

Introduction:

This activity uses playing cards as an opportunity to generate and develop curiosity in participants, as well as identify helpful factors in sparking curiosity.

Objectives:

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

1. Explain that curiosity is a skill that has to be honed and developed like any other skill.
2. Understand that general curiosity translates easily into cultural curiosity.
3. Comprehend that it is important to dig beneath the surface, developing curiosity not just about the 'what' of culture but also the 'how' and 'why.'
4. Reflect on the process of forming deeper questions about cultural difference.

Time:

30 minutes.

Group Size:

Entire Group.

Materials:

Deck of cards (9 random cards required); PowerPoint Slides (optional – in [Downloads](#)).

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- 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; Teamwork.

Activity Instructions:

1. Watch the video demonstrating the magic trick (in [Links](#)) to learn how to do it yourself.



2. Ask participants if one of them would like to volunteer to be your assistant. The trick then proceeds using the following steps:
 - Take your nine cards and divide them into three stacks of three.
 - Ask your assistant to select one stack.
 - Flip over to reveal the card.
 - Place the selected stack on top of the remaining two stacks.
 - Spell out the number and the suit of the card dealing one card for each letter, stopping after each word.
 - Place remaining cards on top.
 - Repeat the previous two steps for each word.
 - After all three words are spelled, deal a card for each letter to spell the word MAGIC.
 - Flip over the final card to reveal the original chosen card.
3. Demonstrate the trick for your participants and then ask them the following questions:
 - What happened? How did I do it?
 - Is it magic? Or something else?
 - Who wants to know how the trick is done?
 - How might you go about learning this trick?
 - What if I told you this trick is self-working—a property of numbers and orders?
4. Then, debrief the activity using the following questions:
 - How did you feel during the activity? Curious?
 - What happened in this activity?
 - What strategies did you use to solve the problem? Did you ask simple or complex questions?
 - Are there other ways you could get answers?
 - Where could you find the info you need?
 - What did you learn as a result of this activity? And why does it matter?
 - How does general curiosity or wonder relate to intercultural curiosity?

Debriefing Facilitator Notes:

Key Insights and Learning:

- Simple tasks can trigger curiosity. And curiosity can be contagious.
- Being smart is one thing, but curiosity is what really matters. It's okay to say, "I don't know," but it needs to be followed by investigation.
- Curiosity is a skill that has to be honed and developed like any other skill.
- General curiosity translates easily into cultural curiosity.
- Learners need to be encouraged to dig beneath the surface, developing curiosity not just about the "what" of culture but also the "how" and "why."

Debriefing Tips:

- Gaining a holistic view of what happened, why, and how we react/feel about what happened reveals a lot.

- The smallest activity can generate deep insights if it is followed by good debriefing questions.
- Debriefing questions should be guided by what you want your group to learn, i.e., embedded learner outcomes.