

CONCEPT: CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND DIVERSITY

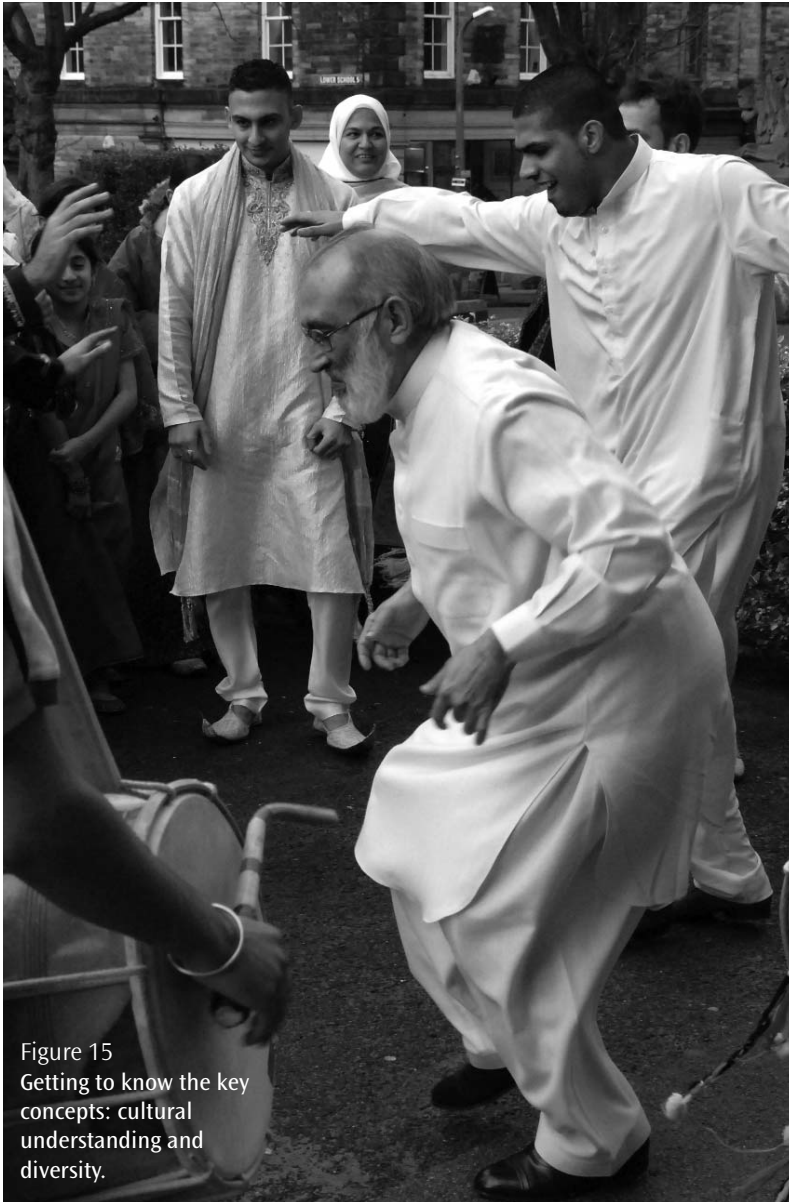


Figure 15
Getting to know the key concepts: cultural understanding and diversity.

<p>What it is What is it and why are geographers interested?</p>	<p>Experiences to provide If students are to gain understanding of this concept, they will need to be given these experiences at KS3:</p>	<p>Outcomes for students If KS3 students understand this concept they are likely to:</p>
<p>The term cultural diversity encompasses the geographer's interest in the differences and similarities between places; the rich array of customs, habits, traditions and activities that characterise groups and communities; and the conflicts that arise from trying to live together</p> <p>Geographers have always recognised and aimed to understand cultural diversity. Traditional regional geography aimed to do so and laid stress on the uniqueness of regions and places</p> <p>Today's cultural geographers are more likely to stress some of the common dynamic social and cultural processes that influence communities (e.g. social inequality, fragmented lives, greater mobility, hi-tech links) and to focus on interdependence and scale. Recent research interests include the culture-nature debate and interest in identity politics and post-colonialism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to study a range of places and cultures at different scales and in different parts of the world • The chance to delve deeper into what is meant by identity and to explore the kinds of factors that give rise to feelings of common identity (e.g. language, customs, own place, traditions, sport) • First-hand experience of meeting and talking with people from different cultures in an unthreatening atmosphere (e.g. social event, display of work, school exchange, fieldtrip) • Opportunity to consider the lives of alienated groups/outsideers at a small/local scale (e.g. playground groupings, local 'new' immigrant communities) • Exposure to cultural resources that express identity and common culture (e.g. paintings, museum artefacts, writings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise similarities and differences between places, describing and explaining some of the main physical and human processes that have led to these • Use their understanding of cultural difference to highlight the interdependence of people, places and environments • Show understanding of how the different attitudes and values held by people influence their response to other people, places and environments • Recognise and describe the diverse range of cultures and societies that impact on their own lives • Hold positive attitudes to other people, places and cultures

Geographers writing about cultural diversity:
Claire Dwyer, Denis Cosgrove, Felix Driver