

Lesson 1

What Do We Mean by Culture?

What is culture? Can you give examples?

Vocabulary

cultural iceberg

beliefs

values

world view

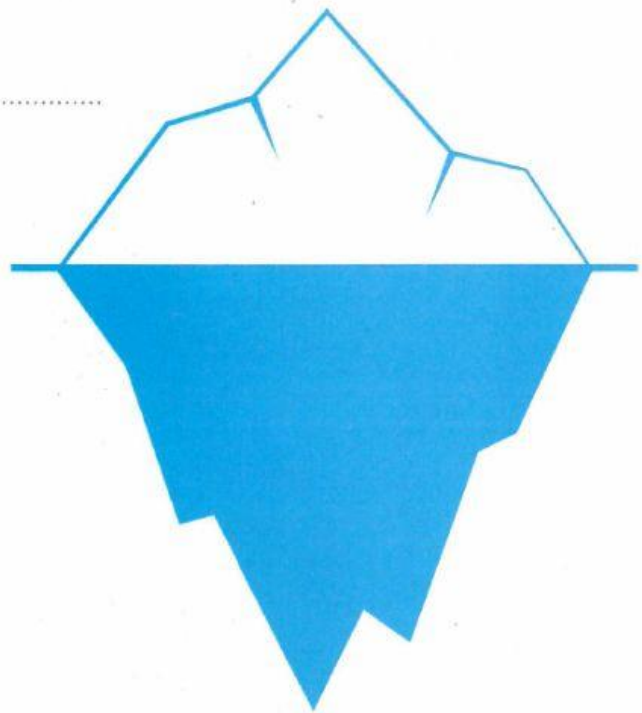


1 Culture can take many forms. With your partner, come up with a definition of culture.

Culture is:

.....
Consider the Cultural Iceberg.

With your partner, identify some examples of visible and invisible culture. Use the iceberg above. Write visible parts on the top of the iceberg and invisible parts on the bottom.



The Cultural Iceberg



Key Fact

The Cultural Iceberg is a way of explaining the visible and invisible signs of a culture- what is obvious (we can see) and what is not so obvious (that which we don't immediately see).

Bread for Grandfather

Reem's mother asked her and her brother to go over to her grandfather's with some bread she had baked for him.

"It's a nice day, so you can walk over to Grandfather's house."

Reem took the bread from her mother and headed with her brother out into the sunny street. Their grandfather lived across town, about 15 minutes walk for them.

As they turned at the end of the road, Reem saw the large traditional building. She stood and looked at its beautiful architecture. She looked up at the huge **barjeel** and thought about how it caught the wind and kept them all cool when they went into the traditional building.

Her attention was then turned as she smelled the scent of incense emanating from the market. As she went across and reached the market, she saw a storyteller in a cafe wearing bright clothes. His voice was enchanting as he was telling a story she heard before from her grandfather. It was a beautiful story and Reem smiled as she thought of her grandfather telling it.

Reem was so engrossed by the man's voice and acting that she forgot the time.

And she forgot about the bread for her grandfather!



Questions for Discussion

- Is family important to Reem? How do you know?
- What is incense?
- What is an oud?
- Is culture important to Reem? How do you know?



Let's Think Together 'What aspects of visible culture are in the story?'



3

With your partner, write an example and a description of the two words that the teacher will assign to you.

Culture word	Example	Description



4

Match each word to its meaning.

a. Values

b. Beliefs

c. Behavior

1. things we accept as existing or as true

2. things we think are important

3. the way we behave

Fill in your personal opinion on the following.

a. My value:

.....

.....

b. My belief:

.....

.....

c. My behavior:

.....

.....



5

Based on what you learned today, what do you think culture is?

Culture is:

.....

.....

How well do you understand what was covered today?

Lesson	Lesson Objective	I know it	I know some of it	I am still not sure
1	Understand what culture is and give examples of it.			