

**EUROPA MACHT SCHULE**

- **Meeting**
- **NATION**
- **PRESENTATION ABOUT TURKEY**
  - Language
  - Territory Ethnicity
  - History
  - Culture
- **POLITICAL SYSTEM OF TURKEY**
  - I. Regime Type
  - II. Parties
  - III. Institutions
  - IV. <https://www.microarch.org/micro35/Turkey/DATA/FACTS.HTM>

What does it mean to be part of a nation?



# BRAINSTORMING



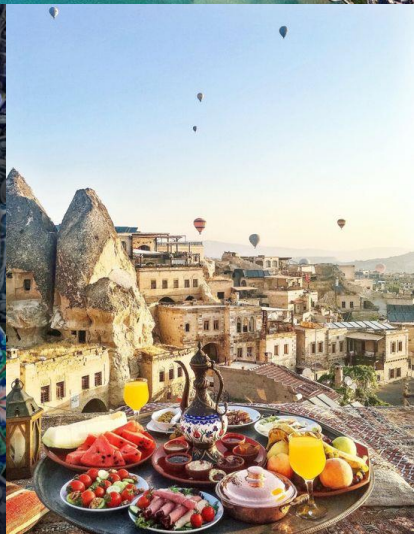
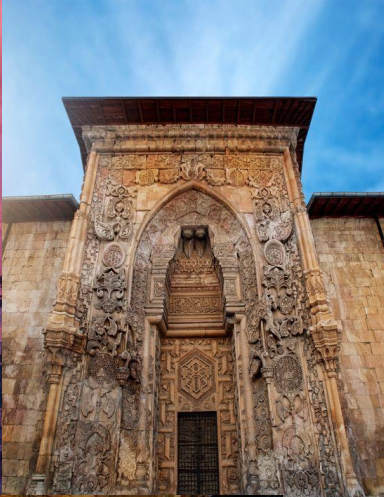
- **What makes someone a German?**
- **What makes someone a Turkish?**
- **Can we choose our nationality?**

# Turkish Nation

- Territory
- Ethnicity
- History
- Language
- Culture
- **POLITICAL SYSTEM OF TURKEY**
  - I. Regime Type
  - II. Parties
  - III. Institutions









- Turkey is lying partly in Asia and partly in Europe.



POPULATION	80,274,604 [July 2016 est.]
Languages	Turkish (official) Kurdish Other minority languages
RELIGION	Islam (99.8%) Other (0.2%) Note: There are no official statistics of people's religious beliefs nor is it asked in the census. This is a government figure according drawn from existing national identification cards.
ETNICITIES	Turkish (70-75%) Kurdish (19%) Other minorities (7-12%) [2016 est.]



# Timeline and History Overview

1600  
BCE

- The Hittite Empire forms in Turkey, also known as Anatolia.

118  
BCE0

- The Hittite Empire collapses and divides into several smaller states.

657  
BCE

- Greek colonists establish the city of Byzantium.

546  
BCE

- The Persians under the leadership of Cyrus the Great take over much of Anatolia.

333  
BCE

- Alexander the Great conquers Anatolia on his way to conquering the Persian Empire.

130  
BCE

- Anatolia becomes part of the Roman Empire.

330  
CE

- Constantine the Great establishes the new capital of the Roman Empire at the city of Byzantium. He names it Constantinople.

1071  
CE

- The Seljuk Turks defeat the Byzantium army at the Battle of Manzikert. The Turks gain control over much of Anatolia.

1299  
CE

- The Ottoman Empire is founded by Osman I.



1453

- The Ottomans conquer Constantinople bringing an end to the Byzantium Empire.

1520

- Suleiman the Magnificent becomes ruler of the Ottoman Empire. He expands the empire to include Turkey, much of the Middle East, Greece, and Hungary.

1914

IWW

- World War I begins. The Ottoman Empire is allied with Germany.
- 1919 – end of the war. The Ottoman Empire is defeated.

1919

- Turkish military officer Mustafa Kemal Ataturk leads the Turkish War of Independence.
- 1924 - A new Turkish constitution is passed. Religious courts are replaced by government courts.
- 1925 - The fez hat is outlawed.
- 1928 - Islam was removed as the official state religion.
- 1929 - Women gained the right to vote and run for elected office.
- 1930 - The name of Constantinople is officially changed to Istanbul.

1923

- The Republic of Turkey is founded by Ataturk. He is named the first President of Turkey.

1939

- World War II begins. Turkey remains neutral.

1960

- The army stages a coup of the government.

1980

- Another coup takes place and martial law is established for a period.

1984

- The PKK The Kurdistan Workers Party begin a guerilla war in southeast Turkey
- Turkey begins negotiations in an effort to join the European Union. (2005)



- Europe and Asia.
- In 330, Byzantium became the new capital of the Roman Empire.
- 11th - the Turks began to migrate into the land
- 13th - Ottoman Empire emerged.
- After World War I, the Ottoman Empire collapsed.
- Turkish war hero Mustafa Kemal founded the Republic of Turkey in 1923.

# PEOPLE

## Turkish Language

- According to the Turkish constitution, the word “Turk,” as a political term, includes all citizens of the Republic of Turkey, without distinction of or reference to race or religion; ethnic minorities have no official status. Linguistic data show that a majority of the population claim Turkish as their mother tongue; most of the remainder speak Kurdish and a small minority Arabic as their first language.

### 1)Where is Turkish Spoken?

- Turkish is the official language in Turkey with a population of over 72 million and also in the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Turkish is spoken by small groups of ethnic Turks in Iraq, Greece, Bulgaria, the Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania and some other regions of Eastern Europe. Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and France also have large Turkish immigrant communities, the most populous Turkish community being in Germany. In Azerbaijan and in some ex-Soviet republics Turkish is spoken too.

# Turkish Alphabet

A B C Ç D E F G

Ğ H I İ J K L M

N O Ö P R S Ş T

U Ü V Y Z



## 2) What you already know about Turkish?

- Turkish had many linguistic influences from neighbouring countries as well as from European languages throughout its history.

Ottoman Turkish experienced a great influx of Persian and Arabic words. There are also many loanwords of French origin in the Turkish language. Most words for fashion, many medical, political and ideological terms and most financial words are imported from French or pronounced the French way, eg.

