

<b>Lesson Title</b>	How do I feel that my culture is misunderstood by others?		
<b>Lesson Plan Number</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Age Range/ Year Group</b>	15-18 years
<b>Resources</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>		
1. Ability to show internet clips (with sound) to the students. 2. Resource sheet 1 – What is my culture like? 3. Resource sheet 2 – How might others perceive one’s culture? 4. Resource Sheet 3 – Misunderstandings of cultures.	By the end of this lesson students will be able to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe how they see their own culture.</li> <li>• Describe the ways in which they feel that their culture is misunderstood by others.</li> </ul>		

**LESSON INTRODUCTION**

This lesson encourages students to describe their culture from both their own point of view and from the point of view of others. Students discuss the ways in which their culture is misunderstood.

**STARTER (10 mins)**

- Give each student a copy of ‘resource one’.
- Students are asked to complete task one individually (on paper/in books). A few volunteers then share their ideas with the class.
- Students are invited to comment upon whose definitions they felt to be the most interesting (and why).
- Working in pairs, students complete task two.
- Students are invited to read out their choices and to challenge each other’s decisions. An example of an answer might be:

“The five words that we chose to best describe life here to someone who has never been to Oman are friendly, tolerant, proud, educated and misunderstood. We chose the first three words because we feel that citizens of Oman are open-minded about the world and respect all of the world’s people. We chose ‘educated’ because we personally have been to some superb schools and have had very intelligent teachers. We chose ‘misunderstood’ because we think that lots of foreigners associate Muslim countries with terrorism.”

- An example of a challenge might be:

“I don’t agree with you that our culture is misunderstood. Naturally, the world’s view of Islam was affected in some way by 9/11. However, I think that sensible people in all countries have realised that true Muslims were appalled at what happened that day in New York.”

**MAIN ACTIVITY (20 mins)**

- Students are given ‘resource two’.
- It is explained that an organisation called ‘Connecting Cultures’ unites young people from different cultures. This is achieved through these young people meeting each another and describing their own cultures as well as their perceptions of other cultures.

- Students watch a 'Connecting Cultures' 'YouTube' clip, 'How do we feel our cultures are misunderstood?' found here:  
[http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos\\_youtube.htm](http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos_youtube.htm)  
 Students complete the true/false column of the task three table as they watch the clip.
- Answers are as follows:

Person.	Information.	True or false?
1. Karin thinks that...	...people from outside of the Netherlands feel that her culture is selfish.	<b>True.</b> (She herself prefers the description 'individualistic').
2. Noor thinks that...	...she has realised that the 'individualistic' culture in the Netherlands is different rather than negative.	<b>True.</b>
3. Noor thinks that...	...people outside of her culture think that her culture is very peaceful.	<b>False.</b> (Noor explains that they associate terrorism with her culture).
4. Karin thinks that...	...Islam is very different to other religions.	<b>False.</b> (Karin states that Islam is similar to all religions in that it is peaceful).
5. Karin thinks that...	...other cultures believe that people in the Netherlands are romantic and expressive.	<b>False.</b> (She says that people see citizens from the Netherlands as quite 'cold').
6. Noor thinks that...	...'Connecting Cultures' has proved to her that people from the Netherlands can be very friendly.	<b>True.</b> (Noor points out that Karin has bonded with people from the 'Connecting Cultures' project).
7. Noor thinks that...	...her culture is perceived by foreigners as being wealthy.	<b>True.</b>
8. Karin thinks that...	...the Arabic world seems educated and civilised.	<b>True.</b>

- Students are given the answers/explanations by the teacher.
- Students are invited to comment upon their impressions of the 'YouTube' clip. Prompt questions might include:
- How accurately did Noor represent misunderstandings about Oman?
  - What interested you about Fatema's role?
  - How open-minded did Karin seem about your culture?
  - What surprised you the most about the clip?
- Students who comment are praised.



**SUMMARY (10 mins)**

- Students are given 'resource three'.
- Students are shown another 'YouTube' clip, 'How I feel my culture is misunderstood by others?' from the 'Connecting Cultures' project ([http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos\\_youtube.htm](http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos_youtube.htm) – approximately four minutes long).
- Whilst they watch this clip, students complete task four.
- Students discuss their answers in small groups. A spokesperson from each group is asked to then briefly summarise his/her group's discussion for the class. An example of a summary might be:

"We felt that Rene, Said, Fadi and Olly all said the same thing but in a different way! All of them could think of incorrect perceptions that foreigners had of their cultures. Although they gave different examples of these perceptions, they all seemed to agree that their own cultures were misunderstood. We also said how positive it was to see four young people from four totally different cultures showing lots of respect for each other. They obviously understood each other's cultures quite well."

