Groups Grow Here

Compare how groups form, organize, and connect.

SS24.S.7a "Compare and contrast types of groups and the reasons for group formation.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one reason people join or remain in each of the three groups. Circle one detail about each group's ties or organization so you can compare them.

A Garden, Three Groups

1. After a vacant lot becomes a school garden, Maya's household starts saving vegetable scraps for compost. Her older brother reminds her which scraps attract pests, and her grandmother checks on her after a difficult day. A household is usually a primary group: members know one another closely and maintain ties across many activities, not just one project. Maya did not join her family to build a garden. Family membership began through kinship, and the group provides care and a sense of belonging. A close circle of friends can also be a primary group, even without family ties.

2. To turn the lot into a garden, Maya joins the school's garden committee. Students and staff sign up, elect coordinators, and follow a schedule for watering and tool storage. The committee is a formal group because it has assigned roles and agreed procedures. It is also mainly a secondary group: members work together toward a specific goal, and some may know one another only through meetings. Unlike her household, Maya chose to join this group to improve the lot and learn gardening skills. Still, members of a secondary group can become close friends over time.

3. Meanwhile, neighbors begin swapping extra seeds at a bench beside the lot. No one appoints a leader or writes rules; people stop by when they can. This seed-swapping circle is informal, yet it still serves a purpose: members gain useful seeds and advice. Some keep returning because they enjoy the company, too. Both the circle and the committee help the garden grow, but their ways of organizing differ. Formal and informal describe how groups operate, while primary and secondary describe the kinds of ties among members. A group can fit more than one label.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Maya's household and the garden committee differ in their ties and in Maya's reason for belonging to each?

2. What purpose do the garden committee and seed-swapping circle share, and how does each organize its work?

3. Compare why people remain in Maya's household and the seed-swapping circle. What reason besides a practical benefit appears in each group?

4. Why can the garden committee be called both formal and secondary? What different feature does each label describe?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town needs a safer way for students to travel to school. Describe one formal group and one informal group people could form. Compare how they would organize, why people would join, and whether their ties would likely be primary or secondary.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reason people join or remain in each of the three groups. Circle one detail about each group's ties or organization so you can compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Maya's household and the garden committee differ in their ties and in Maya's reason for belonging to each?	**Her household has close ties across many activities; she belongs through kinship and receives care. She chose to join the committee to improve the lot and learn skills, and its members mainly work together toward a specific goal.**
2	What purpose do the garden committee and seed-swapping circle share, and how does each organize its work?	**Both help the garden grow. The committee has elected coordinators, assigned roles, and a schedule; the circle has no appointed leader or written rules.**
3	Compare why people remain in Maya's household and the seed-swapping circle. What reason besides a practical benefit appears in each group?	**Maya's household provides care and belonging beyond its garden work. Circle members gain seeds and advice, but some also return for the company.**
4	Why can the garden committee be called both formal and secondary? What different feature does each label describe?	**Formal describes its assigned roles and procedures. Secondary describes its mainly goal-focused ties among members.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school travel committee could recruit students and adults, assign a chair, and schedule meetings to propose safer crossings. Members would join to change a route, and their ties would mostly be secondary because they work toward that goal. An informal group of neighbors could meet after school to walk together. They would join for safety and company, with no assigned roles. Their ties might be secondary at first, but could become primary if they became close friends who supported one another beyond the walks.

Accept other accurate comparisons grounded in the passage. For the open task, look for a distinction between how a group operates and the kinds of ties its members have.