

History in Today

Trace how past events shape life in contemporary societies.

6.1.A “trace characteristics of various contemporary societies in regions that resulted from historical events or factors such as colonization, immigration, and trade; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each historical factor, underline each present-day characteristic, and write the same number beside each factor and characteristic that connect.

Three Societies, Living Histories

- ① Jamaica’s contemporary culture reflects colonization and the forced movement of Africans during the Atlantic slave trade. Spain claimed the island in 1494, and Britain later ruled it for more than 300 years. Today, English is Jamaica’s official language, while many people also speak Jamaican Patois, a creole shaped by English and West African languages. Reggae music, foods such as jerk chicken, and strong African cultural traditions also show connections to this history across the island today.
- ② Trinidad and Tobago, a Caribbean nation, has a population with African, Indian, European, Chinese, and other roots. After Britain ended slavery in its colonies in 1834, plantation owners brought indentured laborers from India to Trinidad. Their descendants are an important part of the country today. Diwali and Eid are public holidays, and foods such as doubles and roti are widely enjoyed. These religious and food traditions help trace how immigration changed this island society over time.
- ③ Singapore became a British trading port in 1819 because its harbor stood on a busy sea route. Trade attracted migrants, especially Chinese, Malay, and Indian workers and merchants. Modern Singapore remains a major port and a multicultural city-state. Its four official languages, English, Malay, Mandarin Chinese, and Tamil, reflect the groups that settled there. Hawker centers sell dishes with Chinese, Malay, and Indian influences, showing how trade and immigration shaped everyday life for many residents today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** How did colonization and the Atlantic slave trade help shape language and culture in Jamaica today? Give two examples from the passage.

- 2** What historical event brought many people from India to Trinidad, and what are two present-day signs of their influence?

- 3** Why did Singapore attract migrants in the 1800s? Name two characteristics of Singapore today that connect to this migration.

- 4** What is one way immigration shaped both Trinidad and Tobago and Singapore? Use a different present-day example for each society.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two societies from the passage. Write 3 or 4 sentences that compare how historical events or factors shaped one or more characteristics of each society today. Include one similarity or difference.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each historical factor, underline each present-day characteristic, and write the same number beside each factor and characteristic that connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did colonization and the Atlantic slave trade help shape language and culture in Jamaica today? Give two examples from the passage.	British rule helped make English the official language, and the forced movement of Africans contributed to Jamaican Patois and strong African cultural traditions.
2	What historical event brought many people from India to Trinidad, and what are two present-day signs of their influence?	After slavery ended, plantation owners brought indentured laborers from India. Diwali and Eid are public holidays, and doubles and roti are widely enjoyed.
3	Why did Singapore attract migrants in the 1800s? Name two characteristics of Singapore today that connect to this migration.	Its harbor was on a busy sea route and became a British trading port. Today it has four official languages and foods with Chinese, Malay, and Indian influences.
4	What is one way immigration shaped both Trinidad and Tobago and Singapore? Use a different present-day example for each society.	Immigration created cultural diversity in both places. Trinidad and Tobago has Indian-influenced holidays and foods, while Singapore has four official languages or mixed food traditions.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both Trinidad and Tobago and Singapore were shaped by immigration. Indian immigrants helped make Diwali, Eid, doubles, and roti part of Trinidad and Tobago's society, while migrants to Singapore helped create four official languages and mixed foods at hawker centers. Each society shows cultural diversity, but Singapore's trade port also remains a major part of its economy.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect connections stated in the passage. For the open response, students should name two societies, connect past factors to current characteristics, and make a supported comparison.