**¿Qué es “la cultura”? What is culture?**

Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Another answer: Culture is an integrated pattern of human behavior that includes thoughts, communications, languages, practices, beliefs, values, customs, courtesies, rituals, manners of interacting and roles, relationships and expected behaviors of a racial, ethnic, religious or social group; and the ability to transmit the above to succeeding generations.

**Why is culture important to language learning?**

Your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Another answer: Culture is an absolutely essential part of the learning a language. Without incorporating culture, we lack an important component of the language learning process. Culture is indispensable in order to fully understand a language, its nuances and appropriate uses. Aside from understanding the linguistic side of language, culture is a key component in giving us a well-rounded education in the chosen language and provides a context for understanding one's own culture.

**What are the different types of culture?**

In languages, we sometimes talk about “big C” and “little c” culture.

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| **What is “big C” culture?**Big C culture refers to that culture which is most visible. Some visible forms of culture include holidays, art, popular culture, literature, and food. When learning about a new culture, the big C cultural elements would be discovered first; they are the most overt forms of culture. | **What is “little c” culture?**Little c culture, in contrast, in the more invisible type of culture associated with a region, group of people, language, etc. Some examples of little c culture include communication styles, verbal and non-verbal language symbols, cultural norms (what is proper and improper in social interactions), how to behave, myths and legends, etc. |

**Current views of culture include the three P’s of culture:** **products, practices and perspectives.** Products are the ‘big C’ cultural elements such as architecture, literature, etc. Practices are ‘little c” cultural elements like bowing, shaking hands, etc. Perspectives are the underlying values and beliefs of a people; this is the riskiest thing in terms of stereotyping, but perhaps the most important in understanding cultural differences.

From <http://www.educ.ualberta.ca/staff/olenka.Bilash/best%20of%20bilash/culture.html>

**Los productos** are what people make and use. They could be tangible (a piece of clothing, a house, a monument, even a famous person), or intangible (laws, an education system or institution).

**Las prácticas** are people’s actions: the way they celebrate holidays and eventos. Birthdays and weddings are practices, but also daily activities, such as the way they greet each other, learn, work and interact.

**Las perspectivas**  indicate how people of a culture see the world, their values, and what they believe. These include the relationship of humans and nature, life and death, religious beliefs, the concept of family and friendship, the value of work. Even though we can’t observe perspectives, we can infer them through the products and practices of the culture.

*Now, based on your studies, write several products and practices of* ***Día de los muertos****. Then, think about and write what perspectives we could infer from these products and practices. Write at least 4 entries in each column. Use the model, but you can write in English ☺.*

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| **Productos** | **Prácticas** | **Perspectivas** |
| el altar | construir y decorar el altar | es importante honrar y respetar a los ancestros |

What are some of the three P’s you’ve already learned about Spanish-speaking countries beyond DdLM? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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