



# Cultural Components:

## Symbols



## Video: Crash Course

# Components of culture

- **A culture is created around four “building blocks.”**
- **One of these is symbols.**
- **Culture could not exist without symbols — anything that meaningfully represents something else —because there would be no shared meanings among people.**

# What are symbols?

- 1. Symbols can include objects, gestures, colours, and words.
- 2. Symbols can simultaneously produce intense and opposite emotions, such as loyalty and animosity, love and hate e.g. flags.
- 3. In different cultural contexts the same symbol can mean different things – e.g. A siren going off during a football game versus an Emergency.
- 4. Symbols can impact our thoughts (and thereby our behaviour) when it comes to:
  - a. gender – pink versus blue clothing
  - b. race and ethnicity - light versus dark skin color.

# Activity

- **A. Identify at least three unique Nova Scotian symbols and provide their meaning. Provide a picture to represent each symbol. (6 pts)**
- **B. Identify at least three unique Canadian symbols and provide their meaning. Provide a picture to represent each symbol. (6 pts)**
- **C. Identify at least three examples of symbols which have different cultural interpretations. For each symbol, identify two cultures, and how they differ in their interpretation of the symbol. Provide a picture to represent the symbol. (9 pts)**
- **D. Identify at least three other symbols (could be gestures, colours, ... ) and provide their meaning. Provide a picture to represent each symbol. (6 pts)**
- **E. Identify three symbols that you find really interesting. Provide a picture to represent the symbol, the meaning of the symbol, and the reasons why you find them really interesting.**
- **(6pts)**