

Customs, Culture & Human Nature

Customs

- What customs do you practice?
- What are your favorite customs?
- What customs do you think should be revised?
- What customs do you think should no longer be practiced?
- What customs (from elsewhere) do you think should be included in our culture?
- Do you know any customs in other cultures that are unacceptable/appalling (*otrřesny*) for you?

Culture

- What are some things that define a culture? For example, music, language, ...
- What do you think is interesting about your culture?
- Do you know much about your own culture?
- When people from other countries think about your culture, what do they usually think of?
- In your culture is it polite to be straightforward and direct when you talk to someone?
 - To whom is it OK and to whom is it not OK?
- What has surprised you when you've met people from other countries?
- What do you like about your culture?
- What don't you like about your culture?
- How do young people in your culture behave differently from older people?
- Are there many people of different cultures in your country? Are you friends with any?
- Have you ever felt confused by the actions of someone from another culture? If so, tell me about it.
- Who in your culture do you admire most?
- Why do you think culture is important?
- If you could change one thing about your culture, what would it be?
- Would you ever consider marrying or dating someone from another culture?
- Would you ever consider living permanently in a country other than your home country? Why or why not?
- What does it mean to be polite in your culture?
- What is considered rude in your culture?
 - Is there anything in this culture that is considered rude that may not be considered rude in your culture?
- If a group of people just came to your country from overseas, what advice would you give them?
- What other cultures have you met people from?
- What do you think is important when visiting another culture?
- Do you think "when in Rome, do as the Romans do" is always good advice? Why or why not?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you felt you had to "do as the Romans do"?
- What culture besides your own do you admire and why?
- If aliens visited your country, what might surprise them?
- Do you pray before each meal?
- How do you feel when you leave your home culture and enter into a completely new culture?
- What is the best/most important thing your culture has given to the world?
- What is the best/most important thing your culture/country has adopted from another culture?
- If you could choose three aspects of your culture to put in a "time box" for the future, what would you put in it?
- What is culture shock?
- Have you ever experienced culture shock?
- What is reverse, or re-entry, culture shock?
- Have you ever experienced reverse culture shock?
- On what occasions do you exchange flowers in your country?
- What other cultures have you met people from?
- What are the five most important values of your culture? (For example, Family)
- What is the best/most important thing your culture has given to the world?
- What is the best/most important thing your culture/country has adopted from another culture?

Human Nature

- Is human nature constant or is it molded by culture? Can human nature be completely changed by culture or society?
- Are humans better at creation or destruction?
- What are the best and worst parts of human nature?
- If pressing a button meant you received 5 million dollars but it also killed 5 people somewhere in the world, would you press it? What if it killed only 1 person or killed 20 people? What if the people were people you knew?
- If you had to sum up the whole human species in 3 words, what would those words be?
- What aspects of humans have made us a successful species?
- Is what we perceive reality or just a construct of our minds? Can our minds correctly interpret reality or is reality subjective?
- What is the best way to explore human nature: psychology, philosophy, or biology?
- Is tribalism and people separating themselves into “us” and “them” groups, a learned or genetic trait? Can it be overcome? If so, how?
- How does tribalism and creating in groups and out groups (e.g. race, religion, sport team fans, people with a hobby, etc.) help and hurt society?