



# Meeting Cultures

Diálogo entre culturas. **Inglés**



**Páginas para el alumno**  
Aportes para la enseñanza. NIVEL MEDIO



It is Sunday and many young boys and girls from more than twenty countries the world over are travelling to the city of Montreal in Canada. They will all be part of an intercultural meeting organised by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation). The aim of the meeting is intercultural integration.

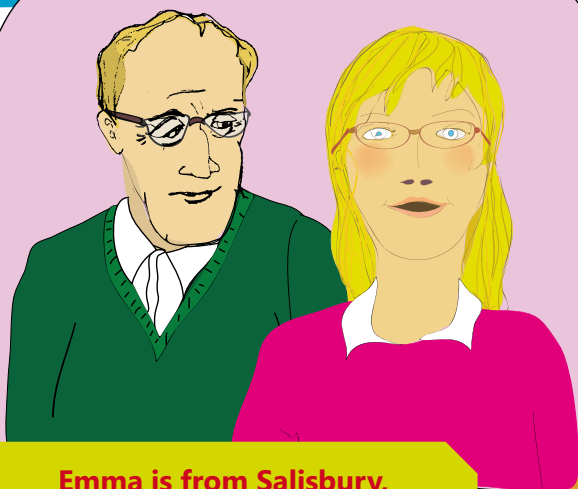


**WELCOME**  
TO OUR  
**INTERCULTURAL MEETING!**



English as a Language of International Communication for Integration

It is Monday morning and there is a welcome party for all the boys and girls of the intercultural programme.



**Emma is from Salisbury, United Kingdom. Her grandfather works in Canada, so he is at the party too.**



**Kamala is from Kochi, in the state of Kerala, India.**



**Chinweizu is from Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, in Africa.**



**Jamal is from Kingston, Jamaica, in the Caribbean.**



**Azucena lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but her family comes from Jujuy.**

It is Monday afternoon and boys and girls from different countries start making friends. They are using English to talk to others and to speak about themselves.







## Who wrote this?

The next day, on Tuesday morning, they all work on an intercultural exercise. They think of the best way to introduce themselves and their culture. They also choose nice pictures of their countries.



ELICI



In my country, there are more than 18 official languages and there are hundreds of dialects! We belong to different castes. We wear dhotis and saris. People think we are all Hindus... but we are not.

Over to you:

Did you know all this? What information do you think is most interesting?

We speak Creole, Patois, Jamaican English and other languages. We like oral tales. My favourite stories are about Anancy.

We speak English or, as our teachers told us today, Englishes. We are a multicultural country. My favourite places are Stonehenge and Bath. I love reading Celtic legends and listening to Brit Pop.

## Argentine Culture

My name is Azucena Murtua. I live in Buenos Aires. In my country, people speak Spanish, Guaraní, Quechua, Aymara, Mapudungun, Kaiwá, Pilaca, Toba, Wichí... I like telling stories or listening to music while I have mate with my friends. I love eating *tamales*, *locro*, *empanadas*, *milanesas*, *asado*, *alfajores*, *dulce de leche*...

There are many beautiful places in my country: the Iguazú Falls, Quebrada de Humahuaca, Tafi del Valle, Villa Carlos Paz, Puerto Madryn, the Perito Moreno Glacier...

Over to you

What do you think about Azucena's exercise? What do you want to add or change?

Over to you

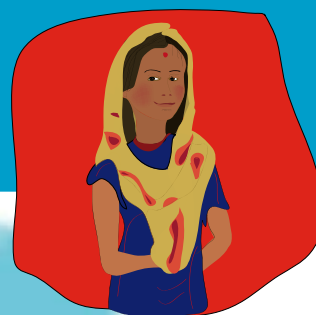
What Argentine places are these? Which ones does Azucena like?

Over to you

Which is your favourite place in Argentina? Why?

## Telling stories from our culture

On Wednesday morning, all the boys and girls tell their favourite stories to give more information about their cultures. Kamala starts with an oral Indian folktale:



Once upon a time, there lived six blind men in a village. One day one man told them, “Hey, there is an elephant in the village.”

They had no idea what an elephant was. They decided, “Let us go and feel it anyway.” All of them went where the elephant was and touched it.

“Hey, the elephant is like a pillar” said the first blind man, touching the elephant’s leg.

“Oh, no! It is like a rope,” said the second blind man, touching the elephant’s tail.

“Oh, no! It is like a snake,” said the third blind man, touching the trunk of the elephant.

“It is like a big hand fan,” said the fourth blind man, touching the ear of the elephant.

“It is like a huge wall,” said the fifth blind man, touching the belly of the elephant.

