

Preview Lesson. Thinking Through a Cultural Lens

We see artifacts of culture all around us—clothes, buildings, signs, and more. Yet, we don't often slow down to understand what these artifacts say about our culture, or our identities as individuals. Today, we are going to view a TED Talk from Sheikha Al Mayassa from Qatar, who invites us to think about her culture and how it is changing in the 21st century.

Activity 1: Viewing a TED Talk

This presenter shares her thoughts about how the country of Qatar is changing in the modern era. As you watch, we encourage you to think about some of the artifacts that she presents as well as what those artifacts demonstrate about the characteristics of her culture.

Cultural Artifact	What does this demonstrate about Qatar?

Activity 2: Creating Your Own TED Talk

Now it's your turn. Imagine that you must deliver a TED Talk tomorrow, in which you describe your own culture like Al Mayassa did in her talk. Please do the following:

- Find at least five images that represent characteristics and/or artifacts of your culture. Import those images into separate slides in a Google presentation.
- Next to the image, explain how your image represents culture. Consider why you selected this image. Also, consider various perspectives. Think about it: Is this a positive or negative representation? Why or why not? What does it suggest about culture, cultural values, and cultural identity?