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| **EL Civics Obj 11/Diversity**  **Level: Beginning Low (2) & Beginning High (3) Task 2: Report About Your Country** |
| **Language & Literacy Objectives:**  1. Write and/or report personal information: name, place of birth, native language, etc.  3. Interview classmates about cultural information.  8. Report orally or in writing about one’s cultural background. |
| **INTRODUCTION** |
| In this lesson, students will explore typical customs and traditions in their own culture and those of their classmates. They will also look for similarities and differences between cultures, especially as they relate to the following topics: Education, Food, Medical Care, Money and Work. |
| **ASSESSMENT TASK** |
| For this task, each student will describe 5 customs from their native country that are the same as or different from customs in the U.S. 15 points possible. |
| **SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES** |
| * Multicultural Fair @ TAS: Work with other classes at your site (or between sites) to plan and organize a Multicultural Fair that would highlight the similarities and differences between cultures. Students would determine theme & activities, plus be responsible for marketing and logistics. |

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| **INDICATORS FOR BEGINNING LOW** |
| TASK 2  (R.2.4) follow simple written instructions and geographical directions that include pictures, diagrams or simple maps  (R.2.8) understand and respond to simple questions in print  (W.2.5) write short written exchanges about familiar topics in familiar contexts (including written lists and schedules) using basic punctuation  (e.g., capitalization, periods, commas, question marks) (ELPS 2.1,9.1, 10.1)  (W.2.7) present simple information in writing using a narrow range of vocabulary and syntactically simple sentences  (including a small number of frequently occurring nouns, noun phrases, verbs, conjunctions, and prepositions in writing) (ELPS 9.1, 10.1)  (W.2.13) write simple statements (affirmative and negative) (ELPS 9.1, 10.1)  (W.2.15) write compound sentences with “and,” “or,” and “but” (ELPS 9.1, 10.1)  (GS.2.3) subject pronouns  (GS.2.4) singular and plural of nouns  (GS.2.5) simple present of be  (GS.2.6) simple present of regular verbs (not be) |

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| **INDICATORS FOR BEGINNING HIGH** |
| TASK 2  (R.3.2) follow simple written, multi-step instructions (ELPS 9.2)  (W.3.3) write simple sentences and compound sentences (with “and,” “or,” “but,” “because,”  and “and…too/either”) related to familiar situations (ELPS 2.2. 10.2)  (W.3.6) use basic punctuation (e.g., capitalization, periods, commas, question marks) (ELPS 10.2)  (W.3.17) adapt written language choice to task and audience (ELPS 7.2)  (W.3.18) use frequently occurring academic and content specific words in writing (ELPS 7.2)  (W.3.21) use frequently occurring verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, and conjunctions in writing (ELPS 10.2)  (G.3.3) spelling and basic usage of definite/indefinite articles  (G.3.8) count and non-count nouns  (G.3.14) prepositions of location  (G.3.15) basic coordinating conjunctions: but, and, or |

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| **HANDOUTS PROVIDED** |
| Handout 1: Vocabulary - Culture  Handout 2: Conversation Questions - Culture  Handout 3: Introduction – Cultural Customs & Traditions  Handout 4: Worksheet – Holiday Traditions  Handout 5: Introduction – Technology Across Cultures  Handout 6: Activity – Technology Across Cultures  Handout 7: Worksheet – Customs & Traditions: Similarities  Handout 8: Worksheet – Customs & Traditions: Differences  Handout 9: Practice – Write About Culture |
| **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES** |
| * **Related Websites** - see list in “Additional Resources” section of this binder. |
| **COMPUTER LAB IDEAS** |
| * **Class Newsletter**: Students can write articles about customs and traditions in their native countries, or compare their native traditions to those in the U.S. (Publisher, Internet) Read-Write-Think. * **Class Blog**: Students can post about customs and traditions in their native countries, or compare their native traditions to those in the U.S. (Internet). www.weebly.com |

TASK 2– Handout #1

**VOCABULARY: CULTURE**

Adapted from Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online ([www.ldoceonline.com](http://www.ldoceonline.com))

**activities:** things people do for fun, or to reach a goal.

**celebrate:** to show that an event or occasion is important by doing something

special or enjoyable.

**custom:** something that is done by people in a particular society because it is

traditional.

**different:** when people or things are not like each other.

**holiday:** time of rest from work, school, etc.

**similar:** alike; almost the same.

**tradition:** a belief, custom, or way of doing something that has existed for a

long time.

**typical:** someone behaving or something happening in the usual way you

expect.

**value:** the importance or usefulness of something.

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TASK 2 – Handout #2

## CONVERSATION QUESTIONS: CULTURE

adapted from The Internet TESL Journal (http://iteslj.org/questions/culture.html)

* What is culture? (Music, language, sports ...)
* Why is culture important?
* What do you like about your native culture?
* Are there people of different cultures in your country?
* What American customs do you like?
* Are there any American customs you do not like?

