

Clue: One of the two components of culture; consists of things and objects in our lives

Type your answer here:

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Once you have completed the activity correctly, you'll discover the mystery word in the red spaces.

The Assessment

Worksheet: [4.04 Understanding Culture](#) 

Not submitted 0 / 2

4.04 Understanding Culture

MATCHING EXERCISE

Match the terms with the definitions.

Term	Definition
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>This is a matching exercise. Use your notes from the lesson to complete! When finished click "I am finished. Grade my entire worksheet" and then click "Submit".</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

POINT VALUE: 100

- I am finished. Grade my entire worksheet.
 Save my current work. Do not grade.

You must press the **SUBMIT** button below!



Contact Information

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Florida Virtual School

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(text line is to be used ONLY to text please.)

Tutorial Website: www.flvsgs.weebly.com

Appointments: <http://tiny.cc/sageappt>
