



EduTrend Contents

W4C · CULTURAL STUDIES & ANTHROPOLOGY · PRIMARY

Culture in a Suitcase

Discover what culture means through everyday objects

Ages 7–10

Level: Foundation

60 minutes

Groups of 4 · up to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Culture in a Suitcase

Groups unpack a suitcase of everyday objects, pictures and words linked to a fictional family's way of life. They sort items into food, language, clothing, celebrations and beliefs, make careful guesses about the family, then pack a suitcase that represents their own culture.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- explain that culture is the shared way of life of a group of people;
- sort examples of culture into categories such as food, language and celebrations;
- make careful, respectful inferences from objects;
- describe parts of their own culture and compare them with others.

KEY WORDS

culture · tradition · celebration · language · custom · belief · identity · similarity · difference

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE and RE: identity and diversity. Geography: people and places. C3 Framework, Dimension 2: human-environment and cultural characteristics.

1

WONDER

What do people do?

2

OBSERVE

Look and listen

3

ASK

Hear their view

4

COMPARE

Same and different

5

INTERPRET

What does it mean?

6

REFLECT

What about us?

Materials (per group)

- A suitcase or box with 8–10 items for a fictional family (food packets, a greeting in another language, a picture of a celebration, a piece of fabric, a song title, a recipe)
- Category cards: food, language, clothing, celebrations, beliefs, arts
- Sticky notes
- Paper suitcase template
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Pack suitcases for fictional families with respectful, accurate items. Avoid stereotypes and costumes.
- Include everyday items as well as celebrations, so culture is not reduced to festivals.
- Prepare category cards.
- Tell families pupils may talk about their own traditions if they wish.

SAFETY

Pupils share only what they wish about their own culture. Check food items for allergies; nothing is eaten.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Emphasise that every family, including our own, has a culture, and that cultures change and mix.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Hook	Open a mystery suitcase in front of the class and pull out one item.	<i>“What does this tell us about the people who packed it?”</i>
10–25 min Unpack	Groups unpack their suitcase and sort items by category.	<i>“Which category was hardest to sort?”</i>
25–35 min Infer	Groups write three careful guesses about the family, using “might” and “perhaps”.	<i>“How could we check if we are right?”</i>
35–50 min My suitcase	Pupils draw five items for their own culture suitcase.	<i>“What would you pack to show your way of life?”</i>
50–60 min Compare	Pairs compare suitcases and find similarities and differences.	<i>“What did you have in common?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Unpack a family’s suitcase, sort what it shows about their culture, and pack your own culture suitcase to compare.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The anthropology in brief

Culture is the shared way of life of a group of people: their language, food, clothes, beliefs, celebrations, arts and everyday habits. Everyone has a culture, and most people belong to more than one. Cultures are learned, shared and passed on, and they change over time as people meet and mix.

Anthropologists try to understand cultures from the inside, asking what things mean to the people involved. Objects give clues, but guesses must be checked by listening to people. Avoiding stereotypes means remembering that individuals within any culture are different from each other.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Culture only means festivals and costumes.” Everyday food, language and habits are culture too.
- “Only other people have a culture.” Everyone does.
- “Everyone from a country has the same culture.” People within any group differ.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use pre-sorted pictures and three categories only.

Stretch

Interview a family member about a tradition and add it to the suitcase with an explanation.

WORKSHEET 1

Unpacking the suitcase

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Sort each item into a category.

Items

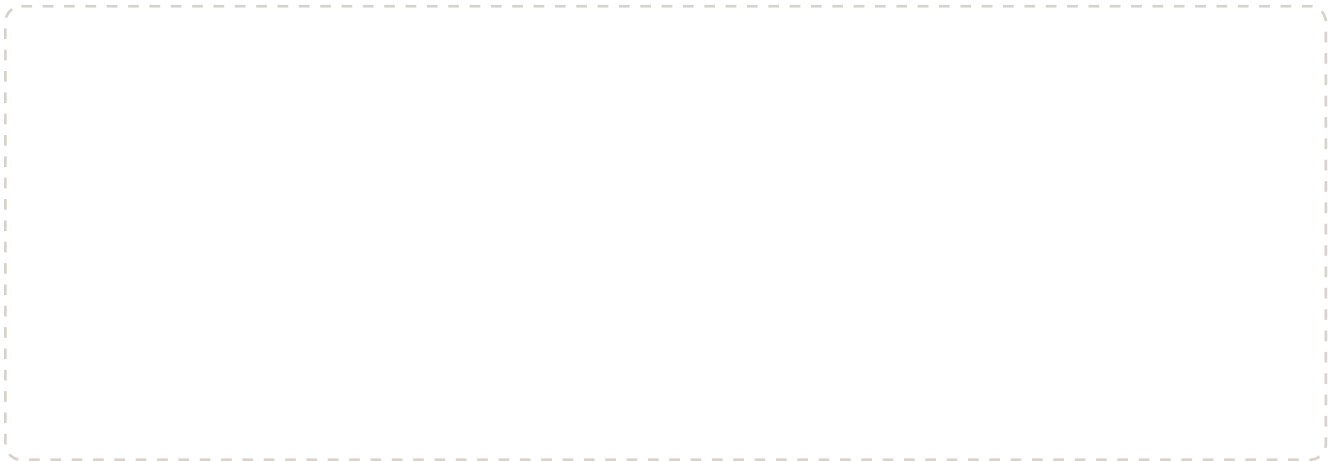
Item	Category	What it might tell us

WORKSHEET 2

My culture suitcase

Draw five items that show your way of life.

My suitcase

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for drawing five items that represent the student's way of life.

Label each item and say which category it belongs to.

WORKSHEET 3

Same and different

Compare with a partner.

Things we share

Things that are different

Something new I learned

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Explains what culture is	Makes respectful inferences	Compares cultures positively

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Culture in a Suitcase is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Cultural Studies & Anthropology programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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