

Making Cultural Connections, Collections, and Reflection

Products, Practices, and Perspectives

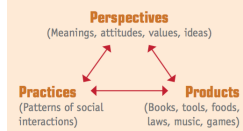
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Using Cultural Themes to Guide Your Projects

- You'll be selecting a Swedish cultural topic or theme to focus on in your projects
- The ultimate goal is to better understand Swedish cultural values, attitudes, and perspectives
- You may choose to start broad and then narrow (e.g., with concrete and then underlying connections)
- Why?
 - Making deeper connections
 - Asking more critical questions
 - Metacognition—What does it really mean?

Our Cultural Framework—The 3 Ps

- From the National Standards for Foreign Languages
- Gaining knowledge and understanding of other cultures
 - Demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between “products” and “perspectives”
 - Demonstrating an understanding of the relationship between “practices” and “perspectives” of a culture



Our Cultural Framework—The 3 Ps

- **Products: What?**
 - Concrete aspects of daily life (e.g., foods, laws, games)
 - Tangible and intangible (e.g., art work, works of literature, oral tales, system of education)
 - Inventions and innovations (e.g., forms of transportation, processes, gadgets)
 - Aesthetic expressions (e.g., music, art)
- **Practices: How?**
 - Patterns of behavior (those acceptable)
 - Social interactions (in specific cultural contexts)
 - What to do when and where
 - Examples: uses of personal space, when to shake hands/make small talk, uses of formal/informal language
- **Perspectives: Why?**
 - Traditional ideas, attitudes, and values (e.g., importance of family, personal privacy, etc.)
 - Underlying beliefs that justify a product or practice (e.g., valuing ownership, belief that humans are part of the natural world)
 - World view
 - What individuals do/think from their own POV

Selecting your Swedish Topic or Theme

- You may select a topic/theme that is a product or a practice
 - Through the project (including your research), we hope you will come to better understand how that product or practice speaks to cultural values, attitudes, and or perspectives
 - By pairing all your projects with your topic, you should ultimately be able to make summative (e.g., broad) assessments of Swedish values and perspectives

A Few Examples...

- **Example Topic: Swedish immigration policy (a practice)**
 - Through projects/research: Swedes generally value inclusion (a perspective)
 - However, becoming more isolationist (like much of the larger world) as a result of fear of immigrant-sponsored violence (e.g., gangs, jihadists, etc.)
- **Example Topic: Art or Literature (products)**
 - Through projects/research: What do the Swedes value as historic, culturally representative, and worthy of display? (perspectives)
- **Example Topic: Family**
 - Through projects/research: How is “family” defined in Sweden? (perspective)
 - How is this definition represented in law and practice? (practice)
- **Example Topic: Education or Literacy (products or practices)**
- **Example Topic: Language (product)**

Finnish Example 1



- Product: Finnish Church Boats
- Practice:
 - "We rowed the same waters and the same boats as historic Finns, who traveled great and physically-demanding distances to attend church."
 - "Our journey put us aside ancient culture and the petroglyphs left behind. How many others have made this same journey."
- Perspective:
 - "Ronda's inclination to incantation perfectly echoed the roots of Finnish creation myth, the Haltia Nature Center, and present-day Finnish culture."
 - "According to the Kalevala, in the beginning there was only air and water."

Finnish Example 2



- Product: Recycling Machines
- Practice:
 - Importance of recycling and living green
 - A social expectation
- Perspective:
 - Demonstrates an underlying belief of sustainability
 - Creating a better "place" for others
 - Recognition that we only have one planet
 - Relationship between life (e.g., human, flora, fauna, Earth)



Signing Up for Your Swedish Topic

1. Go to our Swedish Connections, Collections, and Reflections Weebly
2. [Professional Development Resources](#)
3. Sign up for a [Cultural Theme](#)

*Remember to think about Products/Practices and how you might use this experience to better understand related Swedish cultural perspectives.

*Feel free to go ahead and sign up for a topic/theme if you have one in mind.