

The “Culturally Fit” Congregation

Expanding Our World of Understanding

Ways to shrink our globe, shrink our waistlines and expand our minds and understanding of our neighbors on this planet.

Defining neighbor and neighborhood in the 21st century

The terms “neighbor” and “neighborhood “ have taken on new meanings in this generation. Mr. Roger’s neighborhood has changed. The neighbors on our street might as well be 3,000 miles across the ocean and the people 3,000 miles across the ocean have suddenly come into our living rooms via the evening news. We are connected instantly to places with strange names and to people who speak differently, eat different foods and in most cases, live with much less than we do.

How do we, “the church,” respond to our world? Are we apathetic, ignorant or hostile? Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”(Matthew 28:19)

Jesus also said in reference to the hurting of this world, “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ (Matthew 25:37-40)

The beginnings of understanding and reconciliation come with awareness and knowledge. When we take the time to learn about people, we can begin to experience community with those people. Knowing their history, values, living conditions, customs and geographical location expands our knowledge and understanding. They are no longer statistics, but living, breathing, feeling, and sometimes hurting people created by God. We share this planet with 6 billion people and according to the Human Genome Project completed in 2000, in terms of genetics, all human beings, regardless of race, are more than 99.9% the same. (*U.S. News*, 11/11/02)

What made Jesus’ ministry and life so effective and remarkable is that He met people where they were and understood the very core of their being. We the church of the 21st century need to respond to the rest of the world with the compassion of Jesus. This imaginary Walk to Bethlehem/Jerusalem is a beginning. Our minds will be filled with new information about our neighbors and our world. Our body will become more physically fit as we walk. Our spiritual lives will be enriched by prayer and meditation.

To increase global and cultural awareness, a cultural quotient test is a fun learning activity that you may want to use in a small group setting, as part of a kickoff “Walk to Jerusalem” celebration, or as part of a packet of information to give to walkers for their individual learning.

Cultural Quotient Pre-Test

Let's begin our Walk to Jerusalem with a cultural quotient test. Hopefully by the end of this journey our cultural quotient will improve and we will know more about our global neighbors.

It's easy to take things for granted. As Americans, we forget that most of the world is starving. We have no idea what it would be like not to have religious freedom. Because we begin our Walk to Jerusalem in the USA, the land of the free and the home of the brave, we need to review some of those places, people and principles which make us so privileged and blessed. True or False:

1. The motto for the state of Ohio is , "With God all things are possible."
2. The first soda pop made in the United States was created in Detroit in 1862 and was called Vernor's Ginger Ale.
3. The Great Lakes consist of 5 lakes: Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and Lake Ontario.
4. The first inhabitants of Pennsylvania were American Indians.
5. The Iroquoian speaking tribes in the New York/Pennsylvania area were first known as the Five Nations.
6. The signing of the Constitution of the United States took place on July 4, 1776.
7. The U.S. Constitution is the oldest written constitution of any government in the world.
8. A proclamation by President George Washington and a congressional resolution established the first national Thanksgiving Day on November 26, 1789. The reason for the holiday was to give "thanks" for the new constitution.

Multiple Choice:

9. The current population of the US is approximately:
a.) 276 million b.) 225 million c.) 303 million d.) 323 million
10. All were US presidents except:
a.) John Hancock b.) Chester A. Arthur c.) James Garfield d.) Herbert Hoover
11. The Declaration of Independence was penned and signed at:
a.) College of William & Mary b.) Jamestown c.) Independence Hall d.) White House
12. Which president was fined \$20 for speeding on his horse?
a.) William Henry Harrison b.) George W. Bush c.) Ulysses S. Grant
d.) Lyndon Johnson
13. The youngest president ever elected was:
a.) Bill Clinton b.) John F. Kennedy c.) Teddy Roosevelt d.) John Adams
14. The population of the world is approximately:
a.) 1.6 billion b.) 6.6 billion c.) 2.5 billion d.) 9 billion
15. The main point of entry into the US for immigrants from 1892-1954 was:
a.) Staten Island b.) Ellis Island c.) Long Island c.) The NY Port Authority
16. The Statue of Liberty was presented to us by:
a.) the British b.) the French Canadians c.) the French d.) the Germans

