

Texas Traditions Together

How communities preserve heritage while participating in Texas life

7.18.B “describe how people from various racial, ethnic, and religious groups attempt to maintain their cultural heritage while adapting to the larger Texas culture;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one action that helps people maintain cultural heritage and circle one action that connects them to the larger Texas culture. Number the three pairs you found 1, 2, and 3.

Keeping Heritage, Joining Texas Life

- ① Texas culture has been shaped by people who bring family traditions from many places. In Houston, many Vietnamese Texans help maintain heritage through Vietnamese-language classes, ancestor-remembrance practices, and foods such as phở served at family meals. At the same time, they take part in the larger community. Students may speak English at school, join school teams, celebrate Texas holidays, and share Vietnamese dishes at neighborhood events. Keeping some customs while joining new activities helps a culture continue and change.
- ② In San Antonio, many Mexican American and Tejano families preserve heritage by speaking Spanish with relatives, cooking regional foods, and celebrating quinceañeras or Día de los Muertos. Community groups also perform conjunto and mariachi music at local gatherings. These traditions exist alongside shared Texas customs. A family might attend a school football game, vote in local elections, or work with neighbors of many backgrounds. Their choices show that belonging to Texas does not require giving up every older tradition.
- ③ Religious heritage can be maintained in similar ways. Sikh Texans gather at gurdwaras for worship, learn prayers and Punjabi, and share langar, a free community meal. Some wear articles of faith, including turbans. They also serve the larger Texas community by organizing food drives, volunteering after disasters, and working in schools and businesses. When people explain a tradition to classmates or neighbors, they can reduce misunderstandings while taking an active part in Texas life today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is one way Vietnamese Texans in the passage maintain their cultural heritage? What is one way they participate in the larger Texas community?

2 How do the examples of Mexican American and Tejano families show both preserving heritage and adapting to Texas culture?

3 Name one Sikh heritage practice from the passage and one way Sikh Texans serve the larger Texas community.

4 What shared idea about cultural heritage is supported by all three paragraphs? Use evidence from at least two groups.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a racial, ethnic, or religious group in Texas. Write exactly three sentences that name one heritage practice, name one way the group can participate in larger Texas culture, and explain how both can happen together.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one action that helps people maintain cultural heritage and circle one action that connects them to the larger Texas culture. Number the three pairs you found 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is one way Vietnamese Texans in the passage maintain their cultural heritage? What is one way they participate in the larger Texas community?	They maintain heritage through Vietnamese-language classes, ancestor-remembrance practices, or Vietnamese foods. They participate by speaking English at school, joining school teams, celebrating Texas holidays, or sharing dishes at neighborhood events.
2	How do the examples of Mexican American and Tejano families show both preserving heritage and adapting to Texas culture?	They preserve heritage by speaking Spanish, cooking regional foods, celebrating quinceañeras or Día de los Muertos, and performing music. They also participate in Texas life by attending football games, voting, and working with neighbors from many backgrounds.
3	Name one Sikh heritage practice from the passage and one way Sikh Texans serve the larger Texas community.	Heritage practices include worship at gurdwaras, learning prayers and Punjabi, sharing langar, or wearing turbans. They serve the community through food drives, disaster volunteering, or work in schools and businesses.
4	What shared idea about cultural heritage is supported by all three paragraphs? Use evidence from at least two groups.	People can keep important cultural or religious traditions while also participating in Texas community life. For example, Vietnamese Texans maintain language classes while joining school teams, and Sikh Texans worship at gurdwaras while volunteering after disasters.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many Indian Texans celebrate Diwali with family gatherings and lights. They also attend Texas public schools, work in local businesses, and join community events. Celebrating Diwali while participating in community life helps them maintain heritage and adapt to Texas culture.

Accept accurate examples of a Texas racial, ethnic, or religious group that clearly include both maintaining heritage and participating in the larger Texas culture. For Question 4, accept any supported generalization using evidence from at least two paragraphs.