

VALENCIA COLLEGE

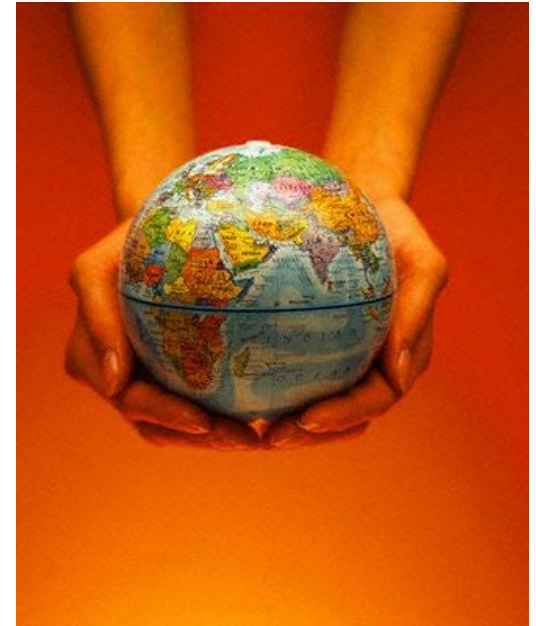
# **BaFa BaFa: A Cross Cultural Simulation**

**This Simulation has been modified from the original version**

# Learning Outcomes

## Participants will:

1. interact with other cultures.
2. understand the feelings that one would likely have when meeting someone from another culture.
3. experience the impact culture has on our behaviors.
4. experience the impact culture has on our perceptions.
5. share ideas about how to effectively communicate with someone from another culture.



# Instructions

- Participants will break out into two cultures: Alphans and Betans.
- Groups go into different rooms to receive instructions and learn the values, expectations, and customs of their new culture.
- Each culture sends an “observer” to go to the other culture’s room. During the “observer” period, groups will role play the values, expectations, and customs of their new culture.
- Observers will return to their room and report back to their group on what they saw to get them ready for the cross-cultural experience.
- Both groups will come together to interact based on the values, expectations, and customs of their culture.
- We will end the simulation and debrief the experience.

# Alphan Debriefing

- **How did you feel when you were preparing to take on the role of a new culture?**
- **How did the Beta culture appear to you from your cultural perspective? Describe the Betans with adjectives.**
- **Explain the rules of the Beta culture.**
- **How did it feel to interact with the Beta culture ?**
- **What strategies did you use to adapt to their culture?**
- **Did the other culture react the way you expected them to? Why or why not?**

# Betan Debriefing

- **How did you feel when you were preparing to take on the role of a new culture?**
- **How did the Alpha culture appear to you from your cultural perspective? Describe the Alphans with adjectives.**
- **Explain the rules of the Alpha culture.**
- **How did it feel to interact with the Alpha culture ?**
- **What strategies did you use to adapt to their culture?**
- **Did the other culture react the way you expected them to? Why or why not?**

# Us VS Them

- **What seems logical, sensible, important and reasonable to a person in one culture may seem irrational, stupid, and unimportant to an outsider.**
- **We tend to look for customs, beliefs, and practices to support our assumptions.**
- **It's important to check out assumptions, otherwise you may draw false conclusions and end up hurting the relationship.**
- **Use descriptions rather than evaluation when explaining THEM. For example: Hofstede's taxonomies:**
  - Individualist (person) or Collectivist (group) Cultures**
  - High Context (nonverbal and context) and Low Context (verbal is explicit) Cultures**
  - Low (not highly concentrated) and High (a few people) Power Distance Cultures**
  - Monochronic (time is finite) and Polychronic (time is infinite) Cultures**



# So how can you effectively communicate with someone from another culture?

- **STUDY**
- **OBSERVE**
- **LISTEN**
- **LEARN THE LANGUAGE**
- **BE WILLING TO TAKE A RISK**
- **INTERACT**
- **ASK QUESTIONS**
- **ASK FOR CLARIFICATION**
- **BE OPEN-MINDED**
- **BE PATIENT**
- **DON'T JUDGE!**



Culture is  
neither right or  
wrong. It is just  
**DIFFERENT**

