

CONTRASTING CULTURES

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Pupils will improve their understanding of what culture is
- Pupils will explore some of the ways in which people express their culture in Northern Ireland and beyond
- Pupils will think about their reactions to people expressing their culture
- Pupils will begin to realise that other people's culture can seem unusual until you understand its significance for them

SUGGESTED STRUCTURED ACTIVITIES TO REINFORCE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Debate
- Workshops
- Role play
- Pupil journal
- Collages

RESOURCES:

Two video clips - located in Video vault, Sectarianism section.

- a) Culture 1 (1 min 54 secs)
- b) Culture 2 (1 min 25 secs)

'Unusual' and 'Normal' labels (Appendix 2)

SUGGESTED TIMING: 1 hour (depending on size, receptivity and ability of class)

LESSON SEQUENCE:

Preparation

- Explain to the pupils that we are going to watch two short video clips and then look at the idea of cultures around the world
- Pupils asked to brainstorm the word 'Culture' on the whiteboard
- Pupils should then go to the Glossary on this website to pursue a definition
- Write the following questions up on the whiteboard:
 - Write down anything in these videos that you can identify with
 - Write down anything in these videos that you cannot identify with

- Students watch video clip a) Culture 1
- Students watch video clip b) Culture 2
- Consideration of questions asked (including help with lesson glossary if required)

Task

- Label each end of the room with 'Unusual' at one end and 'Normal' at the other.
- Ask the question:

Do you think the following actions are 'Unusual' or 'Normal'?

Teacher should read out a selection of the statements provided at end of this lesson plan (Appendix 1). Once the pupils have made their decision they should be asked why they chose 'Unusual' or 'Normal' for each in turn.

Conclusion

- Ask the pupils do they now feel that one person's culture can seem very unusual to someone who has not experienced it before? However, to the people practising that culture it is probably something very natural for them to do.
- Then ask:
 - Have you ever come across any of the practices (they've just heard read out) for example whilst on holiday?
 - Are there any of the actions you feel you would like to be part of (i.e. watch or do)?
 - Can you see how culture is something that makes those who practise it very proud and can make the rest of us either very interested or very frightened?

Homework

Pupils write into pupil journal their thoughts on the whole idea of culture. Each pupil is given (or chooses) a particular country or culture to research. Brief summary of their findings should be presented to the whole class at the next lesson.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- Complete the 'Culture 1' lesson
- Complete the 'Culture 2' lesson
- Global culture wall display
- Global culture appreciation day – with exhibits, presentations, maybe links with embassies etc...

LESSON GLOSSARY:

Bagpiper: Someone who plays a musical wind instrument called a bagpipe. Some Protestants listen to Scottish bagpipe music because they feel a common bond with Scotland where their ancestors came from.

Community: A group of people who live in the same area, share common interests and look out for one another.

Cross-community: Contact between two divided communities. For example, events held where Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland can get to know each other better.

Culture: A society's language, values, beliefs and customs that together give people a sense of who they are.

Eleventh Night: The night before 12th July when bonfires are lit at midnight to start 'The Twelfth' celebrations (important part of the Protestant culture for some).

Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA): A sporting club that makes it possible for young men, women, boys and girls to play various sports including: Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, handball, rounders, etc.

Heritage: Something which is passed down from previous generations. These can be items such as traditions, languages, or even property.

Lambeg drum: An oak and goatskin drum weighing 34-40 lbs and measuring 3 foot in diameter. It is played with two canes and can make a sound as loud as a pneumatic drill. The Lambeg drum is traditionally carried on 12th July in Orange Order processions and is traditionally played with fifes (flutes).

Moy: A predominately Catholic village in Co. Armagh.

Richhill: A predominately Protestant village in County Armagh.

Tradition: Like heritage, it is a way of life or a set of customs that a community have practised for a long time.

Twelfth of July: Traditionally this is a day of celebration for Protestants in Northern Ireland, in remembrance of 1690 when Prince William of Orange (Protestant) defeated King James (Catholic). This is a public holiday in Northern Ireland when there are Orange Order marches in many towns and cities.

Appendix 1

Smashing plates on the floor and on your head (Greek culture)	Dancing with your arms tight by your side and flicking your legs up and down (Irish dancing)
Walking down a road playing music (Brazilian carnivals, Lord Mayor Show, The Twelfth, Notting Hill Festival)	Not using toilet paper after going to the toilet (seen as unhygienic in India)
Praying five times a day (Islamic culture)	Not eating pork (Jewish)
Not eating beef (India)	Sitting in front of a box that makes noise and shows lots of colours for hours at a time (watching TV)
Dyeing your hair a different colour (anywhere from UK, Ireland to African tribes)	Painting colours over your body (anywhere from UK, Ireland [tattoos] to African tribes)
Having a two hour rest at lunchtime (France and Spain)	Bathing in a river full of the ashes of dead people (Ganges river for Hindus in India)
Singing the words of a book for two and a half days solid (Sikhs in India)	Letting wild bulls chase you around the streets (Pamplona, Spain and some parts of India)
Throwing tomatoes at each other in the street (Buñol, Spain)	Chasing cheese down a hill (villages in England)
Deliberately climbing down a mountain in your bare feet (Croagh Patrick vigil – Catholics in Ireland)	Chasing a fox through the countryside whilst on horseback (UK)
Singing songs in a house around the coffin of a dead person (Irish wake)	Watching other people kick a ball around for over an hour (all over the world from soccer to rugby to Gaelic football)
Not working on a Sunday (associated with some Protestant people – ‘keep the Sabbath holy’)	Gathering up wood and old settees etc and burning them at twelve o’clock at night (Bonfires in Northern Ireland and Guy Fawkes Night in UK)
Putting lots of gold rings around your neck to stretch it – the longer the neck the more beautiful (tribes in Asia and Africa)	Banging a very loud drum repeatedly whilst people stand around and listen (Lambeg Drums, African Djemba drumming, or a Rock concert)

Appendix 2

NORMAL

UNUSUAL