

Mrs Chia and Eileen

Approach: One to one

Level: Year 8

Focus: Why and how culture and heritage are sustained.

Resources: Photo of Chinese mother and daughter, photo of other New Zealand family.

Questions/instructions:

In this activity we are going to talk about people's different cultures.

Culture is the special way that people do things, and the special things they believe are important.

Show photo 1.



This photograph shows Mrs Chia and her daughter Eileen. Mrs Chia came from China to live in New Zealand. Eileen was born in New Zealand. She is a Chinese New Zealander.

Mrs Chia thinks it's important that Eileen learns about Chinese culture.

1. Why does Mrs Chia think it is important that Eileen learns about Chinese culture?

understand own/family background/heritage	78
adequate command of language – for communication with relatives, etc	18
maintain traditions/culture/language in family (<i>Eileen and then her children</i>)	32
Overall understanding:	
strong	6
moderate	41
weak	53

2. What are some of the important things about Chinese culture that Mrs Chia might want Eileen to learn?

knowledge about place (<i>geography</i>), flora, fauna	8
knowledge of history	13
knowledge of language	50
knowledge of living skills (<i>food, dress, behaviour, values</i>)	44
knowledge of cultural activities (<i>dance, song, art, sport, celebrations, etc.</i>)	51
Overall understanding:	
strong	9
moderate	46
weak	44

3. How could Eileen learn about Chinese culture?

from immediate family and local or visiting relatives	78
from travel to China	43
from media reading, listening, viewing (<i>books, Internet, film, video, radio, etc.</i>)	41
from cultural groups/programmes in NZ	34
Overall understanding:	
strong	18
moderate	51
weak	31

Show photo 2.



Here is a New Zealand family. Think about New Zealand culture.

4. What do you think are the important features of New Zealand culture that these parents will want to pass on to their children?

knowledge about place (<i>geography</i>), flora, fauna	28
knowledge of history	31
knowledge of living skills/patterns (<i>food, dress, behaviour, values</i>)	28
knowledge of cultural activities (<i>arts, sports, celebrations, etc.</i>)	28
knowledge of Māori language/culture and/or Treaty	33
knowledge of English language	10
Overall understanding:	
strong	6
moderate	30
weak	64

Commentary:

These year 8 students showed better understanding of the special importance of Chinese culture to Mrs Chia and Eileen than of New Zealand culture to New Zealand families.