

# SUCCESS ABROAD; EDUCATION EVERYWHERE

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November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

# Oceanography, Biology and Conservationism

- ▣ Ocean Engineering
- ▣ Animal Classification
- ▣ Ecosystem Management
- ▣ Research Methodology
- ▣ Ecology and Ecosystems

# Snorkel with whales



# Art, Science and Math

- ▣ Diffused light
- ▣ Fiber optics
- ▣ Sculpture
- ▣ Architecture
- ▣ Geometric Design

# Sleep in a hotel made of ice



# Mountaineering and Physical Education

- ▣ Experiential learning
- ▣ Orienteering
- ▣ Weather forecasting
- ▣ Map reading
- ▣ Rock climbing

# Climb a volcano



# Expats Abroad

## Definition of ABROAD

*1: over a wide area*

*2: away from one's home*

*3: beyond the boundaries of one's country*

## Definition of EXPATRIATE

*1: someone who does not live in his or her own country*



# EXPAT POPULATION OF THE WORLD

The United States of Expatriates



Total number of expats

**230 MILLION**

# International 1 Schools

More than four million students are now educated in international schools. The growth has been fueled by the rise of English as the global language, providing both a currency in an increasingly globalized workforce and entry to the world's best universities.

-Forbes Magazine

Who are the kids in these schools?

How are they adapting?