Multiple Choice:

17. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" This inscription on the Statue of Liberty was written by:

- a.) Thomas Hardy
- b.) Ralph Waldo Emerson
- c.) Emma Lazarus
- d.) Henry David Thoreau

18. The average depth of the Atlantic Ocean is:

- a.) 5,233 ft.
- b.) 2,974 ft.
- c.) 12,881 ft.
- d.) 24,233 ft.

19. The following are ports or harbors of the Atlantic Ocean except:

- a.) Helsinki
- b.) London
- c.) Hamburg
- d.) Milan

20. The distance across the Atlantic Ocean from New York City to Casablanca, Morocco is:

- a.) 3,607
- b.) 1,243
- c.) 6,282
- d.) 2,149

21. The capital of Morocco is:

- a.) Rabat
- b.) Casablanca
- c.) Fez
- d.) Acaba

22. The official language of Morocco is:

- a.) Berber
- b.) French
- c.) Spanish
- d.) Arabic

23) The state religion of Morocco is:

- a.) Sunni
- b.) Islam
- c.) Christian
- d.) Coptic

24. The country immediately east of Morocco is:

- a.) Sudan
- b.) Monaco
- c.) Algeria
- d.) Ethiopia

25. The capital of Algeria is:

- a.) Constantine
- b.) Annaba
- c.) Tindouf
- d.) Algiers

Multiple Choice:

26. Algeria's leading export is:
- a.) wine b.) petroleum c.) citrus fruits d.) cereals
27. The capital of Tunisia is:
- a.) La Goulette b.) Bizerte c.) Tunis d.) El Kef
28. The predominant religion in Tunisia is:
- a.) Muslim b.) Christian c.) Jewish
29. The official language of Tunisia is:
- a.) Tunisian b.) Arabic c.) French d.) Greek
30. The type of government in Tunisia is:
- a.) republic b.) dictatorship c.) monarchy d.) communist
31. The capital of Libya is:
- a.) Tripoli b.) Tobrick c.) Libania d.) Yabel
32. Libya has recently been in the news because:
- a.) It formally took responsibility for the 1988 bombing of the Pan Am plane over Scotland in August 2003.
 - b.) It announced it would abandon its attempts to develop weapons of mass destruction.
 - c.) Libya's long term dream of winning a United Nations Security Council seat was realized in October 2007.
 - d.) All of the above.
33. The capital of Egypt is:
- a.) Alexandria b.) Aswan c.) Cairo d.) Cleo
34. The Nile River is the longest river in the world stretching for:
- a.) 1,100 miles b.) 4,187 miles c.) 6,000 miles d.) 2,458 miles

Multiple Choice:

35. Which country withdrew their mandate of Palestine after World War II, which resulted in the UN partitioning the area into Arab and Jewish states?
- a.) USA b.) Russia c.) Great Britain d.) France
36. The official language of Israel is:
- a.) Arabic b.) English c.) Hebrew d.) Aramaic
37. The capital of Israel is:
- a.) Tel Aviv b.) Jerusalem c.) Bethlehem d.) Nazareth
38. The US Embassy to Israel is located in:
- a.) Tel Aviv b.) Jerusalem c.) Bethlehem d.) Nazareth
39. Jerusalem is a Holy City to all the following religions except:
- a.) Christian b.) Buddhist c.) Muslim d.) Jewish
40. According to the Jewish calendar, we are now in year:
- a.) 2,007 b.) 5,768 c.) 11,243 d.) 49,234

