

Art Tells Time

Notice how U.S. creative works reveal ideas from their eras.

5.20 "Culture. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created. The student is expected to: identify significant examples of art, music, and literature from various periods in U.S..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each work's title. Underline words that explain how the work reflected the time when it was created.

Creative Clues From U.S. History

- ① During the American Revolution, music could carry a political message. "Yankee Doodle" began as a song used by British soldiers to tease colonial troops. The colonists adopted it and sang it with pride. Its playful tune and new meaning showed that many colonists were building a separate identity and resisting British rule at the time.
- ② In 1872, John Gast painted *American Progress* as the United States expanded westward. In the painting, a bright woman moves west while settlers, trains, and telegraph wires follow. Native Americans and bison move away. The scene supports Manifest Destiny, the belief that U.S. expansion across the continent was right and expected to many settlers then.
- ③ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published the poem "Paul Revere's Ride" in 1860, long after the Revolution. The poem tells of a rider warning people that British troops were coming. It made Revere seem like a lone hero. As the nation faced growing conflict before the Civil War, the poem recalled shared Revolutionary courage and unity for readers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did colonists change the meaning of “Yankee Doodle,” and what did that change show?

2 Name two details in *American Progress* that show westward expansion.

3 What belief did *American Progress* support? Explain how that belief connects to the time when the painting was made.

4 Why might Longfellow’s poem about the Revolution have mattered to readers in 1860?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a two-sentence museum label for an imaginary U.S. song, poem, or artwork from one historical period. Name the period and give two details that show how your work reflects what people experienced or believed then.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each work's title. Underline words that explain how the work reflected the time when it was created. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did colonists change the meaning of "Yankee Doodle," and what did that change show?	They adopted a British teasing song and sang it proudly. This showed that many colonists were forming a separate identity and resisting British rule.
2	Name two details in <i>American Progress</i> that show westward expansion.	Possible details include the woman moving west, settlers moving west, trains, and telegraph wires following west.
3	What belief did <i>American Progress</i> support? Explain how that belief connects to the time when the painting was made.	It supported Manifest Destiny, the belief that U.S. expansion across the continent was right and expected. It connects to the period when the United States was expanding westward.
4	Why might Longfellow's poem about the Revolution have mattered to readers in 1860?	The nation faced growing conflict before the Civil War. The poem recalled shared Revolutionary courage and unity.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My 1943 poster, "Save Every Scrap," shows a family collecting metal and a factory making planes. It reflects World War II because Americans were asked to conserve materials and support soldiers.

Accept answers that use accurate passage evidence and connect a creative work to the ideas, events, or experiences of its era. For the open task, accept an original, historically plausible work with a named period and two relevant details.