

Europe's Cultural Threads

Identify ways language, religion, food, music, and customs shape life in Europe.

SS6G10 "Describe selected cultural characteristics of Europe."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that shows a cultural characteristic, such as language, religion, food, music, or customs. This will help you identify ways communities across Europe can be alike and different.

Many Cultures, Many Traditions

- ① Europe has many cultural traditions, even within one country. Language is an important cultural characteristic. Spanish is widely spoken in Spain, while Italian is the main language of Italy. In Switzerland, people use several national languages, including German, French, Italian, and Romansh. These languages shape daily life, from signs and school lessons to conversations at home. People may also speak regional languages or languages brought by families who moved from other places across Europe too.
- ② Religious traditions have also influenced European buildings, holidays, music, and art. Christianity has a long history in many parts of Europe, and churches are important places of worship for many Christians. Europe is also home to Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, people of other faiths, and people with no religious belief. In some communities, families celebrate religious holidays with special meals, songs, or public events. The ways people practice, or do not practice, religion differ from family to family.
- ③ Food, music, and celebrations can show both shared traditions and local differences. In Greece, meals may include olives, vegetables, cheese, and bread. In Finland, a sauna is a common part of life for many people and families. Portugal is known for fado, a style of music often sung with emotional expression. These examples do not describe every person in each country. Culture changes over time, and individuals may follow traditions in different ways or create new ones.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What language characteristic does Switzerland have? Name two national languages used there.

2 Name two ways religious traditions have influenced culture in Europe.

3 How do Greece and Portugal each show a cultural characteristic?

4 Why does the passage say that cultural examples do not describe every person in a country?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence exhibit label titled *Europe Has Many Cultures*. Include one language detail, one religion detail, and one food, music, or custom detail from the passage. In your last sentence, explain why these details do not describe every person in Europe.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that shows a cultural characteristic, such as language, religion, food, music, or customs. This will help you identify ways communities across Europe can be alike and different. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What language characteristic does Switzerland have? Name two national languages used there.	Switzerland uses several national languages. Answers may name any two: German, French, Italian, or Romansh.
2	Name two ways religious traditions have influenced culture in Europe.	Religious traditions have influenced buildings, holidays, music, and art. Accept any two.
3	How do Greece and Portugal each show a cultural characteristic?	Greek meals may include olives, vegetables, cheese, and bread. Portugal is known for fado, a music style often sung with emotional expression.
4	Why does the passage say that cultural examples do not describe every person in a country?	People and families may follow traditions differently, create new traditions, or have different beliefs and practices.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Europe has many languages, including German, French, Italian, and Romansh in Switzerland. Religious communities may celebrate holidays with meals, songs, or public events. Portugal's fado is a music style often sung with emotional expression. These details do not describe every European, because traditions differ among people and families.

Accept accurate cultural characteristics and reasonable paraphrases from the passage. For the exhibit label, check for all three required types of details and an accurate statement that culture varies among individuals and families.