

Culture, Identity & Education

THEORISING CULTURE

Aims of the session

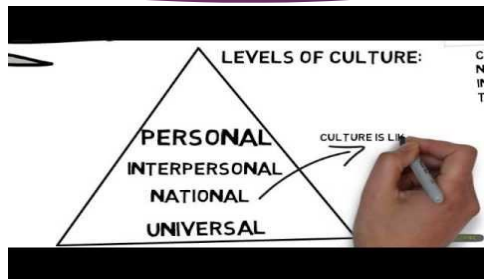
- To explore the concept of culture.
- Identify the impact of culture on education.
- Examine the relationship between culture and personal identity.

What do these statements tell us about the word 'culture'

Among his colleagues at the university, Paul often felt uncultured by comparison.	
I don't like the way they treat girls and women, but I guess it's just to do with their culture.	
Come to our traditional Native American reserve for an authentic cultural experience.	
Police Chief attacks 'ASBO Culture' as crime rates soar.	
Increased funding required for the Department for Culture, Media and Support	
Multicultural policy is failing our inner cities.	
Staffroom culture of silence to blame for increased bullying in schools	

- Can you think of any other examples of how the word 'culture' could be used
- Come up with your own dictionary style definition
- Do the examples given help or hinder your task?

What is culture?



Culture

- Most familiar understanding of the word culture is the whole way of life of a particular group. It tends to focus on the differences between identifiable groups
 - This often means looking at shared understandings and ways of making sense of the world:
- Entails looking at:
- Norms
 - Values
 - Beliefs
 - Roles
 - Tastes
 - Languages

Cultural Artefacts



Which culture are these taken from. Why?

Task

On a piece of paper:

Draw three artefacts that you believe tell us something important about your own contemporary culture (be prepared to show your sheet to the rest of the class)

Task

► Using the following headings, identify and make notes on what you consider to be the main characteristics of contemporary British culture:

- Norms
- Values
- Beliefs
- Roles
- Tastes
- Languages
