

Arts Shape America

Trace how artists preserve traditions and influence daily life.

8.26.B “analyze the relationship between the arts and continuity and change in the American way of life.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show how an art form changed American life, and circle three details that show how it continued an older practice.

Sounds, Walls, and Voices

- ① In the 1920s, jazz grew from African American musical traditions in New Orleans and spread through recordings, radio, and dance halls. Its improvisation and syncopated rhythms gave musicians room to create new sounds. Young people in cities danced the Charleston, while some older Americans criticized jazz as too loud or daring. The debate showed a change in leisure and youth culture. Yet jazz also carried forward older African American musical practices, including call-and-response patterns and blues notes.
- ② During the Great Depression, artists employed by the federal Works Progress Administration painted murals in post offices, schools, and other public buildings. Many murals pictured workers, farms, local history, and industrial progress. They made art part of everyday public spaces, not only museum collections. The program changed who could earn a living as an artist and where Americans encountered art. At the same time, murals continued a long tradition of using images to tell community stories and honor shared work.
- ③ Beginning in the 1970s, hip-hop developed in the Bronx through DJs, MCs, breakdancers, and graffiti writers. Sampling let artists combine pieces of earlier recordings with new beats and lyrics. Hip-hop later reached national audiences through records, television, streaming, fashion, and film. It changed the language, style, and business of popular culture, while artists often addressed neighborhood life, racism, and unequal opportunities. Like earlier jazz musicians and mural painters, hip-hop artists used art to express experiences and shape public conversations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did jazz both change American life and continue an older tradition?

2 What change in American life did WPA murals create, and what tradition did they continue?

3 What relationship does the passage draw between hip-hop and the earlier art forms?

4 How did changing ways of sharing art affect hip-hop's role in American culture?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an American art form that is not named in the passage. Write three sentences explaining one way it changed American life and one older practice or value it continued.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show how an art form changed American life, and circle three details that show how it continued an older practice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did jazz both change American life and continue an older tradition?	Jazz changed leisure and youth culture through new music and dancing. It continued African American practices such as call-and-response patterns and blues notes.
2	What change in American life did WPA murals create, and what tradition did they continue?	They brought art into everyday public spaces and created jobs for artists. They continued the tradition of using images to tell community stories and honor shared work.
3	What relationship does the passage draw between hip-hop and the earlier art forms?	Like jazz and murals, hip-hop lets artists express their experiences and shape public conversations while building on earlier artistic traditions.
4	How did changing ways of sharing art affect hip-hop's role in American culture?	Records, television, streaming, fashion, and film helped hip-hop reach national audiences. Its influence changed popular culture's language, style, and business.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

American comic books changed American entertainment by bringing superhero stories to inexpensive, widely sold magazines in the 1930s. Later comics addressed more complex social issues and reached readers in digital formats. They continued the older practice of using pictures and stories to share ideas about heroes, fears, and community values.

Accept responses that accurately identify both change and continuity for the art form chosen. The student should explain a relationship to American life, not merely name an artwork or artist.