

# Texas Culture Mosaic

Trace how many traditions shape a shared Texas culture.

**7.18** "Culture. The student understands the concept of diversity within unity in Texas. The student is expected to: 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** As you read, underline each cultural activity or celebration, circle each example of cultural influence, and number the eight Texans named for arts contributions.

### Many Traditions, One Texas

- ① Texas culture is made from many traditions. At a neighborhood festival, families might hear conjunto music, watch a lion dance, or share barbecue and kolaches. These activities reflect Mexican American, Chinese American, African American, Czech, and other communities. People can enjoy traditions beyond their own families, creating unity without making everyone the same. Rodeos, Juneteenth events, Día de los Muertos gatherings, powwows, and Lunar New Year celebrations show that Texans mark history, beliefs, and community in different ways.
- ② Communities maintain heritage by teaching children family stories, languages, recipes, music, and religious practices. A family may attend a Catholic Mass in English and Spanish, then join school activities with neighbors of many backgrounds. Spanish influence appears in names such as San Antonio and the Rio Grande, words such as ranch and patio, mission churches, tortillas, and Tejano music. German settlers also influenced Texas through towns, foods such as sausages, and music. Keeping traditions and joining shared Texas life can happen together.
- ③ Texans have added to the arts in many forms. Roy Bedichek wrote about Texas nature, while J. Frank Dobie collected and retold Texas folklore. Walter Prescott Webb wrote history, and Diane Gonzales Bertrand writes books for young people. Scott Joplin, who grew up in Texarkana, composed ragtime music. Sculptor Elisabet Ney created portraits in Texas. Amado Peña Jr. is known for paintings and prints that draw on Mexican American heritage. Horton Foote wrote plays and screenplays, including stories set in Texas.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How can Texas celebrations show diversity and unity at the same time? Use one detail from the passage.

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2 What are two ways people can maintain cultural heritage while adapting to the larger Texas culture?

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3 Give one Spanish influence from the passage in each category: a place name, a vocabulary word, and food or music.

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4 Choose two Texans from the last paragraph. State each person's contribution to the arts.

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a two-sentence museum label about a Texas cultural activity or celebration not named in the passage. Name the community, include two traditions, and explain how the activity preserves heritage while connecting people in Texas.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

As you read, underline each cultural activity or celebration, circle each example of cultural influence, and number the eight Texans named for arts contributions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                          | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How can Texas celebrations show diversity and unity at the same time? Use one detail from the passage.            | <b>They show different communities' traditions, while people from beyond those communities can enjoy them together. For example, a festival may include conjunto music, a lion dance, and shared foods.</b>              |
| 2 | What are two ways people can maintain cultural heritage while adapting to the larger Texas culture?               | <b>People can teach children family stories, languages, recipes, music, or religious practices. They can also attend services in English and Spanish or join school activities with neighbors from many backgrounds.</b> |
| 3 | Give one Spanish influence from the passage in each category: a place name, a vocabulary word, and food or music. | <b>Place name: San Antonio or the Rio Grande. Vocabulary word: ranch or patio. Food or music: tortillas or Tejano music.</b>                                                                                             |
| 4 | Choose two Texans from the last paragraph. State each person's contribution to the arts.                          | <b>Answers vary. Examples: Scott Joplin composed ragtime music. Elisabet Ney created sculptures and portraits in Texas.</b>                                                                                              |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

At a Texas Greek festival, Greek American families share traditional foods, dances, and church customs. Visitors from many backgrounds join the celebration, preserving Greek heritage while building a shared Texas community.

Accept accurate passage-based wording for Questions 1 through 4. For the open response, accept a culturally respectful, plausible Texas example that names a community, includes two traditions, and explains both heritage and shared participation.