



Turangawaewae: "A place to stand", "a place of heart" ~ where you belong

Name:

Rm: ___

The Mystery of Culture

It only takes seven seconds for us to make a decision about what a person is like when we first meet them. We make this quick decision based on the way we have be trained to think- our culture.

Are we really like this? Does this just make us like programmed Robots?

Culture Definitions

Culture is the pattern of things that we learn and that influence us including: knowledge, beliefs, art, religion, morals, customs and the behaviour and thoughts of others. OR

Culture is the shared behaviours, assumptions, values, and beliefs of a group of people by which they organise their common life

Simple Versions

Culture is ways in which groups of humans find meaning OR

Culture is the behaviours you learn from a group.

Culture the things about the way we live that make us unique, that reflect what we think is valuable.

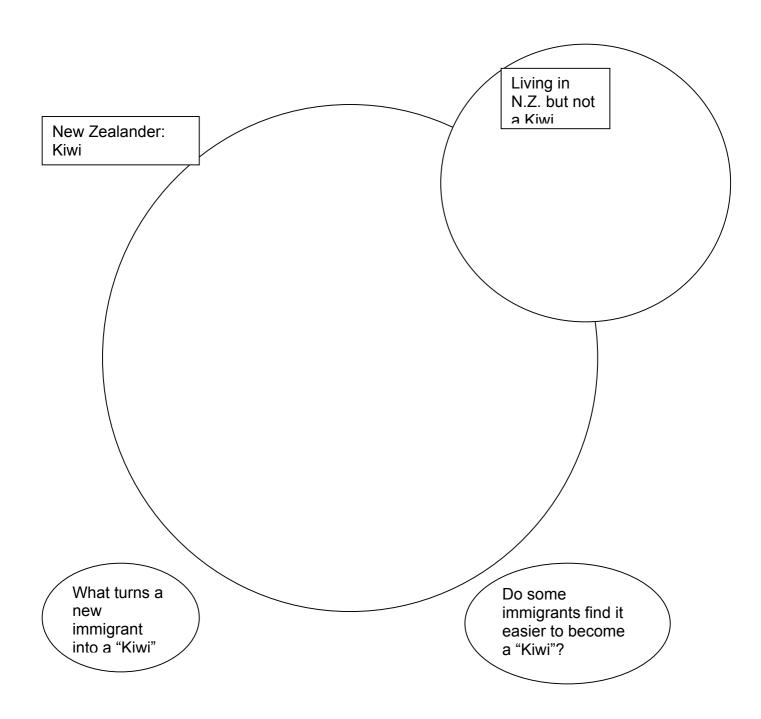
What makes me me?

Think of your family.

- How and why they dress the way they do?
- How and why they celebrate certain holidays?
- The foods they eat and the way they've been taught to eat them?
- What is the polite thing to do?
- The traditions in their family?
- What is important to them?
- What influences and shapes the way they think and act?

What Makes us us?

What is a New Zealander? Can a person be called a Kiwi as well as "Chinese", 'Irish", Maori. Why do some call themselves European and others New Zealand Europeon. Think about Kiwiana – what does it say we like or ways in which we behave or what is important to us?



A Closer Look at Culture

Culture is a bit like a tree.. it is the roots that supply all the life and nutrients and reasons for living that we have. The leaves and branches show off the culture and are the things we can see that represent the culture at work.

Culture can also be compared to an iceberg. Just as an iceberg has a visible section above the waterline, and a larger, invisible section below the water line, so culture has some aspects that are observable and others that can only be suspected or imagined. Also like an iceberg, that part of culture that is visible (observable behaviour) is only a small part of a much bigger whole.

Visible culture are usually the more popular, colourful or dramatic parts or behaviours of the culture..... easy to see.

The invisible parts of culture are the underlying thinking or reasons why people are behaving the way they are.

Three Types of Behaviour

Have you ever thought about why you behave the way you do, or why does a terrorist want to die by driving a car with a bomb into an embassy.. it has to do with the culture we are brought up in.

There are three ways we can look at behaviour:

universal refers to ways in which all people in all groups behave the same

cultural refers to what a particular group of people have in common with each other and how they are different from every other group

personal describes the ways in which each one of us is different from everyone else, including those in our group

These are two important points for you to remember:

- 1. Because of universal behaviour, not everything about people in a different culture is going to be different; you will have things in common with them
- 2. Because of personal behaviour, not everything you learn about a different culture to be true about every individual in that culture.

Any behaviour has Two Points of View

- the meaning given to it by the person who does the action, and
- the meaning given to it by the person who observes the action

Behaviour makes more sense when you understand the value or belief behind it.

