Ideas on the Move

Trace how a cultural feature spreads and changes a region.

6.C.3.3 "Define cultural diffusion by describing how cultural characteristics spread and impact contemporary regions (e.g., entertainment, fast foods, social media's rapid spread of ideas, wide use of the smartphone)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the cultural features that travel, circle the tools that help them spread, and number two changes they could bring to life in Lima. Use your marks to trace cultural diffusion.

A Dance Crosses the Ocean

1. Imagine a student in Seoul, South Korea, posting a short video of a dance to a Korean pop song. A student in Lima, Peru, sees the video on a smartphone and shares it with friends. Soon, the friends practice the moves at a local park. The song and dance have crossed from one region to another through the internet. This movement of cultural features, such as music, dance, food, or language, is called cultural diffusion. People do not need to move to a new country for their ideas to travel.

2. In this example, social media lets the Lima students watch the video again as they learn. A dance club in Lima might learn the original steps, then add a move from a local dance style. Students could put Spanish captions on their practice video so neighbors understand it. Their version might reach viewers in other places, too. The spread is not a one-way trip: people who receive an idea can change it and share it again. The club still recognizes the Korean pop song, but its performance also reflects Lima.

3. Cultural diffusion can change what people do in a region today. If the Lima club performs at a neighborhood festival, more residents may hear Korean pop music and some may join the club. A nearby shop might play those songs after customers request them. Not everyone will like the same music, and local styles do not disappear just because new ones arrive. In this imagined example, smartphones and social media help a cultural feature travel quickly, while the festival and shop show how it could become part of everyday life in Lima.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What cultural features travel from Seoul to Lima in the example?

2. How do the smartphone and social media help the dance spread?

3. How might the Lima club change the dance while keeping a link to its source?

4. Name two ways the spread of the song could affect everyday life in Lima.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a cultural feature other than Korean pop music or dance. In four sentences, explain where it comes from, how it could spread to another region, one way people there might adapt it, and one change it could bring to life there.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas on the Move

GRADE 6 · 6.C.3.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the cultural features that travel, circle the tools that help them spread, and number two changes they could bring to life in Lima. Use your marks to trace cultural diffusion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What cultural features travel from Seoul to Lima in the example?	**A Korean pop song and its dance travel from Seoul to Lima.**
2	How do the smartphone and social media help the dance spread?	**A student watches the video on a smartphone and shares it with friends. Social media lets the students watch it again as they learn.**
3	How might the Lima club change the dance while keeping a link to its source?	**The club might add a move from a local dance style while still performing to the Korean pop song.**
4	Name two ways the spread of the song could affect everyday life in Lima.	**Residents might hear the song at a neighborhood festival, and a nearby shop might play it when customers ask.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A recipe for corn tortillas from Mexico could reach Toronto, Canada. A traveler might share the recipe with a local cook. The cook could use locally grown corn to make tortillas for a neighborhood market. As more people try them, the market might begin selling tortillas every weekend.

Accept other passage-supported effects for question 4, such as residents joining the club. For the open task, look for a clear source, a way the feature spreads, a local adaptation, and an effect in the receiving region.