

Stories Carry History

Learn how communities share their past through different kinds of stories.

3.4a "People in world communities use legends, folktales, oral histories, biographies, and historical narratives to transmit cultural histories from one generation to the next."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the five kinds of stories or accounts named in the passage. Underline one detail that shows what each kind can teach people about a community.

Many Ways to Share the Past

- ① People learn about a community's past in more than one way. In Ghana, families may tell Anansi folktales aloud. Anansi is a clever spider in many West African stories. The tales can teach children to think carefully and explain why storytelling is important at family gatherings. When children retell a tale, they help carry a tradition forward.
- ② An oral history is a person's spoken memory of the past. A grandparent might describe a fishing trip, a wedding, or a hard move to a new place. A biography is an account of a real person's life. Reading a biography of Kenyan environmental leader Wangari Maathai can show how one person helped plant trees and care for her community.
- ③ A historical narrative tells about real events from the past. It may describe what happened, who took part, and why the event mattered. A legend is an old story that a community shares. Legends may include amazing events, so they are not used as proof of every fact. Still, they can show values and heroes that a community remembers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which kind of account uses a person's spoken memory of the past?

2 How can retelling Anansi folktales help carry a tradition forward?

3 Why might a reader use a historical narrative instead of a legend to learn facts about an event?

4 What can a biography of Wangari Maathai teach readers about her community?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Ask an adult to share one memory about a family or community tradition. Write exactly three sentences that tell the memory, name the tradition, and explain what the oral history can teach younger people.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the five kinds of stories or accounts named in the passage. Underline one detail that shows what each kind can teach people about a community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which kind of account uses a person's spoken memory of the past?	An oral history.
2	How can retelling Anansi folktales help carry a tradition forward?	Children learn the tales and share them again, helping keep the storytelling tradition alive.
3	Why might a reader use a historical narrative instead of a legend to learn facts about an event?	A historical narrative tells about real events, while legends may include amazing events and are not proof of every fact.
4	What can a biography of Wangari Maathai teach readers about her community?	It can show how she helped plant trees and care for her community.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My grandfather told me about helping prepare food for the Lunar New Year when he was a child. His family cleaned the house and shared a meal together. This oral history teaches me that families pass traditions to younger people.

Accept answers that accurately use details from the passage. For the open response, accept any appropriate adult memory, named tradition, and explanation of how the story shares history or values with younger people.