

Culture on the Move

Trace how people, goods, and armies carried cultural ideas.

6.15.A “identify and describe means of cultural diffusion such as trade, travel, and war;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about trade, circle one detail about travel, and number one detail about war to show three ways culture can move.

Ideas Across Regions

- ① Trade can carry culture along with goods. From about the 700s onward, merchants crossed the Sahara Desert in camel caravans. They exchanged salt from the desert and goods from North Africa for gold from West Africa. Muslim merchants also brought Islamic beliefs, Arabic writing, and new business practices. Some West African rulers and city residents adopted Islam. Trade did not make every community the same, but regular exchanges gave people chances to learn, choose, and adapt ideas from distant places.
- ② Travelers can spread culture even when they are not selling goods. Buddhist monks and pilgrims journeyed from India into Central Asia, China, Korea, and Japan over many centuries. They carried teachings, stories, and sacred texts. At stops along their routes, they explained Buddhism to local people and helped build monasteries. Artists in different regions created Buddhist statues and paintings in local styles. This shows that travel can move beliefs and art, while each place may shape those ideas differently.
- ③ War can also cause cultural diffusion, often through conquest. When the Roman Empire conquered Gaul, now France and nearby lands, Roman soldiers, officials, and settlers used Latin and Roman laws. Local people adopted some Roman customs and mixed Latin with their own languages. Over time, these changes helped form French and other Romance languages. War brought suffering and loss as well as contact, so its effects were not equally chosen by everyone in the conquered lands.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did trade across the Sahara spread besides goods? Give two examples from the passage.

2 How did Buddhist travelers spread culture as they moved through Asia?

3 How did Roman conquest help spread Latin in Gaul?

4 Name one cultural element spread by trade and one cultural element spread by travel in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about a made-up example of cultural diffusion through trade, travel, or war. Name the means, tell what cultural idea or practice moves, and explain how people in the new place use or change it.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about trade, circle one detail about travel, and number one detail about war to show three ways culture can move. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did trade across the Sahara spread besides goods? Give two examples from the passage.	Trade spread Islamic beliefs, Arabic writing, and new business practices. Any two are correct.
2	How did Buddhist travelers spread culture as they moved through Asia?	They carried teachings, stories, and sacred texts, explained Buddhism to local people, and helped build monasteries.
3	How did Roman conquest help spread Latin in Gaul?	Roman soldiers, officials, and settlers used Latin, and local people mixed it with their own languages.
4	Name one cultural element spread by trade and one cultural element spread by travel in the passage.	Trade spread items such as Islamic beliefs, Arabic writing, or business practices. Travel spread Buddhist beliefs, sacred texts, or Buddhist art.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Traders from an island brought woven cloth to a harbor city. Local tailors bought the cloth and began using its bright patterns on their own jackets. This is cultural diffusion through trade because a style moved between groups and was changed locally.

Accept any accurate scenario that clearly names trade, travel, or war and describes how a cultural element moves and is used or adapted. The cultural element may include beliefs, language, art, clothing, food, customs, or technology.