

## Dinner in Akirema

Prepare an envelope to hold four smaller envelopes. On the larger envelope print the following:

After you are seated, dinner is on the table and you ready to begin, *then* you may open this envelope and give one of the inner envelopes to each of the four people seated at the table. (If there are three people for dinner, omit the fourth instruction envelope. Create more groups if warranted.)

*On each* of the four smaller envelopes print the following:

### Confidential Instructions

#### Read Silently

You are encouraged to carry on normal conversation at dinner, except you should not talk about the information inside this envelope.

Instruction #1 (place this instruction *inside one* of the smaller envelopes.

### Instructional Simulation: Dinner in Arikema

#### Read Silently

You are an *observer*. One person at the table is an American visiting Akirema. Another person is a citizen of the host nation, Akirema.

Nobody knows the role of the fourth person. Don't tell anyone your role; don't ask about theirs.

Try to identify the host national by his/her unusual style and manner of eating. Try to identify the American by his/her attempts to copy the style of the host national.

If you want to copy some of the styles of the host national go ahead only try not to call attention to yourself why doing so.

Open the panel below after dessert.

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### Discussion Suggestions (You are the first person to lead in the discussion.)

- Tell others what your role was.
- How did you spot the host national?
- How did you spot the American?
- What was the fourth person's role?
- How did you feel? Did you want to try to eat in the style of the Akirema?

Instruction #2 (place this instruction *inside one* of the smaller envelopes.

**Instructional Simulation: Dinner in Arikema**

**Read Silently**

You are an *American* visiting Akirema. One of the people at your table is a citizen of the host nation, Akirema. As a good guest, you will want to notice his/her style and manner of eating so that you can copy it in a rather easy-going manner.

Don't tell the others that you are an American; try to spot the host national quickly and copy his/her unusual style that anyone watching would think that you too are from Akirema.

Open the panel below after dessert.

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**Discussion Suggestions (You are the second person in the discussion sequence.)**

- Tell the others what your instructions were.
- Were you inhibited in any way by having to take your cues from someone else?
- How did you determine who was the host national?

Instruction #3 (place this instruction *inside one* of the smaller envelopes.

**Instructional Simulation: Dinner in Arikema**

**Read Silently**

*You are a citizen of the host nation, Arikema.* Since this is your country, you need to demonstrate the eating style and table manners used by well-mannered people in your country.

One of the people at your table is an American who will be trying to copy your style of eating. Just for fun, don't call attention to what you do that is "unusual." Two other people at the table are observers.

Don't tell the other that you are the "host national" nor should you inquire about what roles they are playing. Try to figure them out.

There are three unusual habits of eating style that you as a citizen of Akirema must use:

- In Akirema, a proper person always uses his or her left hand to hold and drink from a glass or cup.
- You should remember that in Akirema one item is eaten totally before going to the next item. The sequence is your choice, but remember to eat all of one item before going to the next.
- Unlike Americans who hold their forks much like they hold a pen, in Akirema, you always hold the fork so that the handle is under your palm.

Open the panel below after dessert.

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**Discussion Suggestions (You are the third person in the discussion sequence.)**

- First, share with others exactly what your instructions were.
- How did you feel when you knew others were watching you?
- How did you feel about others copying you?
- What did you do to reduce the emphasis on the difference in your style?

Instruction #4 (place this instruction inside one of the smaller envelopes.

**Instructional Simulation: Dinner in Arikema**

**Read Silently**

You are an observer. One person at the table is an American visiting Arikema. Another person is a citizen of the host nation, Arikema.

There is also one person assigned as an observer but he or she doesn't know what your role is. He/she thinks he/she is the only observer. Even during the discussion to follow after dessert, don't reveal your role until the others have speculated about it.

Don't talk about your roles. Try to identify the others by their eating styles. If you want to copy some of the manners of eating, fine—go ahead—but don't call attention to yourself in this way.

Open the panel below after dessert.

[Fold so that the text below is hidden. Staple the panel closed.]

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**Discussion Suggestions (You are the fourth person in the discussion sequence.)**

- Had to be able to identify the others correctly? How did you do it? What was misleading?
- How well did this situation represent the task of observing the behavior of others in order better to "fit in?" In what sorts of situations is it better to "fit in?" Are there situations where you would not want to "fit in?"