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TASK 2 –Handout #3

**INTRODUCTION: CULTURAL CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS**

One way to learn about the people living in a country is to look at their customs and traditions. Many have been passed down for generations.

**What is a custom?**

A custom is the usual way of behaving or acting. For example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a white wedding dress | In the United States, most brides wear white on their wedding day. White is a symbol of purity. |
| Chinese bride in red dress CC BY-SA 3.0 | The traditional wedding gown in China is bright red with gold. These colors symbolize luck for the new couple. |

**What is a tradition?**

A tradition is a custom passed from one generation to another. For example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| grapes CC BY 2.0 by Zest-pk | In Spain on New Year’s Eve, it is traditional to eat twelve grapes, one for each month of the new year. |
| cup of tea CC BY 2.0 by nicehotcoupofT | In Britain, it is traditional to drink tea with milk in the afternoon. |

* + What customs do you practice?
  + What are your favorite customs?

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TASK 2 –Handout #3 (cont.)

**INTRODUCTION: CULTURAL CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS (cont.)**

**What is a holiday?**

A **holiday** is a day set aside to honor a person or remember an event. It usually involves rest from work. Holidays often include culture-wide activities and rituals.

**Examples (from** [**http://www.earthcalendar.net**](http://www.earthcalendar.net/)**):**



***July 4 – Independence Day in United States***Celebration of America’s independence from England in 1776. Traditions include picnics and fireworks.



***May 5 – Cinco de Mayo in Mexico***

Commemorates the Mexican army's surprise victory during a battle with French soldiers in 1862. Cinco de Mayo means   
"Fifth of May" in Spanish.

Think about some popular holidays in your native country and the U.S. …  
  
Which ones are your favorites?   
  
How are those holidays typically celebrated?   
  
Which U.S. holidays do you enjoy the most?

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TASK 2 –Handout #4

**WORKSHEET – HOLIDAY TRADITIONS**

**Directions:** Write about a holiday in your country. Interview another student and learn about a holiday in his or her native country.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | My Country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Classmate’s Country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| Name & date of holiday: |  |  |
| Who celebrates: |  |  |
| Food: |  |  |
| Customs: |  |  |

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Task 2 – Handout #5

**INTRODUCTION: TECHNOLOGY ACROSS CULTURES**

no cell phone png #984153


Many people have cell phones. Some people are **polite** when the use their phone. Others are **rude**. Are you a polite cell phone user?

**Directions**: Work with a partner to answer the questions below.

**Cell Phone Etiquette**

1. With your partner, think of 2 places it is **OK** to use a cell phone.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Is it the same in your home countries and the U.S.?*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. With your partner, think of 3 places it is **not OK** to use a cell phone.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Is it the same in your home countries and the U.S.?*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Task 2 – Handout #6

**ACTIVITY: TECHNOLOGY ACROSS CULTURES**



Polite or Impolite?

Is it polite/safe to use your cell phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, it is.

No, it isn't.

**Directions**: Interview a partner. Ask him to compare customs in his home country *and* the U.S. Share with the class & create a chart with all the results.

**1) Is it polite to use your cell phone at the movies?**

**2) Is it polite to use your cell phone on the bus?**

**3) Is it polite to use your cell phone in English class?**

**4) Is it safe to use a cell phone while driving?**

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TASK 2 –Handout #7

**WORKSHEET – CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS: SIMILARITIES**

Think about life in your native country and life in the U.S. How are they similar? Fill in the chart below.

**My native country:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The United States**

**How are these cultures alike?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| With regard to … |  |
| EDUCATION: |  |
| FOOD/COOKING: |  |
| TECHNOLOGY: |  |
| HOLIDAYS & GIFT GIVING: |  |
| WORK: |  |

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**WORKSHEET – CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS: DIFFERENCES**

Think about life in your native country and life in the U.S. How are they different? Fill in the chart below.

**In my native country:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**In the United States**

**How are these cultures different?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | With regard to … |  |
|  | **EDUCATION** |  |
|  | **FOOD** |  |
|  | **TECHNOLOGY** |  |
|  | **HOLIDAYS & GIFT GIVING** |  |
|  | **WORK** |  |

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TASK 2 –Handout #9

**PRACTICE: REPORT ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY**

**Directions**: Describe 5 customs from your home country that are **different from** customs in the United States.

|  |  |
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| **EDUCATION**  Male Teacher Teacher Clipart #2994070 | **In my home country, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   In the U.S., \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **FOOD/COOKING Tasting Chef Cliparts #2762305** | **In my home country, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   In the U.S., \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Laptop Clipart Image - Laptop Clipart Black And White  laptop-clipart #3199409**  **TECHNOLOGY** | **In my home country, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   In the U.S., \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **HOLIDAYS**  **& GIFT GIVING**  celebrating birthday coloring pages - Clip Art Library Quilt Coloring Pages #712083 | **In my home country, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   In the U.S., \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| Free Work Human Cliparts,  **WORK** | **In my home country, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   In the U.S., \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |