

THIRD CULTURE KIDS: GROWING UP GLOBAL

What is a TCK?

A Third Culture kid (TCK) is someone who has spent a significant portion of their developmental years living outside of their parents' passport country. There are over 200 million TCKs in the world today and with increased globalization, mobility and transnational marriages, our tribe will continue to grow.



Belonging & Rootlessness

TCKs often feel they belong everywhere and nowhere at once. Questions like "Where are you from?" and "Where is home?" are complex for any TCK to answer. Constantly on-the-move, they have created their own collective identity taking on elements of each culture they've interacted with in their global childhood. For a TCK, home transcends geographical boundaries and their identity is deeply rooted in people rather than places.



What is Third Culture?

TCKs have distinct standard of interpersonal behavior, work related norms, codes of lifestyle and perspectives. This creates a new cultural group that doesn't fit into their 'home' or 'host' culture but rather, a shared culture with other TCKs. Third culture is a lifestyle with many common experiences shared by others living in a similar way.



Third Culture Adults (TCAs)

Third Culture Adults spent their childhoods rooted in a mono-culture and their sense of identity (who they are and where they're from) is intact. This is the fundamental difference between TCAs and TCKs. A third culture adult's global and often nomadic experiences begin in adulthood. They do share some commonalities with TCKs such as a broader global perspective, experience collaborating in cross-cultural teams, feelings of wanderlust, restlessness and culture shock when returning to their home country.



Enriched Upbringing

TCKs have lived a highly mobile lifestyle across countries and cultures in their most impressionable and formative years. This means they have inherent abilities to navigate cultural contexts, speak multiple languages, embrace change with ease, are psychologically flexible, adaptive and have a broadened and more tolerant world view.



Lean Into Your Power

So if you are a TCK, I'm here to tell you that it's our "otherness", our collectively being "different" that makes us the same. That's how we belong; in this powerhouse global community. So welcome home... and I can't wait to help you thrive. - NIKKI MULLER



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