# COMMON WORDS FOR GERMAN AND TURKISH

- element from element
- hamburger from hamburger
- haymatlos from heimatlos
- helde from heiden
- kuruş from groschen
- kuvars from quarz
- volfram from wolfram
- şablon from schablone
- (Add more and specific ones)

# The most difficult words and tongue Twisters

- **Şu köşe yaz köşesi, şu köşe kış köşesi, ortadaki soğuk su şişesi.**

**That corner is the summer corner, that one the winter corner and in the middle is the bottle of cold water.**

- **Bir berber bir berbere gel berber beraber  
Berberistan'da bir berber dükkanı açalım demiş.  
A barber told another barber "come barber, let's  
start up a joint barbershop in Barberistan".**



# Do You Know Any Turkish Jokes?

- Most Turkish jokes seem to evolve around one main character, Temel, his wife Fatma and his friend Dursun. Temel is meant to be a typical guy from the Black Sea coastal region and there are hundreds of jokes about this trio and the various adventures they encounter, ranging from political to sexual antics. Here's an example of Temel's humorous wisdom:
- İdam cezasına çarptırılan Temel'e son dileğini sorarlar.  
"Beni oğlumun yanına gömün" der.  
"Ama oğlun hala hayatta!" derler.  
Temel de, "Önemli değil, beklerim." diye cevap verir.  
They ask Temel, who is condemned to death, for his last wish.  
"Please bury me next to my son", he says.  
"But your son is alive!", they say.  
Temel replies: "No problem, I can wait".

# What Not to say and do

- There are some words which look identical but actually sound quite different so you have to guess the correct pronunciation from the context.
- **Hâlâ** means **still** or **yet** and **hala** means **aunt** (father's sister– there are two words for aunts in Turkish, as there are two different uncles, maternal and paternal.)
- **Kar** means **snow** while You are trying to view Flash content, but you have no Flash plugin installed. **kâr** means **profit**. Suffixes to the same word can make it more complicated. You are trying to view Flash content, but you have no Flash plugin installed.
- **Karın** can mean **of the snow** or **stomach** or even **your wife!**

# Common Turkish Phrases

TURKISH	ENGLISH	GERMAN
Merhaba	Hello	Hallo
<b>Hoşgeldin</b>		
<b>Günaydın</b>		
<b>Nasılsın</b>		
<b>İyiyim, teşekkürler</b>		
<b>Güle Güle</b>		
<b>Lütfen</b>		
<b>Affedersiniz</b>		
<b>Bir şey değil</b>		
<b>Efendim</b>		
<b>Adınız ne</b>		
<b>Adım...</b>		
Nerelisin		
<u>Memnun oldum</u>		
<u>Afiyet olsun!</u>		

# Famous Quotations

- **Kâğıdın, kalemin, mürekkebin kokusunu sevdiğim için yazıyorum. Edebiyata, roman sanatına her şeyden çok inandığım için yazıyorum. Bir alışkanlık ve tutku olduğu için yazıyorum.**  
**I write because I love the smell of paper, pen, and ink. I write because I believe in literature, in the art of the novel, more than I believe in anything else. I write because it is a habit, a passion.**  
The 2006 Nobel Laureate in Literature **Orhan Pamuk** (born 1952) is the most famous Turkish author of our time, He's widely read in the English-speaking world and his works have been translated into over 50 languages.(The **Nobel Prize** in Literature 2006)
- **Kim gerçek yabancı – bir ülkede yaşayıp başka bir yere ait olduğunu bilen mi, yoksa kendi ülkesinde yabancı hayatı sürüp, ait olacak başka bir yeri de olmayan mı?**  
**Who is the real stranger — the one who lives in a foreign land and knows he belongs elsewhere, or the one who lives the life of a foreigner in her native land and has no place else to belong?**  
**Elif Şafak** (born 1971) is another a well-known Turkish writer. Many of her books are written in or translated into English.

- Yaşamak şakaya gelmez,  
büyük bir ciddiyetle yaşayacaksın  
bir sincap gibi mesela,  
yani, yaşamamanın dışında ve ötesinde hiçbir şey beklemeden,  
yani bütün işin gücün yaşamak olacak.  
Living is no laughing matter  
you must live with great seriousness  
like a squirrel, for example  
I mean without looking for something beyond and above living,  
I mean living must be your whole occupation.  
Nazım Hikmet (1902-1963) is the best-known Turkish poet. His poems have been translated into English and many other languages, but the emotions, depth and power of his language are best experienced in Turkish.

- First Publication

The earliest examples of Turkish writing are the two monumental Orkhon inscriptions which are written in **Orkhon script**, or "Turkic runes". Dating back to 735 AD, they were erected in honour of the prince Kul Tigin and his brother Emperor Bilge Khan and were found in the Orkhon river valley in Mongolia in the 19th century.



