

## Introduction:

This activity encourages you to reflect on your own patterns of thought and templates of behavior you are most comfortable with. It also asks you to consider what patterns or templates you are comfortable with, and what cultural figures you may find disorienting, through the act of searching for online photos and images that evoke similar feelings.

## Participant Instructions:

1. Divide into pairs and attempt to read the messages in each of the images below, starting with the first one:

**3573 M3N54J3 35 94R4 D3M057R4R L45  
C0545 74N INCR3I8L35 QU3 9U3D3  
H4C3R NU357R0 C3R38R0. 5I L06R45  
L33R 3570 9U3D35 53N7IR73  
0R6ULL050 D3 7U IN73LI63NCI4, Y4  
QU3 50L0 CI3R745 93R50N45 L0  
L06R4N. 35T0 53 D383 4 QU3 3L  
H3M15F3R10 D3R3CH0 D3L C3R38R0  
450C14 L05 51M80L05 94R3C1D05 4 L45  
L3TR45 QU3 C0N0C3M05 N0RM4LM3NT3  
Y 451 L06R4M05 L33R C0N F4C1L1D4D.**

Now try reading this one:

TH15 M3554G3  
53RV35 T0 PROV3 HOW OUR M1ND5  
C4N D0 4M4Z1NG TH1NG5!  
1MPR3551VE TH1NG5!  
1N TH3 B3G1NN1NG 1T W45 H4RD BUT NOW,  
ON TH15 L1N3 YOUR M1ND 1S R34D1NG  
4UT0M4T1C4LLY W1TH OUT 3V3N  
TH1NK1NG 4B0UT 1T, B3 PROUD!  
ONLY C3RT41N P50PL3  
C1N R3AD TH15

2. Discuss:
  - Were you able to read the messages in one or both of the images? If so, what allowed for this? Which one was easier to read, if at all?
  - What do these images have to do with culture?
3. Do an online search for photos or images that “promote cross-cultural understanding.” (Saphiere, 2012)

4. Share your collection of photos and images with their partner and explain why certain images conjure certain reactions, e.g., comfort or disorientation.
5. Debrief: Give summaries of your discussions to the larger group.

### **Image reading key:**

Este mensaje es para demostrar las cosas tan increíbles que puede hacer nuestro cerebro. si logras leer esto puedes sentirte orgulloso de tu inteligencia, ya que solo ciertas personas lo logran. esto se debe a que el hemisferio derecho del cerebro asocia los simbolos parecidos a las letras que conocemos normalmente y asi logramos leer con facilidad.

This message serves to prove how our minds can do amazing things! Impressive things! In the beginning it was hard but now, on this line your mind is reading automatically without even thinking about it. Be proud! Only certain people can read this.