

Week 18

Topic: What is culture, really?

Guiding Questions:

What were your initial ideas about culture?

What are your current ideas about culture?

How can we encourage cross-cultural dialogues in our daily lives?

How can we increase our cultural sensitivity?

How can we educate others about cultural differences and sensitivity?

Goals:

- I. To reflect on changes in one's perception of culture over the time of the course
- II. To encourage students to be proactive when engaging in cross-cultural dialogues and interactions
- III. To instill values of cultural sensitivity

Activities:

1. Culture Discussion Worksheet (See Appendix I)
2. How we spend our time? A great way to discover the significance of certain values and activities to a culture is to measure, and visualize, the amount of time spent everyday practicing said activity. For example, [Americans](#) spend more time working than they do any other activity, likely demonstrating the cultural importance of work in the United States cultures. Have students construct Pie charts or bar graphs representing how they spend each minute of the day. Then, students can discover hidden cultural insights behind this time. How much time is spent eating meals? With family? In Japan vs. Brazil?
3. Defining Family: Learn how to say [Mom](#) and [Dad](#) around the world. Or have students discover the similarities and differences between their families with [this lesson](#) or [this lesson!](#) Finally, give students the chance to think about families around the [world!](#)