

Identity Connections

Compare cultural heritage with faith and worship in Southwest Asia.

SS7G8.a "Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that tell what makes an ethnic group, circle phrases that tell what makes a religious group, and write 1 beside a sentence that explains how the two kinds of groups can overlap.

Groups Within the Region

- ① People in Southwest Asia belong to many groups. An ethnic group is a group whose members share a cultural heritage. That heritage may include ancestors, language, history, customs, or a homeland connection. For example, many Kurds share Kurdish languages and cultural traditions, even though Kurdish communities live in more than one country. Not every member has every trait in the same way. Ethnic identity can be important because it connects people to a shared past and culture.
- ② A religious group is based on shared beliefs, worship, and religious practices. In Southwest Asia, Muslims may share belief in Islam, while Christians may share belief in Christianity, and Jews may share belief in Judaism. Religious groups can include people from many ethnic backgrounds and countries. A person may join or leave a religion, depending on personal belief or family choices. Religious identity often shapes holidays, places of worship, prayers, and community life for many people.
- ③ Ethnic and religious groups are different because they are organized around different kinds of shared identity. Ethnic groups center on cultural heritage, while religious groups center on faith and worship. The two kinds of groups can overlap. An Arab person, for instance, may be Muslim, Christian, Jewish, or follow another religion. A Kurdish person may also belong to different religious groups. Therefore, you should not assume that everyone in one ethnic group follows one religion, or that everyone in one religious group shares one ethnicity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the main shared foundation of an ethnic group? What is the main shared foundation of a religious group?

2 Name two parts of cultural heritage that can connect members of an ethnic group.

3 Why can people from many ethnic backgrounds belong to the same religious group?

4 Use the Arab example from the passage to explain why an ethnic label does not tell you a person's religion.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about an invented community in Southwest Asia. Describe one ethnic group in the first sentence, one religious group in the second sentence, and explain the difference between them in the third sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that tell what makes an ethnic group, circle phrases that tell what makes a religious group, and write 1 beside a sentence that explains how the two kinds of groups can overlap. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main shared foundation of an ethnic group? What is the main shared foundation of a religious group?	An ethnic group is based on shared cultural heritage. A religious group is based on shared beliefs, faith, worship, and religious practices.
2	Name two parts of cultural heritage that can connect members of an ethnic group.	Answers may include ancestors, language, history, customs, or a homeland connection.
3	Why can people from many ethnic backgrounds belong to the same religious group?	Religious groups are connected by shared beliefs, worship, and practices, not by one shared ethnic heritage.
4	Use the Arab example from the passage to explain why an ethnic label does not tell you a person's religion.	An Arab person may be Muslim, Christian, Jewish, or follow another religion. One ethnic group can include people from different religious groups.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Nura people share a language and wedding customs in Southwest Asia. A group of Muslims shares Islamic beliefs and worship practices, even though its members have different ethnic backgrounds. The Nura people are an ethnic group because they share cultural heritage, while the Muslim group is a religious group because it shares faith and worship.

Accept equivalent descriptions of ethnic groups as based on cultural heritage and religious groups as based on shared beliefs and worship. For the open response, accept any plausible invented example that clearly distinguishes the two kinds of groups.