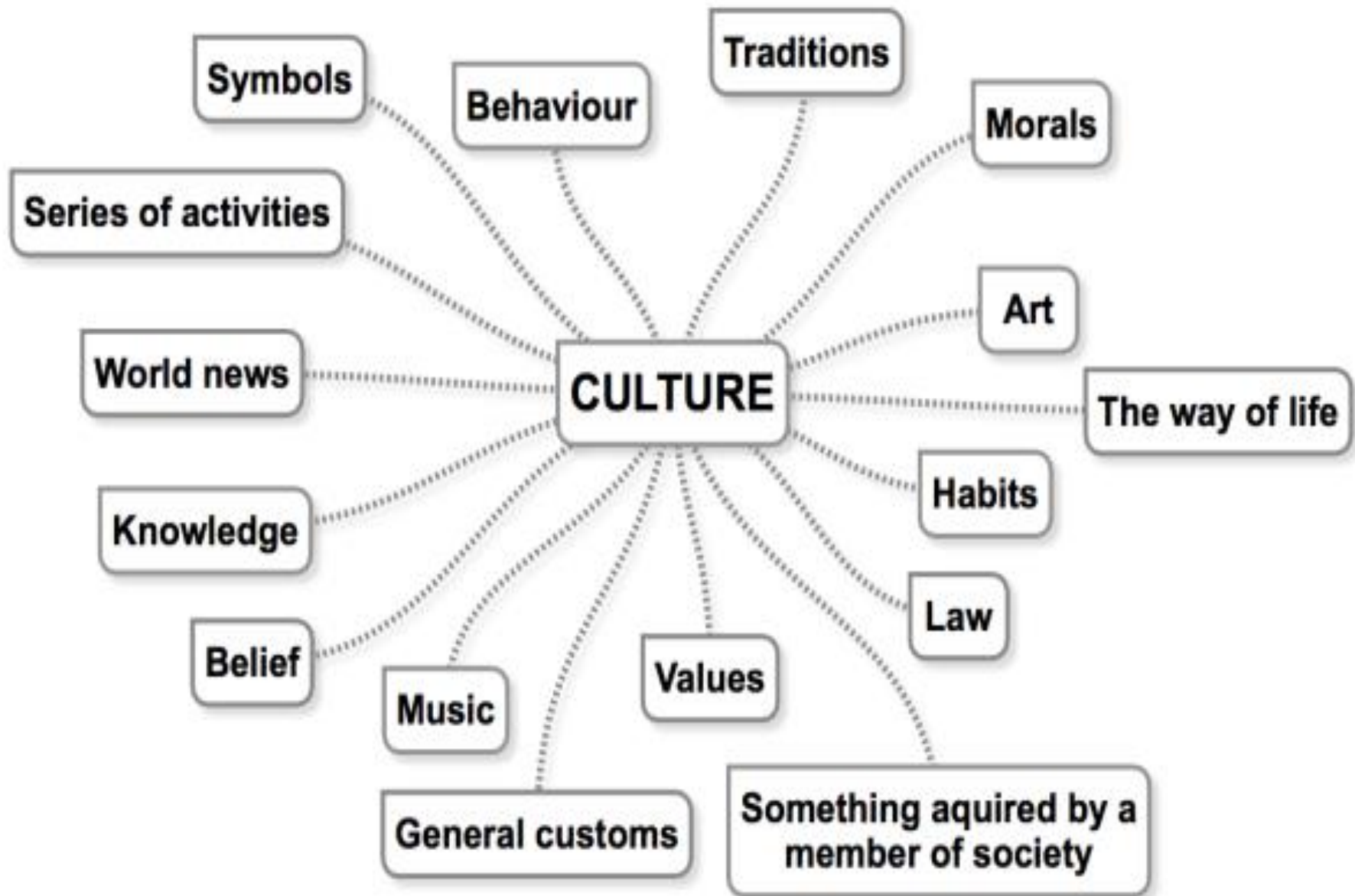
## Religion

- More than nine-tenths of the population is Muslim.
- Turkey is a secular country.
- In 1928 constitutional amendment, Islam was removed as the official state religion, and since that time the state has found itself periodically at odds with religion.
- In addition to the Muslim majority, there also exist small populations of Jews and Christians; Christian adherents are divided between Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant, and other denominations.

Let's

*Talk*

Culture



# *Turkish culture and traditions*

- To summarize Turkish culture and traditions is impossible because the diversity of heritage across the country varies and other cultures such as Greek, Armenian, Georgian, and Arabic practises have been woven in throughout history.
- The northeast coast near the border is a tight combination of Turkish and Georgian culture as seen in the Laz and Hemsin communities and the southeast typically reflects Kurdish and Arabic culture, while the western coast in the last 80 years has been widely influenced by European traditions. However, quite a few traditions are strong fast across Turkey and any first time visitor will spot them immediately if they know what to look for.

# Core Concepts

- Generosity
  - Honesty
  - Loyalty
  - Hospitality
  - Neighbourliness
  - Nationalism
  - Honour
- 
- Turkey is a large country situated on the crossroads between Europe and Asia. Its geographic position between the Western and Eastern worlds has given its people a longstanding exposure to and interaction with a diversity of cultures.
  - Society has blended these influences, intermingling traditional Islamic values with Western inspirations. The Turkish continue to negotiate their identity as some of the most Westernised people in the Islamic world, whilst generally not seeing themselves as totally 'European'.
  - Many Turks have relatively cosmopolitan lifestyles. The majority of the population (72% as of 2013) live in industrialised urban areas, and those in the major cities and coastal towns are typically very modernised and globally minded.
  - rural populations often occupy the lowest rungs of the socioeconomic ladder and are most likely to be undereducated or illiterate. More traditional cultural practices may be observed in rural areas – particularly in the Eastern regions and along the border with Syria. Across the country, however, most Turks share a relaxed approach towards time, a strong focus on socialising and exhibit incredible hospitality

# Greetings

- People generally greet one another with a handshake. However, devout Muslims may prefer not to touch people of the opposite gender.
- Friends and family generally give one or two kisses to the other person's cheek.
- It is polite to give a slight bow or nod to someone of authority (older or superior) as you greet them.
- Women may only give a physical greeting to other women (i.e. with a handshake or kiss). Married women may be more hesitant to touch other men in greetings.
- Elders are approached first and treated with more respect during greetings. It is especially respectful to kiss them on their right hand and then place it to your own forehead.
- People are often addressed with their first name followed by "*Bey*" for men and "*Hanim*" for women. For example, "*Yusuf Bey*" and "*Elif Hanim*".
- It is usually harder to end a conversation with a Turkish person than it is to start one. Farewells are typically prolonged as Turks have a tendency to restart conversation whilst saying goodbyes. The easiest way to end a conversation is to use a conventional expression that politely asks to leave with their permission – "*İzninizle*" (with your permission).



# DAILY GREETING AND COMMON EXPRESSIONS

- Turks love to celebrate or empathise and common expressions apply to many daily or special events and occasions. Should a friend fall ill, the response should be “Gecmis Olsun” meaning get well soon. Enter into a shop and you may hear the saying of “Hos Geldiniz” which means welcome. The list goes on and on but the good news for foreigners is that Turks are quite relaxed if you are visiting the country. Learning a few sayings earns you great respect, but do not sweat the small stuff, because to the Turks, you are a welcome guest in their country.

# Religion

- Turkey has a strong Islamic past. The land was governed as a Sunni Islamic State under the Ottoman Empire. Impressive Islamic architecture and monuments throughout the country are visible reminders of this history. The vast majority of the Turkish population remains Muslim. However, a strong tradition of secularism has risen since the caliphate was abolished. In the 1920s, Islam was removed as the official religion of the country and visible signs of religious affiliation were restricted. This occurred under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.
- Atatürk believed the political influence of religion and Islamic tradition was detrimental to democracy and modernisation<sup>1</sup>. Borrowing ideas from the French doctrine of laicism, he took direct control of formal Islamic institutions and limited their political power.

