

Many Cultures, Africa

Analyze how language, food, religion, and community shape cultural diversity.

SS7G4 "Analyze the diverse cultural characteristics of the people who live in Africa."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one language or food example and circle one named religion in each paragraph. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how culture varies within a country.

Culture Has Many Voices

- ① Culture across Africa changes from place to place, even within one country. In Senegal, many people speak Wolof in daily life, while French is used in government and schools. Families may gather for meals around a shared bowl of thieboudienne, a rice and fish dish. Islam shapes many community routines, including Friday prayers and celebrations such as Eid. Yet Senegal also includes Christians and people with other beliefs. Language, food, and religion show that a nation is not culturally uniform.
- ② In Ethiopia, cultural life reflects many ethnic groups and languages. Amharic is widely used, but Oromo, Somali, Tigrinya, and many other languages are also spoken. Some Ethiopian families prepare injera, a sour flatbread, with shared dishes such as lentil stew. The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is important to many people, while Islam and Protestant Christianity are also practiced. Holiday customs, music, and clothing can differ by region and community. These differences make Ethiopia's culture varied rather than single.
- ③ South Africa has eleven official languages, including isiZulu, isiXhosa, Afrikaans, and English. People may use different languages at home, in school, or at work. Christianity is practiced by many South Africans, alongside Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, African traditional religions, and other beliefs. In the city of Durban, residents with African, Indian, European, and other family backgrounds have influenced foods, festivals, and neighborhoods. Learning about one group can reveal a cultural characteristic, but it cannot describe every person in South Africa.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two details from the Senegal paragraph show that people in one country can have different cultural characteristics?

2 Compare language use in Ethiopia and South Africa. Give one detail about each country.

3 How does the passage show that religion can shape culture? Use one example from Senegal or Ethiopia.

4 Why does the final sentence about South Africa warn against making a generalization about its people?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Senegal, Ethiopia, or South Africa and compare it with one other country from the passage. Write 3 or 4 sentences that name one cultural characteristic in each country and explain how the comparison shows Africa's cultural diversity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one language or food example and circle one named religion in each paragraph. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside details that show how culture varies within a country. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details from the Senegal paragraph show that people in one country can have different cultural characteristics?	Senegal includes people who use Wolof and French in different settings, and it includes Muslims, Christians, and people with other beliefs.
2	Compare language use in Ethiopia and South Africa. Give one detail about each country.	Ethiopia has Amharic, Oromo, Somali, Tigrinya, and many other spoken languages. South Africa has eleven official languages, and people may use different languages at home, school, or work.
3	How does the passage show that religion can shape culture? Use one example from Senegal or Ethiopia.	In Senegal, Islam shapes routines through Friday prayers and Eid celebrations. In Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is important to many people, while other religions are also practiced.
4	Why does the final sentence about South Africa warn against making a generalization about its people?	One group's cultural characteristic cannot describe every person because South Africa has many languages, religions, and family backgrounds.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Senegal and Ethiopia both have many cultural traditions, but their examples differ. In Senegal, Wolof is spoken in daily life and thieboudienne is a shared meal. In Ethiopia, people may speak Oromo or Tigrinya, and some families eat injera. This comparison shows that Africa includes many distinct cultures.

Accept accurate paraphrases and other valid details from the passage. For the open response, accept any two countries from the passage, one accurate cultural characteristic for each, and a clear explanation that avoids treating Africa as one culture.