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Mapping Out “Multicultural”



Multi-





Dimensions
of Culture

The iceberg concept of culture

Primarily in awareness

Fine arts Literature
Drama Classical music Popular music
Folk-dancing Games Cooking Dress


Primarily out of awareness

Notions of modesty Conception of beauty
Ideals governing child raising Rules of descent Cosmology
Relationship to animals Patterns of superior/subordinate relations
Definition of sin Courtship practices Conception of justice Incentives to work
Notions of leadership Tempo of work Patterns of group decision-making
Conception of cleanliness Attitudes to the dependent Theory of disease
Approaches to problem solving Conception of status mobility Eye behaviour
Roles in relation to status by age, sex, class, occupation, kinship, etc. Definition of insanity
Nature of friendship Conception of "self" Patterns of visual perception Body language
Facial expressions Notions about logic and validity Patterns of handling emotions
Conversational patterns in various social contexts Conception of past and future Ordering of time
Preference for competition or co-operation Social interaction rate Notions of adolescence
Arrangement of physical space Etc.

Three Levels of Culture

| Concrete | Behavioral | Symbolic |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Visible; tangible; products; | How we behave and how people explain & justify what they do | Includes our values and beliefs; philosophies, world-view; mind-set; ideologies |
| | | |

Three Levels of Culture



| Concrete | Behavioral | Symbolic |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Visible; tangible | Reflects our values | Includes our values and beliefs |
| | | |

Which level is the most important for how you define your own culture? Why is it important?

Points to Ponder...

When you meet someone, which of the items do you use to understand their culture?

Is your attempt to understand others' cultures consistent with how you want to be viewed and understood?

How is education generally tried to be “multicultural?”

What aspects of culture focused on in classrooms are trying to be multicultural?