## Minority Religions

- Sunni Islam, Christianity (some Catholic and Orthodox sects) and Judaism are the only constitutionally recognised religions in Turkey. Reformist Christians, Rum Orthodox Christians, any non-Sunni variation of Islam and all other faiths are not recognised.
- Generally, members of those constitutionally recognised minorities are free to practise their faith. However, proselytising on behalf of any minority religion can be socially unacceptable and those who convert from Islam to another religion may even be ostracised by their peers and family. Schools across Turkey may cover the basic ideas around other religions, but primarily teach the theory and practice of Sunni Hanafi Islam.
- **Alevis**
- While not recognised legally, the Alevis are the largest religious minority in Turkey. They are a large heterodox Shi'a Muslim population estimated to constitute approximately 11.4% of the population (2006 est.). Although Alevis are technically part of the Shi'a denomination, they have a different interpretation of Islam from Shi'a communities in other countries. They also differ outwardly from the Sunni majority of Turkey in their practice and interpretation of Islam.

# Family

- Generally, Turkish culture is family-centric. There is a strong belief that people should maintain ties with their relatives and care for the parents and elders into their old age. Turks may live in their family home for a long time into adulthood and visit their family on a regular basis. One can usually call on extended relatives to provide emotional and economic support. The size and structure of Turkish households vary significantly throughout the country. Most households are nuclear; the average number of children for a couple is two. However, in some regions, it is not uncommon to see families with up to twelve children living in a compound with shared amenities (particularly among Kurdish homes).
- Within the family dynamic, respect is accorded by age. Generally, the eldest has the most authority and should not be disrespected or strongly disagreed with. Most Turks will refrain from arguing or smoking in front of elders and adopt a more formal approach towards them. In accordance to this age hierarchy, the eldest sibling (preferably the son) usually takes on the role of caretaker for younger siblings when parents are absent.
- Turkey is also very child-centric. Many public places are designed for children and strangers may be openly affectionate with other people's kids. For example, they may greet and hug an unknown child without hesitation. It's very rare to hear someone say that they "don't like children". People like to take their children with them wherever they go, allowing them to stay up quite late, and parents may hire nannies that accompany the child if they are not available.

# Gender Roles

- Gender equality has been a core objective of the Turkish government since the modernising momentum of Atatürkism<sup>1</sup>. Female participation and education is encouraged and more women are gaining political influence. However, there remains a strong male dominance in society and the position of women in the rural and working-class sectors remains mainly traditional. Women continue to carry greater expectations of social compliance and are often seen as being more liable to bring dishonour on a family. As such, many men perceive their own reputation to be constantly susceptible to damage from indecent behaviour by their female relatives.
- Generally, mothers command the household, managing the money, cooking, cleaning and hosting. In rural areas, they may also contribute to the household by engaging in much of the agricultural production, children's education, etc. Men usually provide the main source of income and are exempt from most domestic duties. This difference in the allocation of household contribution means that men tend to perceive themselves as more dependent on women as homemakers in many circumstances. For example, a male widower with no female family members may quickly have to remarry. It is rare to see a man living in a household without any women.

# Marriage and Dating

- The public dynamic of couples is affected by the strong social expectation that people from opposite genders should not show interest or affection towards one another if anyone else is present. This segregation of men and women varies between different age groups and segments of society. For example, Western dating practices are becoming common among university populations. However, most couples will keep knowledge of their girlfriend/boyfriend away from conservative family members.
- Among more traditional families, it is a strong cultural requirement that a woman be untouched (*bakire*) before marriage. Most Turkish marriages are conducted as a civil service; however, the use of an Imam is still common. Divorce is rare. Most Turkish couples seek to avoid it if possible. However, if it does occur, the belongings and wealth of a couple are split equally between them.



# Turkish Wedding Traditions

- 1. Henna/Kina night

The 'henna' or 'kina' night is a smaller celebration that takes place a week or two weeks before the wedding. The bride dresses in a gown of her choice (usually red) and celebrates with her female friends and family. Later in the evening, she then changes into a traditional outfit called a bindalli. The groom and his friends also arrive during this time and prepare themselves for the entry. The bride and groom enter to a slow traditional song as young, single women hold candles and walk in-front of them. They then walk in a circle three times and are seated. An elder of the group commences the henna ceremony by placing henna onto the bride and grooms palms, however in order to open their closed fists the in laws have to resent a gold coin.

- 2. Maidenhood Belt
- A male figure or close relative to the bride (usually a brother) wraps a red ribbon named the “Maidenhood Belt” around the bride’s waist three times before finally tying it.
- 3. Opening the door
- The doorway is normally locked or guarded by the bride’s brother or close relative. A tip or some sort of monetary exchange is the only thing that’ll allow the doors to open and allow the bride to leave her parent’s home.
- 4. Declaring dominance
- Now it’s time for the ‘legal marriage’ ceremony. The bride and groom will sign paper work and agree to the marriage on legal terms, in order to be presented with their marriage certificate. At this point, or during signing, the bride or groom will try effortlessly to step on their partner’s foot to symbolise who has ‘dominance’ or who calls the shots in the relationship. More than anything it’s a good laugh for both the groom and brides families.
- 5. Celebrating the Newlyweds
- During the wedding, traditionally after cutting the cake, the bride and groom will have ribbons placed around their necks. Guests will then approach the couple, congratulate them and pin money or a gold coin to their ribbons.

# Naming

- Most Turkish names have a similar format to Western names: [first name] [surname] – the surname being the family name. Women commonly take their husband's family name at marriage or add it onto the end of their own.
- Kurds may follow traditional Kurdish naming customs and use their tribe's name or their grandfather's personal name as their surname.
- Some people from Cyprus may use their father's personal name as the surname instead of a family name.
- Popular personal names in Turkey are Yusuf, Berat, Mustafa, Ömer and Ahmet for boys, and Zeynep, Elif, Zehra, Hiranur and Miray for girls.

