

Guided Reading Activity

Culture

Lesson 2 *Language and Culture*

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A. Main Idea: Symbols are vital to the creation and sharing of culture.

1. **Detail:** Culture must be _____ by each new generation; it is not inherited genetically.
2. **Detail:** _____ are objects, actions, and sensations that represent cultural ideas.
3. **Detail:** The _____ of a symbol is the meaning that a culture chooses to give it; it is not based on the symbol's physical _____.
4. **Detail:** As a result, the same symbol can have different meanings in different _____.
5. **Detail:** Humans often use _____, the most powerful symbol, to take part in cultural _____—that is, to share what they know, think, and experience.

B. Main Idea: The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis attempts to explain how language affects the way that people perceive reality.

1. **Detail:** The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis considers language to be a _____ to reality.
2. **Detail:** According to this hypothesis, also known as the hypothesis of _____, _____, people's perceptions of the world differ because people have learned different _____.
3. **Detail:** The hypothesis suggests that the greater the number of words and the greater the _____ of a society's language for talking about something, the more _____ that thing is to the society.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*



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- 4. **Detail:** On the other hand, a society may not have any words at all for talking about something that it considers _____.

- 5. **Detail:** A person's perception of the world can be _____ through exposure to new _____ and other languages.

- 6. **Detail:** In addition to language, various other factors, including cultural practices, affect the ways in which people _____ the world.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the questions below.

Suppose that someone traveled 500 years into the past and introduced a culture to the kinds of electronic communication that we use today. If that past culture considered this new technology important, how might the culture's language change? Why? What symbols might change or be added, and why?

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