

CUSTOMS, MANNERS AND CULTURES

Researched by Lorre Fleming

- EATING:** U.S.- point forks up
Some countries - point forks down
Japan, China, and other oriental countries - use chopsticks
Arab countries - eat with fingers from one bowl
- BELCHING:** U.S.- bad manners
Arab countries - shows host how much they enjoyed the meal;
thanks the cook.
- SLURPING:** U.S.- bad manners
Japan - slurp as loud as you can; shows that you enjoy the food.
- GREETING:** U.S.- handshake
Japan - bow
Europe/South America - kiss each cheek
- CLOTHING:** Africans (Botswana) - only beads and paint, depending on climate
Arab countries - women are completely covered
- DEATH:** U.S. & Europe - wear black for funerals
India & China - wear white for funerals
- SHOWING RESPECT:** Tibet - stick out tongue
Japan - bow
Yugoslavia - pinches friend's cheek
Nigeria - clap
- EYE CONTACT:** U.S. - rude not to look at someone when talking
Asians & Native Americans - considered rude to look at people
when talking; disrespectful.
- CLAPPING AT A PERFORMANCE:** U.S. & England - actors bow; audience claps to thank actors.
Soviets - actors clap to thank the audience
- BODY DECORATION:** U.S. and Europe - wear jewelry
Africans/Tribes in South America - tattoos, body painting, lip
rings

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THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the factors that might make cultures different?
(weather, religion, geography)
2. Why are some things considered rude in one culture and polite in another?
(the way that we are raised, our society, etc.)
3. What do you think is meant by this quote: "I've learned that good manners sometimes means simply putting up with other people's bad manners." ?
4. How have other cultures made the U.S.A. a better place to live?
5. What are some contributions other cultures have made to our society?
6. What are some guidelines for appropriate behaviors when visiting other countries?
7. Why is it important that we be tolerant and understanding of different behaviors when people from other countries visit the U.S.A.?

