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LC01. Understanding Culture

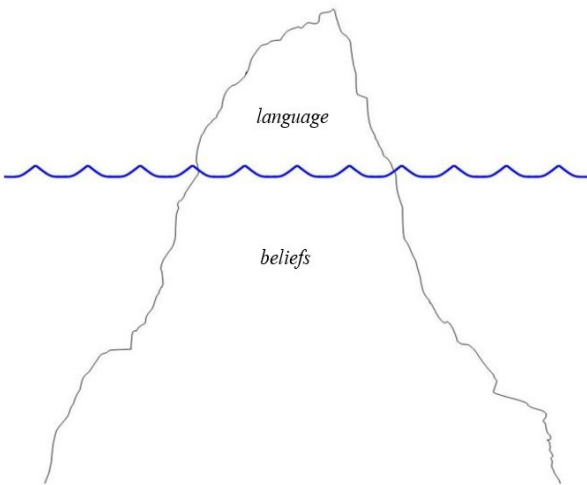
Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Culture

What is culture? Is culture easy to understand? Sometimes the iceberg metaphor is used to describe culture. Why do you think this is? Culture is often compared to an iceberg because, just as we only see 1/8 of an iceberg above the water, we only see a small part of culture in daily life. There are many larger aspects of culture that can't be seen because they are hidden below the surface (under the water).



Check the items below that are elements of culture. Add additional items you can think of to the list.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-------|
| Clothing | Attitudes | _____ |
| Traditions | Architecture | _____ |
| Games | Family Structure | _____ |
| Ceremonies | Communication Style | _____ |
| Food | Government | _____ |
| Gender Roles | Concept of Beauty | _____ |

Now add the elements of culture from above to the iceberg. Which elements are visible (above the water), and which elements are invisible (below the water)?

Adapted from: Cultural Kinetics, <https://culturalkinetics.wordpress.com/2013/04/09/culture-an-iceberg-analogy/>





Section 2: Your Culture

Part 1:

Write one sentence or phrase to answer each question below. Then rate each item 1-8 (1 is most important, 8 is least important) according to what value it has in your culture.

- ___ What language(s) do you speak?
- ___ What is your religion?
- ___ What music do you listen to?
- ___ What dances do you know?
- ___ What foods do you eat at home?
- ___ What is most important to you?
- ___ What things do you believe are right and wrong?
- ___ How important is your extended family?

Part 2:

Every culture has important dates, holidays, and celebrations. What are some of these important traditions in your culture? Complete the chart below with 3 of the most important traditions in your culture.

Your Traditions

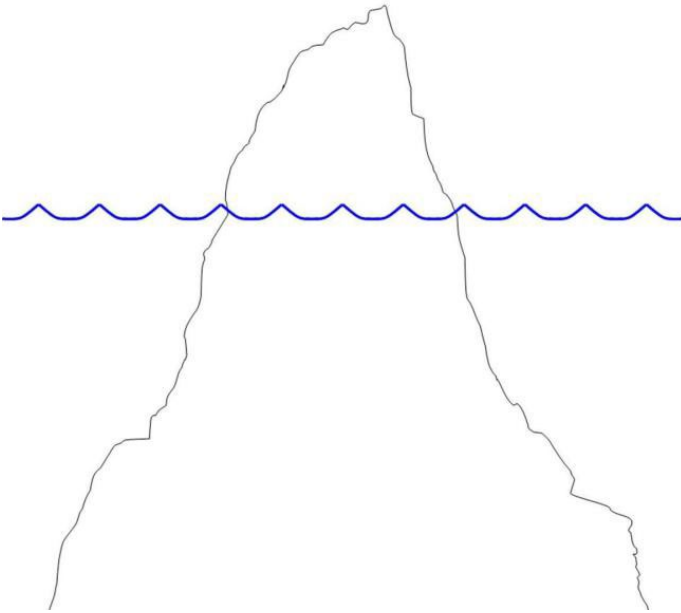
What is the name of this special day?	When do you celebrate it?	How do you celebrate it?	Why do you celebrate it?





Part 3:





Choose one special day from above. Imagine someone from a different culture is watching you celebrate this special day. This person knows nothing about how and why you celebrate this day. What do you think this person would see as important parts of this celebration? And what do you think this person would not see but is an important part of the celebration? Write the things this person would see (above the water) and the things this person would not see (below the water).





Section 3: Student Self-Assessment

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET. 	I can do this WITH help. 	I can do this WITHOUT help. 	I can TEACH this to a classmate. 
I can identify visible and invisible elements of culture.				
I can rate elements of my culture by their value to me.				
I can describe traditions in my culture.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good Job!

Now make an appointment

with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website

(www.mtsac.edu/lc/passportrewards/lctutoring).








Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!

Meet with a tutor, and share this activity with the tutor. You will review this SDLA with the tutor. You may also ask the tutor any questions that you might have.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice  (0-1 Point)	Good Job  (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work  (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

Congratulations! Keep going.

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

Work on this more.

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

