

Many Threads

Customs and contributions shape a shared national identity.

5.21 "Culture. The student understands the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to the United States culture. The student is expected to: describe customs and traditions of various racial, ethnic..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each custom or tradition in the passage. Circle each contribution to life in the United States so you can tell the difference between a practice and its impact.

Traditions That Shape Us

- ① Across the United States, cultural traditions shape everyday life. Native peoples have shared knowledge of local plants, farming, and stewardship of land for many generations. Many places carry Native names, such as Massachusetts and Chicago. At powwows, some Native communities gather for music, dancing, regalia, and honoring veterans. Customs differ among the many Native nations.
- ② African American communities created and developed musical forms including spirituals, blues, jazz, and hip-hop. These sounds influence concerts, movies, dance, and music heard worldwide. Black Americans also organized for equal rights, helping expand the nation's ideas about freedom and justice. In many churches, worship may include gospel music, call-and-response singing, and community service for neighbors today.
- ③ Mexican American communities have brought traditions such as Día de los Muertos, a time when families remember loved ones, and foods such as tacos and tamales. Jewish Americans have contributed to business, science, literature, and public service. Jewish families may observe Hanukkah by lighting a menorah for eight nights. Together, many groups add languages, celebrations, arts, beliefs, and civic action to a national identity that continues to grow.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What happens at some powwows? Explain how this detail describes a custom or tradition.

2 According to the passage, how have African American communities helped shape the national identity of the United States? Give two contributions.

3 Describe one tradition from Mexican American communities and one tradition from Jewish families in the passage.

4 How does the final sentence explain why the United States has a growing national identity? Use two kinds of contributions named in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a cultural or religious group in the United States. In exactly three sentences, describe one custom or tradition and explain one contribution the group makes to the nation's identity. Write 45 to 70 words.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each custom or tradition in the passage. Circle each contribution to life in the United States so you can tell the difference between a practice and its impact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happens at some powwows? Explain how this detail describes a custom or tradition.	Some Native communities gather for music, dancing, regalia, and honoring veterans. These repeated community practices are customs or traditions.
2	According to the passage, how have African American communities helped shape the national identity of the United States? Give two contributions.	They created and developed musical forms such as jazz and hip-hop, and Black Americans organized for equal rights. These contributions influenced U.S. culture and expanded ideas about freedom and justice.
3	Describe one tradition from Mexican American communities and one tradition from Jewish families in the passage.	Mexican American communities may observe Día de los Muertos to remember loved ones. Jewish families may observe Hanukkah by lighting a menorah for eight nights.
4	How does the final sentence explain why the United States has a growing national identity? Use two kinds of contributions named in the passage.	It explains that many groups add to national identity. Examples include languages, celebrations, arts, beliefs, and civic action.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many Muslim American families celebrate Eid al-Fitr at the end of Ramadan with prayers, meals, and visits with relatives or neighbors. Muslim Americans contribute in fields such as medicine, education, business, arts, and public service. These contributions add to a national identity that includes people with many beliefs and traditions.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately use details from the passage. For the open response, accept accurate examples of a U.S. cultural or religious group, a specific custom or tradition, and a clear explanation of a contribution to national identity.