

International Conversation Afternoon

Cultural Icons

Introduction

An 'icon' is a very famous person or thing which represents an idea or a way of life. For example: What is an icon of:

- the United States?
- the modern world?

Talk about it with your partners.



Icons of Britain

British people were asked to take part in an on-line project. They were asked, "Which person or thing best represents Britain?" They gave many different answers and pictures of the icons appeared on the website: www.icons.org.uk

Discuss the questions below with your partners.

- Why do you think these people and things are icons of Britain?
- What do you know about them?
- What do you think of when you think of British culture? Think of at least two and tell your partner about them.

Centre for Global Programmes

Icons of different countries

What about your culture? What icons can you think of that represent your country?

Choose at least three people or things that tell us something about society and culture in your country. Write your five icons in the table. Be prepared to talk about them in your group.

Next, think of five icons that you associate with your partners' countries.

The British icons are in the following categories:

- a historic person
- a modern work of art
- a book
- a form of theatre
- a sporting event
- a historic machine/weapon
- a drink
- a historic event

You can use these categories to help you, if you want.

