

Actions That Matter

Trace how people and groups shaped societies through different kinds of contributions.

6.2.B "describe the social, political, economic, and cultural contributions of individuals and groups from various societies, past and present."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that describe actions people or groups took to help shape society. Beside each underline, write S for social, P for political, E for economic, or C for cultural. Write more than one letter when an action fits more than one category, and do not underline results, such as awards or what happened after an action.

Contributions Across Societies

- ① In Song China, Bi Sheng developed movable type around 1040. Workers could arrange separate clay characters, reuse them, and print books more quickly than by carving a whole page. This invention supported an economic contribution because printers could produce and sell more books. It also made cultural contributions by helping written ideas reach more readers. The method was recorded by scholar Shen Kuo, who described how the characters were fired and arranged on an iron plate.
- ② In the 1300s, Mansa Musa ruled Mali in West Africa. During his pilgrimage to Mecca, he gave gold and met scholars and leaders from other regions. Back in Mali, he supported the building of mosques and learning centers in Timbuktu. His support for education was a cultural contribution, since students studied religious and other written works. His meetings and gifts built political connections with distant places. Mali's trade in gold also linked its economy to markets across North Africa.
- ③ In Kenya, Wangari Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977. The group trained women to plant trees and paid them small amounts for each surviving seedling. Planting trees helped protect soil and water, while payments provided income. The movement made economic contributions through this work. It also made social contributions by giving women skills, jobs, and a stronger voice in their communities. In 2004, Maathai became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did Bi Sheng develop? Which two categories of contribution did his invention make, according to the passage?

2 Which actions by Mansa Musa made a political contribution? Explain how those actions helped Mali.

3 Give one social contribution and one economic contribution of the Green Belt Movement.

4 How were the economic contributions of Bi Sheng's invention and the Green Belt Movement different?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two people or groups from the passage who lived in different societies. Write exactly four sentences comparing their contributions. Name each contribution, label each with one or more categories, and explain one difference and one similarity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that describe actions people or groups took to help shape society. Beside each underline, write S for social, P for political, E for economic, or C for cultural. Write more than one letter when an action fits more than one category, and do not underline results, such as awards or what happened after an action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Bi Sheng develop? Which two categories of contribution did his invention make, according to the passage?	Bi Sheng developed movable type. It made economic and cultural contributions.
2	Which actions by Mansa Musa made a political contribution? Explain how those actions helped Mali.	He gave gold and met scholars and leaders from other regions. These actions built political connections with distant places.
3	Give one social contribution and one economic contribution of the Green Belt Movement.	Social: It gave women skills, jobs, and a stronger voice in their communities. Economic: It paid women for each surviving seedling, providing income.
4	How were the economic contributions of Bi Sheng's invention and the Green Belt Movement different?	Bi Sheng's invention let printers produce and sell more books. The Green Belt Movement provided income by paying women for surviving seedlings.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Bi Sheng in Song China developed movable type, an economic and cultural contribution. The Green Belt Movement trained women to plant trees and paid them for surviving seedlings, a social and economic contribution. Their work differed because Bi Sheng changed book production, while the movement combined environmental work with income and community skills. Both contributions helped people by giving them greater access to useful resources or opportunities.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the actions and categories when they are supported by the passage. For question 3, accept any stated social effect of the movement, including skills, jobs, or a stronger community voice, and its seedling payments as the economic contribution.