

Many Hands, Shared History

Notice how different communities helped shape the United States.

SS.3.G.4.4 "Identify contributions from various ethnic groups to the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each ethnic group or community named in the passage. Circle the words that tell what each group contributed, so you can connect people with their contributions.

Contributions Across Communities

- ① Long before the United States was formed, Native peoples developed knowledge that still helps people today. The Haudenosaunee grew corn, beans, and squash together. Each plant helped the others grow. This method, often called the Three Sisters, taught farmers how plants can share space. Native peoples also built canoes for travel and trade on rivers and lakes.
- ② African Americans have shaped music, science, and daily life in the United States. In New Orleans, Black musicians helped create jazz by blending African musical traditions with other sounds. Jazz uses rhythms, instruments, and room for musicians to improvise. George Washington Carver studied plants and shared ways farmers could use crops, including peanuts and sweet potatoes in new ways.
- ③ Chinese workers, including many immigrants, helped build the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860s. They dug tunnels, laid track, and worked in dangerous mountain conditions. Mexican American vaqueros shared skilled horseback riding and cattle-herding practices in the West. Their work helped shape ranching traditions. Contributions from ethnic groups are part of the country's shared history today too.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What did the Haudenosaunee teach farmers by growing corn, beans, and squash together?

2 What kind of music did Black musicians in New Orleans help create?

3 Name two jobs Chinese workers did while helping build the Transcontinental Railroad.

4 How did Mexican American vaqueros contribute to life in the West?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose an ethnic group not named in the passage. Write exactly two sentences that name one contribution from that group and explain how it helped people in the United States.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each ethnic group or community named in the passage. Circle the words that tell what each group contributed, so you can connect people with their contributions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the Haudenosaunee teach farmers by growing corn, beans, and squash together?	They taught farmers how plants can share space and help one another grow.
2	What kind of music did Black musicians in New Orleans help create?	Jazz.
3	Name two jobs Chinese workers did while helping build the Transcontinental Railroad.	They dug tunnels and laid track. They also worked in dangerous mountain conditions.
4	How did Mexican American vaqueros contribute to life in the West?	They shared horseback riding and cattle-herding practices that helped shape ranching traditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

German immigrants helped bring the idea of kindergarten to the United States. Kindergartens give young children a place to learn through play before first grade.

Accept accurate contributions that name an ethnic group not included in the passage and explain how the contribution helped people in the United States. For passage questions, accept equivalent wording that correctly connects each community to its contribution.