“It is like a spear”, said the sixth blind man, touching the tusk of the elephant.



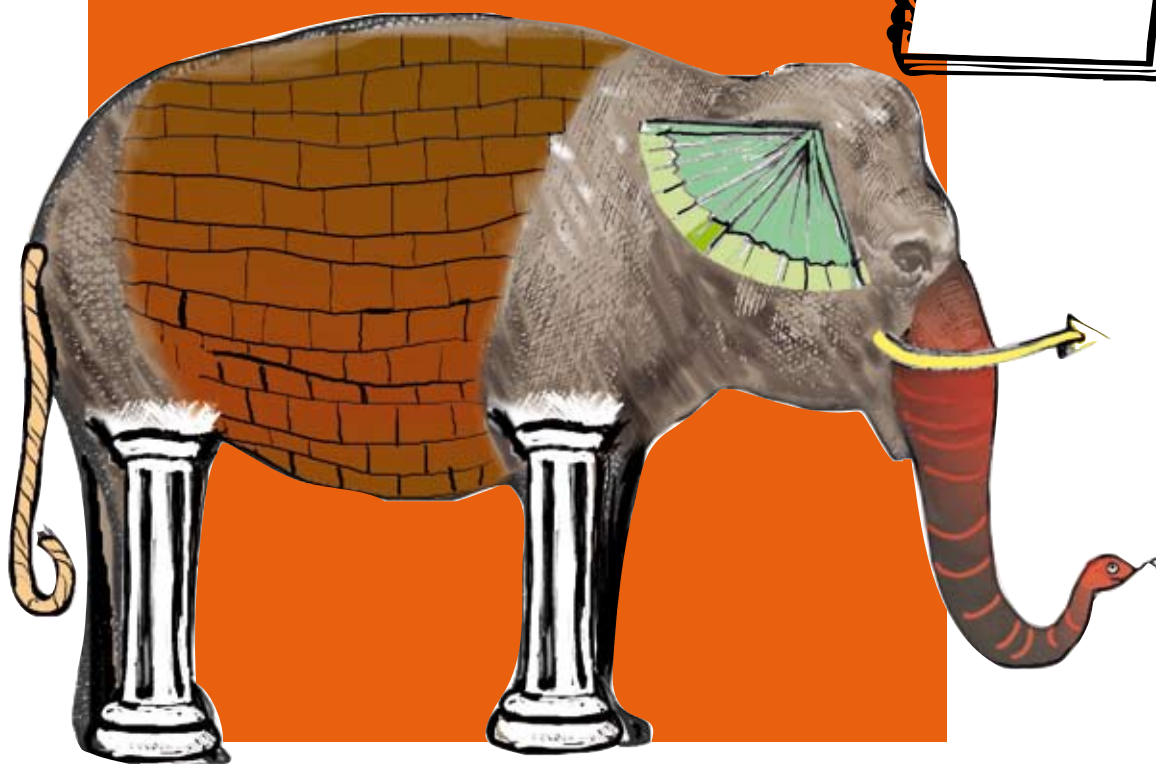
They began to fight about the elephant and everyone insisted that HE was RIGHT. A wise man was passing by and he saw this. He stopped and asked them, "What is the matter?" They said, "We cannot agree on what the elephant is like."

The wise man calmly explained to them, "All of you are right. The reason every one of you has a different idea is because each one of you touched a different part of the elephant".

"Oh!" everyone said. There was no more fighting. They felt happy that they were all right.

Over to you

What lesson does Kamala's story teach us?



Jamal enjoyed Kamala's story so much that he also wants to tell everybody the oral tales that his family always told him. His story is about Anancy the Jamaican spider, a hero and trickster.



Once upon a time, Anancy, the trickster spider, decided to collect all the common sense in the world. In that way he would be the smartest!



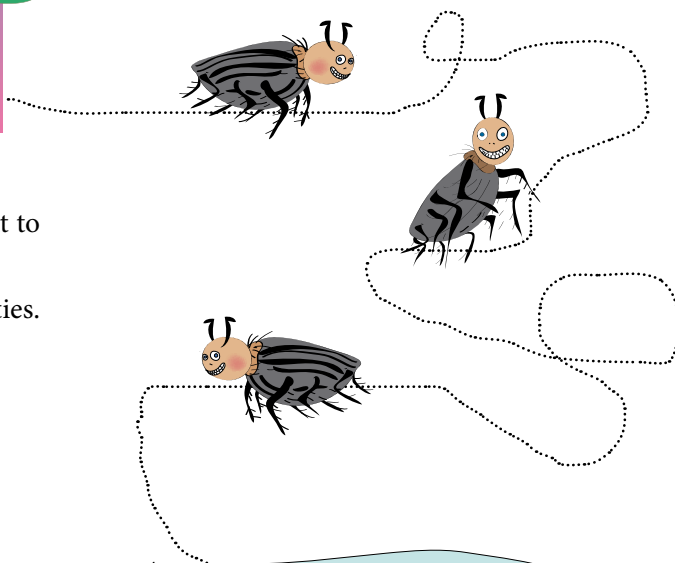
So he travelled the world over. He went to big countries and small countries. He visited primary schools and universities. He met Kings, Presidents, Chiefs and ordinary people. He collected all the common sense he could.




