

Knowing

Being Critical.....

- Is sometimes interpreted as passing negative judgments
- In TOK it is seen as being thoughtful and examining and evaluating information
 - Recognising uncertainties and differing points of view
 - Whilst at the same time appreciating knowledge as an achievement
- Examining and evaluating allows us to sift the ideas we have been given in order to affirm the ones with the best claim on our belief, by considering the reasons that support different claims

Over this TOK course.....

- You will be invited to apply critical thinking to how you know anything at all
 - You will pay particular attention to knowing through sense perception, emotion, language and reason WOKs
- You will be asked to assess what 'we' consider knowledge to be and how we approach finding truth
- You will be asked to look at major areas of knowledge AOKs to see how they acquire knowledge and to compare them for a more holistic picture of knowing

Develop an awareness of yourself..

- If you are to gain tools for the effective critical reflection on the claims of others you will need to also develop an awareness of yourself
 - Your background affects how you do the sifting and evaluating and you are often unaware of its influence

The Knower (YOU!)

- What does it mean to be an International student?
- You each have a way of living and a worldview that is familiar to you but possibly strange to someone else
- You carry your own perspective that you need to identify and understand in order to frame an awareness of other cultural possibilities

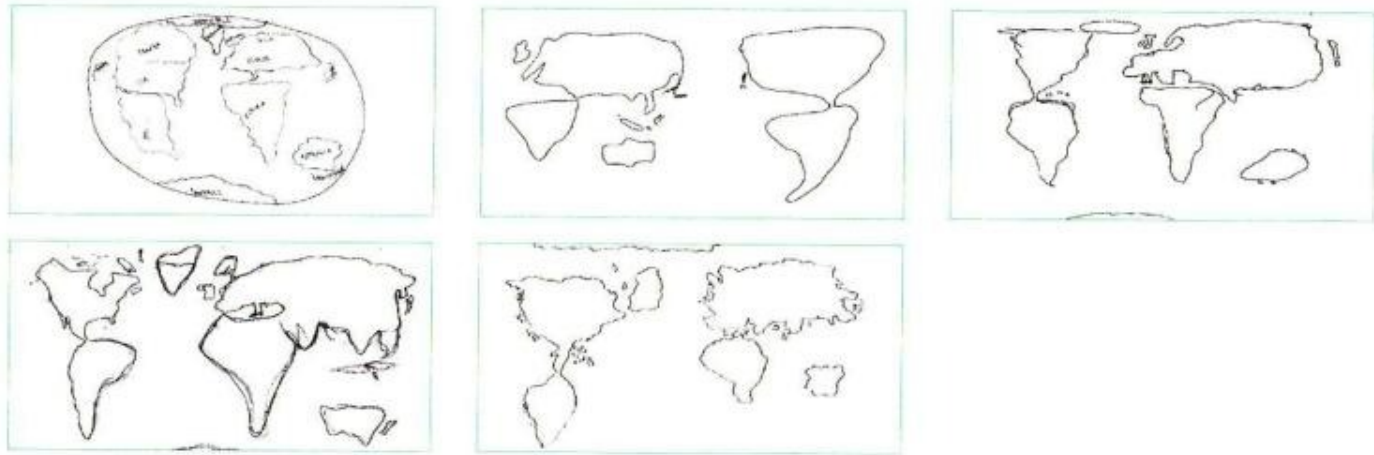
Your personal profile as a 'knower'

- How old are you? How might your age affect what you know and your attitude towards gaining knowledge?
- What is your mother tongue? What other languages do you speak? How might language affect your knowledge?
- What sex are you? Does your gender affect how you see the world and the expectations you have about your knowledge and education?
- Are you urban or rural? How might living in a city or countryside affect how you have learnt and what you know?
- What is your spiritual worldview? How do you think that your following a particular religion or not doing so, affects your knowledge?

The World as you know it....

- You have 7 minutes in which to draw as accurately and completely as you can, a map of the world.
 - Draw what you can, discover what you carry or don't carry in your mind as your picture of the world
- Share your maps with your classmates
 - Are they different or the same? Can you suggest reasons for these differences or similarities?
- As an International student, you show in your drawing some of your own perspectives on the world
 - What part of the world is in the centre of your map?
 - What parts have you drawn in greatest detail? What parts have you even drawn in little detail or left out?

Maps from around the world...



The maps above were drawn by students from Japan, Greenland, Italy, Costa Rica and Canada.

Can you match the most likely map with each student?

Your picture of the world...

- Is affected by what....
 - Differing drawing skills
 - Differing past attention to Geography
 - Differing memories
 - Differing home spots on the planet
- Your picture of the world (your knowledge) is learned within your context and within your own cultural worldview
- Knowledge is power. Map knowledge was once the power of rulers – colonising nations, concepts of ownership, dropping bombs on targets, current day conflicts Israel/Palestine.
- Maps may not represent only what you see but also what you believe
- Maps can also be neutral and used for knowledge and appreciation

Your maps were not that good...mm

- Looks like we will have to look at a map from a professional cartographer to give a correct version of the world😊
- Can you think of some problems?
 - Scale –shrinking it so much (to just a page) surely leaves a lot of detail out
 - Impossible to show a sphere (orange peel)and put it correctly into a 2D form – the Earth must be stretched and warped
 - Uh oh and we just took the map they drew as true!!

Journal reflection time.....

- Get a map of the world and paste it into your journal
- Annotate it:-
 - What is selected to be shown? Do human beings have a greater interest in land or the sea? Do our maps show bias to our species? Does your map represent the physical geography of the Earth or its human political divisions?
 - What is emphasised in your map? What is in the centre – or the top? What is artificially enlarged?
 - Which map features are found in the world and which ones are humanly created? Do lines of latitude and longitude really exist?

Journal reflection time.....

- Do national borders really exist? Do North, South, East and West? Does North have to be at the top? How do we separate West from East? What political and economical ideas are associated with north, south, east and west?
- How is your map used?
- In Chinese the name for China is “middle kingdom” . How does this fit into your map? Why do you think China is called the middle kingdom in Chinese?