

Handout 1: What is culture?

Culture is much more than the things we see, hear, or experience on the surface. It is deeper and more significant than those things that are easy to see, taste and define. (Modified from L. Derman Sparks' Anti-Bias Education, Chapter 5). This "culture volcano" is a visual representation of what is seen and un-seen:

Surface Culture

Artifacts
Costumes Foods
Holidays

Deep Culture

Language
Values
Showing emotion
Extended family relationships
Work (who does what, where)
Housing arrangements
Religion
Community connection
Health Care
Intergenerational relationships
Historic events
Gender roles
Role of children