Levels of Culture

There are different types or levels of culture. A family can have a culture.. ways and patterns of doing things. Any group or gang that has existed for a length of time will build up its own culture. A school, city, province, or country can have a culture. Many in the deaf community, for example, will see it as having its own culture because of their common disability, and other things they have in common. A sport can have a culture as it is fleshed out at a school, club and national level.

Within, alongside or through one culture another one can exist. We can all be in more than one culture. A racial group will have its own culture that could be seen on a national level or it may be a small group within one province or state of a country. Some racial groups that are smaller, may be as sets within a more dominant culture.

Countries with one culture are called monocultural. Countries with two more dominant cultures are called bicultural and those with many dominant cultures are multicultural.

Where do Cultures come from?

A country inherits its culture or cultures from history. Like many countries, African nations were drawn on a map when they were created by the Colonial Empires. Because the "makers" of these countries did not look at the ethnic groups (people, tribe or racial groups) within these countries they made, they often split ethnic groups and forced them to be in the same country. This can cause tension and resentment between cultural groups, especially if one people group is favoured.

Some cultures are very strong and are treasured and so people work hard to preserve and maintain them. Cultures can be preserved in a number of ways, but a genuine appreciation and participation in, by most of the population, is important. If this is backed by government support and support from the arts, a culture will continue to develop its uniqueness.

Culture connects us with the past but it is also a changing thing. As the country you live in is changed by outside influences, or changes in response to the environment or things that happen within the culture, then often over time the culture will also change as peoples' patterns of behaviour change.

Cultures can influence each other from the distance today. Through media such as internet, newspaper, magazines, TV, film, video, DVD and radio one

Can you remember what class have you been in that had the strongest culture? What was the main influence on the culture of the class?



What does T.V. tell us America is like? Is it true?

A Generalisation

Write a couple in here you have heard...

culture can influence another. For instance, many countries see that one of the world's dominant cultures is "American". The culture of America is dominant because of its size and influence in the world. Many of America's commercial companies take American culture and spread it wherever they go.

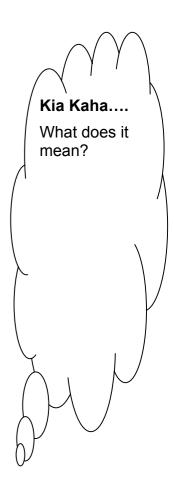
We learn our own individual and group behaviours from the day we are born. We pick up our culture through role models in our family (parents and other brothers and sisters) and from other children and adults. We are like sponges collecting in our family culture, school and countries culture, often without noticing we have changed or modified our patterns of thinking or behaving. We observe, imitate, have a behaviour reinforced by others, and finally carry out that behaviour without thinking (it is mastered). Culture is passed on from one generation to another in so many different ways.

Attitudes to culture and its importance change. Today people are more sensitive to culture and treasuring the colour and vibrancy of traditional culture.

For many people in our world their culture can be a thing that locks them into a certain life. Depending on where they are born and what group, tribe or caste they are born into they can be forced to live a certain way or are told what they can or cannot do. This is because the culture of the country is intertwined within how the country is governed and so the laws. government and those who enforce these laws. Your gender (male or female) can be influenced by culture. In many countries, still today, if you are born as a woman it means that there are certain things you can or cannot do. It is the same for the man but you will note that the man is allowed to do things that give him economic or social freedom (he is allowed to be educated, he can hold jobs with power, he can marry who he chooses, he can choose his career).

In looking at culture it is often important to give examples or generalisations. However, you also have to be careful about generalisations. They can give you ideas about peoples culture but they do not apply to everyone in a group.....you can get a prejudice from a generalisation!

Our own individual beliefs, age, family background, whether we grew up in the country or city, all make our reaction to the same culture different. Some people stand out against the aspects of a countries culture more strongly than others because of their own personality.



Kiwiana

Check out at:
http://www.in2edu.c
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wiana/kiwiana-information.htm

Draw some of the icons over this page!

What do they represent? Write the main idea underneath

New Zealand Culture

New Zealand has a unique culture that is interesting to look at because it was one of the last countries in the world to be settled. Polynesian settlers arrived in number around 1000BC-1400BC and various tribes settled parts of the South Island and North Island. These people, within their various tribes have became known as, "Maoris". In the 1800's New Zealand was also the last country to be settled by Europeans, mainly from England and Ireland, bringing with them European culture.

