

14. Exercise Title: Diversity Awareness

Worksheet: Martian Case Study

The year is 2050. You are the earth born daughter of Martian parents. Humans made contact with Martians in 2015 and invited them to Earth in large numbers from 2020 to 2025. Martians were very useful to the nuclear power industry because they are not affected by radiation so they were able to help in decommissioning old nuclear power stations. All the nuclear power stations were decommissioned some 20 years ago. Martians and their children do not have the qualifications or cultural background to fit in easily with human society. Many humans have been calling for the Martians to go back to Mars.

Martians are 10 feet tall, very thin, and have green skin. Genetically they are close cousins to humans. Martians believe in twin gods who brought the universe into being and maintain it by singing constantly in harmony. Martians worship these gods by sitting on their hands every 2 hours for 10 minutes and singing.

Imagine you are a Martian...What barriers might you encounter?

Think about how being in a minority group might affect your attitudes towards yourself and others; what social barriers there might be; and what practical barriers there might be.

How would being a Martian affect your attitudes towards others?

What strategies, helpful and unhelpful, might you adopt in a society that was predominantly designed by humans for humans?

Are there any ways in which being a Martian might be an asset?