

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to analyze and discuss culture based on objects of cultural significance. All participants will bring in an object that has some sort of cultural significance to them. Upon arriving, they will place that object on a table. Then, everyone in the group will choose an object that interests them and discuss why. Finally, the owner of each object will reveal themselves and explain its significance to the group.

Background and Information:

This activity was created by Darla Deardorff and is available in her and Kate Berardo's book, *Building Cultural Competence: Innovative Activities and Models* (see citation below). There is also a version from the American Museum of Natural History. The directions for this version are linked on the following page.

Objectives:

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

1. "Increase their cultural self-awareness.
2. "Broaden their perspectives on other cultures (especially if participants are from a variety of cultural backgrounds)."
3. "Get to know each other better"

Time:

30 minutes

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

Each participant should bring a cultural artifact with them to the gathering.

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness:

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

Other Skills:

Friendship

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Cultural Artifact instructions from the American Museum of Natural History](#)

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Cultural Autobiography](#)
- [Sherlock Holmes](#)