# The Sedlaceks

## Portrait of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Culture Family

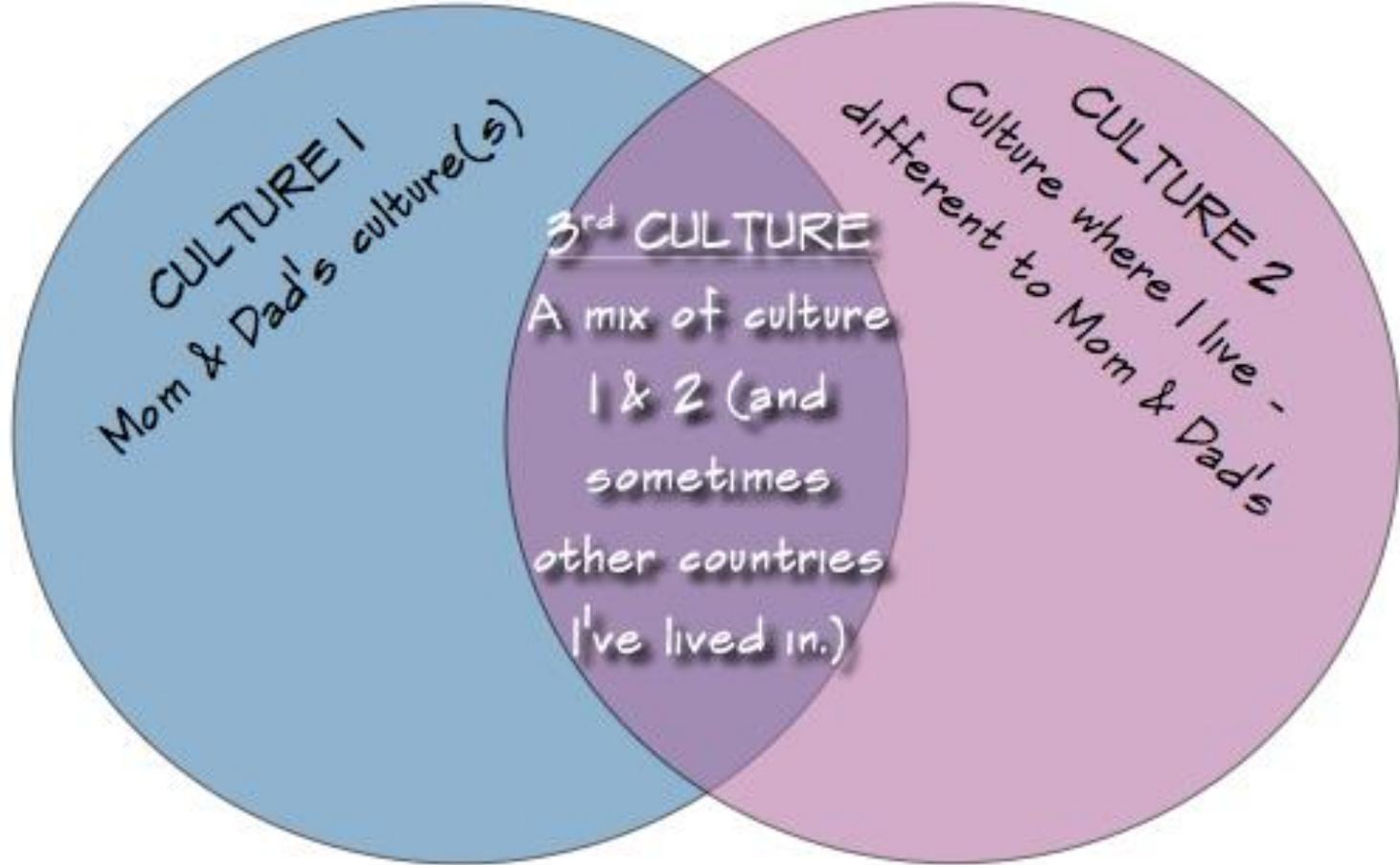


# What is a Third Culture Kid (TCK)?

A third culture kid is a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside their parents' culture. The third culture kid builds relationships to all the cultures, while not having full ownership in any. Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the third culture kid's life experience.

- Ruth Van Reken





CULTURE 1  
Mom & Dad's culture(s)

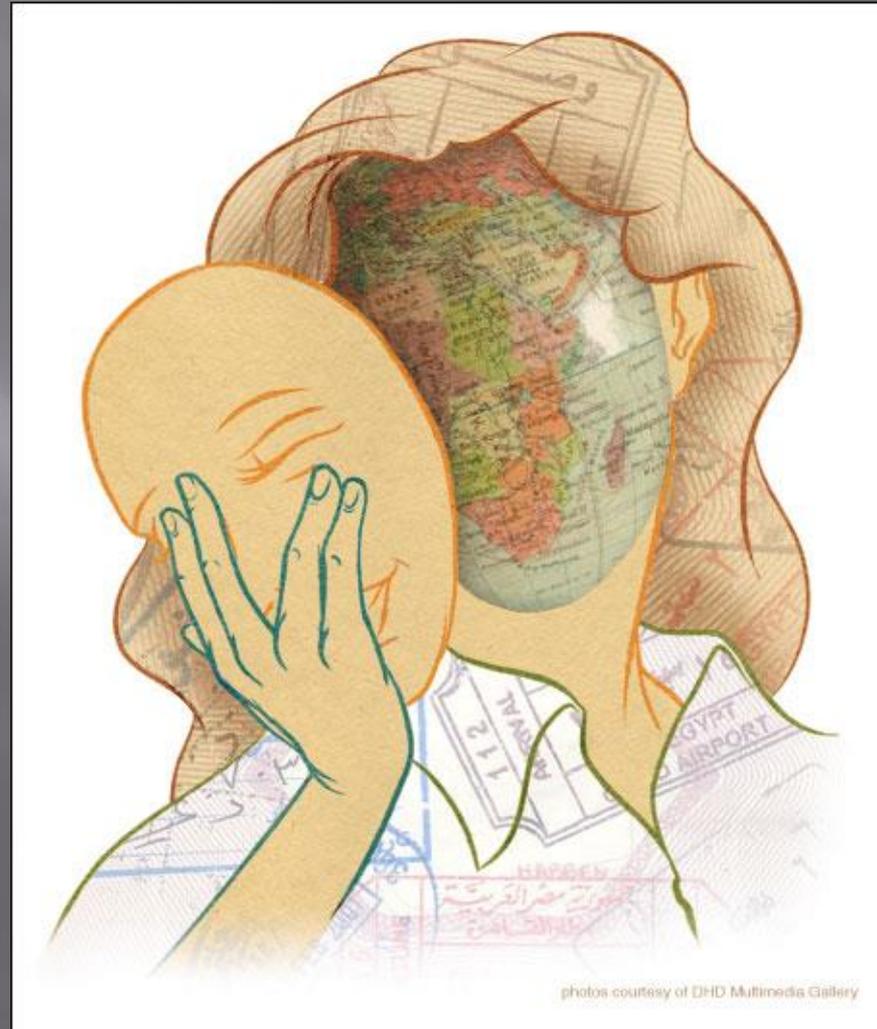
3<sup>rd</sup> CULTURE  
A mix of culture  
1 & 2 (and  
sometimes  
other countries  
I've lived in.)

