

# INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Designed for Students  
Grades 4th-9th  
Ages 9-15

Program Length  
3 - 3.5 hours

Park Location  
Epcot®

## SYNOPSIS

Around the central lagoon of Epcot® are 11 nations that make up World Showcase. With an exploration of designated showcase nations, students gain an understanding of what culture is and what it means to be a global citizen today. A non-verbal activity links the impact and power of communication as a key to learning about other cultures.

Utilizing translator devices, students discover that communication technology varies between cultures and can be a major factor in building a bridge or creating a barrier between world cultures.

The topic of food provides an opportunity for a guided discussion of cultural filters and how influential they are in forming our perception of people, places and things. As global citizens, students are encouraged to become aware of their responsibility to look beyond their filters and broaden their understanding of our world and its inhabitants.

Fundamental to this global journey is a demonstration allowing students to recognize and comprehend the impact/effects of cultural assimilation, accommodation, displacement, and diaspora on world cultures.

A construction activity highlights how misleading perceptions can be and challenges students to dive deeper to develop a true understanding of cultures that are different from their own.

A private meet and greet with a World Showcase Representative provides an opportunity for interaction and cultural sharing. This experience introduces students to the concepts of cultural competency and localization vs. globalization. The global journey continues as students discover cultural diffusion and its relationship to traditions, customs, beliefs, and food.

The learning experience culminates at The American Adventure stage show. Students will encounter the influence of multiple cultures on our nation's development and a final activity brings the journey to a close when students are called to action to take responsibility for expanding their cultural understanding and increase their cultural competence.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing Introduction to Global Citizenship, participants will be able to:

- ✓ Assess the methods and effects of communication between cultures
- ✓ Identify bridges and barriers to cultural communication.
- ✓ Evaluate nonverbal communication as a means of sharing information
- ✓ Decide how their own cultural filters impact the way they look at the world
- ✓ Determine the impacts of technology, commerce, and human behavior on cultures
- ✓ Examine the effects of cultural diffusion on their own lives.
- ✓ Give real world examples of assimilation, accommodation, displacement, and diaspora
- ✓ Appreciate the commonalities of all people, regardless of cultural backgrounds
- ✓ Express ways they hope to make connections with other cultures in the future