

Culture Across Asia

Compare how language, beliefs, traditions, and modern life shape cultures.

SS7G12 "Analyze the diverse cultural characteristics of the people who live in Southern and Eastern Asia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about language, beliefs, customs, arts, food, or family practices. Circle the country or region connected to each detail so you can compare cultural characteristics.

Many Ways to Live

- ① In Southern Asia, India includes many cultural regions. Hindi is widely spoken, but people also use Bengali, Tamil, Marathi, and many other languages. Religious traditions shape daily life for Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, and others. During Diwali, many Hindu families light lamps and share sweets. In Punjab, bhangra music and dance often appear at celebrations. These examples show that one country can contain communities with different languages, beliefs, and customs.
- ② Farther east, Japanese culture has been shaped by islands, seasons, and contacts with other places. Japanese is the main language, and most people use a writing system that combines characters and syllabaries. Shinto and Buddhism influence some holidays and family practices. At New Year, many families visit a shrine or temple, eat special foods, and send greetings. Traditional arts such as tea ceremony, calligraphy, and theater exist alongside global music, games, and fashion in daily life.
- ③ On the Korean Peninsula, people share cultural traditions that developed over centuries, although North Korea and South Korea now have different political systems. Korean is spoken on both sides, and Hangul is its alphabet. Respect for older relatives is important in many families. Foods such as kimchi, made by fermenting vegetables, are served with many meals. In South Korea, K-pop and television dramas reach audiences around the world. Comparing India, Japan, and Korea shows both cultural variety and cultural change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two cultural characteristics that show diversity within India?

2 Compare the influence of religious traditions described in India and Japan.

3 Which detail shows a Korean tradition connected to family life, and which detail shows a Korean cultural product with global reach?

4 What two details support the claim that cultures in Southern and Eastern Asia can change while keeping traditions?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Plan a respectful school cultural exchange display about two places named in the passage. Write exactly 4 sentences that name one cultural characteristic from each place, explain what each detail shows, and state why the examples do not represent every person.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about language, beliefs, customs, arts, food, or family practices. Circle the country or region connected to each detail so you can compare cultural characteristics. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two cultural characteristics that show diversity within India?	India has many languages, including Bengali, Tamil, and Marathi, and it includes people with different religious traditions, such as Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, and Buddhism.
2	Compare the influence of religious traditions described in India and Japan.	In India, religious traditions shape daily life and celebrations such as Diwali. In Japan, Shinto and Buddhism influence some holidays and family practices.
3	Which detail shows a Korean tradition connected to family life, and which detail shows a Korean cultural product with global reach?	Respect for older relatives is an important family tradition. K-pop and television dramas from South Korea reach audiences around the world.
4	What two details support the claim that cultures in Southern and Eastern Asia can change while keeping traditions?	Japan keeps traditional arts such as tea ceremony and calligraphy while also having global music, games, and fashion. South Korea has long-standing family and food traditions while K-pop and television dramas reach global audiences.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My display would compare language in India and Korea. It would explain that India has many languages, including Tamil, while Korean is written with Hangul. It would also include information about Diwali lamps and kimchi, a fermented vegetable dish. The display would state that these are examples of diverse traditions, not customs followed by every person.

Accept equivalent passage-based details and clear comparisons of cultural characteristics. For the open response, accept any accurate two-place display that includes exactly four sentences and avoids treating one example as true of all people.