Indiana Beyond Indiana

Trace how creative work shapes a state and reaches a wider audience.

IS.1.38 "Research and describe the contributions of important Indiana artists and writers to the state and national cultural landscapes."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one contribution each person made to Indiana's cultural life, and circle one detail showing how that person's work mattered beyond Indiana.

Three Ways to Shape a Culture

1. On a hillside in Brown County, painter T. C. Steele watched light change across trees and fields. After studying art in Germany, he returned to Indiana and painted its landscapes rather than treating them as unworthy of serious art. He became known as one of the Hoosier Group, artists whose work drew attention to Indiana scenes. In Brown County, his home and studio became a gathering place for artists, helping the area grow into an arts community. His landscapes also reached viewers outside Indiana through exhibitions. Steele's career showed that a place often dismissed as ordinary could belong in conversations about American art.

2. A different Indiana landscape appears in the poems of James Whitcomb Riley, who was born in Greenfield. In *Little Orphant Annie*, a young girl tells spooky stories in the speech of an Indiana household. Riley used spellings that suggest how some people spoke, bringing everyday voices into poems that readers could hear aloud. His public readings and widely published verse made him famous across the United States. In Indianapolis, the home where he spent his later years is preserved as a museum. Riley's national popularity spread an image of Indiana life, though his poems represent particular voices, not every Hoosier's experience.

3. Kurt Vonnegut was born in Indianapolis, but his writing traveled far beyond his home city. In *Slaughterhouse-Five*, he drew on his experience as a prisoner of war during the bombing of Dresden, Germany. The novel's jumps through time and dark humor challenge readers to think about war rather than celebrate it. Vonnegut became a major voice in American literature. Indianapolis honors his work through the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library, which hosts programs about writing and free expression. Unlike Steele's local landscapes or Riley's Indiana voices, Vonnegut's best-known book centers on events overseas. His career shows that Indiana's cultural contributions need not be about Indiana.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Steele help shape cultural life in Brown County, and how did his paintings reach beyond Indiana?

2. How did Riley turn Indiana voices into a contribution to American literature?

3. What does Vonnegut's career show about an Indiana writer's national contribution, and how is his work honored in Indianapolis?

4. How do Riley and Vonnegut differ in what they wrote about, even though both reached readers beyond Indiana?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write six sentences proposing a two-person exhibit for an Indiana library. Pair Steele with either Riley or Vonnegut, name work by each, explain each person's impact in Indiana and beyond Indiana, and give your own reason for showing their work together.

ANSWER KEY

Indiana Beyond Indiana

HIGH SCHOOL · IS.1.38

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one contribution each person made to Indiana's cultural life, and circle one detail showing how that person's work mattered beyond Indiana. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Steele help shape cultural life in Brown County, and how did his paintings reach beyond Indiana?	**His home and studio drew artists to Brown County, helping it grow as an arts community. Exhibitions brought his Indiana landscapes to viewers outside the state.**
2	How did Riley turn Indiana voices into a contribution to American literature?	**He used spellings that suggested everyday speech in his poems. His published verse and public readings brought those voices to audiences across the United States.**
3	What does Vonnegut's career show about an Indiana writer's national contribution, and how is his work honored in Indianapolis?	**His writing about events beyond Indiana made him a major voice in American literature. Indianapolis honors him through the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library.**
4	How do Riley and Vonnegut differ in what they wrote about, even though both reached readers beyond Indiana?	**Riley brought Indiana voices and household life to national audiences. Vonnegut's best-known novel centers on events overseas and became part of his national literary influence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would call my library exhibit "Indiana Places, American Stories" and pair T. C. Steele with James Whitcomb Riley. Steele's Brown County landscapes would hang beside excerpts from Riley's *Little Orphant Annie*. Steele helped Brown County become an arts community, while Riley's Indianapolis home remains a museum. Steele's exhibitions carried images of Indiana scenery beyond the state, and Riley's published poems and readings reached audiences across the country. Together, their works show that local scenes and voices can matter to people who have never visited Indiana. The exhibit would also ask visitors whose Indiana experiences these works leave out.

Accept supported explanations of state and national influence, even when students use different wording. For the exhibit, look for one artist, one writer, a work or type of work by each, both scales of impact, and an original connection.