

Learn about Countries and Cultures



EL Civics

Objective 11.5

for Beginning Students

Developed by Jung W. Kim, ESL Instructor, Spring 2017



EL Civics

Objective #11.5: Cultural Background Reports

Introduction

Objectives for the Student:

1. Write and/or report personal information: name, place of birth, native language, etc.
2. Identify student's country and continent of origin on a map.
3. Identify classmates' countries and continents of origin on a map.
4. Interview classmates about cultural information (holiday, food, custom, tradition, etc.).
5. Give oral reports about classmate's culture and student's culture.

Tests:

TASK ONE: Identify and Describe a Classmate's Culture (10 points possible)

Students will use a map to locate and name their own country of origin and a classmate's country of origin. Each student will interview a classmate using level-appropriate questions about their culture. Each student will report up to 4 pieces of information about their classmate's culture/country.

TASK TWO: Present an Oral Report on a Student's Culture (18 - 24 points possible)

Each student will give a brief oral report about their own culture including general background information as well as some additional cultural information.

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Geography Vocabulary

Map (n)



A drawing of all or part of the earth

Country (n)



A nation with its own government

City (n)



A large town

Hometown (n)



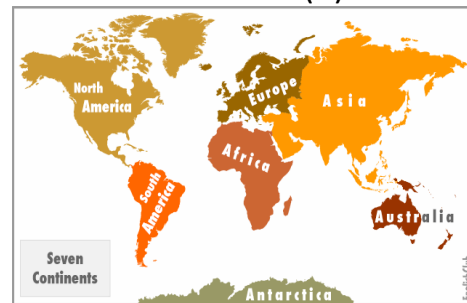
A place where you were born or grew up

Neighbor (n)



A person who lives next to you

Continent (n)



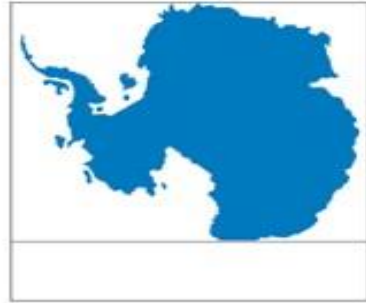
Any one of the world's mainland.
(Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America)

Continents

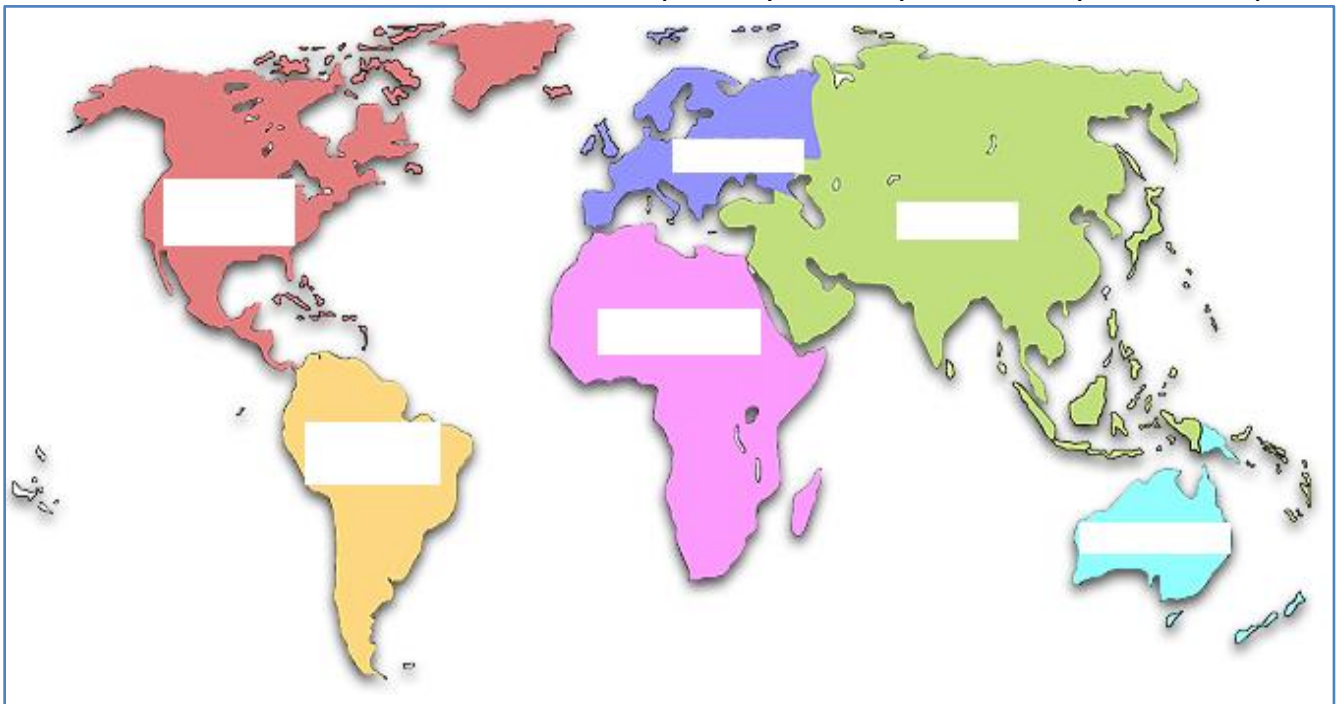
(Online Game: <http://world-geography-games.com/>, click "Continents")

