

Newcomers Shape Houston

Trace how migration changes the character of a city and region.

6.3.B “explain ways in which human migration influences the character of places and regions;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show a way migration changed Houston's character, then number the details 1, 2, and 3.

A City Shaped by Newcomers

- ① Migration is the movement of people from one place to another to live. When people arrive, they bring skills, languages, foods, beliefs, and traditions. These choices can change a place's character, or the features that make it feel distinct. After the Vietnam War ended in 1975, many Vietnamese refugees resettled in Houston, Texas. Some found work, joined relatives, or started new lives there. Their arrival added to Houston's already diverse population and connected the city to families and cultures across the Pacific Ocean.
- ② In southwest Houston, many Vietnamese residents opened markets, restaurants, and other businesses. Markets sold rice, noodles, herbs, and other ingredients used in Vietnamese cooking. Restaurants introduced dishes such as phở to customers from many backgrounds. Vietnamese-language signs, newspapers, and radio programs helped residents share information. Buddhist temples, churches, and community groups created places for worship, celebrations, classes, and help for new arrivals. Together, these features made parts of the city look, sound, and feel different from nearby neighborhoods.
- ③ Migration also changes longtime residents and local institutions. Schools in Houston offered services for students learning English, while employers and businesses served a growing Vietnamese-speaking customer base. Cultural events, including Lunar New Year celebrations, invited people from different backgrounds to gather. At the same time, Vietnamese Houstonians adapted to life in Texas and influenced the wider region through work, trade, and family networks. A region's character is not fixed. It develops as newcomers and longtime residents interact.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two business features that Vietnamese migration added to southwest Houston. How did they affect the area?

2 How did Vietnamese-language signs, newspapers, and radio programs change the character of parts of Houston?

3 What roles did temples, churches, and community groups serve for Vietnamese residents and new arrivals?

4 Explain why the passage says a region's character is not fixed.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that families from another place move to a town. Write four sentences explaining why they moved, two changes they bring to the town, and how those changes affect the town's character.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show a way migration changed Houston's character, then number the details 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two business features that Vietnamese migration added to southwest Houston. How did they affect the area?	Vietnamese residents opened markets and restaurants. These businesses added Vietnamese foods and made the area feel different from nearby neighborhoods.
2	How did Vietnamese-language signs, newspapers, and radio programs change the character of parts of Houston?	They added Vietnamese language to public life and helped residents share information.
3	What roles did temples, churches, and community groups serve for Vietnamese residents and new arrivals?	They provided places for worship, celebrations, classes, and help for new arrivals.
4	Explain why the passage says a region's character is not fixed.	As newcomers and longtime residents interact, migration can change businesses, schools, events, languages, and community connections.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Families from Ethiopia move to a town because a new food-processing plant offers jobs. They open a bakery that sells injera and spices. The library adds books in Amharic and holds a storytelling night. These changes give residents new foods, languages, and gathering places, so the town's character becomes more connected to Ethiopian culture.

Accept answers that accurately connect migration to changes in a place, such as businesses, language, institutions, events, foods, or community networks. For the open response, accept plausible examples that clearly explain how two changes affect the town's character.