# Dates of Significance

- New Year's Day (1st of January)
- National Sovereignty and Children's Day (23rd of April)
- Labour and Solidarity Day (1st of May)
- Commemoration of Atatürk - Youth and Sports Day (19th of May)
- Ramadan Feast (Varies each year - two and a half days)
- Sacrifice Feast (varies each year - four and a half days)
- Victory Day (30th of August)
- Republic Day (29th of October)
- Atatürk Memorial Day - Observance (10th of November)
- New Year's Eve (31st of December)

# Etiquette

- When offering something, Turks generally extend an invitation multiple times. It is expected that you politely decline the gesture initially before accepting on the second or third offer. This exchange is polite as the insistence to extend the invitation shows hospitality and the initial refusal to accept shows humbleness and that one is not greedy.
- If you truly want to refuse something, place one hand on your chest as you say so. If someone has invited you somewhere, you can make the same gesture and point to your watch to indicate you do not have time to stay.
- People in service jobs may address you literally as 'my master' – '*efendim*'. This is a common phrase used by waiters, secretaries and taxi drivers to address people they are not familiar with.
- It is polite to stand when someone elderly enters the room. If they do not have a seat, it is expected that they will be offered someone else's.
- Try not to blow your nose noisily. Many Turks dab their nose instead of blowing it.
- Chewing gum whilst talking to someone or at a formal occasion is very rude.
- Displaying the soles of one's feet to another person is improper. Do not place your feet on top of a table or cross your legs in a way that exposes them. Touching another person with your feet is very disrespectful.
- Ask permission before taking someone's photograph.

## Visiting

- Hospitality (*misafirperverlik*) is a central virtue in Turkey. Hosting is considered an honour and the generosity shown towards one's guests is reflective of their character. Meanwhile, an unexpected guest is regarded as 'a guest from God' (*Tanrı Misafiri*). Turks regularly give offers and invitations for others to join them or have something of theirs. To foreigners, these gestures can come across as overly insistent or demanding. However, in Turkey it is thought that the firmer the invitation is, the more earnest and polite it is.
- People are expected to be punctual to dinners and intimate gatherings. However, it is appropriate to be late to parties.
- It is considered a nice gesture to bring sweets, flowers or presents for any children when visiting someone at their home. However, Turks are usually less concerned with what you bring and more interested in the socialisation and conversation.
- If you bring alcohol or food to a gathering, you are expected to share it.
- Wear clean socks as you will be expected to take off your shoes before entering a person's home. In some cases, you may be given a pair of slippers to wear instead.
- Tea is offered and drunk at all occasions. It is usually served in a small tulip-shaped glass with sugar. Expect to be offered it in a Turkish home and similarly offer a Turk something to drink if they are visiting you.
- Women usually help prepare and clean up after a meal while men sit and discuss at the table.

## Eating

- Turks generally prefer to eat at sit-down meals. It's rare for them to snack throughout the day or eat on-the-go. It is also unusual to have 'pot-luck' meals whereby every person invited to dinner brings their own dish to share. Typically, the host will cook and prepare everything.
- In the cities, people generally eat at the table. However, in smaller households, a food stand may be placed on the carpet that everyone then sits around on cushions. Some Turkish households may use a low table with cushions set around it.
- Turks tend to eat at quite a slow, relaxed pace. It is common to stop between courses to smoke a cigarette and have a few drinks before moving on to the next dish.
- As part of Turkish hospitality, they tend to offer food several times and prompt you to have multiple servings. You can say that you do not want any more food, but consider that they may take initial refusals as politeness and serve more anyway. You might have to clearly insist you are full.
- It is normal for Turks to use a spoon and fork without a knife.
- Handle all food with your right hand. The left is associated with cleaning and should not be used to pass, offer or serve food.
- Do not blow your nose or pick your teeth during a meal.
- Always keep your feet hidden under the table.
- A glass should be emptied before it is refilled. Do not fill a half-full glass.
- Evening meals may be accompanied with alcohol depending on the person you are dining with. The local Turkish drink is called '*Rakı*'.
- Tea or Turkish coffee may be served at the conclusion of a meal.
- People rarely split a bill in Turkey. The person who invited the others to join them will commonly pay, whilst men are usually expected to pay for women. You may offer to pay the whole bill; however, if your Turkish counterpart insists multiple times that you should leave it to them, allow them to pay. It can be a kind gesture to offer to take them out in return next time.
- A good way to compliment a host is to say "*Elinize sağlık*" (Health to your hands).



## **Gifts**

- Gift giving is appreciated; however, it is not necessarily expected.
- If gifts are given, wrapping and cards are not common.
- Offer and receive gifts with two hands.
- Gifts are generally not opened in front of the giver.

# Do's and Don'ts

## Do's

- Be patient and relax if kept waiting. Westerners often carry a stereotype of being hurried people in Turkey. Your acceptance of delays is likely to be appreciated.
- Try to accept a Turk's invitation to dine with them as often as possible.
- Respect Islam and remember that while most Turkish people are identified as Muslims, Turkey is not an Islamic country. Therefore, the average Turkish person may be religious or may know less about religion than you expected.
- Be aware that Turks signal "no" by tutting or raising their eyebrows. Shaking your head to say "no" is interpreted as "I don't understand you". See 'Non-Verbal Communication' for more on this.
- Offer any criticism or advice in an indirect way, through a third-party if possible. This relates to comments on a Turk's personal character as well as things they're associated with (i.e. their country or family). Some may be easily offended by comments that point out flaws.
- Expect Turks to talk about politics quite openly. Political analysis and discussion is a pastime for some and the situation in Turkey arguably provides a lot of material to examine.
- If a Turk expresses despair at the political situation of their country, show sympathy, emphasise your solidarity and demonstrate awareness of the fact that the nation is at a difficult crossroads.

# Do not's

- Do not mimic or imitate a Turkish person's gestures.
- Do not criticise the Turkish nation, culture or flag. Similarly, do not insult the name of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – the founding father of the Republic. Such actions can seriously offend the Turkish sense of national pride.
- Avoid bringing up contentious topics such as Armenia, Kurdish separatism and the Cyprus problem. These sensitive issues can provoke heated and emotional responses.

