

Many Threads, One Nation

Read how diverse groups helped shape American identity.

5.21.B “summarize the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to our national identity.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each group named in the passage. Circle the words that state what each group contributed, then use your marks to notice how different groups shaped American identity.

Contributions to a Shared Identity

- ① Long before the United States became a country, Native American nations shaped life on this land. They developed farming methods for crops such as corn and shared knowledge of local plants and waterways. Their ideas and traditions remain part of the nation's food, place names, and respect for the land. This heritage helps tell the full American story.
- ② During slavery and afterward, African Americans built families, schools, businesses, and churches despite unfair laws and treatment. Spirituals, jazz, and blues influenced American music around the world. Civil rights activists worked to end segregation and protect voting rights. Their work strengthened the nation's promise of freedom and equal treatment under the law for all people.
- ③ Chinese immigrants helped build the western part of the Transcontinental Railroad, linking communities and trade across the country. Quakers, a Christian religious group, argued for religious freedom, opposed slavery, and supported peaceful solutions to conflicts. These groups show that American identity has grown from many cultures, faiths, skills, and efforts to make the country fairer for everyone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Summarize how Native American nations shaped the American story. Include two contributions from the passage.

2 How did African Americans contribute to both American culture and the nation's promise of equal treatment?

3 Summarize one contribution of Chinese immigrants and one contribution of Quakers.

4 What idea about American national identity is supported by all three paragraphs? Use examples from at least two groups.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that summarize the passage. Name three different groups, explain a contribution from each, and state one idea they share about American national identity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each group named in the passage. Circle the words that state what each group contributed, then use your marks to notice how different groups shaped American identity. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize how Native American nations shaped the American story. Include two contributions from the passage.	They developed farming methods for crops such as corn and shared knowledge of local plants and waterways. Their traditions are also part of American food and place names.
2	How did African Americans contribute to both American culture and the nation's promise of equal treatment?	They created musical traditions such as spirituals, jazz, and blues. Civil rights activists worked to end segregation and protect voting rights.
3	Summarize one contribution of Chinese immigrants and one contribution of Quakers.	Chinese immigrants helped build the western part of the Transcontinental Railroad. Quakers argued for religious freedom, opposed slavery, and supported peaceful solutions to conflicts.
4	What idea about American national identity is supported by all three paragraphs? Use examples from at least two groups.	American identity has grown through the contributions of many groups. For example, Native American nations shaped food and place names, and African Americans shaped music and expanded civil rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Native American nations shaped American life by sharing farming knowledge and traditions. African Americans influenced music and worked for equal rights, while Chinese immigrants helped connect the country by building the western part of the Transcontinental Railroad. Together, these contributions show that American identity grows from many cultures and efforts to expand freedom and fairness.

Accept accurate summaries that connect a named group's contribution to American culture, freedom, fairness, or national identity. For the open response, accept three sentences that name three passage groups, give an accurate contribution for each, and state a shared idea about American identity.