**What is Culture?**

**Instructions**

**1:** Define the term ‘culture’

2: Download and view the Culture powerpoint. Now we are going to engage in some ‘visible thinking’.

This routine encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations. It helps stimulate curiosity and sets the stage for inquiry. It is best used when you use the phrases ‘I see’, ‘I think’ and ‘I wonder’. To help you do so think in terms of the following: housing – reveals gap between rich and poor, shopping culture, capitalism)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Phrase** | **Based on Powerpoint** |
| I see |  |
| I think  |  |
| I wonder  |  |

3: We are now going to use the Padlet application. Go to the website: <https://padlet.com/>

**Comment on:**

• One thing that represents HK - explain why?

• One sentence that describes life in HK? - explain why?

4: A social researcher named Geert Hofstede has conducted research on the dimensions of national culture. He segmented culture into six dimensions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dimension of Culture**  | **Explanation** |
| Power Distance  | This dimension expresses the degree to which the less powerful members of a society accept and expect that power is distributed unequally.  |
| Individualism vs collectivism | The extent to which people should care for themselves or only their immediate family or whether should they care for society in general |
| Masculinity vs Femininity  | A preference in society for achievement,assertiveness and material rewards for success (masculinity). Femininity stands for a preference for cooperation, modesty, caring for the weak and quality of life. |
| Uncertainty Avoidance | The Uncertainty Avoidance dimension expresses the degree to which the members of a society feel uncomfortable with uncertainty and ambiguity.  |
| Long-term orientation vs short-term orientation | Short-term oriented societies prefer to maintain time-honoured traditions and norms while viewing societal change with suspicion. Other societies prefer to be more pragmatic where people save for the future |
| Indulgence vs Restraint  | Indulgence stands for a society that encourages people to simply enjoy life and having fun.  Restraint stands for a society that tries to maintain a balance between work and fun.  |

Go onto this webpage: <http://geert-hofstede.com/hong-kong.html>

This will give you the information on Hofstede’s six dimensions for Hong Kong. Read down through the information and fill in the table that follows. For the third column, simply delete the words that are incorrect.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Dimension** | **Score for Hong Kong** | **Explanation** |
| Power Distance  |  | HK society believes that inequalities are acceptable or HK society believes that inequalities are unacceptable |
| Individualism vs collectivism |  | Individualist society or collectivist society |
| Masculinity vs Femininity  |  | Masculine society or feminine society |
| Uncertainty Avoidance |  | HK society are happy dealing with uncertainty and ambiguity or HK society is not happy dealing with uncertainty and ambiguity |
| Long-term orientation vs short-term orientation |  | Are suspicious of societal change or are happy to look to the future with strength  |
| Indulgence vs Restraint  |  | Indulgent society or restrained society  |

On the same webpage, you can compare Hong Kong to other countries in the world. Take 3 other countries, one of which must be China, and fill in the table that follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dimension** | **Hong Kong** | **China** | ***Country 2*** | ***Country 3*** |
| Power Distance  |  |  |  |  |
| Individualism vs collectivism |  |  |  |  |
| Masculinity vs Femininity  |  |  |  |  |
| Uncertainty Avoidance |  |  |  |  |
| Long-term orientation vs short-term orientation |  |  |  |  |
| Indulgence vs Restraint  |  |  |  |  |

* What country exhibits the greatest similarity to Hong Kong?
* What country exhibits the greatest difference to Hong Kong?

**Tangible and Intangible Culture**

**Tangible heritage** includes buildings and historic places, monuments, artifacts, etc., which are considered worthy of preservation for the future.  These include objects significant to the archaeology, architecture, science or technology of a specific culture [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/cairo/culture/tangible-cultural-heritage/ accessed Tuesday, 18 August 2015].

**Intangible Heritage** includes but not limited to traditional festivals, oral traditions, oral epics, customs, ways of life, traditional crafts, etc. [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/cairo/culture/intangible-cultural-heritage/ accessed Tuesday, 18 August 2015]

We are now going to look at some of the historic buildings in Hong Kong. The Antiquities and Monuments Office have a Virtual Explorer application which you can use to investigate the various types of historic buildings in Hong Kong. Visit the following website:

<http://vhe.lcsd.gov.hk/vhe/FEBS?bsid=-1&pageAction=HKMAP&langNo=1>

On the right side of the webpage, you will find links to various historic buildings segmented by district.

You will be divided into groups of 3/4 . You must take three/four [depending on your group size] historic buildings and construct a Powerpoint presentation [use Google Docs as you can collaborate easier].

Your presentation should include both visual and written information about the three heritage sites.

**Reflection**

1. Finish the sentence:

Culture is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How does culture influence you and your family?