

Belonging Shapes Society

Trace how family ties and group membership shaped ancient life.

SS.6.G.4.1 "Explain how family and ethnic relationships influenced ancient cultures."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every detail that describes a family relationship or a relationship between groups of people, circle every effect on power, rights, work, trade, traditions, or opportunities, and when words fit both categories, make both marks and give the relationship and its effect the same number.

Ties That Shaped Ancient Life

- ① In ancient Rome, family ties helped shape a person's place in society. The paterfamilias, the male head of an independent Roman household, held legal authority over many family matters. Romans expected relatives to support one another through marriage alliances, business, and public connections. Powerful families often backed a relative seeking office. This support could bring wealth and influence to one family for generations. Children also learned household traditions, religious practices, and duties from older relatives each day.
- ② Rome included people with different languages and customs, including Latins, Greeks, Gauls, and peoples of Italy. Roman leaders sometimes made alliances with nearby communities. Allied communities supplied soldiers to Roman armies, while Rome offered protection and, at different times, granted some people citizenship. Citizenship meant a person was protected by Roman law, subject to its duties, and able to participate in public life. These changing relationships helped Rome gain soldiers, trade contacts, and control over a wider area.
- ③ In ancient Athens, people also belonged to groups with different origins. Citizens were usually born to Athenian parents, while metics were free residents who had moved from other Greek cities or lands. Metics worked as craftspeople and traders and could serve in the army, but they could not vote in the Assembly or own land in their own names. Their skills and trade strengthened Athens, yet their outsider status limited their political power. These rules show how a community's ideas about belonging influenced daily opportunities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How could support from a powerful Roman family affect a relative seeking office?

2 What are two things that older Roman relatives taught children?

3 How did alliances with nearby communities help Rome grow stronger?

4 How did being a citizen or a metic lead to different opportunities in Athens?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a four-sentence explanation about an invented ancient trading town. Include one family relationship and one relationship between cultural groups, then explain one effect of each relationship on the town's work, power, traditions, or opportunities.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every detail that describes a family relationship or a relationship between groups of people, circle every effect on power, rights, work, trade, traditions, or opportunities, and when words fit both categories, make both marks and give the relationship and its effect the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could support from a powerful Roman family affect a relative seeking office?	The family could help the relative gain wealth and influence, which could support the relative's public career.
2	What are two things that older Roman relatives taught children?	Older relatives taught household traditions, religious practices, and duties.
3	How did alliances with nearby communities help Rome grow stronger?	Allied communities supplied soldiers, and the relationships also gave Rome trade contacts and control over a wider area.
4	How did being a citizen or a metic lead to different opportunities in Athens?	Citizens could vote in the Assembly and own land. Metics could work, trade, and serve in the army, but they could not vote or own land in their own names.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the ancient town of Sela, a potter taught her niece how to make storage jars. The niece's work helped the family earn grain at the market. River traders who spoke another language exchanged dyes with local weavers. Their trade brought new cloth colors to the town and gave both groups reasons to cooperate.

Accept answers that accurately connect a family or group relationship to a specific effect stated in the passage. For the open response, accept plausible invented examples that include both required relationships and clear effects.