Label each continent with the pictures:

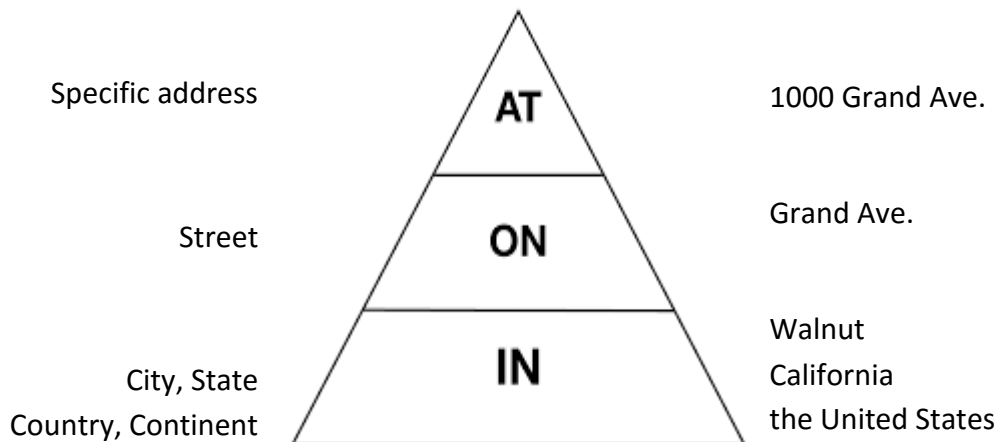
Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America



Write seven continents on the world map. Can you find your country on the map?



Prepositions to Describe Location: AT, ON, IN



| | |
|--|---|
| Use at + a specific address | I live at 1000 W. Temple Blvd. |
| Use on + a street | My school is on Grand Ave. |
| Use in + a city, state, country, or continent | The United States is in North America. |

A. Complete the sentences with **at**, **on**, or **in**.

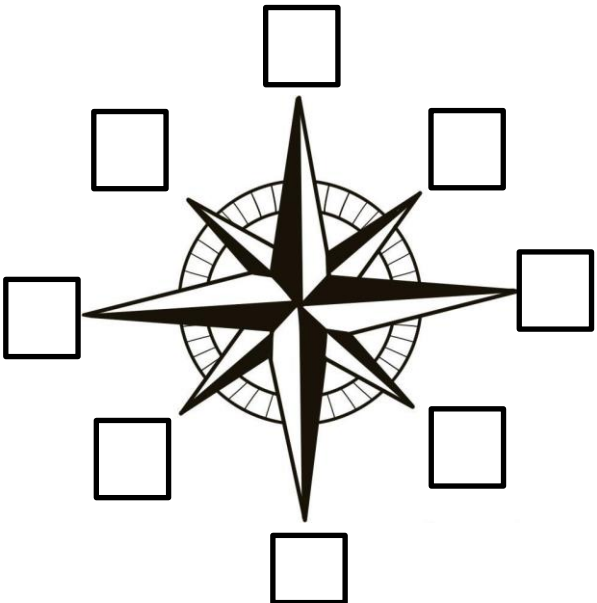
- Nina lives _____ California.
- California is _____ the United States.
- She lives _____ Water Street _____ San Francisco.
- Her building is _____ 935 Water Street.
- The school is _____ Walnut City.

B. Write about yourself:

- I live at _____.
- I live on _____.
- I live in _____.

