



Defining the Concept of Culture

Lesson plan

Starter activity	Learning objectives
<p>Start with this quotation on the board:</p> <p><i>Culture is one of the two or three most complicated words in the English language.</i> (Raymond Williams, 1976)</p> <p>Students see how many different definitions they can think of for culture. Record responses on the board. Introduce the term 'floating signifier' (see Step 1.3).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop an understanding of the different ways to understand the term 'culture'. To reflect on how the term 'culture' can be problematic. To investigate some key terms related to culture: essentialism, ethnocentrism, orientalism and othering.
Main activities	Resources required
<p>The class watches the video in Step 1.4 (Culture as a loaded term) and takes notes. Divide the class into four and ask each group to research one of the following terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essentialism Ethnocentrism Orientalism Othering <p>Students can use the material and links in Step 1.7, 1.16 as well as any other sources they wish. Each group should create a large mind map on flipchart paper to communicate the key ideas. The mind maps should also include a definition and examples of the term.</p> <p>Groups then move around the room, visiting each of the other group's mind maps, asking questions and discussing the findings.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Devices for watching videos and researching. Flipchart paper and creative materials for mind maps. Pens and paper for reflections. <p>Assessment for Learning</p> <p>Discussion responses. Mind maps. Personal reflections.</p> <p>Differentiation</p> <p>SEND: Videos have subtitles. Low ability: Peer-learning. Gifted and Talented: Peer-teaching.</p> <p>Plenary</p> <p>Individually, students now write a brief reflection on the following question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what ways can the term 'culture' be problematic? In what ways can an understanding of the term 'culture' be positive?