

Many Voices, Many Ways

Analyze cultural diversity across Southwest Asia.

SS7G8 "Analyze the diverse cultural characteristics of the people who live in Southwest Asia (Middle East)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about language, one about religion, and one about history or movement. Number them 1, 2, and 3 to show three ways culture differs across Southwest Asia.

Cultures Across Southwest Asia

- ① Southwest Asia, often called the Middle East, includes countries such as Türkiye, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Yemen. Its people do not share one single culture. Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, Kurdish, Armenian, and many other languages are spoken. Arabic itself has regional varieties. In cities such as Jerusalem, Istanbul, and Baghdad, families may use more than one language at home, school, work, or worship. Language can connect a person to family history while also helping neighbors communicate across cultural groups.
- ② Religious life also differs across the region. Most people in Southwest Asia are Muslim, but Muslims follow different traditions, including Sunni and Shia Islam. Christian, Jewish, Druze, Yazidi, Bahá'í, and other communities also live there. Places of worship, holidays, family gatherings, and clothing can reflect religious beliefs, though individuals make personal choices. For example, Ramadan is observed by many Muslims through daytime fasting, while Jewish families may gather for Passover meals. These practices show both community traditions and differences within the region.
- ③ People's cultural identities are shaped by ethnicity, local history, and movement between places. Kurds live in parts of several countries and speak Kurdish varieties. Bedouin communities have traditions connected to mobile herding, although many Bedouin people now live in towns and cities. Coastal trade and migration have influenced music, foods, and crafts in places such as Oman and Lebanon. A meal may include rice, bread, vegetables, or grilled meat, but recipes vary by household and location. Studying several examples prevents the false idea that everyone in Southwest Asia lives or celebrates the same way.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What do Arabic regional varieties and families using more than one language show about culture in Southwest Asia?

2 How are Ramadan and Passover examples of both cultural tradition and cultural diversity?

3 What does the example of Bedouin communities show about why people should avoid making assumptions about a cultural group?

4 Explain how trade and migration can add to cultural diversity. Use the passage's example of coastal places.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly five sentences for a museum label titled "Cultures of Southwest Asia." Include at least three different cultural characteristics from the passage and explain why the region should not be described as having only one culture.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about language, one about religion, and one about history or movement. Number them 1, 2, and 3 to show three ways culture differs across Southwest Asia. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do Arabic regional varieties and families using more than one language show about culture in Southwest Asia?	They show that language differs across the region and that some families use multiple languages in daily life.
2	How are Ramadan and Passover examples of both cultural tradition and cultural diversity?	Ramadan is observed by many Muslims through daytime fasting, while Jewish families may gather for Passover meals. Both are community traditions, but they reflect different religious practices.
3	What does the example of Bedouin communities show about why people should avoid making assumptions about a cultural group?	Bedouin traditions are connected to mobile herding, but many Bedouin people now live in towns and cities. A cultural group does not all live the same way.
4	Explain how trade and migration can add to cultural diversity. Use the passage's example of coastal places.	Trade and migration have influenced music, foods, and crafts in coastal places such as Oman and Lebanon. Contact among people can create or spread varied cultural traditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Southwest Asia contains many cultures, not one single way of life. People use languages such as Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, and Kurdish. Religious communities include Muslims, Christians, Jews, Druze, Yazidis, and others. Kurdish communities and Bedouin communities show how ethnicity, local history, and movement shape identity. Trade and migration have also influenced foods, music, and crafts in coastal places.

Accept accurate passage-based explanations that recognize variation within and among cultural groups. Students should avoid claiming that all people in Southwest Asia share the same language, religion, lifestyle, or traditions.