Appreciating Cultural Diversity

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Who am I?

- Second Generation Iranian American
- 2nd person in my family born in United States
- Family is Muslim, mostly non-practicing
- English/Persian language
Classroom Diversity

- Who are you? On a piece of paper please write:
  - Your name
  - Where you were born
  - What languages you speak
  - Your race & ethnicity
  - Something you like about your culture
  - A negative stereotype you have heard about your culture/group
Classroom Diversity

• What are the cultural backgrounds represented in this class?
• Surrounded by incredible diversity in just this classroom, now think of diversity on a global scale
But What is Culture?

- Social behaviors, arts, beliefs, and institutions of a society
- Non-material culture
- Material culture
Cultural Iceberg

Material Culture

Non-Material Culture
Material Culture

- All artifacts
- Architecture
- Jewelry
- Clothing
- Musical instruments
Material Culture
Material Culture
Material Culture
Non-Material Culture

• Beliefs
• Values
• Rules
• Languages
• Customs
Non Material Culture

[Images of various symbols representing different religions and cultures]
Non Material Culture
Non-Material Culture
How Culture Influences Us

• The way we dress
• The food we eat or do not eat
• Notions of beauty
• Music we create and listen to
• The houses we build & live in
• The artifacts we use to decorate our homes
• The language(s) we speak and read
Negative Uses of Culture

- Cultural Reappropriation
- Cultural Misappropriation
- Stereotypes
- Discrimination
Cultural Reappropriation
Cultural Reappropriation
Cultural Reappropriation
Cultural Misappropriation

WE'RE A CULTURE, NOT A COSTUME

THIS IS NOT WHO I AM, AND THIS IS NOT OKAY.

WE'RE A CULTURE, NOT A COSTUME

THIS IS NOT WHO I AM, AND THIS IS NOT OKAY.
Cultural Misappropriation
Negative Uses of Culture

• Sometimes people focus on difference to condemn, to ostracize, to persecute and even to exterminate

Darfur refugee camp- 2006 Jewish Concentration Camp ~1939
Respect and Understanding

see the world through different eyes
As Global Citizens…

- We must learn from each other
- Not just TOLERATE but rather APPRECIATE each others differences
Experiencing Other Cultures

- Meeting other people
- Having friends from other cultures
- Travel
- Study Abroad
- Language/Music/Food/Dance/Literature/Movies/Documentaries
Additional Concepts

- Culture Shock
- Assimilation
Thank you

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