Two New Years

Compare traditions in two families

S.2.5 "Identify examples of culture similarities and differences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two practices the families share, circle each family's named rice dish, and write 1 and 2 beside two activities that differ. Use your marks to compare similarities and differences.

A New Year in Two Homes

1. At a neighborhood cultural fair, Linh describes Tết, the Vietnamese celebration of the new lunar year, while Minseo describes Seollal, a Korean celebration of the new lunar year. Both holidays bring many families together for meals and visits. In both communities, people may express respect for older relatives and wish one another good fortune. These are similarities, but neither holiday has a single script. Work schedules, family preferences, and local traditions shape what people do. Linh's family travels to her grandmother's apartment; Minseo's relatives gather at an uncle's house. The locations differ, but the reason for gathering is much the same.

2. Food makes their comparison more concrete. Before Tết, Linh helps wrap bánh chưng, a square cake of sticky rice, mung beans, and pork, in leaves. Her family cooks it for hours, then shares slices when relatives visit. At Seollal, Minseo's family serves tteokguk, soup with sliced rice cakes, during a meal with relatives. The two dishes use rice but differ in form and preparation: one is a wrapped cake, and the other is a soup. Neither dish appears in every household. Comparing Linh's and Minseo's meals shows a shared use of rice without treating their traditions as identical.

3. When guests arrive, Linh greets her elders and offers new year wishes. Younger children in her family receive lucky money in red envelopes. At Minseo's gathering, children perform sebae, a formal bow to elders, and offer new year greetings. Elders may give them sebaetdon, or new year money. Both families connect greetings with care across generations, but the gestures and names for gifts differ. Linh notices another difference: her family decorates its home with yellow mai flowers, while Minseo's family spends the afternoon playing yutnori, a Korean board game. These details describe two families, not rules for everyone who celebrates.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is one reason both families gather, and how do their gathering places differ?

2. How are bánh chưng and tteokguk similar, and how do their forms differ?

3. How do both families show respect to elders, and what gesture is described only at Minseo's gathering?

4. Besides eating and greeting relatives, what different activity does each family do?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Compare birthday celebrations in two households you know or invent. In four sentences, state one similarity and two differences in their traditions, then explain why your examples do not describe every household.

ANSWER KEY

Two New Years

HIGH SCHOOL · S.2.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two practices the families share, circle each family's named rice dish, and write 1 and 2 beside two activities that differ. Use your marks to compare similarities and differences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one reason both families gather, and how do their gathering places differ?	**Both gather to spend time with relatives for the new year. Linh's family meets at her grandmother's apartment, while Minseo's meets at an uncle's house.**
2	How are bánh chưng and tteokguk similar, and how do their forms differ?	**Both use rice. Bánh chưng is a wrapped cake, while tteokguk is a soup with sliced rice cakes.**
3	How do both families show respect to elders, and what gesture is described only at Minseo's gathering?	**Both offer elders new year greetings. Children at Minseo's gathering also perform a formal bow called sebae.**
4	Besides eating and greeting relatives, what different activity does each family do?	**Linh's family decorates with yellow mai flowers. Minseo's family plays yutnori.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At my aunt's home and my friend's home, relatives share a meal for a birthday. My aunt makes vegetable stew, while my friend's family orders pizza. At my aunt's home, guests tell stories about the guest of honor, but at my friend's home, guests play trivia about that person. These examples show two households' choices, not rules for all birthday celebrations.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons. For Part 3, look for one specific similarity, two specific differences, and a statement that avoids generalizing from two households.