



BUILDING GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP THROUGH INTERCULTURAL LANGUAGE TEACHING

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Webinar Goals

To discuss the role of culture in English language teaching

To explain the concept of intercultural communicative competence

To share practical teaching ideas to help students develop intercultural communicative competence at the personal, community, and global level



**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE
A GLOBAL CITIZEN?**

What is culture?



Clothing?



Festivals?



Music?



Food?

Country does not always mean Culture

Within one country, culture can vary by:

- Ethnic or religious group
- Generation

Cultures are shared across countries through:

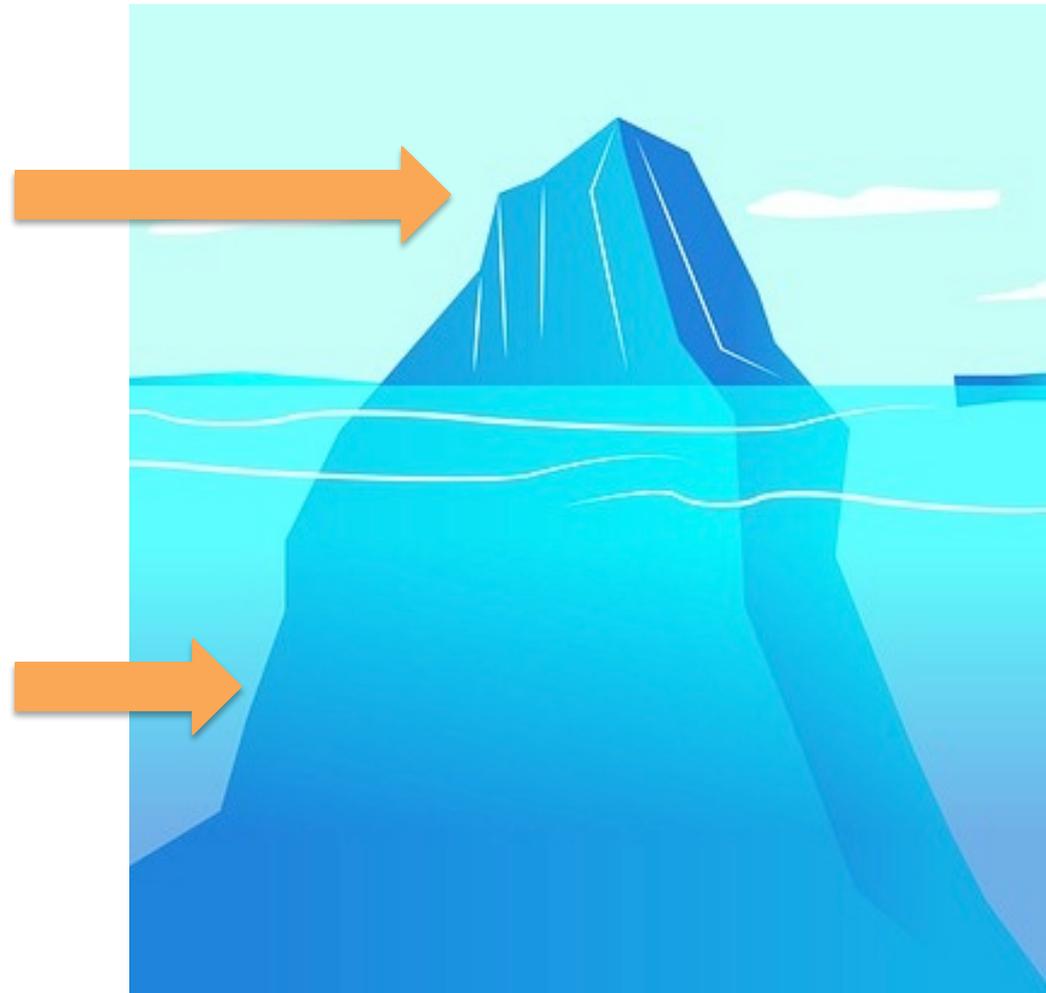
- Regional ties
- Migration
- International media & social media

Cultural Iceberg

Surface Culture: The visible aspects of culture (dress, art, music)

Deep Culture: The less visible aspects of culture (humor, communication patterns, respect for authority)

(Hall & Hall, 1990)



What are Culture Bumps?

