

Traditions Bring Us Together

Read how U.S. communities keep meaningful customs.

5.21.A “describe customs and traditions of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in the United States; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that describes a custom or tradition, and circle the name of the group or community connected to it. These marks will help you explain how different groups celebrate and remember.

Customs Across Communities

- ① Across the United States, people keep traditions that connect them to family, faith, and heritage. In many Chinese American communities, Lunar New Year is marked with family meals, red decorations, and gifts of money in red envelopes. Lion or dragon dances may be performed at community celebrations. These customs welcome a new year and can bring relatives and neighbors together.
- ② Many Mexican American families observe Día de los Muertos, often on November 1 and 2. Some create an ofrenda, or home altar, with photographs of loved ones who have died, favorite foods, candles, and marigolds. Families may visit cemeteries, share stories, or prepare special foods. The tradition remembers people who died and honors continuing family connections.
- ③ Muslim Americans celebrate Eid al-Fitr at the end of Ramadan, a month when many Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Eid customs can include a special prayer, wearing clean or new clothes, giving to charity, and sharing festive meals. Communities may gather at mosques or other meeting places. Not every family celebrates in the same way, but the holiday often emphasizes gratitude and generosity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe two Lunar New Year customs named in the passage.

2 What might a family place on an ofrenda, and what does this tradition honor?

3 Describe two customs that may be part of Eid al-Fitr.

4 How are two of the traditions alike? Use details from two different paragraphs.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a racial, ethnic, or religious group in the United States. In one paragraph, describe one custom or tradition, including the occasion, at least two details about what people may do, and why it is meaningful. Do not say that every member of the group celebrates in the same way.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that describes a custom or tradition, and circle the name of the group or community connected to it. These marks will help you explain how different groups celebrate and remember. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe two Lunar New Year customs named in the passage.	Answers include family meals, red decorations, gifts of money in red envelopes, and lion or dragon dances.
2	What might a family place on an ofrenda, and what does this tradition honor?	An ofrenda may include photographs, favorite foods, candles, and marigolds. It honors loved ones who have died and continuing family connections.
3	Describe two customs that may be part of Eid al-Fitr.	Answers include a special prayer, wearing clean or new clothes, giving to charity, sharing festive meals, and gathering with the community.
4	How are two of the traditions alike? Use details from two different paragraphs.	Answers will vary. The traditions can bring people together through meals, community gatherings, stories, prayer, or remembering family members.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many Jewish American families observe Passover to remember the Israelites' escape from slavery in ancient Egypt. During a seder meal, participants may read from the Haggadah, eat matzah, and discuss the story. Families celebrate in different ways, but the holiday can connect people to history and faith.

Accept equivalent details from the passage for Parts 1 and 2. For Your Turn, accept accurate descriptions that name a group and occasion, include two customs, explain meaning, and avoid claiming that every member participates in the same way.