CULTURE 2  
Culture where I live -  
different to Mom & Dad's

# Research

A study by Ann Baker Cottrell, PhD was designed to extend the understanding of the TCK experience by doing an exploratory study of TCKs' adult life course.

The focus was on how and where ATCKs (Adult TCKS) make their adult lives and how they see themselves and the world.



photos courtesy of DHD Multimedia Gallery

# HIGHER EDUCATION

## ▣ Academic achievement

90 percent have academic post secondary education and over 40 percent have completed a graduate degree; others are near completion of such degrees.

# OCCUPATION

## ▣ Career achievements

Majority (over 80 percent) are professionals, semi-professionals, executives, or managers/officials.

Most (56 percent) have incorporated an international dimension in some occupational role.

# VOLUNTEERING

## ▣ Humanitarians

Most (over 75 percent) actively participate in their local community or in a broader network.

# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

## ▣ Commitment

Most, however, marry (80 percent) and settle into their communities. Commitment is suggested by the fact that the divorce rate is lower than the national average; two out of three who marry do so only once.

# ATCK Concluding Findings

- ▣ These ATCKs are among the elite in terms of education and occupation. The commitment they show in those areas is also seen in marriage. In all these areas most maintain an international connection.
- ▣ Asked whether this background was positive or detrimental to their lives the majority agreed that, overall, such a childhood has been beneficial to their relations with parents, siblings, spouses and children, as well as in social relationships, work and higher education.

# The *Whole* Third Culture Kid

## EDUCATION EVERYWHERE

Snorkel with whales



## SUCCESS ABROAD

- ▣ They connect real world experiences that build practical knowledge and skills.
- ▣ Understand cultural diversity that unites differences.
- ▣ They have the practical skills to communicate with people from various cultures.

# The *Whole* Third Culture Kid

## EDUCATION EVERYWHERE

Climb a volcano



## SUCCESS ABROAD

- ▣ They are well-suited to managing change and challenging situations.
- ▣ They are constantly seeking knowledge and understanding.
- ▣ They have the most critical role in globalization, bridging the gap between worlds.

# How to Help your Child Adjust

## ▣ **Provide Empathy**

Empathy means trying to understand what it is like to be in someone else's shoes. Empathy is not just saying the words but really conveying your understanding by asking questions, listening, and being there through the child's pain.

# How to Help your Child Adjust

## ▣ **Help Synthesize Their Experiences from the Past**

You can talk about their different experiences in each country. Since a child has experienced change, what helps is that you are talking about his/her experiences and that you are emotionally supporting them through the changes. What hurts a TCK child the most is that they can feel alone and misunderstood by so many people.

# How to Help your Child Adjust

## ▣ **Be Clear about Your Future Plans**

We tend to be protective of our kids because we do not want to hurt them so we postpone the news of moving so they are not hurt or anxious. If you do not tell your child, they cannot trust you and are more anxious about what is going to happen. It is important to be honest and share what is happening so they can feel a sense of control.



“TCKs are the prototype  
citizens of the future.”

- Ted Ward, sociologist,  
1984

# U. S. President Barack Obama

The 44th President of the United States



# Colin Firth

English Actor



# Christiane Amanpour

The leading news correspondent for CNN



# References

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Useem, Ruth Hill and Ann Baker Cottrell (1996). "Adult Third Culture Kids" in Carolyn Smith (ed), *Strangers at Home: Essays on the Effects of Living Overseas and Coming "Home" to a Strange Land*. (pp. 22-35) Bayside, NY: Aletheia Press.

This chapter is a consolidation of five articles which appeared in the International Schools Service Newlinks which can be found on [www.TCKworld.com](http://www.TCKworld.com).