Culture Bump Experiences are moments when inadequate cultural knowledge interferes with communication



Examples of “Culture Bumps”



Guest Behavior:
Refusing and offering food



Conversation:
“How are you”
and appropriate
discussion topics

Table Manners:
Belching and showing
appreciation for food

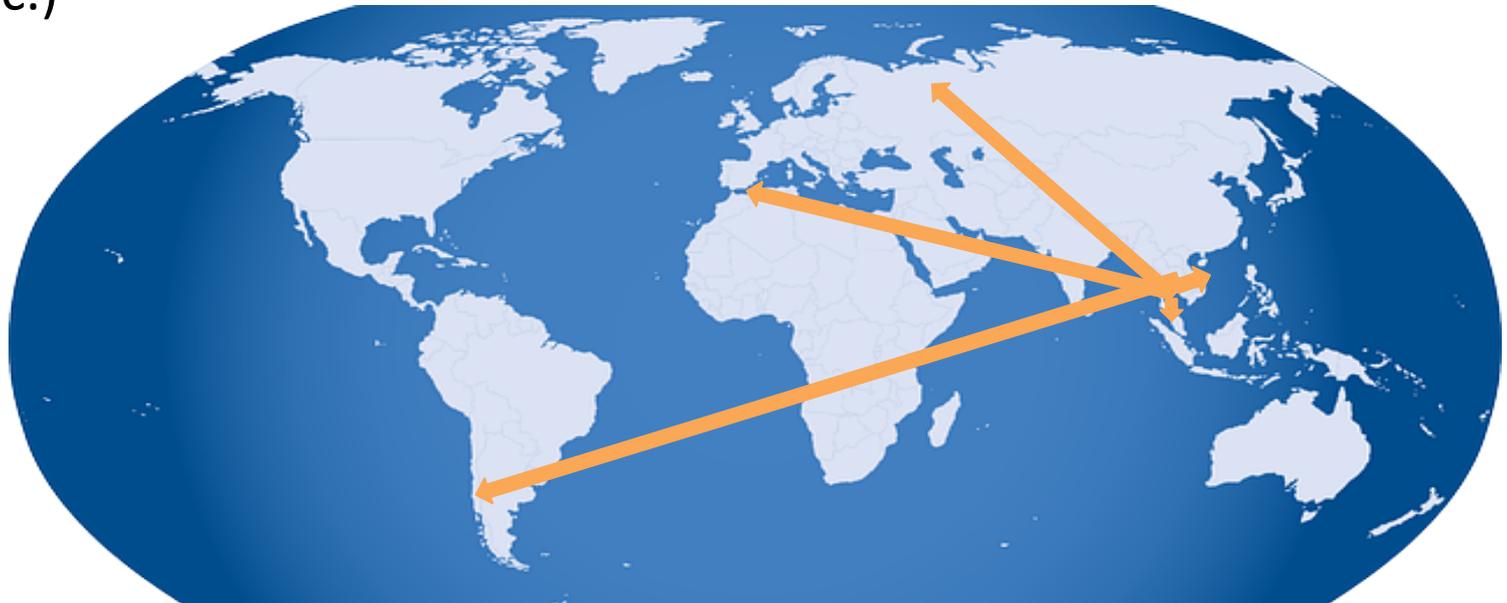


Let's Think about Culture Bumps

- Have you ever had a “culture bump” experience?
- Can we teach our students about Polish, German Taiwanese, British, AND American culture?
- Should we teach about all these cultures?

