

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to capture the intercultural differences they experience while immersed in another culture. They will create postcards that include text and images that represent the host culture in relation to their own thoughts and experiences.

Background and Information:

Postcards from Abroad is created by Anthony Ogden, Associate Vice Provost for Global Engagement at the University of Wyoming, and Mandy Reinig, Director of International Education at St. Mary's College. It 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. "Gather texts and images related to the underlying values, assumptions and beliefs of [their] host culture."
2. "Create cultural representations that target specific intercultural differences [they] are encountering during [their] international experience."
3. "Analyze [their] creative process in terms of how [they] perceive and engage in the world" (Ogden & Reinig, 2009).

Time:

3 hours

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

Copies of the Postcards From Abroad Handout (in both [Links](#) and [Downloads](#)), 4x6 index cards.

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- 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).

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, Diversity & Inclusion

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Postcards from Abroad instructions on the UK Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit](#)

Related Tools:

Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:

- [Linking Values with Culture Quiz](#)
 - This quiz can be taken before participants begin this activity in order to understand how their values relate to their behaviors.
- [Mapping My Cultural Values](#)
 - Participants can do this activity to help them understand their own cultural values before creating their postcards.

Similar tools:

- [Pick-a-Postcard](#)
- [Emojis and Culture](#)