Across the Beat

How technology carries music and changes what people make

WG.4.8 "Explain how changes in communication and transportation technology contribute to the spread of ideas and to cultural convergence and divergence."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways technology carries music or people across borders. Circle one detail that shows people adopting something shared, and number one detail that shows people changing it.

A Dance Crosses the Pacific

1 Today, a teenager in Mexico City can watch a dance video posted by a musician in Seoul minutes after its release. Faster internet connections and video platforms carry the performance across borders without shipping a recording. Captions and fan-made translations help viewers understand the lyrics and interviews. Friends share clips through group messages, so a song can reach classmates who have never searched for music from South Korea. Some viewers learn the same dance steps and sing the chorus at school events. They may never meet the performers, yet they practice moves first seen thousands of miles away.

2 Air travel adds a different kind of connection. A touring dance group from Seoul can fly to Mexico City with instructors and lightweight sound equipment. At a workshop, local dancers can ask questions, correct moves, and record the lesson. Those dancers might later teach classmates who did not attend. A plane does not move a video faster than the internet, but it moves people who can demonstrate details and form lasting partnerships. Later, video calls allow partners to plan another workshop without a second trip. Together, travel and online contact let one performance reach more people than either connection might alone.

3 The students do not all copy what they see. Imagine that one dance club keeps a chorus and several steps but pairs them with cumbia rhythms that members already play at neighborhood parties. Another club performs the original recording, with lyrics in Korean, at the same festival. Both clubs share material that crossed the Pacific, but their performances sound different. Online comments introduce the cumbia version to listeners in Seoul, who can respond or borrow a step. Travel and digital communication do not erase local choices. They can spread a shared form while giving people more ways to reshape it for their own communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do video platforms and group messages help a dance from Seoul become part of a school event in Mexico City?

2. What can air travel add to the spread of the dance that watching a video may not provide?

3. How could the two clubs at the festival show both a shared culture and different local choices?

4. How could online communication carry a new idea in the opposite direction, from Mexico City to Seoul?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a board game spreading to other countries through an online game app and international student exchanges. In four or five sentences, explain how each connection could spread the game, how players might become more alike, and how one local group might change the game.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways technology carries music or people across borders. Circle one detail that shows people adopting something shared, and number one detail that shows people changing it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do video platforms and group messages help a dance from Seoul become part of a school event in Mexico City?	**Video platforms carry the performance across borders, and group messages bring it to classmates who may then learn and perform the steps.**
2	What can air travel add to the spread of the dance that watching a video may not provide?	**Air travel brings instructors to a workshop, where dancers can ask questions, correct moves, and form partnerships.**
3	How could the two clubs at the festival show both a shared culture and different local choices?	**Both use material from the Seoul performance, but one combines it with cumbia rhythms while the other uses the original recording.**
4	How could online communication carry a new idea in the opposite direction, from Mexico City to Seoul?	**Online comments could introduce the cumbia version to listeners in Seoul, who might respond or borrow a step.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An online game app lets players in distant cities learn the same board game and its rules. Exchange students can teach classmates to play and demonstrate a match in person. As more groups use the app, they might adopt the same opening moves. A local club might add a short time limit to fit games into lunch periods. Its members would still play the shared game, but their faster version would be distinct.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how digital communication or air travel spreads the performance. For Part 3, look for a distinct role for each technology, a shared practice, and a plausible local change.