Streets Tell Stories

Compare how beliefs and customs shape a sense of place.

WG.C.3.1 "Compare the world's major cultural landscapes to analyze cultural differences, cultural identity, social mores, and sets of beliefs which determine a sense of place."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a built feature and circle a belief-related practice in each place, then write the same number beside two details, one from each place, that you could compare.

Two Neighborhoods, Two Ways of Life

1 At dusk, Marrakech's historic medina in Morocco fills with shoppers moving through narrow lanes. In the souks, vendors sell spices, leather goods, and everyday supplies. Nearby, Jemaa el-Fnaa square becomes a gathering place for food sellers and performers. The call to prayer from mosques, including the Koutoubia Mosque near the square, marks time for many Muslims. During Ramadan, some shops change their hours, and many residents fast from dawn to sunset. These features link trade, public gathering, and Islamic practices to the medina's sense of place, although residents do not all share the same beliefs.

2 Across the world, Kyoto's Gion district in Japan has narrow streets lined with wooden townhouses, some now used as shops and restaurants. Yasaka Shrine stands at the district's edge. Each July, the Gion Matsuri festival, associated with the shrine, brings processions and decorated floats to central Kyoto. Shinto practices at the shrine are part of this landscape, but not everyone in Kyoto follows them. Signs on some private lanes ask visitors not to take photographs. The rule reflects concern for residents' privacy amid heavy tourism. Old buildings, festival routes, and rules about shared space help shape Gion's identity.

3 In both neighborhoods, streets do more than carry traffic: they bring people together for trade or celebration. Yet the ways people use and protect those streets differ. In Marrakech, Ramadan can change business hours as some residents observe a month of fasting. In Gion, festival events linked to Yasaka Shrine can temporarily change how central streets are used, while photography rules protect some quieter lanes. Neither practice represents every resident. Comparing visible features with local customs shows why two places with busy public spaces can still have distinct identities. It also helps visitors avoid treating either neighborhood as a museum.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do practices linked to religion change public life in Marrakech and Kyoto at particular times?

2. Compare how Jemaa el-Fnaa square and the streets used for Gion Matsuri help bring people together.

3. Choose one built feature from each neighborhood. How does each help give its neighborhood a distinct identity?

4. Compare a custom in Marrakech with a rule in Gion that affects what people do. What different concerns do they reflect?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two fictional neighborhoods that each have a central market. In 80 to 100 words, compare how a belief or shared value and a social expectation in each neighborhood shape the market's appearance or use, then explain how the markets feel different.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a built feature and circle a belief-related practice in each place, then write the same number beside two details, one from each place, that you could compare. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do practices linked to religion change public life in Marrakech and Kyoto at particular times?	**During Ramadan, fasting can lead some Marrakech shops to change their hours. In Kyoto, Gion Matsuri brings processions and floats to central streets each July.**
2	Compare how Jemaa el-Fnaa square and the streets used for Gion Matsuri help bring people together.	**Jemaa el-Fnaa gathers food sellers and performers, while streets in central Kyoto gather people for festival processions and floats.**
3	Choose one built feature from each neighborhood. How does each help give its neighborhood a distinct identity?	**Marrakech's narrow souk lanes provide space for trade. Gion's wooden townhouses preserve a recognizable part of its older streetscape.**
4	Compare a custom in Marrakech with a rule in Gion that affects what people do. What different concerns do they reflect?	**Some Marrakech residents fast during Ramadan, a religious practice that can affect shop hours. Gion's photography rules ask visitors to respect residents' privacy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Harbor Ward, families believe the sea should be thanked for safe journeys. A gathering space beside the market holds painted boats, and people leave its center clear during evening songs. In Hill Ward, neighbors value quiet study and place book stalls around the market square. Visitors speak softly near an outdoor reading area, even when vendors are busy. Both markets bring neighbors together, but Harbor Ward's open singing space reflects shared gratitude, while Hill Ward's reading area reflects respect for learning. These customs give each market a different sound and sense of place.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that connect visible features or behavior to beliefs, customs, and identity. For the fictional neighborhoods, look for distinct values, social expectations, and resulting differences in each market's sense of place.