English as an International Language

- English is not only for speaking to native speakers – it is also used between non-native speakers!
- English is:
 - The native language of 400 million people
 - An additional language for 700 million people
 - An official language in 60 countries
 - An official language for many organizations (UN, EU, ASEAN, African Union, etc.)



Intercultural Language Teaching

- The focus is NOT factual knowledge about countries
- Teachers help students develop cultural awareness and adaptive skills
- Students develop the ability to continue learning on their own
- Students develop skills necessary to become global citizens



Intercultural Communicative Competence

I'll share 5 elements of Intercultural Communicative Competence (Byram, 1997).

As you listen, think about which of these 5 elements are most important in *your* teaching context.



Intercultural Communicative Competence:

1. An open and curious attitude toward other cultures
 - Willing to engage with other cultures
 - Willing to learn more about differences



(Byram, 1997)

Intercultural Communicative Competence:

2. Knowledge about various cultures' social practices and products
 - Students understand that products, practices, and interaction styles are different across cultures



Example: The importance of being “on time”

(Byram, 1997)

Intercultural Communicative Competence:

3. Interpretive and relational skills

- Understanding the meaning of texts and interactions
- Explaining texts and interactions to members of your own culture



(Byram, 1997)

Intercultural Communicative Competence:

4. Responsive and interactional skills

- Continually acquiring new cultural information
- Using this cultural knowledge to adapt in the moment

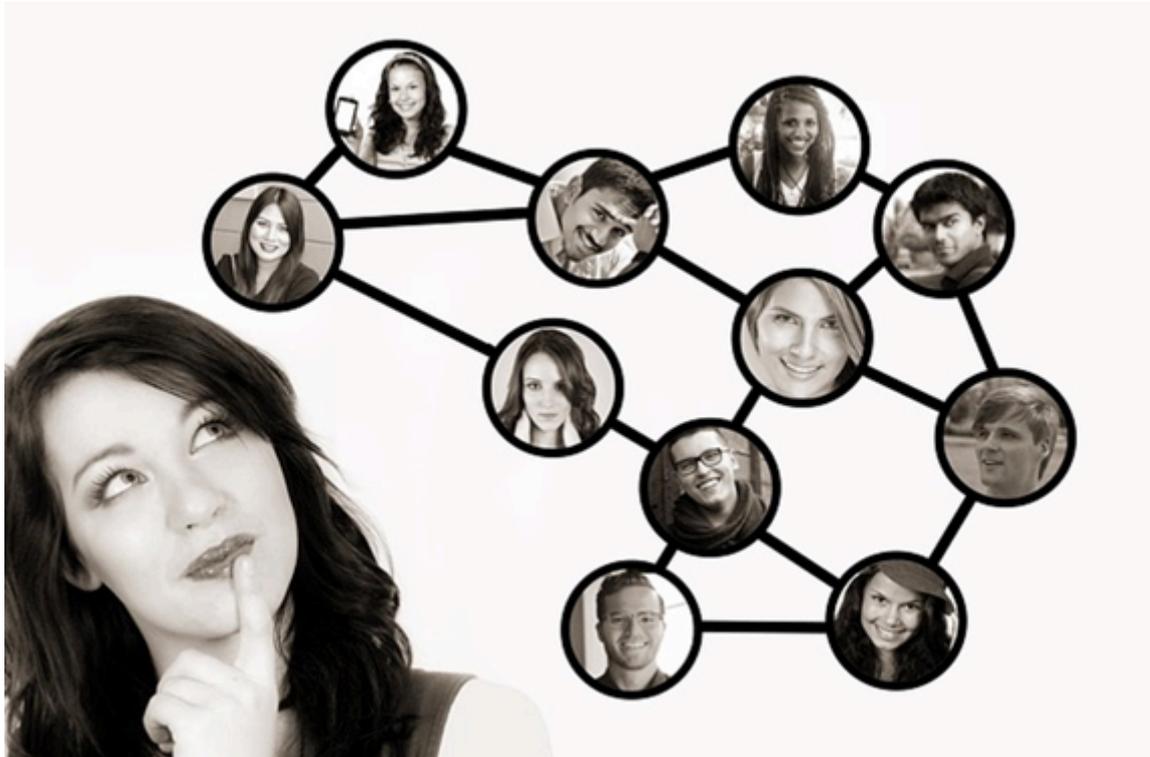


(Byram, 1997)

