



EduTrend Contents

P4C · ETHICS AND MORALITY · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Is It Wrong Everywhere?

Do different customs mean right and wrong change from place to place?

Ages 12–14

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 04

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

ACTIVITY 04 · AT A GLANCE

Is It Wrong Everywhere?

Students sort invented examples of customs: eating with hands or cutlery, greeting with a bow or a handshake, and more serious cases such as treating people unfairly because of where they come from. They discuss which differences are just customs and which seem wrong everywhere, then enquire into whether right and wrong can change from culture to culture.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- distinguish customs from moral rules;
- explain relativism simply;
- give reasons for universal claims;
- respect differences while reasoning.

KEY WORDS

custom · culture · relativism ·
universal · respect · value

CURRICULUM LINKS

Geography: cultures. Citizenship:
human rights. RE: shared values.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to
think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose
a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree,
add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Custom sorting cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Use invented customs, never examples that
mock real groups. Everyone may pass.

ACTIVITY 04 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Sort the customs cards into groups.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Are some things wrong everywhere?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Decide whether one moral rule applies everywhere and defend your answer against an objection.

ACTIVITY 04 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Moral relativism is the view that right and wrong depend on culture; many philosophers argue some values are shared everywhere.

Distinguishing customs from moral rules helps students respect difference without giving up reasons.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Different means wrong.” Many customs are just different.
- “Anything goes if a culture says so.” Some argue certain harms are wrong everywhere.
- “Respect means no discussion.” Respectful disagreement is possible.

Adapting the activity

Support

Offer two categories only.

Stretch

Research a universal declaration and discuss what it assumes.

WORKSHEET 1

Custom sort

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Where does each go?

Custom sort

Example	Just a custom	Wrong anywhere	Not sure

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

How can we tell a custom from a moral rule? Before the enquiry I thought...
Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

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

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Is It Wrong Everywhere? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Ethics and Morality programme (middle school, level: intermediate). 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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