Cultural Etiquette, Eating Patterns, Meal Preparation and Celebration Foods

# Assignment

Choose a country that you are not all that familiar with to investigate.

For the country, you will find out information for each of the following categories about the food, traditions and etiquette of your country.

**EATING PATTERNS**

* What meals are eaten? At what times of the day? How often?
* What foods are typically included at each meal?
* How common is snacking? What foods would be for snacks?
* Other relevant information.

**ETIQUETTE AND MANNERS**

* What does a typical table setting look like in this country?
* What would a holiday table setting look like in this country?
* What seating arrangements would be appropriate in this country? Why?
* What manners are commonly practiced in this country (mealtime and otherwise)?
* What cookware and utensils would be used for meal times?
* What special rules must you follow when dining? (e.g. don’t slurp your soup)

**FOOD PREPARATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

* What would a typical kitchen of this country look like?
* Who is primarily responsible for meal preparation?
* Where can people obtain food in this country?
* What role do supermarkets, specialty stores, restaurants, take-out places and prepared foods play in this country?

**CELEBRATION AND TRADITIONAL FOODS**

* How would one decorate for a celebration? (e.g. Chinese Lanterns)
* What foods are involved in the various cultural celebrations of this country?
* What foods are commonly eaten in this country?

**FUN FACTS / PHOTOS**

* Any fun or interesting facts or photos that you find that would also be relevant.

You will then use this information to create an electronic collection of this information. Sites you could use include Pinterest, google docs, presentation, prezi, facebook, movenote, evernote, doctopus, or any other relevant “apps” that allow you to collect information and keep it together.

A brief commentary, written by you, should be provided for each point of information that you discover. Then you will share the information that you gained with the class.

**Rubric for Cultural Investigation**

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| **Category** | **Grade** | **Comments** |
| **Knowledge**:  student demonstrates an accurate understanding of the culture’s food and related practices. Ample detail is supplied for each question. |  |  |
| **Thinking:**  Information is effectively synthesized  Great connections between the photos provided and the information described  Information effectively summarizes the important aspects and customs of another country and culture |  |  |
| **Communication:**  Ideas are organized and clear. Spelling and grammar are accurate. |  |  |
| **Application:**  Poster/Powerpoint effectively presents the required information.  Accurate APA works cited |  |  |

Teacher note: This can then be used as a launching point for further discussion in the course. The part about food preparation responsibilities can easily evolve into a discussion on equity – whose cooking skills are valued? How easily can people access food in that country? For table manners – why is it based on right handedness? Are manners only for the wealthy? Depending on your manners, are you likely to be treated differently?