- Working in groups of three or four, students complete task five.
- Students swap their sheets with people in another group and compare their answers.
- Teacher invites students to comment upon the following:
  - Did most of you agree about the ways in which your culture is misunderstood?
  - What 'proof' do you have that your culture is misunderstood?
  - What frustrates you the most in terms of misunderstandings about your culture?
  - Do citizens of Oman misunderstand other people's cultures?

**EXTENSION/FOLLOW UP IDEAS**

Imagine that a group of eleven-year-olds from Europe is visiting Oman for the first time. You have been asked to write a very simple description of life in Oman for them. Include ten separate important points (for example you might want to mention religion, education, family life, ways of greeting other people, body language etc). Think hard about ways in which these European children might initially misunderstand your culture – make sure that your description of your culture removes such misunderstandings. For example, you might choose to emphasise the peaceful elements of Islamic culture or talk about the diversity of wealth within Oman. You might choose to include positive images of your culture. Be ready to show your 'mini guidebook' next lesson.

**CHECK THE WEB**

1. [http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos\\_youtube.htm](http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos_youtube.htm) How do we feel our cultures are misunderstood? (for task three).
2. [http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos\\_youtube.htm](http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk/videos_youtube.htm) How I feel my culture is misunderstood by others? (for task four).
3. [www.connectingcultures.co.uk](http://www.connectingcultures.co.uk) to find out more about the 'Connecting Cultures' project.
4. [www.caabu.org/pdf/educ-deserts-palmtrees.pdf](http://www.caabu.org/pdf/educ-deserts-palmtrees.pdf) to see more images of the Arab world.

**NATIONAL CURRICULUM LINKS**

**KS4:** 1.1.c, 1.3.c, 2.1.a, 2.1.c, 2.1.d, 2.2.a, 2.2.b, 2.2.c, 3l, 3m, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4g, 4h & 4i.





## What is my culture like?

### TASK ONE: What is my culture like?

Think of **two** or **three** sentences to describe your culture.  
The images below might help you.



LUXURY?



COMMODITY?



LUXURY?



COMMODITY?



GROWTH?



DESTRUCTION?



GROWTH?



DESTRUCTION?



WISE?



OLD?



WISE?



OLD?



## What is my culture like?

### TASK TWO: Which words best describe my culture?

Circle five words that you think would **best describe your culture** to someone who has never visited Oman.

proud

poor

romantic

religious

diverse

educated

interesting

political

modern

old-fashioned

misunderstood

stifling

open-minded

tolerant

ashamed

family-orientated

friendly

uneducated

fun-loving

unfair

sports-orientated

understood

apathetic

uninteresting

serious

materialistic

liberated

secular

rich

## What is my culture like?

### TASK THREE: How might other people see my culture?

Decide which of the following statements are true/false.

Person.	Information.	True or false?
1. Karin thinks that...	...people from outside of the Netherlands feel that her culture is selfish.	
2. Noor thinks that...	...she has realised that the 'individualistic' culture in the Netherlands is different rather than negative.	
3. Noor thinks that...	...people outside of her culture think that her culture is very peaceful.	
4. Karin thinks that...	...Islam is very different to other religions.	
5. Karin thinks that..	...other cultures believe that people in the Netherlands are romantic and expressive.	
6. Noor thinks that...	...'Connecting Cultures' has proved to her that people from the Netherlands can be very friendly.	
7. Noor thinks that...	...her culture is perceived by foreigners as being wealthy.	
8. Karin thinks that...	...the Arabic world seems educated and civilised.	



## What is my culture like?

### TASK FOUR: How are people's cultures misunderstood by foreigners?

Write a sentence next to each person's name to describe the ways in which they feel that their cultures are misunderstood.

Rene (Netherlands) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Said (Oman) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fadi (France) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Olly (UK) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### TASK FIVE: How is my culture misunderstood by others?

Put a point on the lines below to show how you think that people from **outside of your culture** perceive your culture.



very westernised  not at all westernised



equal rights for women  no rights for women



secular  religious



well-developed  under-developed



educated  uneducated



peaceful citizens  terrorist citizens