Culture and Country

Compare conflicts between cultural groups and nation-states

6-9.WG.5.4 "Discuss present conflicts between cultural groups and nation-states in regions throughout the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a government goal or action in each paragraph and circle a concern of the cultural group. Use your marks to compare what each conflict is about.

Whose Land, Culture, and Home?

1. In northern Norway, some Sámi families herd reindeer across grazing land used for generations. Wind turbines on the Fosen peninsula were built on land used by Sámi herders. Norway wants more clean electricity, but herders say the turbines and roads disrupt grazing and threaten their way of life. In 2021, Norway's Supreme Court ruled that the wind projects violated herders' cultural rights. The turbines did not immediately come down. Some herders later reached agreements with the companies, yet questions about land and future projects remain.

2. In western China, many Uyghurs, a mostly Muslim group, live in the Xinjiang region. China's government says its security policies are needed to fight extremism and keep order. Uyghurs and human rights groups report that authorities have detained many people and restricted religious practices and use of the Uyghur language. Chinese officials reject many abuse claims. For people affected, these policies can make it harder to pass customs and language to younger generations. The conflict asks who gets to decide how a community practices its culture while the state claims to protect security.

3. In Myanmar, many Rohingya, a mostly Muslim group, have long been denied citizenship under the country's laws. Myanmar's authorities have described the Rohingya as outsiders, while Rohingya families say Myanmar is their home. In 2017, a military campaign drove hundreds of thousands into neighboring Bangladesh. Today, fighting and attacks continue to put Rohingya civilians in danger, and many still live in refugee camps. Without citizenship and safety, returning home is difficult. Unlike the land dispute in Norway, this conflict also centers on legal belonging and the right to live safely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In Norway, how does the government's goal for the Fosen peninsula conflict with Sámi herders' concerns?

2. In China, what reason does the government give for its policies, and why are Uyghurs and human rights groups concerned?

3. How do Myanmar's citizenship laws and the continuing violence affect Rohingya families?

4. Compare the Sámi and Rohingya conflicts. What does each group seek to protect, and how do the conflicts differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence pitch to a news editor proposing a joint report on two conflicts from the passage. Explain why readers should see them together, compare government actions and the groups' concerns, and point out one key difference.

ANSWER KEY

Culture and Country

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.5.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a government goal or action in each paragraph and circle a concern of the cultural group. Use your marks to compare what each conflict is about. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In Norway, how does the government's goal for the Fosen peninsula conflict with Sámi herders' concerns?	**Norway wants clean electricity from wind turbines, but Sámi herders say the turbines and roads disrupt reindeer grazing and threaten their way of life.**
2	In China, what reason does the government give for its policies, and why are Uyghurs and human rights groups concerned?	**The government says the policies fight extremism and keep order. Uyghurs and human rights groups report detentions and restrictions on religion and language.**
3	How do Myanmar's citizenship laws and the continuing violence affect Rohingya families?	**Many Rohingya lack citizenship, and violence puts civilians in danger. These conditions make it difficult for displaced families to return home safely.**
4	Compare the Sámi and Rohingya conflicts. What does each group seek to protect, and how do the conflicts differ?	**Sámi herders seek to protect grazing land and their way of life. Rohingya families seek legal belonging and safety. The Norway dispute centers on land use, while the Myanmar conflict also involves citizenship and displacement.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A joint report could compare the Sámi in Norway with the Rohingya in Myanmar. Norway allowed wind projects on grazing land, while Myanmar's laws have left many Rohingya without citizenship. Sámi herders want to protect land needed for their way of life, and Rohingya families need safety and legal belonging. Both conflicts show how government decisions can affect a cultural group's future. One key difference is that a Norwegian court recognized herders' cultural rights, while many Rohingya remain displaced and in danger.

Accept any two conflicts in the pitch if the student accurately compares government actions and group concerns and identifies a supported difference. Students need not treat every member of a group as holding the same view.