At this time it many individuals saw that the Maori culture was primitive and godless. Because of this it was decided by many that the only way to help them was to teach Maoris how to be European. Dress them and teach them to be European, and even though their skin colour is different they will come out all right. Even as some traders, early officials and missionaries were doing this, others treated the Maori culture with far more respect. They understood peoples rights more deeply. This shows us that even though we all are in a culture we can still make individual decisions on how important people and their ways of living are to us.

Through these individuals (Maori Chiefs, missionaries and other individuals) first a declaration of independence was signed in 1835 and then in 1840 a treaty for how the two cultures would act towards each other was put into place. It was to protect Maori tribes from exploitation by Europeans out to make money and/or to seize power from Maori. This makes New Zealand unique as having an official treaty (The Treaty of Waitangi) that records the way the two cultures will respect each other.

Unfortunately, words on paper (there were two versions of the Treaty, English and Maori, that differed and could be interpreted in different ways) are one thing and actions are another. Much land was still confiscated, taken or traded illegally from the Maori tribes and more importantly the respect the Treaty organisers tried to set up between the cultures was lost.

In Maori culture the tribe owned the land, European culture was focused more on the individuals rights.

The rapid adoption of Christianity, impact of new technology (metal tools) and diseases, and the influence of a dominant European culture broke down traditional Maori customs and lifestyle. For a long time in New Zealand the Maori culture virtually

disappeared within the European culture as Maoris had little power (mana) within the new society. The Maori population did not recover to the Pre-European levels until the 1940's. Aspects of the traditional Maori way of life were preserved through tribes and individuals but the government recognition and support for Maori culture was limited. Popular Kiwi culture had little place for a true respect for taha Maori apart from limited "tourist" and showy aspects. Within the last 40 years the Maori culture has resurged once again. The Maori language has been officially recognised, government agencies have policies in place but possibly more importantly, the respect for Maori culture in the general population has grown enormously. Appreciation of different cultures also made stronger as other Pacific cultures infuse New Zealand.

There are signs that show New Zealand's population still struggles to truly be bi-cultural as health, crime and economic statistics still favour the European culture, but it is generally seen that a corner has been turned.

New Zealand's culture is being increasing influenced through the immigration of other people groups also. As more Chinese, Korean (amongst many other Asian groups), South African and Pacific Island immigrants come to New Zealand the impact of their culture will grow.

As New Zealand has a much smaller population overall, and has a less stronger European cultural history, it is possible that the changes here will provide an interesting picture of what other larger countries will experience in the future.

The influence of other world cultures via the media is also important to comnsider. If we unconsciously absorb and model ourselves on what we see and hear, and as media sucks up more of peoples time, then change will continue to accelerate.

It is possibly for this reason, that celebration and respect of the history of New Zealand (ANZAC day for instance) is far stronger than it used to be. A resurgence in appreciation of Maori culture, New Zealand music and a willingness to be proud to be a "Kiwi" have also been noted recently.

Therefore, will New Zealand become a nation with a stronger awareness of "Kiwi" biculturalism and increased appreciation of a multicultural world around us or will New Zealand become a country of "grey culture" with no distinct flavour?

What parts of a new immigrants culture do you think are adopted first by a dominant culture?

Snippets of New Zealand Culture

There are more golf courses in New Zealand per capita of population, than any other country in the world (over 400 golf courses for 3.7 million people).

- Auckland has the largest number of boats per head of population than any other city in the world.
- New Zealand was the first country to give women the vote (1893).
- New Zealand was the first country in the world to have a government department for tourism. In 1901 the Department of Tourist and Health Resorts was created.
- ❖ New Zealanders are heavily involved in outdoors activities. Our national image and the lifestyles of the population have been largely shaped by our involvement in a wide variety of sports and leisure activities. It is often said that sports and leisure are the predominant focus of the New Zealand cultural identity, for example, New Zealand's involvement in international rugby.

From Hillary Sport/Leisure Commission

- Almost everyone in New Zealand aged five and over enjoys some sport or active leisure. Two out of three people are active and enjoy the benefits this brings, but one in three New Zealanders are not very active. For many this poses a serious health risk. The coach potato index (cpi) for adults is 34 (34% are inactive).
- Over 200,000 young people and almost 900,000 adults are not active for the minimum time recommended for a healthy lifestyle (about 30 minutes per day).



What can you see in these statistics?

Halloween has become more popular as a celebration.. why.. and is it good idea?

