

The culture game

Age:	11-12 years old
Time:	30-60 minutes
Location:	Indoors/Outdoors
Group Size:	20-30
Activity Level:	Moderate to active
Materials:	Stickers or pieces of cardboard in 6 different colours, instructions for each cultural group
Principal Value:	Respect for diversity
Other Values:	Acceptance, respect



Reference

Prepare for this activity by consulting the **User's Guide** for instructions, *How to use this toolkit* (p. 8), and descriptions of *respect for diversity*, *acceptance* (p. 15) and *respect* (p. 14). You will also find useful information in the **User's Guide** on culture, explained by *The Iceberg Model* (pp. 16 and 17) and on *prejudices and stereotypes* (p. 18).

Purpose of the game

To explore cultural diversity and sensitize children to the challenges of intercultural communications.

Object of the game

To act out the 4 characteristics that define one's tribe (a shout, a taboo, a greeting and an attitude towards others) while trying to discover the characteristics of the other tribes.

Examples for each category

- **Shouts:** growling, grunting, shouting the name of the tribe etc.
- **Taboos:** never use the right hand, never say yes or no, never speak first, never let yourself be touched by others, never stand when talking, and never sit when spoken to, etc.
- **Greetings:** cross your arms and say, "Top of the day to you", put your right hand on the left shoulder of the person you are greeting and say, "Hello jello!", tap your head and rub your stomach saying, "May this day fill your head with nice thought and your stomach with good food", etc.
- **Attitudes towards others:** feel inferior to the Red tribe, find the Orange tribe funny and bizarre, be afraid of the Yellow tribe, believe the Purple tribe are gods and idolize them, etc.

How to play

1. Divide the children into 6 tribes and give to each child in the tribe a sticker or coloured piece of cardboard identifying the tribe.
2. Ask each tribe to take a few minutes to make up 4 characteristics, one for each category used, that will distinguish the behaviour of their tribe. The categories are: a shout, a taboo, a greeting, and an attitude towards one of the other tribes. All the tribes must have different characteristics.
3. When the tribes are ready, ask the children to walk around the play area and try to communicate with members of the other tribes in order to discover their 4 characteristics.
4. After 10-15 minutes, bring the game to an end.
5. Assemble all the tribes in a large group. Ask the children if they were able to discover the characteristics of the other groups.

Reflection

Use the following questions to lead a discussion with the group on cultural diversity and intercultural communication.

- Did you enjoy this game?
- Did you succeed in discovering the characteristics of the other tribes?
- Was it difficult to understand the members of the other tribes and to make yourself understood by them? Did you experience any frustration? Why?
- Were there tribes that were easier to communicate with? Why?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't succeed in understanding another person or in making yourself understood? How did you react? What did you do?
- What can we do when we meet someone from another country, another culture or who speaks another language and we have difficulty communicating with them?

Adapted from: ACNU, Tout l'monde...mon monde! Les jeunes et le multiculturalisme, Guide d'animation d'ateliers et d'activités, Ottawa, 1998.



You can download other games from the following website:

<http://www.equitas.org/toolkit/>