ANSWER SHEET

1. True. The motto, which also is used on tax forms and some official stationery, was adopted in 1959 at the suggestion of a Cincinnati schoolboy after he learned that Ohio was the only U.S. state without an official motto.
2. True. Vernors ginger ale was created in Detroit and became the first soda pop made in the United States. In 1862, pharmacist James Vernor was trying to create a new beverage when he was called away to serve our country in the Civil War. When he returned, 4 years later, the drink he had stored in an oak case had acquired a delicious gingery flavor.
3. False. The Great Lakes consist of: Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario and Lake Superior. Lake St. Clair is not one of the great lakes.
4. True. The first inhabitants of Pennsylvania were American Indians. They were people of Mongoloid ancestry unaware of European culture.
5. True. The Iroquoian speaking tribes were known as the Five Nations and included the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas.
6. False. The signing of the U.S. Constitution took place on September 17, 1787. The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776.
7. True. The U.S. Constitution is the oldest written constitution of any government in the world.
8. True.

Multiple Choice:

9. c. 303 million
10. a. John Hancock
John Hancock was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- Chester A. Arthur was the 21st president of the United States, serving from 1881-1885. He dedicated the Washington Monument on 2/21/1885 during his term of office.
- James Garfield was the 20th president of the United States, serving from 3/4/1881-9/19/1881. On 9/19, after only serving a few months in office, he became the 2nd United States president to be assassinated.
- Herbert Hoover was the 31st president of the United States, serving from 1929-1933. During his term, Hitler came to power and he was president during the 1929 Stock Market Crash. (americanpresidents.org)
11. c. Independence Hall
12. c. Ulysses S. Grant
13. b. John F. Kennedy
John F. Kennedy was 44 when elected president. He was the 35th president and served from 1961-1963.
- Bill Clinton was the 42nd president and was 47 when elected president.
- Teddy Roosevelt was the 26th president and was 43 when he became president. Although the youngest president, he was not the youngest elected president. With the assassination of President McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt became the youngest president.
14. b. 6.6 billion (US Census Bureau)
- In 1990 the world population was 5.2 billion. Population projection for 2010 is 6.8 billion and for 2020 8.2 billion.
15. b. Ellis Island
16. c. The French. The Statue of Liberty is the tallest statue of modern times measuring 151 feet high on a 154 foot pedestal. It was presented to us by the French in 1884 to commemorate the alliance between the 2 countries during the Revolutionary War.
17. c. Emma Lazarus, a Jewish American poet saw the statue as a beacon to the world. She wrote a poem to help raise money for the pedestal. The poem is carved on the pedestal and captures what the statue came to mean to the millions who migrated to the United States seeking freedom, and who have continued to come unto this day. The name of the poem, written in 1883 was "The New Colossus".
(usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/63.htm)

Multiple Choice:

18. c. 12,881 Ft. (www.atlanticocean.ca)
19. d. Milan
20. a. 3,607 (indo.com)
21. a. Rabat (travel.state.gov/morocco.html)
The largest city in Morocco is Casablanca. The official name of the country is the Kingdom of Morocco.
22. d. Arabic
French is the dominant business language.
23. b. Islam

Almost all are Sunni Muslim. 1% are Christian and 0.2% are Jewish.
(arab.de/arabinfo/morocco)
24. c. Algeria (travel.state.gov/Algeria.html)
25. d. Algiers
26. b. Petroleum
Algeria has the 5th largest reserves of natural gas in the world and is the 2nd largest gas exporter.
27. c. Tunis
28. a. Muslim
29. b. Arabic
30. a. Republic
Following independence from France in 1956, President Habib Bourluiba established a strict one party state. He dominated the country for 31 years, repressing Islamic fundamentalism and establishing rights for women unmatched by any other Arab nation.
31. a. Tripoli
Tripoli is Libya's largest city and port. Tripoli is also mentioned in a key line of the Marine's Hymn. "From the Halls of Montezuma, To the Shores of Tripoli; We fight our country's battles On the land as on the sea".

