

Culture Leaves Clues

Trace how society and shared concerns shape creative work.

6.16 "Culture. The student understands the relationship that exists between the arts and the societies in which they are produced. The student is expected to: explain the relationships that exist between societies and their architecture, art..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named creative work. In the margin, label it A for architecture, Ar for art, M for music, or L for literature, and circle each word or phrase that names an issue or universal theme.

Works Made by Society

- ① Creative works carry clues about the people who made them. In Mali, the Great Mosque of Djenné is built of mud brick, a material available near the Bani River. Community members repair its outer walls each year, showing both local resources and shared religious life. In Japan, wood has long been used for homes and temples because forests supplied it and flexible wooden buildings can better withstand earthquakes. Architecture can show how a society responds to its land, materials, beliefs, and needs.
- ② Artists also respond to issues happening around them. During the 1930s, Mexican painter Diego Rivera created murals that showed workers, farmers, and Indigenous history. His large public paintings fit a time when leaders wanted art that reached ordinary people. Today, some musicians write songs about climate change, and some novelists create stories about migration or unfair treatment. These choices do not simply report events. They help audiences notice problems, consider different experiences, and discuss possible change.
- ③ Although works come from particular places, they can express themes people recognize across cultures. A gospel spiritual and a medieval European church hymn both express religious belief through music, even though their sounds and traditions differ. In the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a trial raises questions about justice and unfairness. Japanese poet Matsuo Bashō wrote haiku that notice changing seasons, suggesting the passage of time. A work can belong to one society while still inviting people elsewhere to think about a universal human concern.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two facts about the Great Mosque of Djenné show a relationship between its architecture and Malian society?

2 How did Diego Rivera's murals connect with the society and time in which he painted?

3 What contemporary issues are named in the passage, and which creative forms respond to them?

4 Name the work connected to justice and the work connected to the passage of time.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a current issue and plan a creative work, such as a building, artwork, song, or short story, that responds to it. In 5 to 7 sentences, name one feature of society that would shape your work, describe at least two creative details, and explain the universal theme your work would convey.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each named creative work. In the margin, label it A for architecture, Ar for art, M for music, or L for literature, and circle each word or phrase that names an issue or universal theme. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two facts about the Great Mosque of Djenné show a relationship between its architecture and Malian society?	It is built of locally available mud brick, and community members repair it each year, showing shared religious life.
2	How did Diego Rivera's murals connect with the society and time in which he painted?	They showed workers, farmers, and Indigenous history, and their public size fit a time when leaders wanted art to reach ordinary people.
3	What contemporary issues are named in the passage, and which creative forms respond to them?	Musicians write songs about climate change. Novelists create stories about migration or unfair treatment.
4	Name the work connected to justice and the work connected to the passage of time.	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> is connected to justice and unfairness. Bashō's haiku are connected to the passage of time through changing seasons.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would design an affordable apartment building for a crowded city. The building would use brick and recycled steel because those materials are common nearby and last a long time. A shaded courtyard would give neighbors a safe place to meet. The current issue of rising rent would influence my design by including smaller, lower-cost homes. A mural in the entrance would show workers and families speaking at a housing meeting. The building and mural would express justice by showing that safe homes should be available to many people.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect a creative work to resources, beliefs, social needs, or current issues stated in the passage. For the open response, accept varied media and issues when the student clearly explains society, creative choices, and a universal theme.