

<b>Lesson Title</b>	What is Culture?		
<b>Lesson Plan Number</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Age Range/ Year Group</b>	15-18 years
<b>Resources</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>		
1. Resource sheet 1 - Definitions of Culture 2. Resource sheet 2 - Cultural Metaphors 3. Resource sheet 3 - HSBC Advert 4. Resource sheet 4 - Intercultural Dialogue cards	By the end of this lesson students will be able to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• define what the term culture means</li> <li>• be more aware of the value of intercultural dialogue</li> </ul>		

### LESSON INTRODUCTION

This lesson is all about defining culture. What does the word mean? When we read in the media about the growing need for intercultural dialogue between cultures that are apparently drifting apart, what does this mean?

### STARTER (15 mins)

- Ask students to write a definition of the word 'culture'. Then organise class into groups of three or four - ask each person to read their definition to the others in their group. Each group is then to combine their ideas and create one definition that they are happy with. After five minutes, ask one person from each group to read the agreed definition out to the class. How do they differ - what do they have in common?
- Hand out Resource 1 to each group. Which definitions do students agree with? Why? Allow 5 minutes, then ask each group to state which definition they think is the best, and why.

### MAIN ACTIVITY (25 mins)

#### Activity 1 (10 mins):

- Make sure the class know what a metaphor is. Ask one student to define the word.
- Hand out Resource 2. Discuss in pairs. Which metaphors seem most useful when trying to define culture? Why? In pairs, come up with two metaphors of your own.
- Show images from Resource sheet 3. What are the images trying to get you to consider? (make the point that there is no one or 'right' way to look at the world; culture has different meanings to different people).

#### Activity 2 (15 mins):

One of the last things Kofi Annan did as Secretary General of the UN was to create the UN Alliance of Civilisations (UN AOC) - a body dedicated to addressing the issue of increased misunderstanding between cultures. **'Key to a better future'**, he said, **'is increased intercultural dialogue between young people'**.

- Ask pupils to write down a definition of what they think 'intercultural dialogue' is all about. Invite volunteers to offer their definitions to the class.
- In small groups, ask students to discuss the worth or value of intercultural dialogue - why is it considered to be so important? After a few minutes invite groups to share their results.





- Hand out Resource 4, one per pair. Use scissors to cut out the statement cards. Ask students to arrange cards into three piles - one pile of statements they agree with, one with statements they disagree with, and one for unsure.
- Select students to justify their choices orally and invite comments from others in the room to stimulate discussion.

#### SUMMARY (10 mins)

- Ask students to summarise the key things they have learnt about culture and intercultural dialogue. Based on their new knowledge, ask students to finish off by re-writing their definition of culture.

#### EXTENSION/FOLLOW UP IDEAS

Imagine you work for the advertising department of HSBC. You have been asked to create two new '**Points of View**' advertisement posters (see resource sheet 3). Your challenge is to design and create those posters before next lesson.

#### CHECK THE WEB

1. For information on UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors for culture visit [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=4053&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=4053&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)
2. [www.unaoc.org](http://www.unaoc.org) to find out more about the UN Alliance of Civilisations
3. [www.connectingcultures.co.uk](http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk) to find out more about Connecting Cultures

#### NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKS

**KS4:** 2.1 a, 2.1 d, 2.2 a, 2.2 b, 2.2 c, 3h, 3l, 3m, 4a, 4b, 4g, 4h & 4i



## Definition of Culture

### **Susi Teutsch (Austria):**

“Culture to me is like part of the backpack everyone is carrying. Sometimes it can be heavy and stops you from doing certain things but it also carries the necessary stuff you need for living.”

### **Hafren Jones (Wales):**

“Culture is what makes a masai who wears black and red kangas and drinks cows’ blood with milk different from a Bedouin who wears a burka and eats dates.”

### **Noor Al-Wahaibi (Oman):**

“Culture is the basic thing in every country. It means everything...history, past, present, future, traditions, beliefs, religion, etc.”

### **Irene De La Fuente (Spain):**

“Culture among countries is the most interesting thing that we have. We have different ideas, thinking, religions etc. We are human beings and we can understand each other if we have a free soul and an open mind.”

### **Mona Mughram Al-Ghamdi (Saudi Arabia):**

“Culture to me is the traditions, values and beliefs of a group of people that travels through generations.”

### **Corinne Timmis (UK):**

“Although culture can sometimes be the cause of separation, it should be cherished and bring individuals together.”

### **Rachida Abdellaoui (Netherlands):**

“Unfortunately, culture is that one thing that divides us instead of uniting us into being a little part of mankind.”

### **Kate (UK):**

“Your culture is the way you are raised. It can be different between people of the same nationality.”

### **Aisha Al-Kharusi (Oman):**

“Culture is shaped by our tradition, history and religion. You carry it with you to influence others and for it to be influenced by other cultures.”

### **Fatema Abuidrees (Saudi Arabia):**

“It is the building block of our personality.”

### **Alia Al-Lawati (Oman):**

“Culture is based on our history and ancestors. It creates our initial personalities but does not necessarily need to act as our finale.”

The following quotes are from young people who took part in a ‘**Connecting Cultures**’ desert journey. They were asked to define ‘culture’. Their opinions are below.



## Cultural Metaphors

Culture is a **backpack**. It is hard to carry but it provides necessary things.

Culture is a **butterfly**. It is a fragile thing of great beauty.

Culture is a pair of **handcuffs**. It takes away your freedom and traps you.

Culture is a pair of **glasses**. It helps you to see the world clearly.

Culture is **water**. It can keep you alive or kill you.

Culture is a **mask**. It hides a person's true identity.



# Connecting Cultures

## RESOURCE SHEET 3



In some parts of the world,  
age is a barrier, in others an advantage.  
You can be written off or revered.

At HSBC we work for 100 million customers,  
all over the world, on a daily basis.  
And what we've learned in our travels hasn't  
just broadened our mind but opened it too.

One thing is certain, people will always  
have different points of view on life.  
And that's good no matter what your age.





<p>Is too much effort because of all the different languages in the world</p>	<p>Involves teaching each others that stereotypes are misleading and dangerous</p>	<p>Is about treating the world as one big family</p>
<p>Is a waste of time. People should just talk to people from their own cultures</p>	<p>Is more important now than it was in the past</p>	<p>Means opening your mind and accepting that everyone is different</p>
<p>Is about having friends in different countries</p>	<p>Simply means exchanging information</p>	<p>Can cause problems but it can also have happy endings</p>
<p>Is impossible because everyone disagrees about food, religion, clothing, education etc.</p>	<p>Is for politicians, not for people like us</p>	<p>Means that everyone should communicate with someone from another culture at least once in their life.</p>
<p>Can be just two people talking or it can be hundreds of nations communicating</p>	<p>Is what the world needs to fight racism</p>	<p>Means diluting cultures.</p>
<p>Is about showing people that everyone is the same on the inside</p>	<p>Is about helping people to understand immigration</p>	<p>Saves lives</p>