Intercultural Communicative Competence:

5. Critical cultural awareness

- Ability to critically evaluate cultural products and practices
- Ability and willingness to consider the reasons behind cultural similarities and differences



(Byram, 1997)

Levels of Cultural Awareness



Personal Cultural Awareness

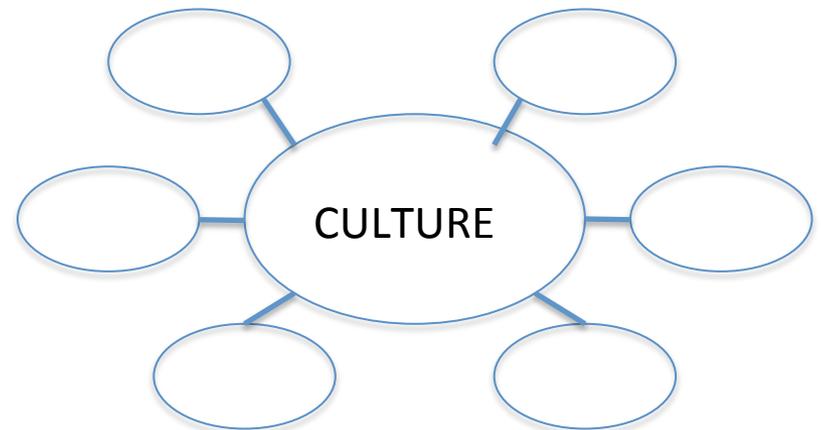


Understanding your own culture and how it has influenced you!

Activity Idea 1: Personal Cultural Awareness

CULTURE Brainstorm

- Write “CULTURE” on the board and ask students to brainstorm related words.
- Record all responses on the board.
- In groups, have students discuss, organize, and categorize the responses on the board.
- Share and discuss as a class.



Activity Idea 2:

Personal Cultural Awareness

Personal Cultural Iceberg

- Give students a blank iceberg template.
- In small groups, have students list elements of culture at each level.

Level 1: Surface culture



Level 2: Just below the surface



Level 3: Deep culture



Activity Idea 3: Personal Cultural Awareness

The Question Game

- Students tell stories to a partner.
- The partner can only respond using questions.

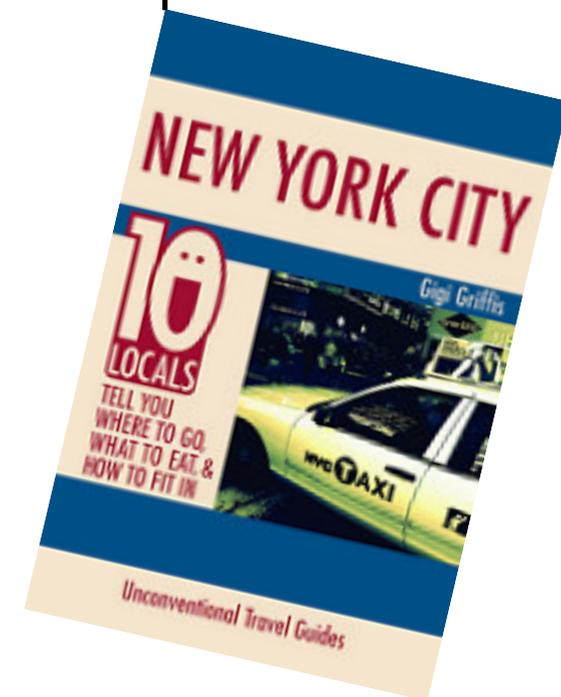


Activity Idea 4:

Personal Cultural Awareness

What's Weird?

