Culture Across Coasts

Compare food, language, and community life in three regions.

7.G.2 "Describe and compare major cultural characteristics of regions in Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a language, circle a food, and box a religious or community practice in each paragraph, then draw an arrow between two details you could compare.

Three Places, Many Cultures

1 At a busy market in coastal Senegal, vendors sell fish, rice, and vegetables for thieboudienne, a dish often shared with family or guests. Senegal is part of West Africa, a region with many peoples and languages. French is Senegal's official language, while Wolof is widely spoken in daily life. Most Senegalese people are Muslim, and many families gather for Eid al-Fitr at the end of Ramadan. These details show some common cultural patterns in Senegal, but they do not describe every West African community.

2 Far away in Kerala, a state in South Asia's India, cooks may serve rice with coconut-based dishes, and many families also eat fish. Malayalam is the state's main language, while India has hundreds of other languages. Kerala has Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities. People of several faiths take part in Onam, a harvest festival with meals, music, and boat races in some places. Like Senegal, Kerala has foods connected to its coast, but its languages and religious mix show a different pattern. Neither place stands for its entire region.

3 In Fiji, an island country in the Southwest Pacific, people also use fish in many meals. Some iTaukei Fijian communities prepare food in a lovo, an earth oven heated with stones. Many iTaukei Fijians speak iTaukei Fijian and are Christian. Many Indo-Fijians speak Fiji Hindi and practice Hinduism or Islam. This mix reflects Fiji's history of migration, including the arrival of Indian laborers under British colonial rule. Senegal, Kerala, and Fiji all show how food, language, and religion can connect people while also showing differences within a place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are foods in Senegal and Kerala alike? Give one difference described in the passage.

2. How do Senegal and Fiji each show that more than one language is used in a place?

3. Compare the religious communities described in Senegal and Kerala.

4. How do Kerala and Fiji each show cultural variety? Give one detail from each place.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a five-sentence sign for a school exhibit about Senegal, Kerala, and Fiji. Include one food detail from each place, one similarity and one difference across the places, and a sentence explaining why these examples do not describe everyone in their regions.

ANSWER KEY

Culture Across Coasts

GRADE 7 · 7.G.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a language, circle a food, and box a religious or community practice in each paragraph, then draw an arrow between two details you could compare. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are foods in Senegal and Kerala alike? Give one difference described in the passage.	**People in both places eat fish and rice. Senegal's thieboudienne includes vegetables, while cooks in Kerala may serve rice with coconut-based dishes.**
2	How do Senegal and Fiji each show that more than one language is used in a place?	**French is Senegal's official language, while Wolof is widely spoken. In Fiji, many iTaukei Fijians speak iTaukei Fijian, and many Indo-Fijians speak Fiji Hindi.**
3	Compare the religious communities described in Senegal and Kerala.	**Most Senegalese people are Muslim. Kerala has Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities.**
4	How do Kerala and Fiji each show cultural variety? Give one detail from each place.	**Kerala has Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities. In Fiji, many iTaukei Fijians and Indo-Fijians speak different languages and practice different religions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Senegal, people may share thieboudienne, a dish of fish, rice, and vegetables. In Kerala, cooks may serve rice with coconut-based dishes, while some communities in Fiji cook food in a lovo. Fish is eaten in all three places. Their languages differ: Wolof is widely spoken in Senegal, Malayalam is Kerala's main language, and many iTaukei Fijians speak iTaukei Fijian. These examples do not describe everyone in West Africa, South Asia, or the Southwest Pacific.

Accept other accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the exhibit sign, look for a food detail from each place, a clear similarity and difference, and a statement that avoids treating one place as an entire region.