

City Character Clues

Identify the physical and cultural characteristics that describe a place and its region.

SS.5.G.2 "Places and Regions"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each physical characteristic and circle each cultural characteristic. Number 1 beside one detail that shows how a physical feature affects life in New Orleans.

New Orleans: Place and Region

- ① New Orleans, Louisiana, sits beside the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico. The city has low land, warm temperatures, heavy rain, and nearby wetlands. These physical features affect daily life. Waterways support shipping, but storms and flooding can threaten homes. Levees and pumps help move water away from many neighborhoods during wet weather each year.
- ② New Orleans also has cultural characteristics shaped by the people who live there. Music clubs play jazz, a style that grew in the city. Mardi Gras parades bring together costumes, bands, and community groups. Local dishes such as gumbo reflect influences from African, French, Spanish, and Native American traditions over many generations of residents and visitors.
- ③ New Orleans is part of the Gulf Coast region, where places share connections to the Gulf of Mexico. Other Gulf Coast communities may have humid weather, coastal land, ports, and risks from hurricanes. However, each place has its own mix of physical and cultural characteristics. New Orleans is known for its river location, jazz history, and Mardi Gras celebrations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Name two physical characteristics of New Orleans from the passage.

2 How do waterways affect life in New Orleans? Use one detail from the passage.

3 What is one cultural characteristic of New Orleans, and what does it show about the city?

4 Name one characteristic that other Gulf Coast communities may share with New Orleans. Then name one characteristic that helps make New Orleans distinct.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a place you know, or invent a town in a region. In exactly four sentences, describe two physical characteristics and two cultural characteristics, name a region it could belong to, and explain one trait that makes it distinct.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each physical characteristic and circle each cultural characteristic. Number 1 beside one detail that shows how a physical feature affects life in New Orleans. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two physical characteristics of New Orleans from the passage.	Any two: low land, warm temperatures, heavy rain, nearby wetlands, the Mississippi River location, or waterways.
2	How do waterways affect life in New Orleans? Use one detail from the passage.	Waterways support shipping. Accept that storms and flooding can threaten homes, if the student connects this to the city's water setting.
3	What is one cultural characteristic of New Orleans, and what does it show about the city?	Answers may name jazz, Mardi Gras parades, or gumbo. It shows traditions or influences of the people who live in New Orleans.
4	Name one characteristic that other Gulf Coast communities may share with New Orleans. Then name one characteristic that helps make New Orleans distinct.	Shared characteristics may include humid weather, coastal land, ports, or hurricane risk. Distinct characteristics may include its river location, jazz history, or Mardi Gras celebrations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Harbor has rocky beaches and cool, rainy weather. Fishing boats use its deep harbor. The town holds a summer salmon festival, and many families make cedar baskets. Pine Harbor belongs to the Pacific Northwest region because of its rainy coast, but its salmon festival makes it distinct.

Accept clearly stated physical features of land, water, weather, or climate and cultural features connected to people, traditions, food, music, or community activities. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences, two physical characteristics, two cultural characteristics, a region, and a distinguishing trait.