**Introduction to Culture**

**Part 1. Look at the pictures of people greeting below and discuss the following questions.**

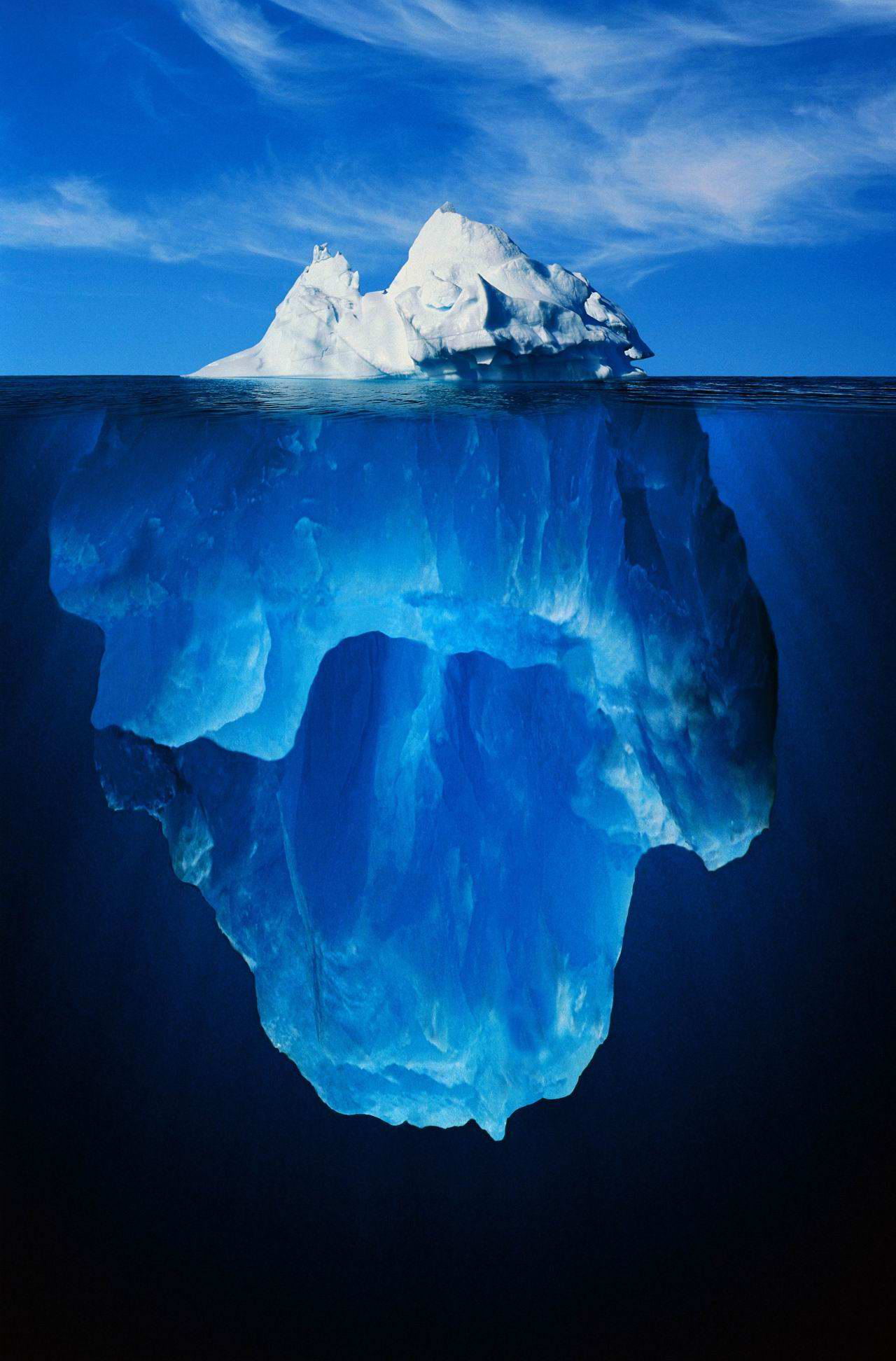
* *What cultures greet in this way?*
* *What are other ways of greeting?*
* *How do you greet people in your country?*
* *How does each kind of greeting feel to you?*

**Part 2. Brainstorming.**

Look at the following visual of an iceberg. Notice how the part above water (visible) is much smaller than the part below (invisible).

What aspects of greetings are visible? What aspects are invisible?



**Part 3. Make notes next to the iceberg. What are other aspects of visible and invisible culture?**

**Examples of Visible Culture**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Food | Greetings | Art | Clothing | Facial expressions |
| Gestures | Literature | Music | Language | Festivals |
| Celebrations | Customs | Games | Dance | Health treatments |
| Ceremonies | Jobs | Hobbies | Behavior in school | Housing |

**Examples of Invisible Culture**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Personal space | Roles of men and women | Ideals of attractiveness | Friendship | Modesty |
| Work ethic | Concepts of power and authority | Individualism vs. Collectivism | What is taboo or obscene | How to make decisions |
| Roles of children | Attitudes toward the elderly | Attitudes toward education | Beliefs about nature | Beliefs about God, afterlife, etc. |
| How to solve problems | Future goals and planning | How to handle uncertainty | What is a good person | How to raise children |

**Part 4. Discussion.**

* *What parts of American culture surprised you when you got here?*
* *What do you miss about your culture?*
* *Why is it important to learn about both visible and invisible aspects of culture?*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Food | Greetings | Art | Clothing |
| Gestures | Literature | Music | Language |
| Celebrations | Customs | Games | Dance |
| Ceremonies | Jobs | Hobbies | Behavior in school |
| Personal space | Roles of men and women | Ideals of attractiveness | Friendship |
| Work ethic | Concepts of power and authority | Individualism vs. Group | What is taboo  (= not talked about/done) |
| Roles of children | Attitudes toward the elderly | Attitudes toward education | Beliefs about nature |
| How to solve problems | Future goals and planning | How to handle uncertainty | What is a good person |
| Facial expressions | Festivals | Health treatments | Housing |
| Modesty | How to make decisions | Beliefs about God, afterlife, etc. | How to raise children |