Direction Words

Write **N, S, E, W, NE, NW, SE, SW** on Rose Compass.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>N: _____</p> <p>S: _____</p> <p>E: _____</p> <p>W: _____</p> <p>NE: _____</p> <p>NW: _____</p> <p>SE: _____</p> <p>SW: _____</p> |  |
|---|--|

Using Words for Directions.

| | |
|---|---|
| Use north/south/east/west + of + a place | Canada is north of the United States. |
| Add -ern to a direction word to form an adjective. | <p>Los Angeles is in southern California.</p> <p>My hometown is in the southeastern part of California.</p> |

Look at the map. Write a sentence about the location of each place. Use direction words.



Example: **Canada** is **north** of the United States.

1. the United States

_____.

2. Mexico

_____.

3. Costa Rica

_____.

4. Panama

_____.


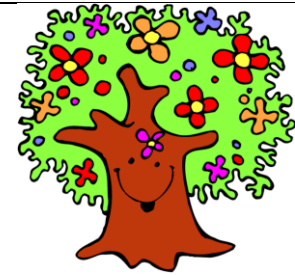
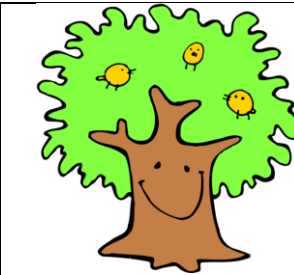
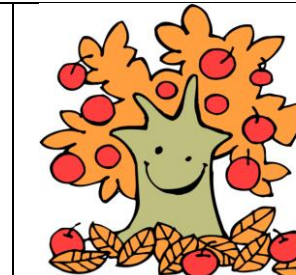
Vocabulary Building

| Word | Definition | Reference |
|----------------|--|---|
| Population (n) | The number of people living in a place | https://www.citypopulation.de/ |
| Weather (n) | The temperature and other outside conditions | Refer to p. 9 |
| Holiday (n) | A special day of celebration | Refer to p. 16 |
| Belief (n) | What you feel is true or right | |
| Society (n) | A group of people forming a community | |
| Behavior (n) | The manner in which one acts | |
| Tradition (n) | Something that is handed down | Refer to p. 15 |
| Custom (n) | A habitual practice | Refer to p. 15 |
| Culture (n) | The behaviors and beliefs that are shared by a group | Refer to p. 15~21 |
| Polite (adj) | Showing good manners | |
| Rude (adj) | Rough in manners; not gentle | |









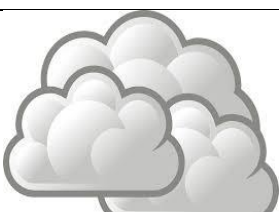
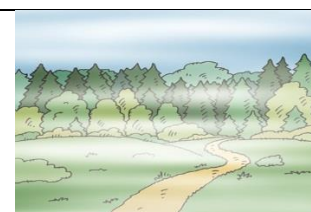

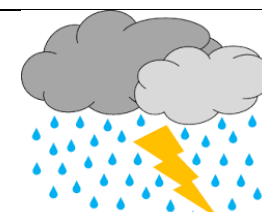
Holiday Activities

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Eat special food</p>  | <p>Visit family or friends</p>  | <p>Watch a parade</p>  | <p>Watch fireworks</p>  |
| <p>Wear traditional clothes</p>  | <p>Give hugs and kisses</p>  | <p>Go to the cemetery</p>  | <p>Give presents</p>  |
| <p>Dance</p>  | <p>Sing</p>  | <p>Bow</p>  | <p>Pray</p>  |

A. Season

| Match with the picture: | Summer | Winter | Fall | Spring |
|---|---|--|---|--------|
|  |  |  |  | |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | |

B. Weather

| Match with the picture: sunny, warm, hot, cool, cold, windy, foggy, rainy, snowy, cloudy, thunder, stormy | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|  |  |  |  |
| 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. |
|  |  |  |  |
| 9. | 10. | 11. | 12. |

How's the weather today in the world?

Online Activities and Games:
<http://www.agendaweb.org/vocabulary/weather-exercises.html>

C. Weather in your country

Write two words about these seasons in your country.

Summer _____

Fall _____

Winter _____

Spring _____



















Write two sentences about the seasons in your country.

Example: Summer in July or August is the best time to visit Peru. In the winter and spring it rains often, but it is not cold.

1. _____

2. _____

Wh-Question Formation

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Who</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>woman</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>child</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>firefighter</p>  </div> </div> | <p>Where</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>at the park</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>at home</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>outside</p>  </div> </div> |
| <p>What</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>toy cars</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>key</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>dog</p>  </div> </div> | <p>When</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>tomorrow</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>next</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>at 12:23</p>  </div> </div> |
| <p>Why</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>to stay healthy</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>so my feet stay dry</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>because I'm hungry</p>  </div> </div> | <p>How</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 50px; width: 100%; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>get bread</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>put peanut butter on</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; width: 30%;"> <p>make sandwich</p>  </div> </div> |

Match the WH- questions with answers.

