

Global Culture Discussion Guide

Purpose

Encourage thoughtful group conversations about global culture—how it shapes identity, evolves, and connects us. Designed for ages 12+ in classrooms or community settings.

Opening the Conversation

1. Establish Ground Rules

- Practice respect, curiosity, and active listening.
- Acknowledge: no single person defines an entire culture.

2. What Is Culture?

Ask participants:

- What composes culture? (e.g. language, art, food, traditions)
- Can one person belong to multiple cultures?

(Optional: Draw a “Culture Web” on a flip chart with contributions.)

Core Discussion Topics

Identity & Personal Connection

- How does culture shape our sense of self?
- Have you ever felt your cultural identity change?
- Which aspect of your culture do you feel strongest about?

Tradition vs. Modern Influence

- How are traditions passed down today?
- In what ways do trends alter or revive traditions?
- Can modernization exist without cultural loss?

Global Exchange & Technology

- How does social media impact cultural sharing?
- How do we distinguish cultural appreciation from appropriation?

- Have you discovered another culture through media? How?

Challenges & Stereotypes

- What stereotypes exist in your context?
 - Have you experienced cultural misunderstandings?
 - Should we preserve endangered cultural practices? How?
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Interactive Activities

Activity	Description
Culture Collage	Create a visual collage representing your cultural interests or heritage.
Culture Snapshots	Share something meaningful from any culture (song, food, phrase).
Scenario Discussion	Evaluate real-life scenarios (e.g. using Indigenous designs commercially).
Then vs. Now	Compare how a tradition (food, dress, holiday) has changed over time.

Key Resources

- **Identity & Culture**
 - Facing History – *Culture & Identity Resources*
 - BBC Bitesize – *What Is Culture?*
- **Global Exchange**
 - National Geographic – *Globalization and Culture*
 - UNESCO – *Promoting Cultural Diversity*
- **Appropriation vs. Appreciation**
 - NPR – *What Cultural Appropriation Really Means*
 - Learning for Justice – *Teaching Cultural Appropriation*

- **Youth Culture**

- Brookings – *How Youth Culture Is Shaping the World*
- PBS – *Cultural Identity & Belonging*

Facilitator Tips

- Encourage everyone to share their own stories.
- Avoid making individuals spokespeople for entire cultures.
- Be open to uncertainty—culture is layered and evolving.
- Support both pride and constructive critique in discussions.