

## World Café

### OVERVIEW

This tool can be used when hosting large groups to foster conversation, story sharing, problem solving, and planning. It is an easy-to-use method for creating a living network of collaborative dialogue around questions that matter in service to real work.

### How does it work?

#### Seven World Café design principles

1. Set the context
  - Pay attention to purpose and parameters of meeting
2. Create hospitable space
  - Invitation, physical set-up
3. Explore questions that matter
  - Find questions that are relevant to real-life concerns of group
4. Encourage everyone's contribution
  - Encourage ideas, perspectives and listening
5. Connect diverse perspectives
  - Move between tables, link different thoughts
6. Listen together for patterns and insights
  - Pay attention to themes
7. Share collective discoveries
  - Reflection on patterns and share with group

### Instructions

- Seat 4 or 5 people at cluster tables.
- Set up 3 rounds of conversations of 20-30 minutes each.
- Engage groups in questions.
- Encourage groups to write and draw key ideas on their tablecloths.
- Upon completing the initial round of conversation, ask 1 person to remain at the table as the host while the others serve as travelers.
- Ask the table host to welcome the new guests and briefly share the main ideas of the initial conversation. Encourage guests to connect ideas coming from their previous table conversations.
- At the end of the second round, all of the tables or conversation clusters in the room will be cross-pollinated with insights from prior conversations.

- In the third round of conversation, people can return to their home (original) tables to synthesize their discoveries, or they may continue traveling to new tables, leaving the same or a new host at the table. Sometimes a new question that helps deepen the exploration is posed for the third round of conversation.
- After several rounds of conversation, initiate a period of sharing discoveries and insights in a whole group conversation.



### GOOD TO KNOW

- The World Café Community Foundation Creative Commons Attribution, 2015
- <http://www.theworldcafe.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Cafe-To-Go-Revised.pdf>
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### Learn more:

- “A Quick Reference Guide for Hosting World Café”. (2015) The World Café Community Foundation Creative Commons Attribution.