

Culture on the Move

Trace how ideas and customs travel, change, and affect people.

6.15 "Culture. The student understands relationships that exist among world cultures. The student is expected to: 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 each way culture moves, circle each factor that changes culture, and number each impact on people or communities.

How Culture Travels

- ① In the 1400s, merchants carried coffee beans from East Africa and Arabia to busy ports around the Mediterranean. Trade did more than move goods. It brought people together in markets and cafés, where they shared foods, words, and customs. Travelers also carried ideas. Students who studied in another city could return home with new knowledge. War sometimes spread culture as well. When armies occupied a place, soldiers and local people exchanged languages, clothing styles, building methods, and beliefs, although these contacts could be harmful and unequal.
- ② New tools can make cultural exchange faster. A steamship or railroad once shortened journeys between regions, allowing more people and products to move. Today, video calls, websites, and social media let families, artists, and businesses communicate across long distances in seconds. Better communication can help musicians share songs with listeners worldwide and can help doctors exchange medical information. Yet fast messages can also spread false claims or pressure people to copy trends before they understand them. People need to judge online information carefully.
- ③ Economic development can also change culture. When a community gains jobs, reliable electricity, and more money for schools or roads, residents may have new choices for travel, work, and entertainment. In many places, people combine outside influences with local traditions. A restaurant might serve a new dish using local ingredients, or young people might mix a global music style with a traditional instrument. Cultural diffusion can expand choices and understanding, but it can also cause local languages or crafts to be used less often. Communities decide which traditions to protect.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Identify two means of cultural diffusion from the first paragraph. Describe how each one spreads culture.

2 How did improved transportation and economic development each create new cultural choices?

3 Describe one benefit and one risk of improved communication technology among cultures.

4 Give one impact cultural diffusion can have on an individual and one impact it can have on a world society. Use details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly four sentences about a food, game, music style, or other cultural practice that moves from one place to another. Explain one means that spreads it, one factor that speeds or changes the exchange, one positive impact, and one possible challenge.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way culture moves, circle each factor that changes culture, and number each impact on people or communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify two means of cultural diffusion from the first paragraph. Describe how each one spreads culture.	Answers may include trade, which moves goods and brings people together to share customs; travel, which carries ideas; or war, which can lead soldiers and local people to exchange cultural traits.
2	How did improved transportation and economic development each create new cultural choices?	Steamships and railroads shortened journeys, so more people and products could move between regions. Economic development can provide jobs, electricity, schools, or roads, giving residents more choices for travel, work, and entertainment.
3	Describe one benefit and one risk of improved communication technology among cultures.	A benefit is that people can share music or medical information across long distances quickly. A risk is that false claims can spread, or people may copy trends before understanding them.
4	Give one impact cultural diffusion can have on an individual and one impact it can have on a world society. Use details from the passage.	An individual may gain new choices for travel, work, or entertainment, or may feel pressure to copy trends. A world society may share music and information more widely, while some local languages or crafts may be used less often.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Visitors from South Korea introduced a board game at a youth club in Mexico. Later, online videos helped players in both countries learn new rules and share their own versions. This improved communication gave individual players new friends and gave clubs in many places a shared activity. However, if clubs only play the imported game, some local games may receive less attention.

Accept accurate equivalent examples and explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences that include a means of diffusion, a change factor, a positive impact, and a possible challenge.