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Social Studies Activity Book
Imaginative hands-on **World Cultures** lessons
designed for individual students, cooperative groups, and whole-class learning.

The ABCs of World Cultures

A Workbook for Grades 5-10

How to analyze any culture in the world.

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The ABCs of World Cultures

Part 1: WHAT IS “CULTURE”?

Part 2: OUR CULTURE

Using the ABCs, we analyze the culture of our little city - Asheville, North Carolina.

Part 3: YOUR CULTURE

Using the ABCs, students analyze the culture of their city.

Part 4: AMERICAN CULTURE

Our language reveals our culture.

Part 5: CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD

How to analyze any culture.

Worksheet #1: Art & Literature	What art forms and literature are typical of this culture?
Worksheet #2: Buildings	What building symbolizes this culture?
Worksheet #3: Communication	How does the average person get news and get around?
Worksheet #4: Dress	What clothing is typical of this culture?
Worksheet #5: Economy	What drives the economy - farms, factories or services?
Worksheet #6: Economy	How to analyze any economy.
Worksheet #7: Economy	How to classify any economy.
Worksheet #8: Family	What does the typical family look like?
Worksheet #9: Family	What is the role and status of women?
Worksheet #10: Family	What is the role and status of children?
Worksheet #11: Geography	How does geography shape the culture? (An overview)
Worksheet #12: Geography	How does location shape the culture?
Worksheet #13: Geography	How do physical features shape the culture?
Worksheet #14: Geography	In this culture, how do people relate to the land, rivers and sea?
Worksheet #15: Geography	How does the climate shape the culture?
Worksheet #16: Government	How to analyze any government.
Worksheet #17: History	What historical events have shaped this culture?
Worksheet #18: Icon	What images cause an immediate, emotional response?
Worksheet #19: Jobs	How does the average person make a living?
Worksheet #20: Knowledge	How is knowledge passed from one generation to another?
Worksheet #21: Language	What do words and expressions tell you about this culture?
Worksheet #22: Movement & Migration	How is this culture connected to the rest of the world?
Worksheet #23: Movement & Migration	How did the Europeans shape this culture?
Worksheet #24: National Pride	What people, places, things spark feelings of patriotism?
Worksheet #25: Organizations	What are the most important organizations (formal + informal)?
Worksheet #26: Population	What groups (age, race, ethnic groups) shape this culture?
Worksheet #27: Quality of Life	How to rate the average person's health and happiness.
Worksheet #28: Religion	What religious beliefs and values do people hold?
Worksheet #29: Religion	What are the traditional holidays and festivals?
Worksheet #30: Status	What groups have high and low status? (Model: U.S. in 1900)
Worksheet #31: Status	What groups have high and low status?
Worksheet #32: Taboos	What behaviors are considered to be <u>totally</u> unacceptable?
Worksheet #33: Urban or Rural	Is this a city culture or a country culture?
Worksheet #34: Vacation & Recreation	In this culture, how do people have fun?
Worksheet #35: Ways of Everyday Life	What's it like to live in this culture?
Worksheet #36: Yum! (Food)	What does the typical family eat? What foods are unique?
Worksheet #37: Ztuff (Stuff)	What stuff (cultural artifacts) is typical of this culture?

Part 6: CULTURAL TERMS

Part 1: What is “culture”?

We are not talking about high culture - opera, literature, philosophy, and other intellectual pursuits.
We are talking about the everyday life.

What is Culture?

Culture is a people's whole way of life.
Everything from A to Z.

You learn culture!

Culture is learned behavior. It is learned - you are not born with it. You learn how to act, feel, and think. You learn how to behave - the do's and don'ts. Learning begins when you are a baby. In some cultures, a crying baby is ignored. In other cultures, a crying baby is picked up and hugged. In this manner, people "socialize" you to cry nor not cry. Eventually you learn how to fit into the group.

You learn culture through language!

A baby born in China and raised in Canada will speak English with a Canadian accent and grow up to behave just like other Canadian children.

Culture is powerful!

Taboos are powerful.

You may be hungry, but if you are a Hindu, you will not eat beef!

You may be starving, but if you are a Muslim, you will not eat pork!

If YOU were starving, is there any food that you would reject?

(You betcha! Some foods are considered repugnant in our culture. Can you think of any?)

Culture shapes you!

