

## TEACHER'S NOTES

## ACTIVITY 3C. World traditions: matching game and taboo

**In this activity, students will...**

- Find out about different cultural traditions.
- Explore the challenges that may arise when communicating about unfamiliar traditions.
- Explore the challenges that may arise when trying to communicate without using certain words.
- Discuss the impact of cultural differences on communication.

ESTIMATED  
TIME

40 MIN

**How to use this resource**

- |                |  |            |
|----------------|--|------------|
| <b>STAGE 1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <u>Introduction to the topic – matching game.</u> As a class, match each tradition's description with its name, its country/countries of origin, and the corresponding picture. Read the descriptions provided aloud and help your students match them up with the other items. You could project the sheet for everyone to see (recommended, so the students can see the pictures in colour) or give each student a printed sheet on which they can connect the dots themselves. Once all a tradition's items have been matched up, give your students the chance to discuss what they know about it from personal experience.</li> </ul>    | <b>10'</b> |
| <b>STAGE 2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <u>Play taboo.</u> Student A is given a prompt card and has to help student B guess what tradition it refers to. Student B is not allowed to see the card and student A must avoid using the forbidden key words listed on it. Student C acts as a referee, watching over student A's shoulder and pointing out any forbidden words used. Students take turns at playing each of the three roles. The tradition's country/countries of origin must not be mentioned under any circumstances. After the activity, distribute the sheet with the descriptions to your students.</li> </ul>  | <b>15'</b> |
| <b>STAGE 3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <u>Group discussion.</u> Talk about the challenges of communicating when you are not familiar with the tradition involved or cannot use certain key concepts/words. What was difficult? Why? What strategies did student A use to make student B understand? Discuss your own context. Ask your students: How would you translate the names of these traditions for someone from your country who knows little or nothing about them? Would a word-for-word translation make sense? Would any of the strategies used by student A work? What other strategies could be used to come up with a comprehensible but concise solution?</li> </ul> | <b>15'</b> |

**Prep time suggestions**

- Read the descriptions of the traditions provided.
- Get ready to project the sheet for the matching game in class.
- Print and cut out as many sets of cards as there are groups for stage 2.
- Read chapter 2 of the Teacher's Book *Inclusion, Diversity and Communication Across Cultures* (<https://pagines.uab.cat/eylbid/en/content/teachers-book>) for background information about cultures.
- Read chapter 3 of the Teacher's Book *Inclusion, Diversity and Communication Across Cultures* (<https://pagines.uab.cat/eylbid/en/content/teachers-book>) for background information about translating across cultures.

### Variations

- Taboo can be played as a group game. Divide the class into two teams and have students take turns at helping their teammates guess what tradition the card they are holding refers to.
- Consider giving your students homework before playing these games. They could use Wikipedia to research each of the 10 traditions, to find out where and when it happens and what it involves.
- If taboo proves too challenging, consider the possibility of letting students use just one of the forbidden words listed on each card.

### 3C. World traditions: matching game and taboo



• Eid al-Fitr •

• Spain



• Schultüte •

• Germany, Austria

• Guérewol •

• USA



• Thanksgiving •

• Turkey

• Spring Festival •

• Russia, Ukraine, Belarus

• Day of the Dead •

• Japan



• Hanami •

• Niger

• Diwali •

• China

• Tió de Nadal •

• India



• Maslenitsa •

• Mexico

### Descriptions to read aloud in class

Picture	Name	Country	Language family
	Tió de Nadal	Spain	A Catalan Christmas tradition in which a piece of cut wood has a face painted on it and is given a hat and covered with a blanket. Children hit it with a stick while singing a song and it poos small gifts.
	Spring Festival	China	A festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the Chinese calendar and sees Chinese families hold annual reunion dinners. Streets are decorated with red lanterns and envelopes. Dragon and lion dances and fireworks are common during the festival.
	Diwali	India	The Hindu festival of lights. It symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness. People decorate their homes with oil lamps and candles, light fireworks, and give each other gifts and sweets.
	Day of the Dead	Mexico	A Mexican festivity in which family and friends gather to remember those who have died. People build altars and use colourful calaveras and flowers to honour the dead. They also visit the graves of the deceased, taking them their favourite food and beverages as gifts.
	Schultüte	Germany, Austria	A large, decorated, cone-shaped container, usually made of paper, which is filled with toys, chocolates, sweets and school supplies. It is given to children on their first day of school to help calm their nerves.
	Thanksgiving	USA	Originally a harvest festival and now, in the United States, a day whose centrepiece is a dinner that usually consists of turkey, potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Thanksgiving parades are held in many cities.
	Maslenitsa	Russia, Ukraine, Belarus	An Eastern Slavic religious and folk holiday involving outdoor celebrations in which people wear traditional clothes. Its traditional symbol is the scarecrow. Sleigh rides are very popular. People make pancakes and crepes to eat and share with friends.
	Hanami	Japan	An outdoor party celebrated under blossoming cherry trees in Japan. The trees' blossoms only last a week or two. Thousands of people fill parks and hold parties that usually go on until late at night.
	Eid al-Fitr	Turkey	A Muslim religious holiday that celebrates the end of fasting for Ramadan. A specific Islamic prayer is said in an open field or a large hall. The celebration takes place in the tenth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, beginning at sunset on the night of the first sighting of the crescent moon.
	Guérewol	Niger	An annual courtship ritual competition in Niger, in which men in ornamentation and traditional face painting dance and sing in front of marriageable women. Group singing is accompanied by clapping, stamping and bells.

## Taboo cards



## Eid al-Fitr

**Forbidden words:**

Fasting – Ramadan – Prayer –  
Lunar calendar – Muslims – Sunset – Moon

## Tió de Nadal

**Forbidden words:**

Stick – Gift – Christmas – Sing – Poo –  
Wood – Hit

## Guérewol

**Forbidden words:**

Courtship – Men – Marriageable women –  
Dance – Sing – Face painting – Ornamentation

## Thanksgiving

**Forbidden words:**

Dinner – Turkey – Parades – Pumpkin –  
Harvest – Potatoes – Cranberry

## Hanami

**Forbidden words:**

Outdoor – Cherry – Tree – Blossom –  
Park – Party – Night

## Spring Festival

**Forbidden words:**

New year – Red – Fireworks – Dinner – Lion –  
Dragon – Lantern

## Day of the Dead

**Forbidden words:**

Dead – Calaveras – Colourful – Altar –  
Grave – Flowers – Honour

## Maslenitsa

**Forbidden words:**

Traditional clothes – Scarecrow – Pancake –  
Crepe – Sleigh – Folk – Outdoor

## Schultüte

**Forbidden words:**

Cone – Paper – School – Chocolates –  
Sweets – Toys – Nerves

## Diwali

**Forbidden words:**

Lights – Candles – Oil lamps – Sweets –  
Gifts – Fireworks – Darkness