

Topic: Cultural Adjustment

Activity: Community Diversity: A Critical Incident for Use With African Refugees

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Participants will learn about the diversity that exists in the United States✓ Participants will reflect on how they feel about having diverse friends and living amongst diverse populations
Lesson Time	30 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Critical incident (included)<input type="checkbox"/> Optional: Flipchart paper, markers, tape
Introduction	The United States is a very diverse country and you will meet many different types of people in your new community.
Practice	<p>(Note: Change names used in the critical incident to reflect those of your participants.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Put participants into groups of 2 to 4 and ask each group to choose a spokesperson.2. Read “Community Diversity: A Critical Incident for Use With African Refugees” aloud, pausing after each set of reflection questions.3. In small groups, participants discuss the reflection questions. Listen in on the discussions to check for understanding.4. After the last set of reflection questions, bring the large group together and ask the spokesperson from each group to summarize the main ideas from their group discussions. Discuss as necessary.
Reflection Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What happened in this critical incident?• What differences have you noticed between yourself and your friends?• What changes did Azibo and Eshe* make?• If you were in this situation, what would you do?
Variations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give flipchart paper and markers to each small group and have groups draw and present the highlights of their discussions.• If literacy levels allow, prepare flipchart paper with reflection questions for each small group and have groups write and present their answers.

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Community Diversity: A Critical Incident for Use With African Refugees

Azibo and Eshe* moved to their new community in the United States. It seemed very strange to see so many different people with different shapes, sizes, skin colors, religions, and clothes. Men and women walked together holding hands, people with and without disabilities worked together, and people of different religions spent time at each other's homes. Azibo and Eshe hoped to spend most of their time with others from their country, but there were very few in the area.

Stop and reflect:

- What did Azibo and Eshe notice about their new community?
- With whom did they make friends?
- What would you do if you were Azibo and Eshe?

Over time, Azibo and Eshe got to know their neighbors and members of their community. Despite their differences in skin color, home country, first language, and religious beliefs, they started to appreciate the diversity in their new community. Now Azibo and Eshe enjoy the company of their friends from many different backgrounds, and look forward to seeing them regularly.

Stop and reflect:

- What differences have you noticed between yourself and your friends?
- What changes did Azibo and Eshe make?
- If you were in this situation, what would you do?

* This critical incident is based on the real-life experience of resettled refugees. All identifying information has been changed to protect privacy.