

Americas, Many Voices

Compare cultural characteristics and contributions across four countries.

5.5a "The countries of the Western Hemisphere have varied characteristics and contributions that distinguish them from other countries."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one language or tradition for each country. Circle each contribution a country has made or shared with the world, so you can compare what makes the countries distinct.

Distinct Countries, Shared Hemisphere

- ① Countries in the Western Hemisphere share the Americas, yet each has features that make it distinct. In the United States, English is the most widely spoken language, and many people practice Christianity or other religions. The country has contributed jazz music, movies, inventions, and ideas about representative government to the world. Its many communities also celebrate traditions from around the globe.
- ② Canada has two official languages at the federal level, English and French. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples have longstanding cultures in Canada, and their languages and traditions are important. Ice hockey is widely enjoyed there. Canadian researchers helped develop insulin treatment in the 1920s, a medical contribution that has helped people with diabetes worldwide.
- ③ Mexico's main language is Spanish, although many Indigenous languages are also spoken. Mexican traditions include Día de los Muertos, a time to remember people who have died. Mexico gave the world foods made from maize, a crop first domesticated there, and mariachi music. Brazil's main language is Portuguese. Brazil is known for samba music and for growing and exporting coffee.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is Canada's use of official languages different from the most widely spoken language in the United States?

2 What cultural groups are named as having longstanding cultures in Canada?

3 What two contributions or products is Brazil known for in the passage?

4 Choose Mexico or Brazil. How does its main language differ from the most widely spoken language in the United States? Name one contribution or cultural product from that country.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose the United States and either Mexico or Brazil. Write two sentences. In the first sentence, compare one language or tradition. In the second sentence, name one contribution from each country.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one language or tradition for each country. Circle each contribution a country has made or shared with the world, so you can compare what makes the countries distinct. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is Canada's use of official languages different from the most widely spoken language in the United States?	Canada has two federal official languages, English and French. English is the most widely spoken language in the United States.
2	What cultural groups are named as having longstanding cultures in Canada?	First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.
3	What two contributions or products is Brazil known for in the passage?	Samba music and growing and exporting coffee.
4	Choose Mexico or Brazil. How does its main language differ from the most widely spoken language in the United States? Name one contribution or cultural product from that country.	Mexico: Spanish is its main language, while English is most widely spoken in the United States. Mexico contributed foods made from maize or mariachi music. Brazil: Portuguese is its main language, while English is most widely spoken in the United States. Brazil is known for samba music or coffee.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States and Mexico both have cultural traditions, but English is most widely spoken in the United States while Spanish is Mexico's main language. The United States has contributed jazz music, and Mexico has shared mariachi music with the world.

Accept accurate comparisons and contributions stated in the passage. For the open response, check that the student compares the United States with Mexico or Brazil and includes one contribution for each country.