

Kathy Short, 2019

Global Thinking: Comparing to Understand

Intercultural understanding involves a willingness to engage with complexity by exploring both how we connect to people in a specific global context and how we value what makes each culture unique.

- *Intercultural understanding is a stance of openness to multiple ways of thinking and being in the world and to differences as resources for our shared humanity. This stance also involves social responsibility for working together to create a better and more just world (Short, 2016)*

Compare these photographs of people engaged in a similar activity but in different cultural contexts and explore the following questions.

- **Looking for connections and similarity** in order to explore universalities that connect us as human beings across cultures
What are the connections across these two situations?
What about these two situations looks similar?
- **Looking for uniqueness and difference** in order to acknowledge the differences that make each culture unique
What is unique about each situation?
What about these two situations looks different?
- **Asking deep questions** in order to explore underlying issues/values that might explain differences and to develop the expectation that there are reasons for differences within the culture.
What deep questions or big ideas might help us understand what is going on?
What are possible reasons for *why* these actions are occurring in each situation?
- **Going beyond** in order to become aware that we do not fully understand a culture that differs from our own and to continue to inquire.
What questions do we still have?
What do we need to know more about to understand these situations?
How can we go beyond our current understandings?

Connections

Differences



Big Ideas –
Why?



Need to
Know