

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to become more aware of the differences between monochronic and polychronic cultures. In this activity, they will take a quiz that tests their knowledge of the behaviors and values associated with these two types of cultures.

Background and Information:

This activity was originally created by Craig Storti and published in *Figuring Foreigners Out: A Practical Guide* (see citation below). However, similar activities were created for University of Pacific's *What's Up with Culture?* modules and the Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook, both which are linked on the following page.

Objectives:

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

1. Understand the differences between monochronic and polychronic cultures.
2. Identify which cultural behaviors align with this cultural value dimension.

Time:

30 minutes

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

The quiz and answer key

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Minimization
- Acceptance

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).

Empathy

- To interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of own and more than one worldview.
- To demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group

Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks:

- To demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs & practices.

Other Skills:

Friendship, Teamwork, Mentorship & Leadership

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Similar activity \(The Concept of Time\) from University of the Pacific's *What's Up With Culture?*](#)
- [A version of this activity from the Peace Corps Prep Cross-Cultural Workbook \(pp. 104-105\)](#)

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Direct-Indirect Communication](#)
- [Four Levels of Cultural Awareness, The](#)
- [Human Values Continuum](#)
- [Iceberg](#)
- [Individualist-Collectivist Quiz](#)
- [Linking Values with Culture Quiz](#)
- [Universal-Cultural-Personal Quiz](#)
- [Universalist or Particularist?](#)
- [Universalist-Particularist Quiz](#)