

Overview:

This lesson is meant to stimulate participants' attitudes of intercultural curiosity. Participants will create crossword puzzles based on prompts that highlight certain aspects of culture, such as religious beliefs, food preferences, and nonverbal communication gestures. Then, they will choose a partner and try to solve each other's puzzles.

Background and Information:

The original activity was created by Chuck Calahan for Purdue University's Center for Instructional Excellence. It was adapted from Steven T. Duke's (2014) [Preparing to Study Abroad: Learning to Cross Cultures](#) and Pacific University's [What's Up With Culture?](#)

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Understand cultural differences.
2. Develop curiosity toward those cultural differences.

Time:

2 hours

Group Size:

Pairs

Materials:

A crossword building resource (for ideas see [Links](#) and [Downloads](#))

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Curiosity:

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

Other Skills:

Friendship, Diversity & Inclusion

Activity Instructions:

The facilitator should first choose a crossword building resource (see [Links](#) and [Downloads](#)).

Then, participants should produce crossword puzzles with questions based on the following prompts from Pacific University's [What's Up With Culture?](#)

- Religious beliefs and the relationship of humans to the supernatural
- Political power and the exercise of leadership in governance
- Concepts of justice, fairness, punishment, and right conduct
- Child raising and traditional processes of acculturation
- Economic organization and division of labor
- Rites of passage (life cycle celebrations), rituals, and ceremonies
- Expression and style in the graphic and performing arts
- Food preferences and rules concerning consumption
- Nonverbal communication patterns and gestures
- Concepts of humans' place and role in the natural world
- Myths and cultural heroes to explain and commemorate core values
- Dissemination of ideas about beauty, love, truth, friendship, and loyalty
- Notions of modesty and age-appropriate dress styles and behavior
- Ideas of what time is and its relative importance
- Concerns about individual versus collective privilege and responsibility
- Conceptions about personal space and privacy
- Definitions of gender and associated strengths, duties, and roles

After participants have finished creating their puzzles, they should exchange with a partner and attempt to solve them.

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Intercultural Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Worldview Questionnaire](#)