

## Personal and Community Appropriation Checklist

In my life (Y/N)	In my Community (Y/N)	Appropriation Example
		Artifacts from other cultures are on display or hang on walls in a home or community gathering hall.
		Furniture, rugs, or other décor is in the style of another cultural group.
		Native words are used out of their original context.
		Pictures or images from other cultures are used in pictures, tattoos, weavings, or on other objects.
		Common images typical in the U.S. are combined with iconography from other cultures, such as a frog in a Buddha pose, or Hello Kitty wearing a Native headdress.
		Styles taken from other cultures are infused in fashion choices.
		Ethnic foods are modified to suit dominant culture's preferences.
		Language use and mannerisms reflect another group's norms.
		Sports team mascots represent oppressed cultures or people.
		Buddhist meditation is practiced.
		Taking martial arts.
		Taking yoga classes
		Attendance at sweat lodges, or other Native spiritual ceremonies.
		Sage is burned to begin a relaxation process, cleanse one's home, or to begin ritualized conversations.
		Participate in "Council" dialogues, inspired by Native practice.
		Negro spirituals sung in predominantly white churches.
		Jewish Seders are practiced within Christian congregations.
		Children draw, dress up, or otherwise represent Native cultures or people during November at home or school.
		For Halloween, costumes...
		... represent a culture that is not one's own – ex. Gypsies, Mexicans, Arabians, Egyptians, literally any other cultural group.
		... make fun of real people or cultures.
		...reduce cultural differences to jokes or stereotypes.
		...perpetuate stereotypes, misinformation, or historical or cultural inaccuracies.
		...with packaging that includes words like "authentic" or "cultural"
		...sugar skulls face painting for costuming, outside ritual or alter use.
		Other:
		Other:

### Resources used to generate list:

1. <https://www.bustle.com/p/7-things-you-might-not-realize-are-cultural-appropriation-that-are-60679>
2. <https://everydayfeminism.com/2016/04/honoring-culture-appropriation/>
3. <http://dailyoftheday.com/is-your-halloween-costume-racist/>

## Cultural Appropriation Scenario

A group of white friends are on vacation and attend a festival devoted to African art, music, and dance. Having planned to attend this event for weeks, Krystal made sure to bring a style of dress she thinks will allow her to fit in more seamlessly, a flowing, brightly colored blouse and skirt combination that looks similar to what she's seen many African-American women wear in her community. While at the event, Sandra buys a number of objects, including a mask, blanket, and necklace. Each of them has traditional African symbols on them. She already has one room in her home devoted to Asian art, and this will help her create an African corner in a different room. Jeannie, who found out about the event and bought tickets for the group, gushes about how great it feels to be amongst so many vibrant people with a rich, cultural history. She insists that they need to find other events like this closer to their home so they can attend regularly.

### Additional information for UU Congregations from the UUA Website:

The Unitarian Universalist Association adopts spiritual rituals from many different cultures. They have done diligence in determining whether they are appropriately acquiring these rituals. As a result they created a comprehensive list of questions to guide in the decision making of appropriation. Some of those questions are:

- How much do I know about this particular tradition; how do I respect it and not misrepresent it?
- What do I know of the history and experience of the people from whom I am borrowing?
- Is this borrowing distorting, watering down, or misinterpreting the tradition?
- Is the meaning changed?
- Is this over generalizing this culture?
- What is the motivation for cultural borrowing? What is being sought and why?
- How do the "owners" of the tradition feel about pieces of the tradition being borrowed?
- If artifacts and/or rituals are being sold, where does the money go?
- Is this really spiritually healthy?
- How can we acknowledge rather than exploit the contributions of all people?

For a full list of questions, read:

<http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/introduction/misappropriation/23371.shtml>

### Additional Advice from <https://drakebearstephen.wordpress.com/2017/01/17/cultural-appropriation-when-is-it-appropriate/>

#### Appropriation Checklist (to do):

- Become conscious of everything you are doing.
- Always recognize and respect the source of what you are obtaining or use.
- Always seek permission and practice reciprocity for obtaining or using from any source.
- Determine the intent of what you are obtaining or using from another culture.
- Determine the context in which you will be using something from another culture.
- Educate yourself about other cultures. Learn what is sacred in these cultures.
- Explore your own ancestors' cultures. Learn about your own cultural roots.
- Don't purchase mass market cultural items but instead buy from the source, thus supporting minority cultures.