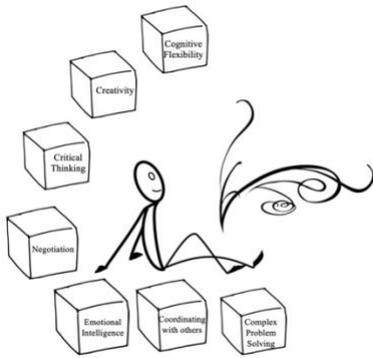


Scaffolding Cultural Differences – Personal Space (Primary)

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Cultural differences extend far beyond language, greetings, gestures, dress and beliefs. The very space we create when we meet people - or the absence of that space - is indicative of where we come from and what our understanding is of the (dis)comfort level of those we are with.

This scaffold helps us see how we can honour physical space, amongst many other differences between cultures. It includes the affective side of learning - in developing more understanding and compassionate citizens of the world as our students travel across the planet physically and/or virtually.



WEATHER IS HORRIBLE, BUT THE ONLY SHELTER IS OCCUPIED.

The image above is an amusing look at Finnish cultural peculiarities, drawn by a Finnish artist Karolina Korhonen, in her hugely popular [Finnish Nightmares](#). It shows the differences in how we perceive and feel the same situation, and how we have the choice to either react, or to adjust to and empathise with other's comfort levels.

Emotional intelligence is defined as 'the capacity for recognising our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our relationships.' (Goleman 1993:317). Findings show that emotional intelligence is malleable and can be fostered with focused attention and effort. (Brackett and Katulak, 2006). What this promotes is the idea of the plasticity of the brain and how as teachers, we can help ourselves and our students develop emotional skills. (Mercer, 2017). In this way, we learn to connect to others – who may be experiencing the same events in very different ways – and find a common ground to reach a mutual, emotionally safe understanding.

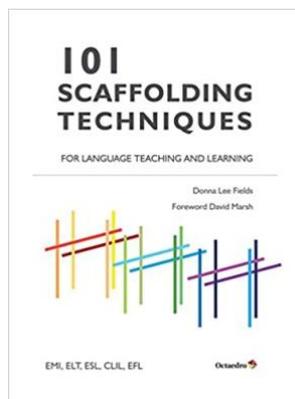
Step by step:

3. Based on the information chosen, students formulate two (2) lower-order thinking questions and three (3) higher-order thinking questions. each other higher-order level such as:



- When the woman moved close to the girl on the street, what did the girl do?
 - How do you think the girl was feeling when the woman moved close to her?
 - What is the difference between how eye contact is perceived in Asia and Arabic countries?
 - What if you decided not to smile at anyone for a year? How do you think your relationships would be affected? (Give examples from two different cultures.)
4. Students choose one cultural difference that they have learned and make it visible in some way.

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