In the 1950s, our culture encouraged children to be children.

On the TV show "*Leave it to Beaver*" the ideal child (Beaver Cleaver) was a naive fellow who never quite understood the world around him.

In the 1980s, our culture encouraged children to be more aware of life around them.

On the TV show "*The Wonder Years*" the ideal child (Kevin) was always trying to figure out what was happening around him.

Cultures are the same!

Culture is a response to human needs.

Human needs are similar around the world.

We call these cultural universals.

Cultures are different!

People need to eat. But what people eat (and how they cook it!) differs from culture to culture.

People need to use the toilet. But toilets vary from culture to culture.

People need a family. But families differ from culture to culture.

In one culture, a man has one wife. In another culture, a man may have several wives.

In one culture, a mother-in-law is respected. In another culture, a mother-in-law is the subject of jokes.

In one culture, a father who beats his children is respected. In another culture, child-beating is taboo.

Culture spreads from country to country

Culture spreads from country to country.

The Aztecs invented a chocolate drink. Their Spanish conquerors carried chocolate to Europe!

The TV has spread to every country on Earth. So has the computer!

The process of spreading cultural elements is called cultural diffusion.

Culture is a people's whole way of life.
Everything from A to Z.

Culture is everything from A to Z.

Culture is everything, but four things are special . . .

1. GEOGRAPHY shapes the culture

Where you live shapes how you live.

If you live near the Equator, it's pretty darn hot.

The climate shapes your food, clothing, housing, and recreation:

What do you eat? (Salads and cool drinks.)

What do you wear? (Cotton and other cool fabrics.)

How you build your house? (Lots of windows - to keep cool.)

What do you do for fun? (Go swimming - to keep cool.)

2. HISTORY shapes the culture

Past experiences shape peoples' expectations for the future.

What does a war do to a culture? Well . . .

What kind of war was it?

Did the country win or lose?

How was life different after the war?

World War I: When soldiers came home, they partied > the Roaring 20s.

World War II: When soldiers came home, they got married and had lots of babies > the Baby Boom.

Vietnam: When soldiers came home, no one gave them a parade > Vietnam was a watershed.

3. RELIGION shapes the culture

Religion shapes the culture's values.

4. LANGUAGE reflects the culture

Every culture changes. As our culture changes and becomes more complicated, we expand our vocabulary.

Can you think of all the words and expressions that relate to computers?

(E-mail, cyberspace, Internet, surfing the net, the web, webpages, webmasters, back-up, megs of Ram, laser printer, inkjet, bubblejet, mouse, mouse pad, software, Microsoft, Windows 95, monitor, zip drive, tower, keyboard, modem.)

What is culture? Everything, from A to Z!

The ABCs of Culture

We do not have a category for either “customs” or “values.”

Customs exist in nearly every category.

Values exist in many categories, especially religion.

Art & Literature - What artforms (painting, music) and literary forms (novel, drama) are typical of this culture?

Buildings - What building (monument, statue, structure) symbolizes this culture?

Communication & Transportation - How is information spread? How does the average person get around?

Dress - What clothing is typical of this culture?

Economy - What drives this economy . . . farms, factories, or services? What is the biggest employer?

Family - What is the status of women and children? How well are women and children treated?

Government - Who has power? How is the average citizen connected to the government?

History - What major event shaped this culture?

Icon - What images cause an immediate emotional response in nearly every person?

Jobs -How does the average person make a living?

Knowledge - How is knowledge (skills, habits, values, attitudes) passed from one generation to the next?

Language - What language do people speak?

Movement & Migration - Who moves into and out of this culture?

National pride - What people, places, or things spark feelings of loyalty and patriotism?

Organizations - In this culture, what are the most important organizations (formal and informal)?

Population - What groups (age, race, religion, language, ethnic group) shape the culture?

Quality of life - Rate the average person's health and happiness.

Religion - What are the religious beliefs and values? What are the traditional holidays, festivals, ceremonies?

Status - What groups (racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, professional) have high and low status?

Taboos - What behavior is totally unacceptable?

Urban or Rural - Do most people live in the city or the countryside?

Vacation & Recreation - What do people do for fun? What are the sports?

Ways of everyday life - In this culture, how do people take care of cooking, shopping, washing clothes?

X marks the spot - - How does geography shape the culture?

Yum - What does the typical family eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner? This culture is famous for what food?

