

Finding out about cultures

Student's sheet

Student A

Read the questions and choose the ones you think are most interesting. Then ask your partner the questions about a country or culture they know. Then answer the questions your partner asks you. Use your own experience to give the answers.

If you don't know the information where can you find out?

1. How do you greet members of your family?
2. Who is the most popular politician?
3. Which sport do people watch most?
4. Is there a difference between different parts of the country (north and south for instance)?
5. Which words do you think foreigners should learn?
6. What is a typical national dish?
7. How do people feel about religion in general?
8. What is one thing you should never do?
9. What is the population of the country?
10. Can you name a national hero?
11. Is small talk in business a good thing?
12. Have things changed a lot in the last ten years?
13. What is the most important piece of news at the moment?
14. What other information is important for visitors to this country?



Student B

Read the questions and choose the ones you think are most interesting. Then ask your partner the questions about a country or culture they know. Then answer the questions your partner asks you. Use your own experience to give the answers.

If you don't know the information where can you find out?

1. How do you greet friends?
2. Who is the most popular film star?
3. Which sport do people play most?
4. Is there a difference between life in cities and in the country?
5. Which words do you think foreigners should learn?
6. What is a typical national drink?
7. How do people feel about politics in general?
8. What is one thing you should never do?
9. What is the most important city in the country?
10. Can you name a national hero?
11. Are people usually on time in this country?
12. Have things changed a lot in the last twenty years?
13. What is the most important piece of news at the moment?
14. What other information is important for visitors to this country?

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Teacher's notes

Preparation:

The aim of this activity is to get students to talk about different countries and cultures. It works particularly well if there are members of different national groups and cultures in the class. The questions can also be discussed if students can choose a country or culture to talk about. Copy the sheet once for each pair of students and then cut each sheet in half.

In class:

Write "culture" on the board and brainstorm vocabulary connected with the topic. Make it clear that you are talking about facts and everyday things rather than of music or literature. Pre-teach any vocabulary you think may be unfamiliar.

Divide the students into pairs or small groups and hand out the worksheet. Ask them to ask and answer the questions and to report back. Students then work in pairs asking and answering the questions. Walk around and monitor. Afterwards collect answers and discuss them.

Extension activities:

1. Think of more questions which could be asked about countries or cultures.
2. Ask students to find out the answers to the questions about another country they are interested in and give a short presentation in the next lesson.