

Culture Across Borders

Identify broad cultural patterns in North America.

SS.7.G.2.4 "Describe current major cultural regions of North America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or phrases that name cultural traits, such as languages, histories, or traditions. Write 1, 2, or 3 beside sentences that describe Anglo America, Mexico and Central America, or the Caribbean.

More Than Political Borders

- ① North America has political borders, but cultural regions are shaped by people's shared languages, histories, beliefs, customs, and connections. Their boundaries are not exact lines. People move, trade, and communicate across borders, so cultural traits overlap. Indigenous nations have lived across today's national boundaries for thousands of years, and their languages and traditions continue to shape many places. When geographers describe cultural regions, they look for broad patterns while recognizing important differences within every region.
- ② Anglo America is a broad region that includes the United States and Canada. English is the most widely used language in much of this region, and British colonial history influenced laws and institutions. Yet Anglo America is not culturally uniform. Canada recognizes English and French as official languages at the federal level, and Québec has a strong French-speaking culture. Immigration from around the world, along with the continuing cultures of Indigenous peoples, gives both countries many local cultural patterns.
- ③ Mexico and the nations of Central America are often grouped with Latin America because Spanish is widely spoken and Spanish colonial rule shaped many institutions. Indigenous languages, foods, arts, and community traditions remain important throughout the area. The Caribbean is also connected to Latin America in some places, but it is especially diverse. Its island societies reflect Indigenous roots, African diasporas, and Spanish, British, French, and Dutch colonial histories. Spanish, English, French, Haitian Creole, and Dutch are used in different Caribbean places.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What types of shared traits do geographers use to identify a cultural region? Name two.

2 Describe Anglo America using its location and two cultural patterns from the passage.

3 How does Québec show that a cultural region is not culturally uniform?

4 Compare Mexico and Central America with the Caribbean. What language or history pattern is described for each?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences comparing Anglo America and the Caribbean. State one cultural pattern in each region, include one detail showing diversity in either region, and explain why cultural boundaries can overlap.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or phrases that name cultural traits, such as languages, histories, or traditions. Write 1, 2, or 3 beside sentences that describe Anglo America, Mexico and Central America, or the Caribbean. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What types of shared traits do geographers use to identify a cultural region? Name two.	Any two: languages, histories, beliefs, customs, or connections.
2	Describe Anglo America using its location and two cultural patterns from the passage.	It includes the United States and Canada. English is widely used in much of the region, and British colonial history influenced laws and institutions. Answers may also note immigration, Indigenous cultures, or French-speaking Québec.
3	How does Québec show that a cultural region is not culturally uniform?	Québec has a strong French-speaking culture even though Anglo America is broadly associated with English. Canada also recognizes both English and French as official federal languages.
4	Compare Mexico and Central America with the Caribbean. What language or history pattern is described for each?	Mexico and Central America are linked to Latin America by widely spoken Spanish and Spanish colonial history. The Caribbean has diverse languages and was shaped by Indigenous roots, African diasporas, and several European colonial histories.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Anglo America includes the United States and Canada, where English is widely used and British colonial history influenced institutions. The Caribbean includes island societies with Indigenous roots, African diasporas, and several colonial histories. Caribbean places use different languages, including Spanish, English, French, Haitian Creole, and Dutch. Cultural boundaries can overlap because people move, trade, and communicate across political borders.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. In the open response, look for a correct pattern for each region, a specific diversity detail, and an explanation that cultural traits can cross political borders.