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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' FORUM

SANDRA, 16

I arrived in China from California about a month ago. China and America are so different! I feel like I'm on another planet. When I first met the students in my class, I hugged each of them. In the U.S. we do this all the time. The Chinese students felt very uncomfortable. Later I found out that people here bow or shake hands when they greet each other. It is taboo[1] to hug or kiss in public[2]. It's a pity I didn't know that before I came here!

ANITA, 18

I'm from Argentina and I'm studying in Berlin this year. I was excited about meeting kids from all over the world. But at first it was harder than I thought it would be. There was a lot of misunderstanding[3]. Whenever I spoke to German students, they took a step back from me. I didn't understand why and I was really upset! Later I found out it was because I was standing too close to them and they felt uncomfortable. When they are having a conversation, South Americans stand much closer to one another than Germans do. This is true even when the South Americans don't know each other very well.

EVAN, 17

I am studying French in Paris with students from different nations. I found out that there are an amazing number of ways to say "hello" in different cultures. I'm never sure what to do! In England, where I'm from, most people shake hands when they meet. In many countries, like France, people greet each other with a kiss – some people kiss on one cheek or on both cheeks and other people kiss three times! The Japanese bow when they greet people. My Maori friend, a student from New Zealand, puts his nose to mine when we greet each other. That really surprised me – especially the first time we met! But the greeting that I think is really special is when my friend from Singapore puts her palms[4] together and then puts her hands over her heart.

[1] taboo אסור / محظور
[2] in public בפומבי / علنًا
[3] misunderstanding אי הבנה / سوء التفاهم
[4] palms ידיים / كفا اليدي

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Answer the questions in your notebook.

1. The forum gives information about ..... .
   a. schools around the world
   b. the differences in body language around the world
   c. the International School
2. Who wrote the blogs on the website?
   a. Students that are studying in different countries.
   b. Students that want to live in different countries.
   c. Chinese, German and French students.

C Answer the questions for the students you read about.

SANDRA

1. Why did the Chinese students feel uncomfortable? (lines 1-8)
   a. Sandra came from another planet.
   b. Sandra spoke only English.
   c. Sandra hugged them.

ANITA

2. When people from South America speak to each other, they ..... . (lines 9-19)
   a. stand close to each other
   b. stand far away from each other
   c. feel uncomfortable

EVAN

3. What surprised Evan when he met the Maori student from New Zealand? (lines 20-32)
   The Maori student ..... .

D 1 Each of the students learned something new about body language. In groups, give one example of what each of them learned. Complete the chart in your notebook.

Students	What they learned
Sandra	
Anita	
Evan	

LIVEWORKSHEETS