

### Activity 3

# Culture Bodies

#### Aim:

To explore what we mean by 'culture', how we define ourselves and where we belong.

#### Age:

10+

#### Time: 30 mins

#### Materials:

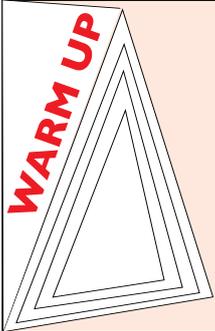
Rolls of lining paper (or flipcharts taped together), markers

#### What to do:

Roll out the lining paper and have one person lie down on it. Have another participant draw an outline around the person's body using markers. Once that is done, explain this is a 'Culture Body'. Choose one culture that the participants know well, and ask the group to write/draw symbols and words that they think are part of that culture. They can place the word/symbol on the body where they think it fits best, e.g. inside/outside the body, in the head, in the feet etc. If you have a lot of participants, break into groups of 5 or 6 and have one culture body per group. Ask participants to really think about the identity. What does it really mean to be part of a particular culture? Is it about liking traditional music, being born there or more?

Allow 20 minutes for the group to brainstorm and decorate the bodies. Display the bodies where others can see them.

**Debrief:** Was it difficult/easy to define Irish culture? Is it difficult/easy to define other cultures? Is a person's culture always obvious? Do other groups see the culture bodies as an accurate reflection of each culture?

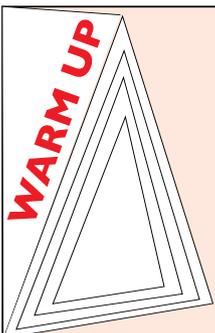


#### Shoot the Sheriff

Participants stand in a circle. A volunteer starts by making a shooting gesture at any other person (who becomes the sheriff) and saying their name. The sheriff has to duck before being 'shot'. When the sheriff ducks, the two people on either side of the sheriff have to try shoot each other. Whoever is shot first is out. The sheriff chooses the next person to 'shoot' at. The winner is the last person left. Alternatively, instead of the two people on either side of the sheriff shooting at each other, they have to shout the other person's name.

#### Note to leader:

It can work well if all groups do 'Irish culture' in order to have different perspectives on the same culture. But you can also include more specific cultures e.g. 'Irish Traveller', Gaeltacht, and so on. Depending on the group, you can start with 'Irish' culture and explore other cultures. Young people from other cultures can also choose to represent their own culture.



#### Mill Up

Each person is given a persona they assume (Barack Obama, Farmer, Garda, Politician, Young person etc). Read out a scenario. Participants mill around. The person must act as their persona would, taking on their gestures, facial appearance, and personality.