

WORKSHEET 1 – SWEDEN

WHAT IS CULTURE? WHEN CULTURES COLLIDE.

Culture has been defined as “the collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one category of people from another” (Geert Hofstede). Children are prepared for successful interactions in their own culture and society, where good and bad, right and wrong, normal and abnormal are clearly defined. As we grow up, these learned national concepts become our core beliefs. We regard others’ beliefs and habits as strange, because they are unlike our own. Of course all people have universal human characteristics, but we become mostly a solid German, a good Swede and so on.

Answer the following:

1. Give **two** examples of common traditions from your country.

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2. How have you learned to be a Swede, Pole etc. do you think?

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3. Give **two** examples of differences between your own country and other countries that you have noticed (for ex. what they eat, how they act...).

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4. Do you think it’s positive or negative with the national differences?
Explain your opinion.

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5. Give **one** example of when different cultures can collide with each other (for ex. different values, concept of time...). Use countries as example.

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