Ztuff - What stuff is typical? (You know, like chopsticks in China.)

C is for Clothing.

German Culture

This culture has a long, cold winter.

Class discussion: When you pronounce the German word, remember that *W* is pronounced *V*.

The German word	English	Does the German word sound like our word?	What does this clothing say about life in Germany?
<i>der Arbeitsanzug</i>	overalls		Some people are farmers and factory workers.
<i>die Schuhe</i>	shoes	yes	Cold winter.
<i>die Hose</i>	pants		Cold winter.
<i>die Unterwasche</i>	underwear	yes	?
<i>die Stiefel</i>	boots		Cold winter.
<i>die Handschuhe</i>	gloves		Cold winter.
<i>die Krawatte</i>	necktie	yes*	Some people are businessmen.
<i>die Wollmutze</i>	toboggan		Cold winter.
<i>der Pullover</i>	sweater	yes	Cool weather.
<i>der Regenmantel</i>	raincoat		It rains.
<i>der Schal</i>	scarf		Cold winter.
<i>der Hut</i>	hat	yes	Cool weather.
<i>die Socken</i>	socks	yes	Cold winter.
<i>die Fausthandschuhe</i>	mittens		Cold winter.
<i>die Sandalen</i>	sandals	yes	Hot summer.
<i>die Pantoffeln</i>	slippers		Cold winter.
<i>die Shorts</i>	shorts	yes	Hot summer.
<i>der Rock</i>	skirt		?
<i>das Hemd</i>	shirt		?
<i>der Schlafanzug</i>	pajamas		?

*cravat

Class Discussion

1. Based on its clothing, what generalization can you make about Germany's climate?
(It has a cold winter, hot summer. Cool weather in spring and fall.)
2. Based on its clothing, what generalization can you make about Germany's economic development?
(Germany is a developed country. Yes, bedroom slippers are the hallmark of a rich country.)
3. Speculate: Which words have we inherited from the Germans?
(*die Schuhe* = shoes. *die Unterwasche* = underwear. *der Hut* = hat = a shelter for your head.
die Socken = socks.)
4. Speculate: Which words and clothing have the Germans inherited from us?
(*die Pullover* = sweater. *die Shorts* = shorts.)
5. Are blue jeans the symbol of a developed or developing country?
(Blue jeans were once the hallmark of a farm and factory culture. Today, jeans are expensive!
They are a hallmark of a developed country.)

F is for Food.

German Culture

The people of this culture eat pastries and other fattening foods.

Why do Germans eat such a heavy midday meal?

People in high latitudes (far from the Equator) eat food high in calories.

Using an almanac, look in the Index (in the front of the book) and find Calories and then the subheading Foods.

List the foods you ate yesterday, then use the chart to figure out your total calories, protein, and fat.

Add the German totals. Compare your diet to theirs!

Meal	Food	Measure	Calories	Protein	Fat
Breakfast	biscuits	2	210	4	10
	jam	2 tablespoons	110	T	T
	milk(whole)	1 cup	150	8	8
Lunch	Roast Beef	6 oz.	330	50	14
	boiled potatoes	2	290	8	T*
	carrots	2	60	2	T
	beets	1 cup	65	3	T
	bread**	1 slice	65	3	1
	milk (whole)	2 cups	300	16	16
Afternoon Snack	pastries	2	500	4	15
Dinner	bread	1 slice	65	3	1
	cheese	2 oz.	14	30	18
	sausage	3 links	180	6	18
	milk(whole)	2 cups	300	16	16
TOTALS			—	—	—

*T stands for only a trace.

** Germans like to eat brown bread.

Questions

1. Which German food has the most calories? Which food that you ate yesterday had the most calories?
2. Which German food has the most protein? Which food that you ate yesterday had the most protein?
3. Which has the most fat? Which food that you ate yesterday had the most fat?
4. Which diet - yours or theirs - had the most calories?
5. Whose diet - yours or theirs - had the most protein?
6. Whose diet - yours or theirs - had the most fat?
7. What foods do you eat that a German does not?
8. What foods does a German eat that you rarely (or never) do?
9. From this list, can you tell what people raise on German farms?
Make a list of the plants and animals that are raised.
Example: Roast beef comes from raising what?
10. How does living in a high latitude (far from the Equator) affect farming?
11. How does living at a high latitude (far from the Equator) affect eating habits?
12. What general statements can you make about the German diet?

