

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to immerse themselves in the local community in which they are studying abroad and learn how to overcome cultural and language barriers. In small groups, they will go on a scavenger hunt and gather information by talking with locals, observing their surroundings, or collecting artifacts like a local newspaper or a picture of a menu.

Background and Information:

Intercultural Scavenger Hunt is adapted Lindsay Usher, Associate Professor of Human Movement Sciences at Old Dominion University, and Anthony Ogden, Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement at the University of Wyoming. It is based on an activity from Peace Corps training and is uploaded to the UK Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit (see citation below).

Objectives:

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

1. "Jumpstart the cultural integration process by building confidence in navigating the local community."
2. " Develop intercultural communication skills and recognize personal barriers to rewarding intercultural encounters."
3. Develop "an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement toward intercultural learning and engagement" (Usher & Ogden, 2009).

Time:

5 hours

Group Size:

Small group

Materials:

Copies of the Intercultural Scavenger Hunt Handout (in both [Links](#) and [Downloads](#)).

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Verbal and Nonverbal Communication:

- To articulate a complex understanding of cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication (e.g., demonstrates understanding of the degree to which people use physical contact while communicating in different cultures or use direct/indirect and explicit/implicit meanings).
- To skillfully negotiate a shared understanding based on these differences.

Curiosity:

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

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

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Intercultural Scavenger Hunt instructions on the UK Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit](#)

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Amazing Race, The!: A Cultural Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Crossword Puzzle](#)
- [Worldview Questionnaire](#)

Related assessment tools:

- [Curiosity and Exploration Inventory \(CEI-II\)](#)