Statistics NZ Cultural Survey:

- 5 minutes day average on Maori Cultural activity. Other ethnic groups did not register an average
- Visits to museums, art galleries, archives and historic places 1.5 hours a year
- Reading 44 minutes a day
- 15.9 hours year performing in a performing arts
- 6 hours a year watching performing arts
- 8.3 hours year cinema
- ❖ 2 hours day TV or video
- 8 minutes day radio or music
- 23 hours year on religious activities
- 2.3 hours on community events

Other Relevant Statistics

Over half (52 percent) of all New Zealanders were living in just four main urban areas (Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch) at 30 June 2002.

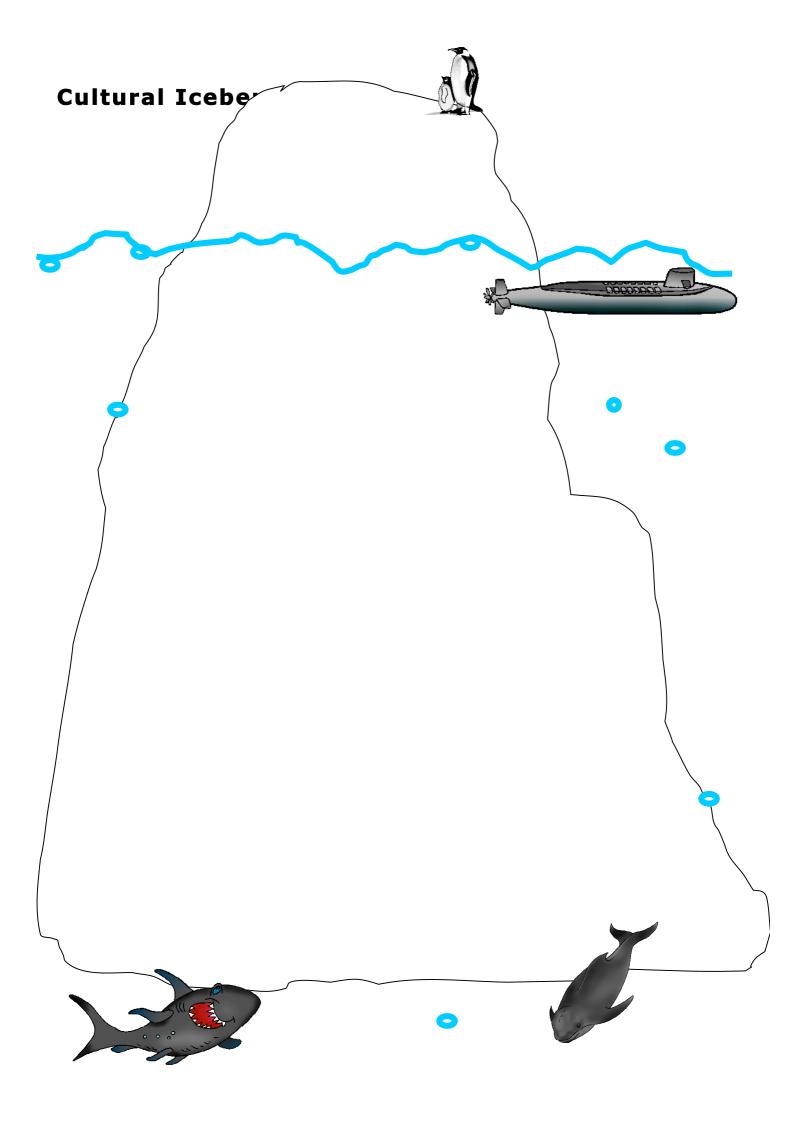
Holidays

Christmas and Easter represent the "Christian" part of our culture. Anzac day represents us standing up for ourselves as a country and is becoming more popular each year. Queens Birthday represents our "English Culture". Waitangi Day celebrates the two cultures of Maori and Pakeha coming together but still having their own unique aspects and ways of living.

The unofficial festivals in New Zealand probably give more awareness of the culture of New Zealand. There are festivals of the Arts, film, music, dance and drama festivals, food festivals, wine festivals, agricultural field days, and a number of cultural performance festivals such as Kapa Haka competitions. Many cities also hold summer entertainment festivals including many family events.

More Information here

http://www.stats.govt.nz/domino/external/web/Prod_ Serv.nsf/htmldocs/Arts+and+Culture



Behaviour Detective

Try and spot over the week behaviours you can put into each category. Go for 5.

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5	

Cultural

1	
2	
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5	

Personal

1	
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3	
4	
5	

Sometimes we learn a behaviour and it becomes so much a part of us we begin to think that behavior as natural and normal—for everyone.

Something you are just becoming aware of and thinking about, but not yet doing.
Something you have just begun to try doing.
3. Something you've done once or twice but haven't mastered yet.
4. Something you have recently mastered.
5. Something you now do without thinking.