

Seeds on the Move

Trace how maize spread and changed across North America.

SS.7.G.4.1 "Use geographic terms and tools to explain cultural diffusion throughout North America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline geographic terms that show location, direction, region, or physical features in the passage. Then number the stops in the table from 1 to 4 to show the route of maize diffusion.

How Maize Traveled

1 Long before European contact, maize, or corn, was first domesticated in southern Mexico. Farmers carried seeds north through Mesoamerica. Over many generations, maize reached communities in the Southwest and then areas east of the Mississippi River. This movement of a crop and farming knowledge is cultural diffusion, the spread of ideas or practices between groups.

A NORTHWARD MAIZE DIFFUSION ROUTE

Stop	Relative Location	Connection to Maize Diffusion
Southern Mexico	Origin	Farmers first developed maize.
Southwest	North of the origin	Communities shared seeds and farming knowledge.
Mississippi River Valley	East of the Southwest	Trade networks spread crops and knowledge.
Northeast	North and east of the origin	Communities adopted maize farming.

2 The table organizes several stops in this diffusion. Read the locations in order and notice the direction, mostly northward. A table is a geographic tool when it helps you compare places, routes, and relationships. The Rio Grande and the Mississippi River are physical features that help describe where people traveled and traded.

3 Maize did not replace every local food. Communities adapted it to their own climate, soil, and traditions. In dry parts of the Southwest, farmers used irrigation, moving water to fields. Farther east, wetter conditions supported different growing methods. Diffusion changed as people crossed regions, but local choices shaped how the crop was used.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Where was maize first domesticated, and which two broad regions did it reach afterward?

2 Use the table to describe the overall direction of maize diffusion from the origin to the Northeast.

3 How does the table work as a geographic tool for explaining cultural diffusion? Use the sequence of places it shows.

4 Give one example from the passage of people adapting maize farming to a region's conditions.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence explanation of how maize spread through North America. Use at least three locations from the table, at least two geographic terms, and one adaptation detail from the last paragraph.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline geographic terms that show location, direction, region, or physical features in the passage. Then number the stops in the table from 1 to 4 to show the route of maize diffusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where was maize first domesticated, and which two broad regions did it reach afterward?	Maize was first domesticated in southern Mexico. It later reached the Southwest and areas east of the Mississippi River.
2	Use the table to describe the overall direction of maize diffusion from the origin to the Northeast.	Maize moved mostly northward, from southern Mexico to the Southwest, then east to the Mississippi River Valley, and north and east to the Northeast.
3	How does the table work as a geographic tool for explaining cultural diffusion? Use the sequence of places it shows.	The table compares locations and their relative positions. It shows maize moving from southern Mexico to the Southwest, the Mississippi River Valley, and the Northeast.
4	Give one example from the passage of people adapting maize farming to a region's conditions.	In the dry Southwest, farmers used irrigation to move water to their fields. Accept that wetter eastern conditions supported different growing methods.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maize began in southern Mexico and moved north to the Southwest. From there, it spread east toward the Mississippi River Valley and later northeast. In the dry Southwest, farmers adapted maize farming by using irrigation, showing that cultural diffusion changed as it entered different regions.

Accept equivalent location sequences and geographic terms that accurately describe the route shown in the table. For the open task, responses must use passage and table evidence, include three locations, two geographic terms, and one regional adaptation detail.