Culture in Action

How shared ideas shape everyday care

S.2.1 "Describe the components of culture, including norms and values, material and non-material care."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two physical objects, circle two shared expectations for behavior, and write 1 beside one shared value to track how culture shapes care.

Saturday at Maple Street Garden

1 On Saturday mornings, neighbors gather at the Maple Street garden before the sun reaches the fence. A hand-painted sign asks visitors to leave a portion of each harvest for anyone who needs fresh food. Volunteers place clean baskets near the gate, and people returning from the beds set tomatoes or beans inside. New visitors often pause to watch. They notice that longtime gardeners take only what they can use that week, even when the baskets are full. No one checks how many vegetables each person carries home. The garden works because people expect one another to make room for others.

2 Culture includes both things people can touch and ideas they share. Physical objects, such as tools or buildings, are material culture. Beliefs, values, and ways of acting are nonmaterial culture. A value is a belief about what matters; a norm is a shared expectation for behavior. At Maple Street, neighbors believe that access to fresh food should not depend on a person's income. They also expect gardeners to ask before picking from another person's plot. When someone forgets, a volunteer explains the expectation rather than issuing a fine. The group relies on conversation to pass its ways to new members.

3 Each month, the gardeners hold a harvest supper beside the beds. They set out folding tables and a large pot for soup. Before eating, volunteers invite guests to add a few words of thanks in any language they speak. Some guests speak, while others listen quietly; no one has to take a turn. After the meal, neighbors pack extra servings for people who cannot travel to the garden. The pot and containers help them deliver food, but the decision to include absent neighbors comes from a shared idea about care. Both kinds of culture shape what happens at the supper.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which shared value helps explain why gardeners leave food in the baskets? How does leaving food put that value into action?

2. Identify two material objects used at the harvest supper. Explain what each helps people do.

3. What norm protects individual plots? How does the group pass on this norm?

4. Describe one nonmaterial practice at the supper. How does it affect who can take part?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a student-run clothing swap at your school. In four sentences, describe one material object, one shared value, one norm, and how they work together to help people care for others.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two physical objects, circle two shared expectations for behavior, and write 1 beside one shared value to track how culture shapes care. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which shared value helps explain why gardeners leave food in the baskets? How does leaving food put that value into action?	**The gardeners value access to fresh food regardless of income. Leaving part of the harvest gives others a chance to take food.**
2	Identify two material objects used at the harvest supper. Explain what each helps people do.	**The large pot holds soup for the meal, and containers hold extra servings for people who cannot come to the garden.**
3	What norm protects individual plots? How does the group pass on this norm?	**Gardeners are expected to ask before picking from another person's plot. A volunteer explains this expectation when someone forgets.**
4	Describe one nonmaterial practice at the supper. How does it affect who can take part?	**Guests may offer thanks in any language, and speaking is optional. This lets people with different languages participate and gives quiet guests a way to be present.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The club sets out sturdy racks so visitors can see the clothes. Members value making useful clothing available to anyone who needs it. Their norm is to take no more than three items until everyone has had a turn. The racks make sharing possible, while the norm puts the value into action by leaving choices for later visitors.

Accept other passage-supported objects, values, norms, and practices. For the open task, look for a clear distinction between a physical object and shared ideas, plus an explanation of how they work together.