# Communication

- Verbal
- **Indirect Communication:** The Turkish communication style is often warm and indirect when first meeting people. They tend to deliver messages in roundabout ways that avoid offending anybody involved in the conversation. Therefore, expect a Turk to avoid criticism and soften disagreement with vocal hesitation or terms such as “perhaps”, “probably”, “I guess”, “sort of”, “maybe”, etc. For example: “I guess there has probably been a mistake”. This form of communication is less assertive and weakens the force of negative/sensitive comments. As Turks tend to avoid openly disagreeing, they may be unwilling to discuss an issue and brood on the problem instead. After initially concealing their concerns, they may raise them unexpectedly at a later time. This being said, people are likely to become more direct as a relationship evolves.
- **Communication Style:** Turks tend to speak in quite a slow and drawn-out way. They may not leave gaps for you to interject and add your opinion. Therefore, avoid blatantly interrupting, exercise patience and wait for them to ask for your input.
- **Voice:** Turks tend to speak with force, but not necessarily loudly.
- **Humour:** The Turkish generally have quite relaxed humour. They often playfully tease and banter. It’s also common to use comical nicknames.

# Other Considerations

- During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslim Turks will abstain from consuming food, water and smoking cigarettes during daylight hours. In Turkey, it is considered disrespectful to engage in these activities publicly, in front of any fasting Turks or in the house of one.
- Public drunkenness is considered inappropriate.
- Smoking cigarettes is very common in Turkey.
- It is common to see a blue glass trinket with an eye on it hanging in Turkish homes or restaurants. This is said to ward off the evil eye (Nazar Boncuğu); however, today its placement may be more decorative.
- The Turkish government limits the freedom of the press, freedom of religion and internet freedom in some cases. More journalists are jailed in Turkey than any other country. Consider that this may affect some individuals' opinions.
- Dogs are not kept as domestic pets as commonly in Turkey. Therefore, some Turks may be unaccustomed to dogs and slightly uncomfortable/afraid of them.

- Non-Verbal

- **Physical Contact:** The Turkish are generally quite tactile people. It is common for them to hug t, walking arm in arm or kissing to greet those of the same gender. Turks also usually show a lot of affection to children (i.e. doting on them and pinching their cheeks). However, it is far less appropriate to touch a person of the opposite gender. This is influenced by Islamic custom. Social circles may be more or less comfortable with it, but generally people keep a distance from those of the opposite gender to respect their modesty.
- **Eye Contact:** Direct eye contact is expected in conversation. It implies sincerity; thus Turks tend to hold the other person's gaze for prolonged amounts of time during serious conversations. Staring is not necessarily considered impolite. However, devout Muslims may divert their gaze away from those of the opposite gender out of modesty.
- **Tutting:** Tutting is not considered rude or an expression of annoyance. It is an informal way of saying "no" in Turkey. People may raise their eyebrows at the same time.
- **Shaking Head:** To shake one's head as if saying "no" in Western culture means "please explain, I don't understand" in Turkey. Therefore, if shaking your head to refuse something, expect it to cause a Turk to repeat himself to you.
- **Body Language:** Avoid standing with your hands on your hips or in your pockets, especially when talking to those of a higher status or older than yourself.
- **Nodding:** A single nod means "yes".
- **Gestures:** It is common for people to raise their hand with the palm facing up and fingers touching the thumb to show appreciation for something. It is an obscenity to make a fist with the thumb protruding between middle finger and index finger. The symbol for 'Okay' (with the forefinger and the top of the thumb meeting to form a circle, with the other fingers stretched out) has offensive connotations relating to homosexuality in Turkey. Do not click/snap your fingers and then slap your hand onto your fist. This is also very rude.
- **Length and Height:** People indicate "this long" by using a flat hand to 'chop' their forearm at the proper length. People indicate "this high" by holding their palm down above any table surface.
- **Beckoning:** People may beckon by facing the palm of their hand towards the ground and making a scooping motion.
- **Expressions:** People tend to smile less in public and more around family and friends. The Western tendency to automatically smile a lot is thought of as somewhat insincere in Turkey. Therefore, try not to be intimidated by a Turk's apparent serious demeanour. It is not necessarily a reflection on you, but the social expectation. Furthermore, consider that smiling casually while passing a stranger can make them think that you are laughing at them.



# EVIL EYE: THE NAZAR BONCUGU

The image shows a large, intricate Nazar Boncugu (evil eye talisman) hanging from a dark, gnarled tree branch. The talisman is made of blue and white threads, featuring a central black dot surrounded by concentric circles of white, light blue, and dark blue. It is surrounded by several smaller, simpler Nazar Boncugs, some of which are also hanging from the same branch. The background is a blurred, rocky landscape under a clear blue sky.

- In direct disbelief of Islamic traditions, the Nazar Boncugu, also known as the evil eye is in offices, homes, in transport and businesses. Turks believe this talisman wards off evil and these days, as well as featuring heavily in Turkish culture, it is one of the top recommended souvenirs to buy



