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Cultural Identity Everybody Has One

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Cultural Identity
Everybody Has One!

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Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Gain an awareness of cultural identity development
- Explore how rituals and traditions influence cultural identity development
- Generate strategies to support diverse cultural identities
What is the first thing you think about when you hear the word “culture”?
Culture is the customs, practices, languages, values and worldviews that describe social groups.
How would you describe it?

Do you ever feel pulled between your culture and the mainstream or are you a part of the mainstream?

When you see the United States’ motto, *E pluribus unum* (Latin for out of many, one), on currency and other official documents, how do you feel?

How does it relate to the issues of diversity & multiculturalism that we struggle today?
E PLURIBUS UNUM
Identity is the self-image that we draw from our family, sex, gender, cultural, ethnicity, and individual socialization process (Ting-Toomey)
3 Types of Identity

1. Personal

2. Relational

3. Cultural, Communal, or Social
Cultural Identity—Who am I?

- Race
- Ethnicity/Nationality
- Social Class
- Sex/Gender
- Health
- Age
- Geographic Region
- Sexuality
- Religion
- Social Status
- Language
- Ability/Disability
- Individual

Arrows indicate connections between all these factors.
Activity #1- Pair

1. Describe your cultural identity?
2. Describe a cultural ritual or tradition?
3. Do you remember a time when you felt a connection with someone who shared your cultural background?

Describe that feeling.

What made you feel connected to that person?
Activity #2-Shared Experiences

1. What kinds of issues related to cultural identity (either your own or your students’) have you encountered?

2. How can a teacher help a child adjust to the school culture while demonstrating respect for the child’s home culture?
“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to a man in his own language, that goes to his heart.”

Nelson Mandela
References

- The Diversity Kit.