



Introduction:

This activity should be completed in groups of 2 or 3 (preferably pairs).

There are three parts to this assignment:

1. The virtual Amazing Race (working in pairs during class on Google Maps)
2. The cultural context (oral and written reflection questions completed prior to and after the trip)
3. Dialogue with your peers in the host country

Participant Instructions:

1. The virtual Amazing Race (completed in class session before studying abroad)
 - On our Study Abroad experience, we will spend the majority of our time in Martin, Slovakia. Before we visit, we want you to explore the city virtually. This week, you are challenged to locate at least 10 of the items from the lists below and find out the cultural significance of at least one of them (for details, see Part 2). You must include a blend of items from Group A and Group B, but the selection is up to you. You should use a combination of Google Earth/Maps and Google Street View (or a similar app). For Group B, you may use search results from Google Images, however, make certain the images are specific to the city you are exploring.
 - Once you have selected an item from the list, your primary task is to locate that place/thing on a Google Map of your city. Use the Street View option to see the actual location and take a screenshot/screen capture.
 - Your next task is to attempt to cluster items from the list that may be located nearby (next door, across the street) within view of the primary location. Use the 360° feature to look around the area for other things that may fulfill the criteria for other items on the list. Take a screen capture of each and use the basic map view of the area to label the specific locations in relation to one another. Add this image of the labeled map as well.

Note: You may find in your exploration of the city, using the 360° view, an item or location that piques your interest (i.e., “What the heck is that thing?!?”). Go with that feeling. Investigate. If it doesn’t fit into our list, add it. (FYI, it should at least qualify as #20.)

Submitting your images: As you collect and identify your items, post your screen captures and images along with a short caption for each to identify them. You will be assigned a link for your group to an online platform page to post these.

Group A—Find and take a screenshot of the following:

1. Local bank	12. One of the oldest buildings in town
2. Local hospital	13. A theater
3. A place to get cell phones/calling cards	14. A used bookstore
4. Pharmacy or place you can get medicine	15. A local coffeehouse
5. A hotel within downtown	16. A concert hall
6. A public park	17. A train station
7. A public garden or zoo	18. Local police station*
8. A body of water (pond, stream, canal, river, etc.)	19. Local post office*
9. A vegetarian restaurant	20. A place that really surprised you
10. A church, temple, mosque, or synagogue*	
11. Something with a tower	

Group B—Either Google Image search people engaged in these activities in your study abroad city, or take photos of people engaged in these activities around the city (ensuring that you have permission):

1. Riding public transportation
2. Purchasing something at a local grocery store
3. Touring a museum and photographing an interesting exhibit
4. Purchasing a cheap souvenir with the city name on it
5. Eating something you cannot get in your home university city
6. Touring a factory or other business
7. Ice-skating or roller-skating
8. Taking a river cruise, ferry, or water-taxi
9. Riding in a cable car or a helicopter

*Check a good guidebook of the destination location or ask a trusted local person about photo etiquette in the country before photographing these items.

2. The cultural context

- Identify one of the items which seems to be particularly representative of the culture (such as a museum, means of transportation, or public space).
- Post an essay of 300-500 words in the virtual space provided by your instructor that answers the following questions:
 - Which item did you investigate as a cultural item?
 - Why did you choose this item to investigate? What are your initial reactions after seeing/exploring this item in Google Maps? Were there things that surprised you? Caused you concern? Piqued your interest?
 - What does this cultural artifact remind you of in your hometown/home culture?
 - What does this cultural artifact, or the relationship between it and deep culture, remind you of in your hometown/home culture?
 - Write 2-4 questions that you would like to ask someone from this culture about the significance of this item for them.

3. Dialogue with your peers in the host country

- During our visit in the host country, you and your partner will return to this activity and the cultural artifact that you chose in Part 2. Find at least two different individuals who are from that country and ask them about the significance of this item for the culture. (Example: What does the Eiffel Tower tell us about French culture? Is the rickshaw still an important emblem of Asian culture?). Discuss the questions you identified and takes notes on the responses that they share with you. You will each write up a brief essay sharing their response and your reflection on the following questions:
 - What did you learn? What was your reaction to this information?
 - What insights did you gain into deep culture (values, beliefs, philosophy, religion, etc.) from your interviews with cultural informants? What was your emotional response to these insights?
 - Based on what you've learned, reflect on any changes to your perspective on your own cultural rules and biases.
 - Will you explore this aspect of the culture further and if so, how or why?