

Beliefs in Community

Trace how ideas and observances shape cultural life.

6.17 "Culture. The student understands the relationships among religion, philosophy, and culture. The student is expected to: explain the relationship among religious ideas, philosophical ideas, and cultures..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six words or phrases that express a belief, value, or purpose. Circle six words or phrases that describe a cultural practice or community action, then choose three connected pairs and write matching numbers 1, 2, and 3 beside each pair.

Ideas, Observances, and Culture

- ① Religious ideas often explain sacred beliefs, duties, and ways people connect with God or other spiritual realities. Philosophical ideas ask people to reason about questions such as what is right, what knowledge means, and how people should live. Cultures develop as communities share languages, arts, customs, and values. These ideas can shape one another. For example, a community may value charity because of religious teachings, or debate fairness through philosophical discussion. Families and public groups may then express those values in daily choices and community service.
- ② Religious holidays and observances connect beliefs to community life. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, and Easter celebrates his resurrection in Christianity. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and focus on prayer, reflection, and generosity. The annual hajj brings Muslims to Mecca for pilgrimage; those who are able are expected to make it once in a lifetime. In contemporary societies, families may share meals, give to charity, attend worship, and welcome neighbors during these observances.
- ③ Yom Kippur is a Jewish day of atonement, when many people fast, pray, and seek forgiveness. Rosh Hashanah marks the Jewish New Year and begins a period of reflection. Diwali, celebrated by many Hindus and also by some Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists, is linked to light overcoming darkness and to new beginnings. Vaisakhi is important to Sikhs because it celebrates the founding of the Khalsa; it is also a harvest festival in Punjab. Schools and workplaces may recognize these observances by making space for worship, family gatherings, or cultural events.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 According to paragraph 1, how can a religious or philosophical idea become part of a culture?

2 How do Ramadan and the annual hajj each connect Muslim religious ideas to actions?

3 Compare Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. What does each observance mean, and what practice is named for Yom Kippur?

4 What is Diwali linked to, and why is Vaisakhi important to Sikhs?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two observances named in the passage. Write five or six sentences explaining what each one signifies, one way a contemporary community may respond to each, and one value or purpose the two observances share or do not share.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline six words or phrases that express a belief, value, or purpose. Circle six words or phrases that describe a cultural practice or community action, then choose three connected pairs and write matching numbers 1, 2, and 3 beside each pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	According to paragraph 1, how can a religious or philosophical idea become part of a culture?	A community may adopt a value such as charity or discuss fairness, then express that value through daily choices and community service.
2	How do Ramadan and the annual hajj each connect Muslim religious ideas to actions?	During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and focus on prayer, reflection, and generosity. During the hajj, Muslims travel to Mecca for pilgrimage; those who are able are expected to make the pilgrimage once in a lifetime.
3	Compare Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. What does each observance mean, and what practice is named for Yom Kippur?	Yom Kippur is a Jewish day of atonement, and many people fast, pray, and seek forgiveness. Rosh Hashanah marks the Jewish New Year and begins a period of reflection.
4	What is Diwali linked to, and why is Vaisakhi important to Sikhs?	Diwali is linked to light overcoming darkness and to new beginnings. Vaisakhi is important to Sikhs because it celebrates the founding of the Khalsa.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, and families may share meals or attend worship. Ramadan is a month when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and focus on prayer, reflection, and generosity. Families may share meals and give to charity during Ramadan. Both observances connect religious beliefs to actions in a community. They can bring people together through family gatherings and shared practices.

Accept any two observances named in the passage when the student accurately states each significance and a community response supported by the passage. For the comparison, accept a reasonable shared or different value or purpose that follows from the selected observances.