

## Teaching notes for BAFABAFA activity

### Objectives:

- To demonstrate the complexities of interacting with people from different cultures, be they religious, social, political or organisational
  - To highlight our commonly negative perception of alternative cultures
  - To explore ways to cross the cultural divide
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### Timing:

5-10 minutes intro and divide groups

c50 minutes for activity

30-60 minutes for discussion

### Notes:

#### Introduction (5-10 minutes)

We have over 20 countries of the world represented in this room- within these countries there may be 100's of languages spoken many religious beliefs practiced and many more subtle social exchanges going on. It is in this environment that we as conservationists are operating. To operate effectively we need to be able to cross cultural boundaries and find common ground in order to get support for our work.

In this activity we will be putting you in a situation that will allow you to explore the idea of culture and how we deal with immersion in another culture.

You will be divided into two culture- Alpha and Beta, have a chance to practice with your new cultural identity and then travel to the other culture to determine the rules that govern that culture...

**DIVIDE UP GROUP INTO ALPHA AND BETA GROUPS- GROUPS TO SEPARATE ROOMS** (activity will last for approx. 50 minutes).

Simulation director instructions (also director of Alpha culture):

- Prepare a co-director to run Beta culture- give instruction booklet and tape in advance
- Decide no. visitors to other culture in each contingent- as host groups approx. 12 people each then contingent of 2/3?
- Give out cards and chips to each member of alpha group- *1 blimmer, 1 stipper, 1 tibber, 5 chips and an alpha card plus pencil*
- Select an observer and give numbers to other group members to identify visitors to other group (director of Beta needs to do this too)
- Ensure all alphan's clear on how to play the 'match the leader' game
- Prepare cards and chips (& pencils) for visitors from beta culture
- When tape running hold up cards etc. to demonstrate what is being talked about
- Time limit for visitors to cultures= 2 minutes followed by 2 minutes to discuss with own culture feedback from visit
- Note- observers do not get any cards etc. only visitors that follow
- Note- neither visitors nor observers can ask rules of other culture

Discussion (30-60 minutes)

Main points to highlight:

- Key objective of simulation is to allow participants to explore feelings, anxieties, misperceptions, and counter-productive attitudes of people who have to engage with others of another culture
- Plan of questions to ask as lead-in to discussion:
  1. On board write up table with column title Betans on Alphans and second column, Alphans on Betans.
  2. **Ask:** Betans to give words that describe Alphans (often words will be negative and judgmental)
  3. Vice-versa for Alphans
  4. **Ask:** Betans how alphans appeared when they visited (and opposite for Alphans)- info into columns three and four
  5. **Ask:** Betans to describe feelings and thoughts when visiting Alpha culture (opposite for Alphans)- info onto columns 5 & 6
  6. **Ask:** Betans to explain Alphan culture- then get Betan to explain own culture
  7. **Ask:** Alphans to explain Betan culture- then get Alphan to explain own culture
  8. ***Which culture would you prefer to live in and why?***
  9. ***Are there any situations in the real world where it is difficult to ask the rules of the culture you are visiting?***

(See photocopy of pages 20-24 of booklet for further points)

Conclusions- see photocopy page 23-24 of booklet.