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | 1. What is your favorite food? | A. Mrs. Jones. |
| | 2. Who is our teacher? | B. Because I get together with my family. |
| | 3. When is New Year's Day? | C. It is sunny and warm. |
| | 4. Where is the Statue of Liberty? | D. Roasted turkey and corn. |
| | 5. Why do you like Christmas Day? | E. January 1 st . |
| | 6. How is the weather today? | F. In New York. |

WH-questions Listening Activity

Beginning-low: <http://www.esl-lab.com/eslbasic/introductions-smalltalk-1.htm>

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. _____'s your name?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="radio"/> A. I'm Nancy.<input type="radio"/> B. I'm from Russia.<input type="radio"/> C. I'm a student. | <p>6. _____ people are in your family?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. I'm getting married soon.<input type="radio"/> B My father is a doctor.<input type="radio"/> C. I have three brothers. |
| <p>2. _____ do you live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. I'm from Canada.<input type="radio"/> B. I live in Chicago.<input type="radio"/> C. I'm fine. | <p>7. Hey, _____'s new?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. I'm fine.<input type="radio"/> B. Nothing much.<input type="radio"/> C. That's too bad. |
| <p>3. _____'s it going?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. Okay.<input type="radio"/> B. I'm going to school.<input type="radio"/> C. No problem. | <p>8. _____ does he do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. He's Japanese.<input type="radio"/> B. He's from Italy.<input type="radio"/> C. He's an engineer. |
| <p>4. _____ does she work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. She likes to work.<input type="radio"/> B. She's a teacher.<input type="radio"/> C. She works at City Bank. | <p>9. _____ do you on your spare time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. I like to exercise.<input type="radio"/> B. I'm busy this weekend.<input type="radio"/> C. I don't like sports. |
| <p>5. _____ are they from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. They're from Mexico.<input type="radio"/> B. They are in school.<input type="radio"/> C. They live in Tokyo. | <p>10. _____ does your father do for a living?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> A. He lives in Hong Kong.<input type="radio"/> B. He works downtown.<input type="radio"/> C. He's a doctor. |

Beginning-High: <http://www.esl-lab.com/intro2/intro2.htm>

1. What is the woman's name?

- A. Julie
- B. Jenny
- C. Jane

2. Where is the woman from originally?

- A. Argentina
- B. the United States
- C. Chile

3. About how old was the man when he returned to the United States?

- A. 7 years old
- B. 10 years old
- C. 17 years old

4. What is the man studying?

- A. physics
- B. biology
- C. psychology

5. What is the woman's job?

- A. a sales representative
- B. a computer programmer
- C. a receptionist

Pair Work: With a partner, write three questions to ask your classmates. Ask questions about their work, family, and school. Then interview your classmates. Write their answers in the chart.

| Interview Questions | Your Classmate's Answers |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>What is your job?</i> | <i>I'm a student.</i> |
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |



Cultural Information

What does the word culture mean?

One way to learn about the people living in a country is to look at their customs and traditions. Many have been passed down for generations.

What is a custom? A custom is the usual way of behaving or acting.

For example:

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| <p>In the United States, most brides wear white on their wedding day. White is a symbol of purity</p> | <p>The traditional wedding gown in China is bright red with gold. These colors symbolize luck for the new couple.</p> |

What is a tradition? A tradition is a custom passed from one generation to another (grandparents to parents to children).

For example:

| | |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| <p>In Spain on New Year's Eve, it is traditional to eat twelve grapes, one for each month of the new year.</p> | <p>In Japan, China and Korea on New Year's Day, it is a tradition to give money to children as New Year gifts.</p> |

- What is your favorite custom?
- What traditions do you practice?

What is a holiday? A **holiday** is a day set aside to honor a person or remember an event. It usually involves rest from work. Holidays often include culture-wide activities and rituals.

For example:



July 4 – Independence Day in United States

Celebration of America’s independence from England in 1776. Traditions include picnics and fireworks.

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo in Mexico

Celebration of the Mexican army's surprise victory during a battle with French soldiers in 1862. Cinco de Mayo means "Fifth of May" in Spanish.



Think about some popular holidays in your native country and the U.S.

