Culture in Motion

Compare traditions and see how cultures change.

4.C.2.4 "Examine the concept of culture, including the distribution and complexity of major cultural groups of the United States of America. Identify the characteristics of culture (e.g., language, customs, religious beliefs, food, clothing…"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two Native traditions, circle two immigrant contributions, and write 1 beside an example of traditions coming together so you can compare the regions.

Traditions Across Two Regions

1. At a food stand in the Pacific Northwest, a cook puts smoked salmon inside a steamed bun. For centuries, Native peoples of this region, including many Coast Salish communities, have caught and prepared salmon. Chinese immigrants shared the steamed-bun tradition in the region. Bringing these foods together shows cultural diffusion, when ideas or customs spread between groups. Not every family eats the same foods.

2. In the Southwest, Pueblo peoples have built homes from adobe, a mix of earth, water, and other materials, for many generations. Thick adobe walls help keep rooms cooler on hot days. Mexican immigrants have shared Spanish words and family recipes for flour tortillas in the region. Some people in the Southwest eat tortillas, while others do not. Culture includes food, language, and shelter, not just one tradition.

3. Both regions show Native and immigrant influences, but the examples differ: salmon and steamed buns in the Northwest, adobe homes and Spanish words in the Southwest. Culture shapes what people eat, say, and build. When a cook puts salmon in a steamed bun, traditions meet and a new dish can grow. Families may also keep traditions unchanged. Together, these choices shape American culture.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does a Native tradition in the Pacific Northwest differ from a Native tradition in the Southwest?

2. Compare one contribution from immigrants in each region.

3. How can culture affect daily life in each region? Give one example from each.

4. How does the salmon-filled bun show cultural diffusion?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a new community event in either region. In three sentences, describe one tradition from the passage and one from your life or your imagination, tell who shares them, and explain how bringing them together could change a community custom.

ANSWER KEY

Culture in Motion

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two Native traditions, circle two immigrant contributions, and write 1 beside an example of traditions coming together so you can compare the regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a Native tradition in the Pacific Northwest differ from a Native tradition in the Southwest?	**Native peoples in the Pacific Northwest have caught and prepared salmon. Pueblo peoples in the Southwest have built adobe homes.**
2	Compare one contribution from immigrants in each region.	**Chinese immigrants shared steamed buns in the Pacific Northwest. Mexican immigrants shared Spanish words or family recipes for flour tortillas in the Southwest.**
3	How can culture affect daily life in each region? Give one example from each.	**In the Pacific Northwest, culture can shape foods people eat, such as salmon or steamed buns. In the Southwest, adobe building traditions can help keep homes cooler.**
4	How does the salmon-filled bun show cultural diffusion?	**It brings together salmon prepared by Native peoples of the region and a steamed-bun tradition shared by Chinese immigrants.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a Southwest fair, a Pueblo builder shows how to shape adobe bricks, and my family shares a song we sing while working. Neighbors sing the song as they shape bricks together. Some families might sing it during other projects, creating a new community custom.

Accept any accurate comparison supported by the passage. For Part 3, look for a tradition from the passage, a second tradition, the people sharing them, and a possible change in a community custom.