- Students read guidebooks about how to navigate their own culture.
- Possible source: wikitravel.org
- Follow-up: Ask students to create a brochure to help new visitors adjust to life in their community.



Community Cultural Awareness



Remember:
“Culture” does not always mean “Country”

Activity Idea 1: Community Cultural Awareness

Barnga

- Students play the game in small groups.
- Each group has different rules.
- After each round, students switch groups and must play by rules they don't know.
- Find rules on the Ning or by googling “barnga.”



Activity Idea 2: Community Cultural Awareness

Changing Rules

- Ask students to invent alternatives for every day actions.
- Students present skits showing the new actions.
- The class guesses the meaning of the new actions.



Activity Idea 3: Community Cultural Awareness

Ethnographic Observations

- Students go to a public place
- They write down descriptions of what they see.
- They try to avoid making cultural judgments in their descriptions.



Example: Ethnographic Observations

- Write a sentence describing what the people in this picture are doing.



- Avoid making inferences – only write descriptive information.
- Example:
 - NOT: “The boy’s team just scored a goal.”
 - BETTER: “The boy is raising his arms in a V-shape.”

Global Cultural Awareness



Most

All



Many

Some

Activity Idea 1: Global Cultural Awareness

Same Story, New Culture

- Read a text from another culture.
- Discuss how the story would be different if it had been set in your community.



Activity Idea 2: Global Cultural Awareness

Reading an Item

- Show students an authentic cultural item.
- Make a list of all the information you can learn from this item:

- What is its purpose?
- Who uses it?
- When do they use it?
- Etc....



Activity Idea 3: Global Cultural Awareness



Webquests

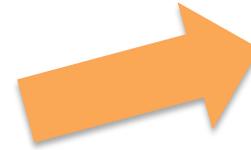
- Give students a list of cultural topics.
- Students investigate online and report to the class.
- Extension: Research different cities, regions, or countries.



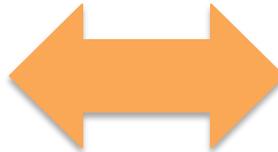
Activity Idea 4: Global Cultural Awareness

Student Exchanges

- Find another EFL teacher
- Start an E-mail exchange program



Connect
on the
Ning!

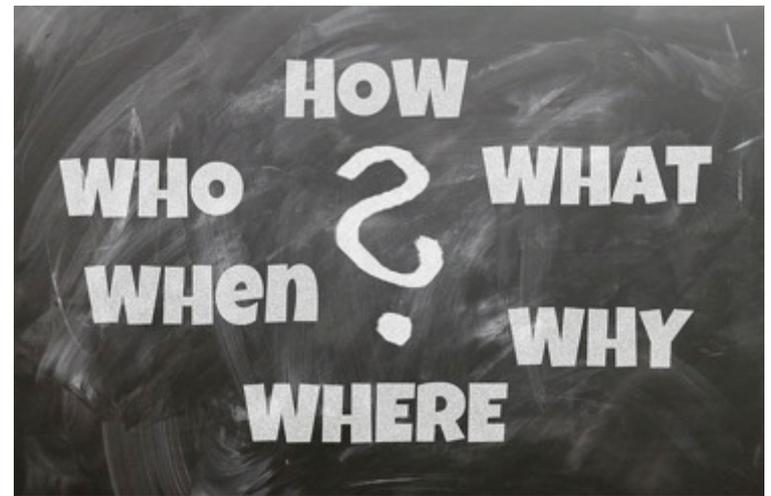


Activity Idea 5: Global Cultural Awareness



Questioning a Photo

- Show students a complex photo from another culture
- Generate a list of questions about the photo
- Use these questions to start discussion or do research



Sample Activity: Questioning a Photo

A Garage Sale



Write one to two questions about this photo.

Thanks, everyone!

See you on the Ning!

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