Keeping Heritage Alive

How places, objects, and stories are preserved

4.C.3.1.C "Explain how museums, national parks, and heritage centers attempt to preserve American Indian cultural heritage (e.g., Mesa Verde, Cahokia Mounds, Chaco Canyon)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that protect a place or object. Circle actions that help keep cultural knowledge alive.

More Than Old Buildings

1. At Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, visitors can see homes built in cliffs by Ancestral Pueblo people more than 700 years ago. The stone walls can be damaged when people touch or climb them. Park workers guide visitors on set paths and repair walls carefully when needed. They also work with Pueblo people whose ancestors lived there. These steps help keep the homes standing and their history told with care.

2. At Cahokia Mounds in Illinois, huge earth mounds remain from a city built by Native people long ago. Rain and footsteps can wear down the mounds, so workers care for the grassy slopes and keep visitors on marked paths. A museum at the site keeps some objects safe and uses exhibits to explain how people lived there. This protects both the mounds and knowledge about the city.

3. At Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico, workers protect old stone buildings by watching for damage and asking visitors to stay on trails. Pueblo and other Native communities have ties to this place. At heritage centers, Native people may share stories, languages, and traditions with visitors. They choose what to share. Protecting a building matters, but keeping the voices of living communities in the story matters, too.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do park workers at Mesa Verde protect the cliff homes?

2. How does the museum at Cahokia Mounds help preserve more than the mounds?

3. Why do workers at Cahokia Mounds care for grassy slopes and keep visitors on marked paths?

4. How can a heritage center help preserve living Native culture while respecting Native communities?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is opening a heritage center about a Native community. Write three sentences proposing a new activity or display that protects an object or place, teaches visitors about living culture, and gives community members a say in what is shared.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.C.3.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions that protect a place or object. Circle actions that help keep cultural knowledge alive. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do park workers at Mesa Verde protect the cliff homes?	**They guide visitors on set paths and carefully repair walls when needed.**
2	How does the museum at Cahokia Mounds help preserve more than the mounds?	**It keeps some objects safe and uses exhibits to explain how people lived in the city.**
3	Why do workers at Cahokia Mounds care for grassy slopes and keep visitors on marked paths?	**Rain and footsteps can wear down the earth mounds. These actions help protect them.**
4	How can a heritage center help preserve living Native culture while respecting Native communities?	**Native people can share stories, languages, and traditions, and they choose what to share.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We could place a handmade basket in a case so visitors can look without touching it. A Native basket maker could teach visitors about basketmaking today through a video. The basket maker and other community members would choose which skills and stories the video may share.

Accept answers that connect a specific action to preserving a place, an object, or cultural knowledge. For Part 3, look for a new proposal that includes all three requested features and lets community members decide what is shared.