

Handout 1

Culture-grams for Indonesia, Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Russia

Puerto Rico

Land and Climate-With 3,515 square miles, Puerto Rico is about the same size as Rhode Island and Delaware combined. The island's climate is tropical, with warm and sunny weather.

The People-Spanish and English are both spoken in Puerto Rico. Because Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States, many people mix Spanish and English words. The major Christian religion is Roman Catholicism. Puerto Ricans have a relaxed attitude toward the concept of time. People and relationships are considered more important than keeping schedules.

Lifestyle- Puerto Rican families are close-knit. Extended families usually do not share the same household, but they often live close to each other in the same town. Rice and beans is the most commonly eaten main meal. Common in the diet are chicken, pork, beef, seafood, and fruits. The favorite sport is baseball, followed by basketball and volleyball.

Economy -Only three per cent of the population farms. Government jobs and tourism provide the most employment on the island.

Russia

Land and Climate-Russia is the largest country in the world. It is almost twice the size of the United States. Plains cover much of the country, but a large frozen tundra called Siberia dominates the north.

The People-Russian is the official language; however, students are studying foreign languages such as English, French, German, and Spanish. Half of the people belong to the Russian Orthodox Church. Other religions such as Judaism and Islam are allowed but these groups must register with the government

Lifestyle-Most people expect to marry and have children. The family is the basic social unit. But because housing in cities is difficult to get, young couples often live with their parents. Crowded apartment living is common. Food is plentiful, but expensive. People eat mostly bread and potatoes. Borsch is the most popular food, made of potatoes, cabbages, carrots, beets, and onions. Russians have little leisure time because of the amount of time necessary for getting food or working extra jobs. The favorite sport is soccer, and popular winter sports include ice skating, hockey, and cross-country skiing.

Economy-The economy remains weak and unstable for such reasons: political uncertainties, the nation's high debt, rising unemployment, and goods that are produced are of poor quality.

Indonesia

Land and climate-Indonesia is made up of 13,670 islands found along the equator. The size of the islands totals about one-fifth the size of the United States. Indonesia is home to tigers, elephants, monkeys, tropical birds, small deer, and komodo dragons. Indonesia has a tropical climate.

The official language is Indonesian, and most people also speak a native tongue of Javanese. English is the leading international language and is taught in schools. About 90 per cent of Indonesians are Muslim. Indonesians appreciate patience. They consider Westerners too quick to anger and too committed to the idea that “time is money.”

Lifestyle-Families used to be large, but modern families usually have two children. Indonesian parents work hard to provide the necessities of life for their children. Parents are very intent on raising polite and religious children. Rice is the main food. Beef and chicken are the most popular meats. People enjoy seafood, tofu, corn, kecap manis (a sweet dark sauce), and nasi champur (a vegetable dish with white rice, noodles, and chicken). The men like soccer and women in the cities do aerobics. Indonesians are among the best at the sport of badminton. Volleyball, tennis, cycling, basketball, walking, and marital arts are also enjoyed.

Economy-Indonesia is rich in natural resources. Half of the people are involved in agriculture.

Philippines

Land and Climate-The Philippines is composed of 7,107 islands, which would make it about the size of Arizona. Many of its islands are mountainous and volcanic and earthquake activity is common. The climate is tropical and humid.

The People-English and Filipino are the official languages. English is the language of business. The Philippines is the only predominantly Christian nation in Asia. About 80 percent of the population belong to the Roman Catholic Church. Individualism (being your own person) is less important to a Filipino than the family. Anything the individual does reflects on the family. Filipinos have a relaxed attitude toward time, and may not arrive at meetings promptly.

Livestyle- *The* extended family is the basic social unit, and more than one generation will often live together in the same household. Family ties are strong. Rice is the main food, and can be found in all courses, including dessert. A typical meal might consist of rice, fried fish, a vegetable, and fruit. Pork, beef, chicken, goat, and dog (in rural areas) are favorite meats. The people like to socialize in their leisure time. Sports generally are played on Sunday, and boys prefer basketball. Other recreational activities are gambling, attending horse races or cockfights, and playing mahjong, a Chinese table game played with tiles.

Economy-The economy is based on farming, which employs 45 percent of the workers.

Noodlehead Tales: Who's a Noodlehead? Handout 2

As you listen to the Noodlehead Tales, decide which country matches with each title. Write an explanation of what element in the story helped you decide from which culture the tale comes. Your choices are:

A. Indonesia B. Puerto Rico C. Russia D. Philippines

___1. "Juan Bobo and the Pot that Would Not Walk"

explanation:

___2. "The Men with Mixed-Up Feet"

explanation:

___3. "The Hunter of Java"

explanation:

___4. "The King Brought Down by One Blow"

explanation:

Answer Key for Handout 2
Noodlehead Tales: Who's a Noodlehead?

B_1. "Juan Bobo and the Pot that Would Not Walk"

Explanation: island/Spanish influence/chicken & rice

C_2. "The Men with Mixed-Up Feet"

Explanation: chilly climate/sheep farmers

A_3. "The Hunter of Java"

Explanation: Muslim influence/Java is an island/water buffalo/elephants

D_4. "The King Brought Down by One Blow"

Explanation: mosquito/humid climate

Prompt for Writing a Noodlehead Tale

Handout 3

Noodlehead tales are not for the purpose of making fun of others, but rather are told to poke fun at the foolishness in each of us. Therefore, your noodlehead story should be about some misadventure you got yourself into. Your audience is a group of first and second graders. Avoid terms that criticize, such as “stupid” and “dumb.” Keep the tone light-hearted with humorous words, such as noodlehead, numbskull, and noodles for brains.

You are a storyteller from one of the countries listed in the sample Noodlehead stories. You are to write a story that will:

- (1) poke fun at the foolishness in each of us, and*
- (2) focus on cultural aspects of the country.*

Your story must:

- have a story line that is clear.
- develop the characters.
- describe the setting.
- use dialog when appropriate.
- use simile, metaphor or descriptive words and phrases.
- contain four easily identifiable cultural elements.

Your story will be evaluated for Ideas, Word Choice, and Conventions from the Six Trait Writing rubric.

**Brainstorming graphic for Noodlehead Tales
Handout 4**