He took all the common sense from the world and put it inside a pumpkin. He took it to his backyard and tried to climb up a big tree. His plan was to keep it there so that no one could have any common sense but himself.




So Anancy put the very heavy pumpkin on his head and started carrying it all the way up, but he could make only a few slow steps.







 A little girl saw him and asked “Anancy, why don’t you tie the pumpkin on your back instead of on your head? You will move faster!”

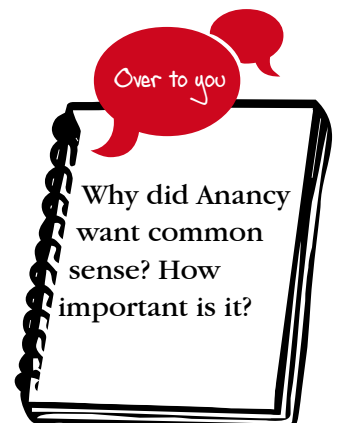


 Anancy was angry because the little girl showed him he had no common sense at all! And he shouted “I thought I had all the common sense from all over the world!”



 So Anancy threw the pumpkin to the ground and it broke into a million pieces. Common sense flew back into the world.

 And that is how you and I manage to have a little common sense for ourselves. Jack Mandora, I tell no lie!

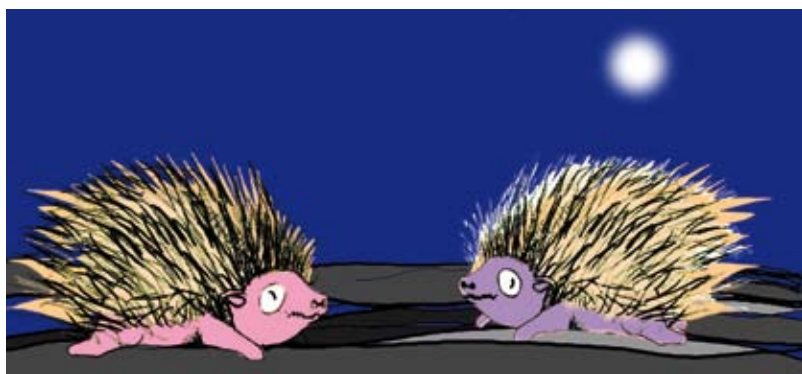




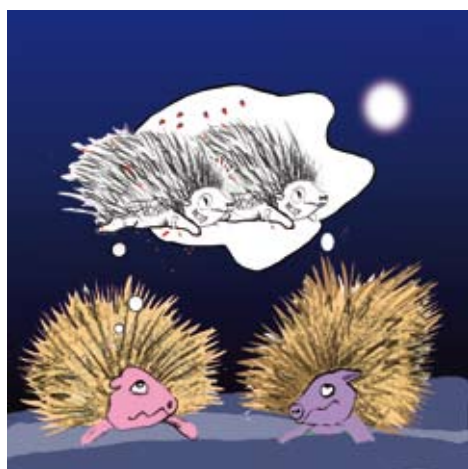
Chinweizu liked Kamala's and Jamal's stories so much that he also wants to tell everybody the oral tale that his mother always told him. His story is also about integration.



## The Two Cold Porcupines

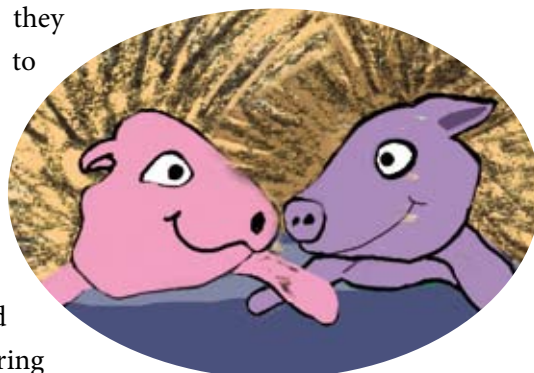


One very cold night two porcupines found themselves alone out on the plains. There was no shelter or place to keep them warm. They only had their body heat.



