Culture by Stop

Trace cultural patterns along a Queens train route

WG.C.3.2 "Describe and draw conclusions about the spatial dimensions of culture as defined by language, religion, and ethnicity."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one place-based example each of language, religion, and ethnicity, then circle words that show how cultural patterns overlap or connect across neighborhoods.

Along the 7 Train

1 Ride the 7 train east through Queens, a borough of New York City, and the view from the station changes. Jackson Heights, Corona, and Flushing lie along the route. Each neighborhood has residents with many backgrounds, not one single culture. Yet clusters of shops and gathering places make some cultural patterns visible. A cluster means several features appear near one another, rather than being spread evenly across the borough. The train connects these places, so people can live in one neighborhood and shop, work, or worship in another. To study culture in space, notice both the clusters and the connections between them.

2 In Jackson Heights, signs for businesses can appear in Spanish, Bengali, and other languages. Spanish is also visible on storefronts in nearby Corona. Farther east, signs in Chinese and Korean are common in Flushing's busy shopping streets. These signs help customers find food, services, and news in languages they know. They suggest where businesses serve particular language communities, but they do not reveal what language every resident speaks. A bilingual customer may travel from Corona to Flushing for work, while a Flushing resident may visit Jackson Heights for dinner. Language regions along the train therefore overlap rather than having hard borders.

3 Places of worship add another layer to the pattern. Jackson Heights has Hindu temples, mosques, and churches, while Flushing has Buddhist temples and churches, among other religious sites. Neither neighborhood has just one faith. Ethnicity refers to a shared cultural heritage, which may include ancestry, traditions, and history. South Asian and Latin American communities have a presence in Jackson Heights; Chinese and Korean communities have a presence in Flushing. These broad names include people with different languages and religions. The cultural landscape changes from stop to stop, but no shop sign or religious building can tell you the identity of every person nearby.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Compare the languages visible on business signs in Jackson Heights and Flushing. How are these neighborhoods positioned along the train route?

2. What do the places of worship in Jackson Heights and Flushing show about the distribution of religions in these neighborhoods?

3. Compare the ethnic communities described in Jackson Heights and Flushing. Why can't you use this pattern to identify a person's religion?

4. Why does the passage describe cultural regions along the 7 train as overlapping rather than having hard borders?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent two neighborhoods connected by a bus route. In four or five sentences, describe where two languages, two religious gathering places, and two ethnic communities are found, then draw a conclusion about the spatial pattern without assuming everyone in a community shares a language or religion.

Culture by Stop

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one place-based example each of language, religion, and ethnicity, then circle words that show how cultural patterns overlap or connect across neighborhoods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the languages visible on business signs in Jackson Heights and Flushing. How are these neighborhoods positioned along the train route?	**Spanish and Bengali appear on signs in Jackson Heights. Chinese and Korean signs are common in Flushing, which is farther east along the route.**
2	What do the places of worship in Jackson Heights and Flushing show about the distribution of religions in these neighborhoods?	**Both neighborhoods have sites for more than one faith. Jackson Heights has Hindu temples, mosques, and churches; Flushing has Buddhist temples and churches.**
3	Compare the ethnic communities described in Jackson Heights and Flushing. Why can't you use this pattern to identify a person's religion?	**South Asian and Latin American communities have a presence in Jackson Heights, while Chinese and Korean communities have a presence in Flushing. People within each broad ethnic group may have different religions.**
4	Why does the passage describe cultural regions along the 7 train as overlapping rather than having hard borders?	**People can travel between neighborhoods to work, shop, or worship, and a sign does not tell us what language every nearby resident speaks.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In my invented city, Harbor Stop has Somali and Ethiopian communities, while Hill Stop has Somali and Mexican communities. Somali and Amharic appear on signs near Harbor Stop, and Spanish appears on signs near Hill Stop. A mosque stands near Harbor Stop, and a church stands near Hill Stop. The Somali community is present at both stops, so it is not limited to one neighborhood. These signs and gathering places show cultural clusters, but they do not tell us every resident's language or religion.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and conclusions that distinguish visible cultural patterns from the identities of individual residents. For the open task, accept any consistent invented setting that locates all requested features and draws a qualified spatial conclusion.