German Culture

Words are clues to the culture.

Examine each cluster of words.

What do they tell you about German culture?

1. **das Brot** (bread), **Pumpernickel** (black bread), **Vollkornbrot** (whole grain bread).
In German, *korn* means “grain.”

2. **Oktoberfest** (beer festival in October), **Biergarten** (beer garden), **der Ratskeller** (beer cellar, beer hall).
Der Ratskeller was originally located in city hall to feed city councilmen.

3. **Sauerkraut** (pickled cabbage), **Sauerbraten** (beef that has been pickled or marinated), **Sauer Gurken** (pickles). In English, a *gherkin* is a pickle.

4. **Bratwurst** (a type of sausage), **Knockwurst** (a type of sausage), **Leberwurst** (liverwurst = ground-up sausage), **Weisswurst** (veal sausage), **Blutwurst** (blood sausage).

5. **Gäback** (pastry), **Berliner** (jelly-filled doughnut), **Amerikaner** (a small, flat-topped cake with chocolate and vanilla icing), **Sandkuchen** (pound cake), **Marmorkuchen** (marbled poundcake), **Torte** (iced cake), **Kuchen** (cake).

6. **die Burg** (a castle), **das Schloss** (a castle), **der Fürst** (a prince), **die Fürstin** (a princess), **das Mittelalter** (the Middle Ages).

7. **das Märchen** (fairy tale) **Hansel and Gretel**, **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**, **Little Red Riding Hood**, **Rapunzel**.

8. **das Volk** (the people, the folk), **der Volkswagen** (the peoples' car), **die Bevölkerung** (population) **die Bevölkerungsexplosion** (population explosion)

9. **Bach**, **Handel**, **Beethoven**, **Mendelssohn**, **Schubert**, **Schumann**, **Wagner**, **Strauss**.

10. **die Sauberkeit** (cleanliness), **die Ordnung** (order), **sauber-ordentlich** (clean and neat).

11. **Wanderung** (a hike in the mountains), **Rucksack** (a backpack), **Jugendherberge** (a youth hostel, an inexpensive inn for young people)

12. **Geld** (money), **Scheine** (bills), **Münzen** (coins), **Kreditkarten**, (credit cards), **Geldautomat** (ATM machine), **Moos** (slang for money), **Pinke** (slang for money).

13. **Mercedes-Benz**, **BMW**, **VW** (Volkswagen), **Autobahn** (expressway, often with no speed limit)

14. **Verboten** (forbidden, taboo)

a) An American birthday cake would not please them. Why?

b) Jaywalking does not please them. Why?

c) Arriving late to a party does not please them. Why?

Answers

1. In this culture, people love bread.

Is this true of all cultures? No. In Asia, bread is rare. The main grain food is noodles.

2. In this culture, beer is a big deal.

In Germany, beer must be brewed according to the centuries-old *Reinheitsgesetz* (purity law). Germany has many small breweries, plus internationally-famous brands like Beck's Beer and *Dortmunder Aktien*. Is this true of all cultures? Heavens, no. Wine is the main drink in France and Italy. Tea is the main drink in Asia. In the Middle East, the religion of Islam absolutely forbids alcohol.

3. In this culture, farmers produce a giant surplus of food. Hence, they preserve it (pickling, etc). Is this true of all cultures? Heck, no. Most of the world's farmers are subsistence farmers who grow just enough to survive. Most people would rather starve than eat something that's been pickled in vinegar and sugar.

4. In this culture, eating ground-up pig is very popular. Is this true of all cultures? Not in the Middle East! In the religion of Islam, a Muslim is forbidden to eat pork.

5. In this culture, fancy pastries are a big deal. Is this true of all cultures? No. The rule of thumb: People in high latitudes eat foods high in calories. People in low latitudes eat foods low in calories. The farther you are from the Equator, the cooler the weather, especially in winter. You need calories to keep warm!

6. The Middle Ages shaped this culture.

The German culture first took shape during the Middle Ages. Is this true of all cultures? No. Some cultures are much older. Italian culture was born during the days of Ancient Rome. China, born in ancient times, has the longest, continuous culture in the world.

