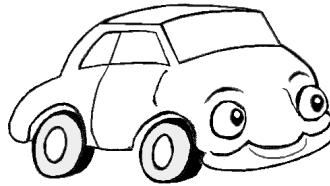


What is CULTURE?

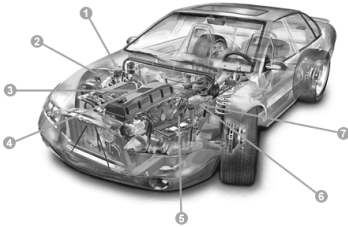
Culture is like a car. How?

CARS

You can learn some things about cars by looking at them on the **surface** but cars are really **complex** when you look **deeper**.



There are a lot of parts that make up a car. Many parts are visible by looking at the outside (body, paint color, wheels, headlights, windows, windshield, seats...). All of these things help make a car what it is, and make it somewhat unique.



However, those visible parts aren't the main things that make a car run. Cars also have hundreds of hard-to-see, complex and intricate little parts *inside* that do most of the work of making them run.

There are more complicated, below-the-surface parts of a car than visible ones.

CULTURE

Culture is like this too – complex below the surface. Our cultures have some parts that are **visible and obvious** on the surface and many parts that are **less visible, more complex and subtle** – even things we may have to think about to realize they're part of our own cultures.

What are some of the visible, obvious, and big ingredients of culture?

(Things like language, clothing, food, religion, cities, buildings, art...)

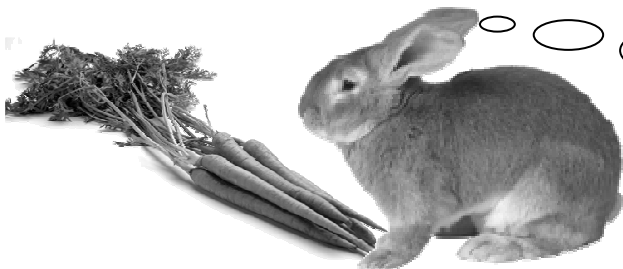
What are some of the less visible ingredients of culture? As a group or as

groups of two or three, talk about some subtle things that make up culture.

(Things like communication style, gender roles, and views about conflict).

Explain: These **less visible** things are often about **how we interact with one another** and **how we see ourselves in the world**. Interaction and our views about ourselves affect how we express leadership. *Can you think of examples of how your culture tells you to interact with other people?*

We also make **choices** about our cultures, to some extent. Just as we might choose some things about a car, we sometimes choose what aspects of our culture we wish to express, and in what way. Culture shapes us, and we shape culture.



Sure, you can tell just by looking that my culture's traditional cuisine involves carrots. But did you know that my culture also values avoiding conflict? Or that it places strong importance on education?