

Culture Tells Stories

Trace how cultural works reflect the lives and values of societies.

6.16.A “explain the relationships that exist between societies and their architecture, art, music, and literature;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail about architecture, art, music, or literature, and circle the words that explain what the detail shows about the society.

Culture Reflects Society

- ① In ancient Athens, public life centered on the city-state. Citizens gathered at the Acropolis for religious festivals and in theaters for dramas. The Parthenon used columns and careful proportions to honor Athena and show civic pride. Sculptors made idealized statues of gods and athletes because Greeks valued balance, strength, and human achievement. Playwrights such as Sophocles wrote tragedies that asked audiences to think about duty, law, and choices leaders made in public life around them.
- ② In medieval Europe, the Catholic Church shaped much of daily life and culture. Towns built tall Gothic cathedrals with pointed arches and large stained-glass windows. These buildings showed the Church's importance and could hold crowds for worship. Images in windows and illuminated manuscripts helped teach Bible stories to people who could not read. During services, choirs sang plainchant, a sacred unaccompanied style of music. Monks copied religious books by hand, preserving learning in monasteries there.
- ③ Farther south, the Mali Empire grew wealthy through trade across the Sahara during the 1200s and 1300s. In cities such as Timbuktu, builders used local mud brick to create mosques, including the Djinguereber Mosque. Islam influenced these buildings and the books studied by scholars. Griots, or oral historians, used spoken stories and music to remember family histories and important events. Their performances showed that literature can be spoken, not only written, and that communities preserve values through the arts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Parthenon reflect the beliefs and values of ancient Athens?

2 How did stained-glass windows and illuminated manuscripts serve medieval European society?

3 Compare the purpose of plainchant in medieval Europe with the purpose of griots' music in Mali.

4 How did trade and Islam affect architecture and literature in the Mali Empire?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a coastal fishing community. In 5 or 6 sentences, describe one building, one artwork, one kind of music, and one story or book, then explain how each reflects the community's work, beliefs, environment, or values.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail about architecture, art, music, or literature, and circle the words that explain what the detail shows about the society. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Parthenon reflect the beliefs and values of ancient Athens?	It honored Athena, showing religious belief, and showed civic pride through its columns and careful proportions.
2	How did stained-glass windows and illuminated manuscripts serve medieval European society?	They helped teach Bible stories to people who could not read, reflecting the Church's important role.
3	Compare the purpose of plainchant in medieval Europe with the purpose of griots' music in Mali.	Plainchant was sacred music used in church services. Griots used music with spoken stories to remember histories and important events.
4	How did trade and Islam affect architecture and literature in the Mali Empire?	Trade made Mali wealthy, while Islam influenced its mosques and the books studied by scholars.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The people of Bayhaven fish in a windy harbor. They build low stone meeting halls with sloped roofs because storms are common. Artists carve wave patterns on boats to show respect for the sea. Drummers play steady rowing songs that help crews work together. Their stories tell of careful fishers who share catches, showing that cooperation is valued.

Accept equivalent answers that connect a cultural work to a belief, need, activity, environment, or value named in the passage. For Your Turn, accept varied communities when the response includes all four cultural forms and clear explanations of their relationships to society.