7. This culture has produced a lot of fairy tales. Is this true of all cultures? No. All cultures produce tales (myths, legends, folktales), but not all cultures produce fairy tales. In the early 19th century, the Grimm Brothers collected many of the fairy tales that we know today. Speculate: Do cultures that invent fairy tales place a high value on children?

8. The concept of "the people" is big in Germany. Is this true of all cultures? No. Not all countries make a big deal of their folk, folksongs, and folk tales. In Greece, people make much of their ancient mythology. There's nothing folksy about Zeus, who lived on Mount Olympus and hurled lightning bolts at mortals below.

9. Classical music is a big deal in this culture. Is this true of all cultures? Good grief, certainly not in our culture! Wagner wrote operas that lasted for days. Germans grieve when the opera is over. Most Americans welcome the lady with horns on her helmet. Thus the expression: *"It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings."*

10. In this culture, people value cleanliness and neatness. Things must not be messy; they must in order. Is this true of all cultures? No. Some countries (like ours) have a serious problem with litter and graffiti. Germany does not.

11. Hiking in the mountains is big among teenagers and young adults. Is this true of all cultures? Not in flat countries! Fun for young people is the hallmark of a developed country. In very poor countries, there is child labor.

12. In this culture, money is a big deal. Is this true of all cultures? Nope, some cultures are poor. Money is not something that the average Joe has. Germany is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Its economy is the richest in Europe. It produces goods and services of \$2 trillion a year.

13. Cars are central to the German economy and lifestyle. Is this true of all cultures? No. Only developed countries manufacture cars. Bicycles and buses are the main form of transportation in Asia.

14. All cultures have their rules.

Fussy about dessert! Germans don't like artificial colors on their cakes.

Following Rules! Germans observe crossing signs; as a rule, they do not jaywalk.

Punctuality! People simply do not arrive late. When invited for dinner or a party, it is considered VERY rude to arrive late. In Germany "late" is considered to be more than 5 minutes after the agreed time!

L is for Language.

German Culture

This culture has colorful expressions!
Proverbs and sayings tell you a lot about the culture.

1. Er hat nicht alle Tassen im Schrank.

Translation: He doesn't have all his cups in the cupboard.

How we say it: He is one brick shy of a load.

2. Vom Regen in die Traufe kommen.

Translation: To go from the rain to the gutter.

How we say it: To go from the frying pan into the fire.

To go from bad to worse.

3. Zwei Fliegen mit einer Klappe schlagen.

Translation: To strike two flies with one swatter.

How we say it: To kill two birds with one stone.

4. Gibt man ihm den kleinen Finger, so nimmt er gleich die ganze Hand.

Translation: Give him your little finger and he'll take the whole hand.

How we say it: Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.

5. End gut, alles gut.

Translation: The end is good, all is good.

How we say it: All's well that ends well.

6. Wie ein Blitz aus heiterem Himmel.

Translation: Lightning from a clear sky.

How we say it: Like a bolt out of the blue.

7. Blauer Montag.

Translation: Blue Monday. (A Monday that is a holiday.

You do not have to go to work.)

What we mean: Blue Monday. (A Monday when you call in sick. You take the day off.)

8. Friedrich Wilhelm

Translation: When Germans sign a document, they put their "Friedrich Wilhelm" on it.

How we say it: When Americans sign a document, they put their "John Hancock" on it.

L is for Language.

German Culture

Names of places tell you a lot about the culture.
This culture is one of scary forests and fairy tales.

<u>Name of the Place</u>	<u>Translated to English</u>
1. <i>Norden</i>	To the North
2. <i>der Schwarzwald</i>	The Black Forest
3. <i>Nürnberg</i> (Nuremberg)	hill with ringed fortress
4. <i>Rhein Fluss</i>	The Rhine River
5. <i>Mittelland Kanal</i>	The Middle Canal
6. <i>Odenwald</i>	Oden Forest
7. <i>Nordsee</i>	The North Sea
8. <i>Bad Neustadt</i>	New Town Spa
9. <i>Bad Kissinger</i>	Kissinger spa
10. <i>Hamburg</i>	Thicket Fortress
11. <i>Stuttgart</i>	Stud Farm
12. <i>München</i> (Munich)	"with the monks" (a monastery)
13. <i>Köln</i> (Cologne)	colony*
14. <i>Berlin</i>	fishing settlement

*Cologne was first settled by the Romans during the Roman Empire.