Multiple Choice:

31. The four Barbary States of North Africa – Morocco, Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli – had plundered seaborne commerce for centuries. It was in 1805 that a small force of Marines participated in the capture of Tripoli and hoisted the American flag for the first time over a fortress of the Old World. The colors of the Corps was inscribed with the words: “To the Shores of Tripoli”. After the Marines participated in the capture and occupation of Mexico City and the Castle of Chapultepec, otherwise known as the “Halls of Montezuma”, the words were added, “From the Halls of Montezuma, To the Shores of Tripoli.” (www.mclwestchester.org/USMC/Hymn)
32. d. All of the above
The move by Libya in August 2003 to take responsibility for the bombing of a PanAm plane above the Scottish town of Lockerbie, paved the way for the lifting of UN sanctions. Four months later, Libya announced it would abandon its attempts to develop weapons of mass destruction.
(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle-east/country>)
33. c. Cairo
34. b. 4,187 miles
The Nile River flows from South to North. At the end of its 4,187 mile journey, it drains into the Mediterranean Sea. Its major source is Lake Victoria in east central Africa. The name Nile comes from the Greek Neilos, which means a valley or river valley. The river’s water and the fertile soil along its banks created the perfect setting for the evolution of the civilizations that existed in the ancient world. Those ancient people who lived along the banks of the Nile developed the art of agriculture and were one of the first to utilize the plow.
35. c. Great Britain
After World War II, the British withdrew from their mandate of Palestine, and the UN partitioned the area into Arab and Jewish states. The Arabs rejected this arrangement.
36. c. Hebrew
37. b. Jerusalem
38. a. Tel Aviv
39. b. Buddhist
The name of the city, Jerusalem, derives from an expression for peace “shalom” or “salam,” . It’s ironic that of all the cities on earth there is no city that has had so little peace. For Jews Jerusalem is the place where the Messiah will come and unite all peoples in peace, for Christians it is the place of the Apocalypse where heaven will descend to earth, for Muslims it is the site of the Last Judgment where all souls are waiting for deliverance. (www.owl.net.rice.edu)

Multiple Choice:

Three important places in Jerusalem that are important for each of the respective religions are:

For the Jews: The Western Wall is the venerated remnant of the 2nd temple (destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE). It is Judaism's most revered site.

For the Muslims: The Dome of the Rock is one of the oldest and most beautiful examples of Muslim architecture, a mosque built in the 7th century by the Umayyad Khalif Abed el-Malik, on the site of the destroyed Jewish Temple.

For the Christians: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built at the beginning of the Byzantine era, contains the last 5 Stations of the Cross and serves as a focal point for Christian pilgrimages. This church is the site of Jesus' crucifixion as well as His burial and Resurrection.

Jerusalem has been a spiritual center to Christians, Jews and Muslims. Christians consider it a holy city because many events in the life of Jesus took place there. Jews revere the city because it was their religious and political center. It was on Mount Moriah, in the city of Jebus (Jerusalem) where God called Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. (Genesis 22) Finally, the Muslims consider Jerusalem holy because they believe that the prophet Muhammed rose to heaven from there.

The city of Jerusalem is unique because it has three Sabbaths – Friday (Muslim), Saturday (Jewish) and Sunday (Christian).

The Muslims believe that Friday, the 6th Day, is the day in which the first human being was created and the creation was completed. Thus they feel it is the most significant day of the week. Unlike Judeo-Christian traditions, Muslims do not believe that on the 7th day God rested. They believe that God is far above the need for rest. (www.oneummah.net/faq/index).

The Jewish Shabbat or Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday evening because in the story of creation it says in Genesis 1 "And there was evening and there was morning one day." From this is inferred that a day begins with the evening sunset.

The Christian Sabbath is traditionally on Sunday, primarily to represent the 3rd day that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Thus Sunday becomes "resurrection day".

40. b. 5,768

The year number on the Jewish calendar represents the number of years since creation, calculated by adding up the ages of people in the Bible back to the time of creation. However, this does not necessarily mean that the universe has existed for only 5600 years as we understand years. Many Orthodox Jews will readily acknowledge that the first 6 days of creation are not necessarily 24 hour days. (www.jewfaq.org/calendar)