



Primitive or Civilized?

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this activity is for you to identify your own biases about the words primitive and civilized. Your raised awareness about how you define these terms will help you in the second part of the lesson.

Do you associate the following more with the word primitive or civilized?

DIRECTIONS

Place the word *primitive* or the word *civilized* next to each statement.

1. The ability to make sophisticated homes and other complex structures. _____
2. Ability to travel great distances using a sophisticated understanding of the stars, tides, and other natural wonders. _____
3. Ability to control the environment. For example, the ability to change the course of rivers, irrigate crops, domesticate animals, or control the movements of herds of animals. _____
4. Have a high rate of literacy. _____
5. Have a large level of respect for the elders in your society. _____
6. Use warfare for a narrowly specified purpose. _____
7. Use the natural resources available within their environment well and wisely. _____
8. Know their history well and have a sophisticated way of transmitting that knowledge to their children. _____
9. Have great knowledge of disease and how to cure many diseases. _____
10. Have the ability to complete sophisticated surgeries, even possibly performing brain surgery without an anesthetic. _____
11. Create great works of art and as a society honor those great works of art. _____
12. Create elaborate economic trading networks that cross an entire continent. _____