Ties That Shape Us

How social groups change across time

SS24.S.7 "Analyze how different types of social groups can influence individual and group behavior.* 7a Compare and contrast types of groups and the reasons for group formation.* 7b Trace the development of various types of social groups from..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline examples of primary-group influence, circle examples of secondary-group influence, and number the paragraphs 1 to 3 to track how groups change over time.

From Close Ties to Shared Tasks

1 Imagine a small hunting and gathering community planning a move when a familiar stream dries up. Relatives and close companions share food, care for children, and decide whom to trust for the trip. Such close, lasting ties are called primary groups. Their members often meet many needs at once, so belonging can shape daily habits and a person's sense of duty. People also join larger gatherings beyond their closest circle to exchange goods or find partners. These contacts can matter, but a single task does not always make strangers into a lasting group. Early communities depended heavily on personal ties for survival.

2 As farming spread in many regions, people settled near fields and stored harvests. Households still raised children and shared resources, while villages organized work that no household could manage alone. Neighbors might agree on turns to maintain a shared irrigation ditch. Later, growing towns brought craft associations and market groups whose members cooperated for particular goals. A secondary group forms mainly around an organized purpose, often with roles that matter more than close personal bonds. For example, members might follow shared rules for measuring grain even if they seldom visit one another's homes. Primary groups remained important; new tasks made other ties useful too.

3 Industrial cities brought more schools, factories, and public agencies, connecting people who might never have met through family or neighbors. Today a family can influence what a teenager believes about helping others, while a school food pantry team uses assigned roles to sort donations fairly. The team may include friends, but its shared task and rules make it a secondary group. A student who joins it might arrive on time because teammates rely on a schedule. Digital tools can help such groups coordinate across distances. Primary groups have not vanished; secondary groups now organize more parts of public life and work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why were close personal ties especially important to the hunting and gathering community? How did village work create a different reason to form a group?

2. Trace one change in group formation from farming villages to growing towns, then explain how industrial cities extended that change.

3. Compare how the teenager's family and the school food pantry team might influence the teenager's behavior.

4. Why can the food pantry team be a secondary group even if some members are friends?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose an activity outside the passage that involves both close companions and an organized group. In five or six sentences, compare why each group forms and how each could affect your behavior, then explain how the importance of these two group types has changed since hunting and gathering societies.

ANSWER KEY

Ties That Shape Us

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.S.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline examples of primary-group influence, circle examples of secondary-group influence, and number the paragraphs 1 to 3 to track how groups change over time. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why were close personal ties especially important to the hunting and gathering community? How did village work create a different reason to form a group?	**Close ties helped people share food, care for children, and decide whom to trust. Villagers also needed to cooperate on work, such as maintaining an irrigation ditch, that one household could not manage alone.**
2	Trace one change in group formation from farming villages to growing towns, then explain how industrial cities extended that change.	**Villages organized shared work, while town craft associations and market groups brought people together for particular goals. Industrial cities added more schools, factories, and public agencies that connected people beyond family and neighbors.**
3	Compare how the teenager's family and the school food pantry team might influence the teenager's behavior.	**The family may shape the teenager's beliefs about helping others. The pantry team's assigned roles and schedule may lead the teenager to sort donations fairly and arrive on time.**
4	Why can the food pantry team be a secondary group even if some members are friends?	**The team is organized around sorting donations, with shared roles and rules. Friendships among some members do not change its main purpose.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I want to perform in a play with my close friends, who spend time together because we enjoy and trust one another. Their opinions might help me feel confident enough to audition. I could also join a theater club, whose members work together to put on a show. Its rehearsal schedule would push me to practice my lines on time. In hunting and gathering societies, close ties met many daily needs. Today close ties still matter, but organized groups like clubs help people reach goals beyond their closest circle.

Accept other accurate examples of close, lasting ties and groups organized around a shared purpose. For the historical comparison, look for continuity in the importance of primary groups and growth in the roles of secondary groups.