- Which ones are your favorites?

| Your country | The U.S. |
|--------------|----------|
| | |

- How are those holidays usually celebrated?
Activity, food, custom, tradition

| Your country | The U.S. |
|--------------|----------|
| | |

TASK ONE: Identify and Describe a Classmate's Culture

You will use a map to show your own country and a classmate's country. You will interview a classmate using Wh- questions about his or her culture. You will say about 4 to 7 pieces of information about classmate's culture/country.

Example: My name is Rosa. I am from Argentina (show on map). This is my class mate. His first name is Hector. He is from Peru (show on map). It is in South America. He speaks Spanish. His favorite holiday is July 28. It is Independence Day. He likes to eat empanadas. His home town is smaller than Los Angeles. His life is busier here than in Peru.



| Task 1 | Classmate's Information |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Name | ? |
| Native language | <i>Spanish</i> |
| Country | ? |
| Continent | <i>South America</i> |
| Neighboring countries | |
| Hometown (Population, Size, Weather) | |
| Favorite holiday | ? |
| Holiday activity | |
| Favorite food | <i>Empanadas</i> |
| Other interesting information | <i>His life is busy now.</i> |

Questions for Task 1

Directions: Find a partner from a different country or city. Ask these questions. Write out the answers. Share the information with your class.

1. **What is your name?**

His/Her name is _____.

2. **What is your native language?**

He/She speaks _____.

3. **Where are from? (country of origin)**

He/she is from _____.

4. **Which continent is it located?**

It is in _____.

5. **What are some neighboring countries?**

Some neighboring countries are _____.

6. **What is the name of your hometown?**

His/Her hometown is _____.

7. **What is the population of your city?**

It has about _____.

8. **How is the weather?**

The weather is usually _____.

9. **What is your favorite food? (From the classmate's own culture)**

He/She likes to eat _____.

10. **What is your favorite holiday? (From the classmate's own culture)**

His/Her favorite holiday is _____.

11. **What are some customs or traditions for this holiday? (Describe the holiday)**

_____.

Reading: Meal Times around the World



People from all around the world eat their main meal at different times. Mexicans eat theirs in the afternoon. They eat between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. People in Spain have their main meal in the afternoon, too. Dinner in Spain is late. They usually eat theirs at 10:00 p.m.! Some visitors don't like that custom. In Thailand, dinner is the main meal. Thais usually eat their meal early in the evening.

In the United States, dinner is also the main meal. You might notice that families don't eat together all the time. For example, sometimes the father works late and misses dinner. In cases like this, he has his meal when he gets home. Sometimes the daughter has soccer practice in the evening. These evenings, her parents make her an early dinner. She often eats hers at 5:00 p.m., before the rest of the family.



From Grammar and Beyond 1 by Randi Reppen, Cambridge (p.228)

True or False

- ___ 1. Meal time is not the same all around the world.
- ___ 2. In Mexico, they eat their main meal in the evening.
- ___ 3. In Spain, they eat dinner late.
- ___ 4. In the United States, dinner is the main meal.
- ___ 5. Everybody usually eats together in the United States.

Pair Work: Tell a partner about the eating habits/customs in your country.

- What time do people eat their main meal in your country?
- What do they eat?

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS: CULTURE

Adapted from: © 1997-2010, The Internet TESL Journal (<http://iteslj.org/questions/culture.html>)

1. What defines a culture? For example, music, language, food, cloth, etc.

2. Why is culture important?

3. What do you like about your native culture?

4. What do you not like about your native culture?

5. Are there many people of different cultures in your home country?

6. What American culture or customs do you like?

7. What parts of American culture do you not like?

TASK TWO: Present an Oral Report on a Student’s Culture

You will give an oral report about your own culture (3-5 minutes). You will introduce yourself with information including country and hometown (show on map). You will say about 3-7pieces of information about your culture/country. You will use a picture to show to the class.

Example: My name is Miyoung. I speak Korean. I am from South Korea (Show on map). Neighboring countries are China and Japan. My hometown is Busan. It is in southeastern part of Korea. My hometown is a port city. The weather is usually warm. My favorite holiday is Chu-seok. It is like Thanksgiving here. We make rice cake. Families get together. We play games together. I like to eat gal-bi. It is Korean BBQ.



| Task 2 | Your Information |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Name | |
| Native language | |
| Country | |
| Continent | |
| Neighboring countries | |
| Hometown (Population, Size, Weather) | |
| Favorite holiday | |
| Holiday activity | |
| Favorite food | |
| Other interesting information | |

Questions for Task 2

1. **What is your name?**

My name is _____.