But they were scared that if they stood too close together during the night one could prick and even kill the other by mistake.

After experimenting, they found the right distance to stand next to each other. They were close enough together so that their bodies gave heat to each other, but far enough apart so that they would not prick each other during the night.



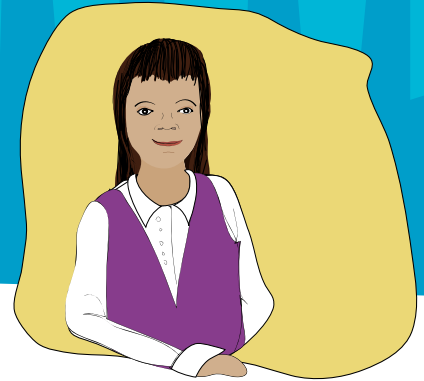
Over to you:

What do you think Chinweizu's story means?





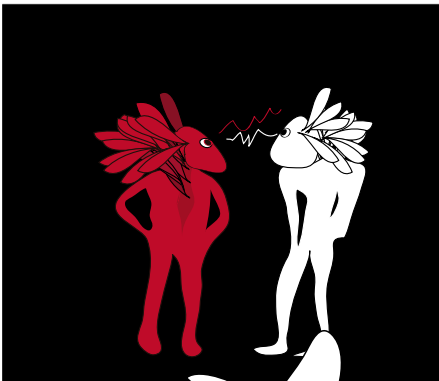
After listening to all the stories, Azucena remembers a special story her grandmother from Jujuy always told her about her culture and her own name. She decides to retell it.



## Azucena del Bosque (wood lily)

As Emma told us a few days ago, Shakespeare asks... “What’s in a name?” Well, I’ll tell you about mine.

In a time far, far away, Tupá, the Creator God, decided to give life to all plants, animals and finally men. So he created two human figures and gave them life. These men were Pitá, who was red-skinned, and Morotí, who was white skinned. The Creator God gave each man a wife and a tribe. And he taught them to pick fruits for food. These men became Caciques, or tribal chiefs, and their two tribes lived in peace.



But one day Pitá rubbed two stones together and discovered fire. Morotí was attacked by a pecarí (wild boar) and had to kill the animal. The two men cooked the raw meat over the fire. It was delicious! From that day on, the two tribes stopped gathering fruits and started hunting for food. They used their weapons to kill animals and to fight each other. They fought so much that their tribes became enemies. There was no more peace on earth.

The Creator God was so furious that a terrible storm broke out. It rained for three days and three nights until the God called the two Caciques and ordered them to live forever in peace like true brothers.

The two men hugged each other so tightly that they could not separate any more. The two bodies became one trunk. And the trunk became a tree. And beautiful red and white azucenas, or lilies, bloomed out of it. The colour of these flowers was the symbol of their tribes’ eternal union.

That is why the Azucena del Bosque, or wood lily, is also known as “the flower of friendship” which reminds tribes that they should live in peace.





On Thursday, their free day, all the boys and girls visit Montreal and enjoy its multiculturalism. They go to different places and learn a lot about the different cultures. Azucena writes an e-mail to her English teacher in Argentina to tell her about her experience.



Over to you:

What do you think Mabel will answer in her e-mail to Azucena? What else does she want to know?

Azu

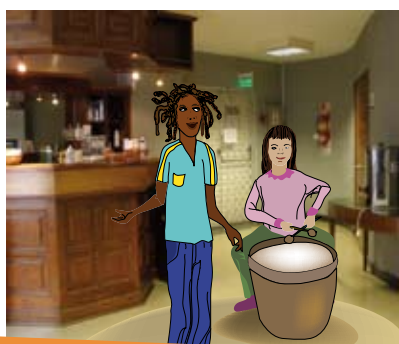
# Farewell party!



On Friday, the last day of the intercultural meeting, there is a big farewell party at midday. They prepare something special and do something typical of their culture.



Emma sings a song in English while Kamala plays the sitar. They all have some typical food: Emma has got scones and Kamala has got *chapattis*.



Jamal sings a reggae song while Chinweizu and Azucena play the drums. They want to dance, so Azucena teaches each of them how to dance a traditional zamba. They all have a lot of fun!

Over to you

What do the boys and girls learn from this experience?

Over to you

If you were one of the boys or one of the girls in the intercultural meeting, what would you take with you? What would you do?



Later that day, they all finish packing and get ready to go to the airport. At the airport they all hug one another. They have all learnt a lot about the others... and about themselves!

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