

# Texas Culture Voices

See how celebrations and artists shape Texas culture.

**4.17** "Culture. The student understands the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to Texas culture. The student is expected to: identify customs, celebrations, and traditions of various cultural, regional..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each celebration or custom in the passage. Circle each artist, then draw a line from the artist's name to words that tell how the artist contributed to Texas culture.

### Many Voices, One Texas

- ① Texas culture grows when communities share celebrations and customs. Cinco de Mayo remembers Mexico's victory at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. In Texas, people may gather for music, dancing, food, and community events. Fiesta San Antonio began in 1891 to honor the Alamo defenders. Today it includes parades, music, and events that celebrate many San Antonio communities.
- ② German Texans have also shaped local traditions. In Fredericksburg, Oktoberfest celebrates German heritage with music, dancing, food, and activities for families. These gatherings help people remember family histories and share them with neighbors. A celebration can have roots in one group while welcoming people from many groups. Customs such as songs, foods, and parades help make Texas communities distinctive.
- ③ Texas artists have carried community sounds to larger audiences. Lydia Mendoza, a Mexican American singer and guitarist, became known for Tejano music and brought songs of the borderlands to recordings and radio. Chelo Silva, a Mexican American singer, was called the Queen of the Bolero. Her recordings helped popularize romantic bolero songs among Tejano music listeners. Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe, a Waco-born African American baritone, performed spirituals for audiences in the United States and abroad.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

- 1** Name two Texas celebrations from the passage. For each one, name one activity or tradition connected to it.

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- 2** How can a celebration with roots in one group help a Texas community?

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- 3** Summarize Lydia Mendoza's and Chelo Silva's contributions to Texas culture. Include the kind of music or songs each was known for.

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- 4** What did Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe perform, and where did he perform for audiences?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose a Texas cultural celebration, tradition, or artist not named in the passage. Write 3 sentences that identify its community connection, describe a custom or artistic contribution, and explain how it adds to Texas culture.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each celebration or custom in the passage. Circle each artist, then draw a line from the artist's name to words that tell how the artist contributed to Texas culture. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                           | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Name two Texas celebrations from the passage. For each one, name one activity or tradition connected to it.                        | <b>Answers may include: Cinco de Mayo, music or dancing; Fiesta San Antonio, parades or music; Oktoberfest, music, dancing, food, or family activities.</b>                            |
| 2 | How can a celebration with roots in one group help a Texas community?                                                              | <b>It can help people remember family histories and share them with neighbors while welcoming people from many groups.</b>                                                             |
| 3 | Summarize Lydia Mendoza's and Chelo Silva's contributions to Texas culture. Include the kind of music or songs each was known for. | <b>Lydia Mendoza brought Tejano music and borderland songs to recordings and radio. Chelo Silva's recordings helped popularize romantic bolero songs among Tejano music listeners.</b> |
| 4 | What did Julius Lorenzo Cobb Bledsoe perform, and where did he perform for audiences?                                              | <b>He performed spirituals for audiences in the United States and abroad.</b>                                                                                                          |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Juneteenth began in Galveston and is important to African American Texans. People may celebrate with community gatherings, music, and food on June 19. The celebration adds to Texas culture by remembering freedom and sharing history.

Accept any two celebrations and matching activities stated in the passage for Question 1. For the open response, accept accurate Texas examples not named in the passage if all three requested ideas are included.