2. **What is your native language?**

I speak _____.

3. **Where are from? (country of origin)**

I am from _____.

4. **Which continent is it located?**

It is in _____.

5. **What are some neighboring countries?**

Some neighboring countries are _____.

6. **What is the name of your hometown?**

My hometown is _____.

7. **What is the population of your city?**

It has about _____.

8. **How is the weather?**

The weather is usually _____.

9. **What is your favorite food? (From your own culture)**

I like to eat _____.

10. **What is your favorite holiday? (From your own culture)**

My favorite holiday is _____.

11. **What are some customs or traditions for this holiday? (Describe the holiday)**

_____.

Sample Assessment Form

TASK ONE: Identify and Describe a Classmate's Culture

Content A:

Students will use a map to locate and name their own country of origin and a classmate's country of origin.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>1.</p> <p>Student's country is located and named.</p> | <p>_____ 1 pt.</p> <p>_____ 0 pts.</p> | <p>Country is clearly located and named.</p> <p>Country is not located and/or not named.</p> |
| <p>2.</p> <p>Classmate's country is located and named.</p> | <p>_____ 1 pt.</p> <p>_____ 0 pts.</p> | <p>Country is clearly located and named.</p> <p>Country is not located and/or not named.</p> |

Content B:

The student will interview a classmate using level-appropriate questions. The student will provide up to 3 pieces of information on a classmate's culture/country.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Statement 1</p> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>_____ 2 pts.</p> <p>_____ 1 pt.</p> <p>_____ 0 pts.</p> | <p>Statement is appropriate, clear, and complete and has correct content. May have some errors, but does not interfere with meaning.</p> <p>Statement is appropriate and has correct content. It may be partially complete. There may be errors which interfere with meaning, but the statement can be understood with inference.</p> <p>Statement is inappropriate, not able to be understood, incorrect, or no statement given.</p> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>Statement 2</p> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>_____ 2 pts.</p> <p>_____ 1 pt.</p> <p>_____ 0 pts.</p> | <p>Statement is appropriate, clear, and complete and has correct content. May have some errors, but does not interfere with meaning.</p> <p>Statement is appropriate and has correct content. It may be partially complete. There may be errors which interfere with meaning, but the statement can be understood with inference.</p> <p>Statement is inappropriate, not able to be understood, incorrect, or no statement given.</p> |
| <p>Statement 3</p> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>_____ 2 pts.</p> <p>_____ 1 pt.</p> <p>_____ 0 pts.</p> | <p>Statement is appropriate, clear, and complete and has correct content. May have some errors, but does not interfere with meaning.</p> <p>Statement is appropriate and has correct content. It may be partially complete. There may be errors which interfere with meaning, but the statement can be understood with inference.</p> <p>Statement is inappropriate, not able to be understood, incorrect, or no statement given.</p> |

TASK TWO

Instructor: Circle the score for each category; no in-between scores.

| CONTENT: PLANNING, ORGANIZATION, IDEAS & INFORMATION | | | |
|---|-----------|--|---|
| Strong | 20 | Presentation is appropriate for level, clear and has good content. Content includes introduction with additional discussed. Ideas are organized and supported with detail. Little inference is required. There may be errors but they do not interfere with meaning. | <p style="text-align: center;">NOTES (Check all that apply.)</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Name <input type="checkbox"/> Country <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Language <input type="checkbox"/> Refers to map <p>Additional information:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Weather <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Food <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| Good | 18 | Presentation is appropriate, clear and has good content. Content includes introduction with 1 piece of additional information discussed. Some ideas may not be well stated. Contains some detail and is adequately organized. May require minimal inference. There may be errors but they do not interfere with meaning. | |
| Fair | 16 | Presentation is appropriate but may lack clarity. Only the introduction is discussed. Many ideas may not be well stated. May lack sufficient detail or clear focus. Speech may require some inference. There may be errors but they do not interfere with meaning. | |
| Needs Improvement | 14 | Presentation has content but lacks clarity. Only part of the introduction is discussed. It may be unfocused with little detail. Speech may require a substantial degree of inference. Errors interfere with meaning, but the report can be understood with inference. | |
| Lack of Effort | 0 | Presentation is unclear, lacking content, little to no planning or organization, or there is no report. | |
| Total Points (20 points possible) | | Comments: | |
| POINTS SUBTOTAL = | | | /20 |

Congratulations!

Thank you for presenting information about your country, culture, and civics to your classmates.