# FOOD, BREAKFAST AND BREAD

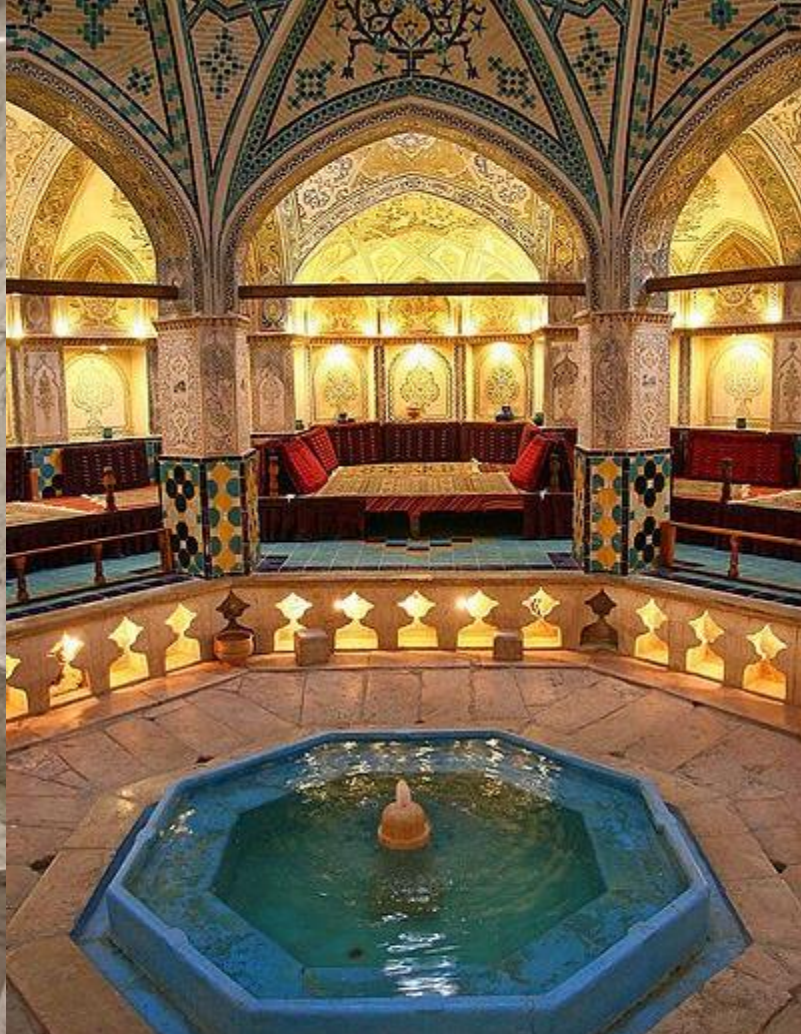
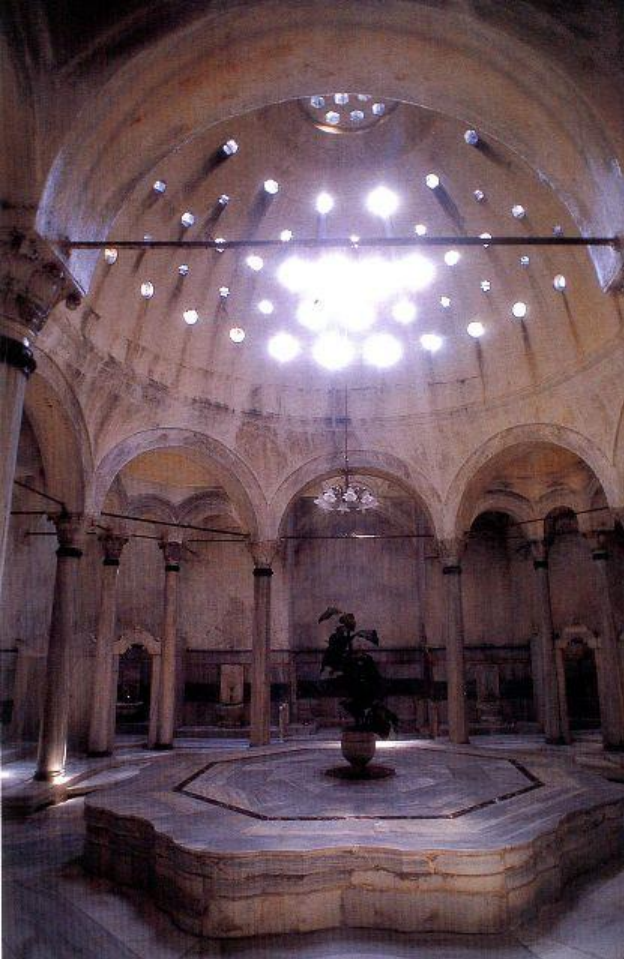


- Food is an integral part of Turkish society. Each meal is a gift from Allah to enjoy, and not waste, so Turkish women often spend hours in the kitchen, with painstaking and intense recipes. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and typically includes eggs, cucumbers, tomatoes, and olives but never forget the bread, at either breakfast or other mealtimes. It is a staple part of Turk's diets and sold in masses across the country. Some Turks even refuse to sit down to a meal without it.

# THE TURKISH HAMAM

- This tradition stemming from the Roman public bathhouses and modified by the Ottomans, has split into two. Certain Turkish baths are touristic orientated because westerners prefer to wear swimming costumes while others cater for the local community in the tradition way and this is seen in the weekly practise of women only day.
- People enter naked or wear a swimming costume, to sit in the sauna while dosing down with cold water. A scrub down with a lofar and plenty of soapsuds is good exfoliation of dead skin and the optional choice of a body massage is usually offered in the touristic bathhouses.



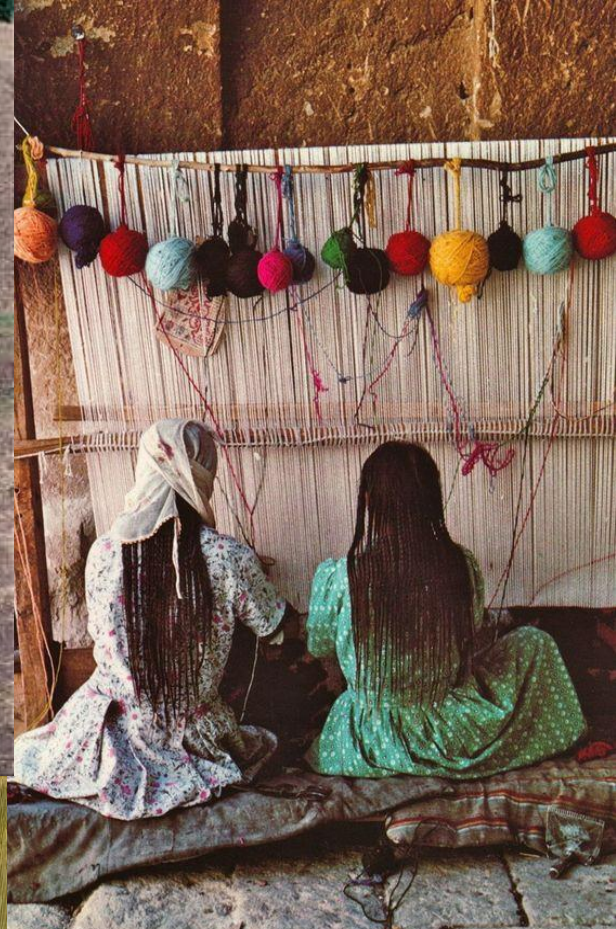
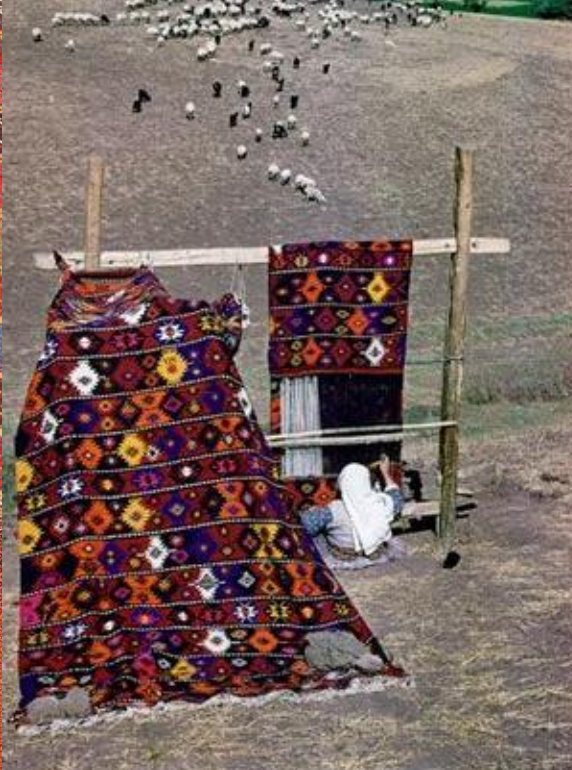




