

Living Native Voices

American Indian artists and writers shape American life today.

SS3H1.c "Discuss how American Indians continue to contribute to American life (e.g., arts, literature)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the names of the two creators, then underline three details that show how their work contributes to American life today.

Art and Words Today

- ① American Indian artists and writers add important voices to life in the United States today. Kay WalkingStick is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a painter. Her paintings often show land, such as mountains, rivers, and deserts. She may place shapes or patterns beside a landscape. Her art invites people to notice the beauty of places and to think about whose stories the land holds.
- ② Joy Harjo is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She writes poems, makes music, and performs for audiences. In 2019, she became the first American Indian to serve as United States Poet Laureate. She served through 2022. In this national job, she shared poetry with people across the country. Her poems and music carry memories, family, nature, and community. They help readers and listeners hear a Muscogee voice in American literature today.
- ③ These creators show that American Indian contributions are living parts of American culture, not only parts of the past. WalkingStick's paintings appear in museums, where visitors can view her ideas about land. Harjo's books, recordings, and readings bring poetry to classrooms, libraries, and stages. When people look at this art or hear these words, they can learn from Native perspectives and recognize the many communities that shape American life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How do Kay WalkingStick's paintings help people think about land?

2 Name two ways Joy Harjo shares a Muscogee voice with people.

3 How did Joy Harjo's job as United States Poet Laureate help her contribute to American life?

4 Give one place where people can find WalkingStick's work and one place where people can find Harjo's work. What can people learn there?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose Kay WalkingStick or Joy Harjo. Write exactly two sentences. Name the creator and art form in one sentence, then explain how that person's work adds to American life in the other sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the names of the two creators, then underline three details that show how their work contributes to American life today. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Kay WalkingStick's paintings help people think about land?	Her paintings invite people to notice the beauty of places and think about whose stories the land holds.
2	Name two ways Joy Harjo shares a Muscogee voice with people.	She writes poems, makes music, and performs for audiences. Her books, recordings, and readings also bring poetry to people.
3	How did Joy Harjo's job as United States Poet Laureate help her contribute to American life?	In that national job, she shared poetry with people across the country.
4	Give one place where people can find WalkingStick's work and one place where people can find Harjo's work. What can people learn there?	WalkingStick's paintings appear in museums. Harjo's work reaches classrooms, libraries, and stages. People can learn from Native perspectives and recognize communities that shape American life.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Joy Harjo writes poems and makes music. Her books, recordings, and readings bring a Muscogee voice to people in classrooms, libraries, and stages.

Accept only Kay WalkingStick or Joy Harjo. Accept responses that accurately name the creator's art form and use a passage-based explanation of that creator's contribution to American life.