

5-1-2022

A Whole New World

Laura Lorenzo
Linfield University

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Recommended Citation

Lorenzo, Laura, "A Whole New World" (2022). *2021-22 Field Notes*. Essay. Submission 10.
https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_fieldnotes_2122/10

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Laura Lorenzo

Spring 2022

Nottingham, England

May 1st, 2022

A Whole New World

The person that I had the opportunity to interview was my friend Hana, from Yorkshire. She is a second year student and is studying architectural engineering. Her lifestyle is very different from mine. Although she tells me that most British people tend to not be as active, she is a very athletic individual that enjoys her time doing various physical activities. She is involved in the dance union, the ice skating union, and plays both tennis and badminton on her own time. Unlike the majority of the British people, she dislikes tea. This sort of took me by surprise since most people in the U.S have the notion that British people drink tea. This led to our conversation about food and the times at which she eats. She usually has breakfast around 8:30-9:00 am consisting of an English breakfast. Lunch, referred to as Dinner in the North part of England, can consist of fish and chips (one the most enjoyed meals), while dinner, referred to as “tea” or “supper” (depending on how big the meal is) in the South part of England, can consist of yorkshire pudding, curry and other foods.

She went on to tell me about how the education system worked in England. Primary and secondary school (equivalent to high school) started at 8:30 am with a 1 hour lecture. There are grammar schools, but in order to get accepted it requires an 11 plus exam. Individuals who attend grammar schools all tend to go to good universities. What surprised me even more was the different terminology that is used in England. For instance, state public schools are private schools. However, similarly to the U.S, we utilize the same type of transportation to get to school; public transport (train or bus), walking, driving, however there are very few buses unlike in the U.S. One of the most commonly

played sports is football (soccer), cross country, in posh schools rugby is played more. Girls tend to play netball and volleyball, tennis and badminton is not a sport offered in school but it's played outside school. During vacations most families tend to go out in order to explore just like in the U.S. However, the difference is that most families end up going to one of the neighboring countries such as Scotland, Spain, France.

One of the biggest similarities that I had with hana is how our cultures both respect our elders. Most people go to work in an office, they value democracy, and individual liberty just like in the U.S. In England it rains a lot, similarly to Oregon. English people wear coats to protect the rain and keep them warm. Hana went on to tell me how there is a growing population in dressing in sports attire, elaborating on how the US has influenced their clothing style. Due to being closer to other European countries, they have a large multicultural society akin to how the US is referred to as a “melting pot”. Doing this interview has allowed me to see the similarities and differences from the US and English cultures. Although I never had an initial perspective of English people, it has opened my eyes to see the smaller differences that aren't common in the US. For instance, there is great importance on respecting and following the queue (line) unlike in the U.S. Due to this interview I was able to have a very lovely and interesting conversation with my friend.