

## **Sociocultural themes: Daily life**

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### **Introduction**

The numbers in square brackets refer to the categories in the Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM). Two digits with an asterisk refer to a broad category. A third digit refers to a more specific topic within the two-digit category.

### **In this module group**

Here are the modules on sociocultural themes of daily life :

- Questions on sociocultural themes: Sleep [513]
- Questions on sociocultural themes: Clothing and adornment [29\*,30\*]
- Questions on sociocultural themes: Personal hygiene [515]
- Questions on sociocultural themes: Work [46\*]
- Questions on sociocultural themes: Public transportation [48\*,49\*,50\*]

### **See also**

- Keywords: Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM), culture learning, daily life

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## **Questions on sociocultural themes: Sleep [513]**

### **Questions**

Here are some questions to investigate in connection with the theme of sleep:

1. When do adults typically go to sleep? When do they wake up?
2. What time are children of different ages put to bed?
3. Where do different family members sleep? What are their beds like? What sort of bedding do they use?

### **Sources**

Adapted from Purnell 1993

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## Questions on sociocultural themes: Clothing and adornment [29\*,30\*]

### Questions

Here are some questions to investigate in connection with the theme of clothing and adornment:

1. What clothing is worn by men, women, and children? Is this clothing distinctive to the ethnic group? What are the names of different articles of clothing?
2. Is clothing bought or homemade?
3. At what ages do boys and girls begin to wear clothing? How much of the body needs to be covered to be modest?
4. Do people have many changes of clothing? Is different clothing worn for work, for special occasions, for sleeping, or for around the house? Is different clothing worn at different seasons of the year?
5. What jewelry or other ornaments are worn with clothing (buttons, pins, necklaces, or earrings)?
6. What clothes or adornment are worn for special occasions?
7. What is worn on the feet? What are different kinds of footwear called?

### Sources

Some of this material is adapted from Purnell 1993

### See also

- Keywords: clothing, ornaments

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## Questions on sociocultural themes: Personal hygiene [515]

### Questions

Here are some questions to investigate in connection with the theme of personal hygiene:

1. What standards of personal and household cleanliness do people observe?
2. Where and how often do people wash? Do people wash alone or with other people?
3. How often do people wash their hair? What hairdressing is done? Who are the

- hairdressers?
4. What are the appropriate places and procedures for elimination?
  5. What cleaning agents are used to wash or to clean clothes? How often are clothes cleaned or washed?
  6. How do people clean their houses? What tools or instruments do they use and what are they called?
  7. Should people in certain conditions do differently (women cannot wash or cut hair while they are pregnant, or sick people should never wash with cold water)?

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## Questions on sociocultural themes: Work [46\*]

### Questions

Here are some questions to investigate in connection with the theme of work:

1. Do some activities seem to be men's work, women's work, or children's work? How are children taught to do work appropriate to their age, class, and sex?
2. Which people cooperate in doing certain tasks? Are they friends, neighbors, or relatives? Who makes up a work group?
3. What jobs are done every day or seasonally?
4. Are there specialists for certain jobs? Which jobs? What are the people called who do these jobs?
5. What is the relationship between work and social status? What work do certain people do and for whom?
6. How are people paid? What jobs provide wages, salary, or payment in kind?
7. What tools do people use for each job? What are the activities associated with each tool?
8. What special vocabulary is associated with particular occupations?
9. What things do people talk about while working? Are there typical scripts (interviews, performance reviews, or sales pitches)?

### See also

- Keywords: work

The Join in the Work activity

## Sources

Some of this material is adapted from Purnell 1993

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## Questions on sociocultural themes: Public transportation

[48\*,49\*,50\*]

### Questions

Here are some questions to investigate in connection with the theme of public transportation:

1. What kinds of transportation are there? Are there any kinds of public transportation? Are there social class differences in who uses certain modes of transportation, where people sit where, or who stands?
2. What are the names of
  - different vehicles and their parts
  - people who drive or ride in particular vehicles (driver, conductor, engineer, pilot, or captain), and
  - verbs for driving or riding in particular vehicles (drive, sail, ride)?
3. Do you pay for a space in a vehicle or do you hire the whole vehicle?
4. Are there standard routes a vehicle takes (a bus route) or will the driver take you wherever you want to go (as in a taxi)? How do you find out where to get on the vehicle, to wait for it, or to flag it down?
5. How is the fare calculated? Is there a flat-rate fare, or do you pay in increments?
6. Do you pay cash at the time of the ride or do you buy a ticket or token ahead of time?
7. What is the script (if any) between the driver and riders?
8. Do fellow-passengers talk to each other when riding and if so, what do they talk about?
9. Do women or children travel alone at any age?
10. How do you indicate you want to get on or off the vehicle? Is there something special you say and if so, what?

**See also**

See the following for a related activity:

- Keywords: public transportation

The Public Transport activity

**Sources**

Some of this material is adapted from Purnell 1993.