

Culture Shock

What This is an activity that engages the group in a cultural interaction where four distinctly different cultures collide and frustrate.

When This activity is used when a group is dealing with cultural issues or when a group is culturally diverse.

How 1. **Pass Out Cards** Make up cards or sheets of paper with 4 different imaginary cultures described. Distribute them randomly, trying to keep roughly equal amounts of the 4 cultures, telling the participants not to share their 'culture' with anyone until the activity begins.

2. **Play at Task** When the activity starts, they are to practice their 'culture' while they try to accomplish a task. It could be any task, but the task I usually use is a human "Bingo" game, where they must get signatures of people who fit the descriptions in each square.

3. **Play to Close** Let the activity run until several people have achieved "Bingo" or until you start to see the energy die down, which can be very different for different groups. It can get pretty silly, with the people from one culture literally chasing the people from another culture, both of them trying to maintain the correct personal space.

4. **Debrief** Call time and have the group debrief by asking a volunteer from each of the 4 cultures to read what is on their card, followed by a discussion asking the members of that "culture" how they felt during the activity and how it felt for people to deal with them. I do this for each of the 4 cultures, and then ask the group to apply their experiences to the kinds of cultural differences that they have encountered in the workplace.

Culture Card - Humbleopia	Culture Card - Expressia
As a proud citizen of Humbleopia you know that it is considered impolite to look at anyone directly in the face. Show the proper respect by looking at a person's feet when you talk to them.	The citizens of Expressia are very animated. It is customary to speak very loudly and wave your arms expressively when you talk to someone. It is the only way to be heard.

Culture Card - Clositoous	Culture Card - Obliqueia
You are very proud of the heritage you bring from your country of Clositoous. Because you want to maintain your proud and reserved culture, whenever you have a conversation you respectfully whisper from a distance of 1 foot.	In your country of Obliqueia, one never approaches another directly. Instead they approach to 4 feet and quietly ask permission to enter their personal space. Then they close to 2 feet staying always at an oblique angle with the individual they are conversing with.