

Celebrations Tell Stories

Trace how cultural activities show the many communities of Texas.

7.18.A “explain how the diversity of Texas is reflected in a variety of cultural activities and celebrations;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cultural activity or celebration, then circle the words that explain the community, history, or tradition it reflects.

Texas Celebrations, Many Traditions

- ① On June 19, communities across Texas observe Juneteenth, which marks the 1865 announcement in Galveston that enslaved people in Texas were free. Celebrations may include parades, family reunions, prayer services, spoken-word performances, and meals featuring recipes passed through generations. These activities honor African American history and creativity. They also invite neighbors of many backgrounds to learn why freedom, family, and remembrance matter to Texas communities. Today, cities and small towns shape their events in different ways.
- ② Texas also has large Asian American communities, and Lunar New Year events in cities such as Houston and Dallas bring people together. Depending on the organizers' traditions, visitors might watch lion dances, hear music, share foods, or receive red envelopes. These events can reflect Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and other Asian cultural traditions. Public festivals allow families to maintain meaningful customs while giving other Texans a respectful way to experience celebrations connected to a new year.
- ③ San Antonio's Fiesta is another Texas celebration shaped by several cultural influences. It began as a commemoration of the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto, and it grew into an event with parades, music, food, and neighborhood gatherings. Mexican American traditions are especially visible in many Fiesta activities, including colorful cascarones, or confetti-filled eggs. Because many groups host events, Fiesta shows how history and cultural traditions can be shared in one large community celebration.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do Juneteenth activities reflect African American history and culture in Texas? Use two details from the passage.

2 Explain how Lunar New Year events help families maintain traditions and help other Texans learn about them.

3 How is Fiesta different from the Lunar New Year events in its historical or cultural focus?

4 Using Juneteenth and Fiesta, explain how the passage shows that Texas culture is diverse.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a Texas cultural celebration not named in the passage. Write four sentences that name the celebration, describe two activities, explain the community or history it reflects, and tell how it adds to Texas diversity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cultural activity or celebration, then circle the words that explain the community, history, or tradition it reflects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Juneteenth activities reflect African American history and culture in Texas? Use two details from the passage.	They honor the 1865 freedom announcement and African American history through activities such as family reunions, prayer services, spoken-word performances, and foods made from family recipes.
2	Explain how Lunar New Year events help families maintain traditions and help other Texans learn about them.	Families can continue customs such as lion dances, music, foods, and red envelopes. Public events let other Texans respectfully experience Asian cultural traditions connected to the new year.
3	How is Fiesta different from the Lunar New Year events in its historical or cultural focus?	Fiesta began by commemorating the battles of the Alamo and San Jacinto and includes visible Mexican American traditions. Lunar New Year events reflect Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and other Asian traditions connected to a new year.
4	Using Juneteenth and Fiesta, explain how the passage shows that Texas culture is diverse.	Juneteenth honors African American history, freedom, and family traditions. Fiesta combines Texas history with Mexican American traditions and events hosted by many groups. Together, they show that different communities contribute celebrations and cultural activities to Texas.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Westfest in West, Texas, celebrates the Czech heritage of many families in the area. Visitors can listen to polka music, eat Czech foods such as kolaches, and watch or join dancing. These activities keep traditions connected to Czech immigrants alive. The festival also lets people from different backgrounds learn about and share this part of Texas culture.

Accept equivalent details and explanations that accurately connect activities to a cultural community, tradition, or historical event in the passage. For the open response, accept any accurate Texas celebration not named in the passage that includes all four requested parts.