# TURKISH RUGS AND CARPETS

- **In every Turkish home, carpets and rugs sit proudly on the floors. With elaborate decoration, the handmade carpets have also become popular holiday souvenirs. Stemming from the days of the nomadic tribes, unfortunately, some rogue salespersons sell fake Turkish carpets. In recent years, as décor design has become more modern, some Turks also opt for the factory-made carpets that are often cheaper.**







# HOSPITALITY: SHOES, DINING AND GIFTS

- Turks are hospitable and often invite newfound friends around to their house for a dinner party. Visitors are given slippers, so they can leave their shoes at the door and copious amounts of food will be offered of which it is rude to refuse. During this time, a gift is not expected but if you intend to adhere to the popular western culture of bringing a bottle of wine, be sure to check whether the hosts drink. A lot are teetotal or only drink outside of the house.

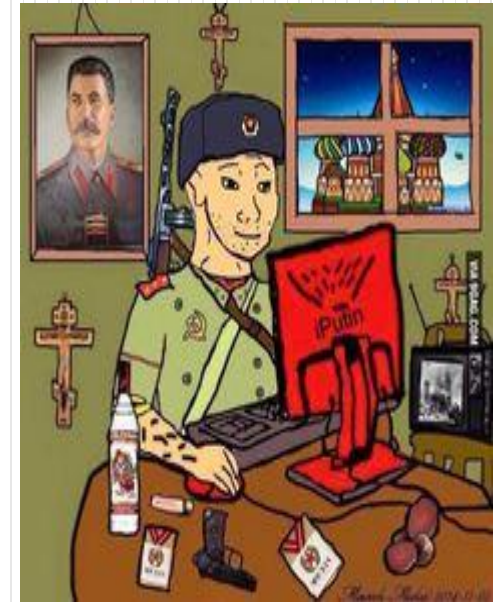
# Tea and National Drinks

- Contrary to popular belief, Turks only drink their version of coffee on a few days during the week. Instead, the national drink is tea, served black in tulip-shaped glasses and sweetened with sugar according to the drinker's preference. A common feature in most villages, towns, and cities are the men only teahouses where they gather to drink tea and play games such as OK. Otherwise, tea gardens are popular for families and females, especially on the weekends.
- Tolga Ertukel, owner and manager of [Turkey Homes](#) says...
- *When visiting Turkey, keep an eye out for the local customs and traditions and you will be pleasantly surprised at how much they can enhance your holiday.*

Turkey's signature drink -TURKISH RAKI -



# STEREOTYPES



# STEREOTYPE QUIZE

- [http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/understanding-stereotypes.cfm ...](http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/understanding-stereotypes.cfm)
- [https://www.sporcle.com/games/cysion/countries\\_by\\_stereotype](https://www.sporcle.com/games/cysion/countries_by_stereotype)

# ACTIVITIES

- **Appears to understand how culture contributes to one's worldview.**
- Find 5 pictures (of varying ethnicity and gender) on the internet. Find faces associated with news stories or announcements about them that contain some biographical information.
- Print one image per sheet and distribute them in the class. After passing the pictures out to the students, ask students to study the picture and write a paragraph or two description of the person based on their perception of the person from the picture. The description must include:
  - Name
  - Age
  - Occupation
  - Family life
  - Educational background
  - Socio-economic status
  - Potential religious background/beliefs  
optional data: mood state, personal characteristics such a number of friends.  
introvert/extrovert  
music preferences
- Put the pictures up on the screen, and ask the students to read out the descriptions they wrote. Students need to explain how they came to those descriptions of the person and the relationship of the description to their personal experiences or the physical appearance of the person.
- **Explanation:** This is a benchmark level 1 assignment because no research is done on the actual culture, it is just supposition or knowledge the student currently has on the ethnicity of the person in the image.

- **Shows awareness of own cultural preferences and biases and indicates a preference for one's own**

Ask each student their name and then ask them the following:

- Why were you given that name?

Is it linked to another person in the family? how?

What are the naming conventions in your family? is that convention related to your cultural background?

What does your name mean?

Do you like your name?

If you could rename yourself, would you?

Do you think your name affects the way people interact with you?

- **Explanation:** This is a great activity for helping students start to gain some surface awareness of their own culture

- **Cultural Compass Activity**

Pass out “Cultural Compass” to the students.

To students: “Your readings describe the enormous influence that culture can have on health and the ways in which people interact with health resources. This exercise will help students think about their own culture(s) and the cultural messages that these cultures may impart about health.

Instructions for the Cultural Compass:

“First identify the culture(s) to which you belong. Culture can be based on many things such as: race or ethnicity, religion, the area in which you live (e.g. city or farm culture, your occupation (e.g. student culture), hobbies or abilities (e.g. gaming culture).

“After you have listed all of the cultures with which you identify, circle one that is very important to you, or one from which you received lots of health-related messages.

“In each corner of the compass, list the beliefs or messages that you received as a member of your culture about these things. What messages, for instance, did you receive about what you should do or be as a man or a woman? How do people in your culture act when someone they love is very ill or dies? What about mental illness, which is emphasized in our readings and videos?

# Teşekkür ederim

(Vielen Dank)

Melis Özveran & Anh Dung Chu

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