

Lessons that Explore Culture and Identity

1. Lesson - Culture, values, and action

People have many different experiences when they move from one country to another. They have to learn about the new culture and adjust to their new life in that culture. They learn about new cultural markers/values while maintaining their old ones.

What was your experience when you moved from your home country to Canada? What cultural markers/values did you keep from your home country? What new Canadian markers/values did you gain?

In your groups, read through these questions and discuss them. Share your answers for each question with your partners, and write your answers on this sheet.

Vocabulary:

Cultural markers – the parts of culture on the “outside”; the things we see, such as language,

clothing, music, social/communication habits, etc.

Cultural values – the parts of culture we don’t see; the ideas or beliefs that are important to a culture.

Assimilation – to become part of the culture you have moved to, and lose your own culture.

Acculturation – to adjust to, and fit in to your new culture by taking parts of the new culture and keeping parts of your own culture.

Community-building strategies – actions taken by a group to bring people together and keep them together.

2. Lesson - Introduction to Identity – Legal and personal identity: What is the difference?

This lesson can be found at the website: www.planidproject.net/teacher_resources/coreplan

3. Sentence Frames – Beginning Level - Talking About My Culture

I can talk about my culture

My name is _____.

I am from _____.

Let me tell you about my culture.

In my home country we eat

_____.

In my home country we wear

_____.

In my home country we play

_____.

In my home country the weather is

_____.

In my home country we celebrate

_____.

Culture Values and Action

1. What cultural markers have you kept since you or your parents moved to Canada? (name 3 or more)

2. What cultural markers have you given up since you or your parents moved to Canada? (name 3 or more)

3. What are 3 to 5 values that are important to your cultural group?

For example, the Dinka people believe in group well-being, communication and the importance of all people having a voice, consensus (all people agree), serving the community, well-defined gender roles (men don't cook), humor, song, etc.

4. What Canadian values have you adopted since you or your parents moved to Canada?

5. How do you stay involved in your cultural community?

6. Do you feel you have assimilated or acculturated? Give 2-3 examples.

Handout – Surface and Deep Culture

My Culture: _____

Add examples of your culture’s surface and deep cultural markers/values to the diagram: below:

