

Streets Tell Stories

Identify how people, traditions, and places show culture.

WG.14.a "identifying and describing characteristics that contribute to cultural identity, cultural groups, and cultural landscapes; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline characteristics that contribute to cultural identity, circle details that show a cultural group, and number three visible features of the cultural landscape.

Little Saigon, California

- ① On a Saturday morning, visitors to Little Saigon in Westminster, California, may hear Vietnamese spoken in shops and see signs in both Vietnamese and English. The neighborhood grew after many Vietnamese refugees and immigrants settled in Orange County following the Vietnam War. Language, shared history, family ties, foods, and religious traditions can all contribute to cultural identity. Cultural identity describes ways people understand themselves and connect with others. Not every Vietnamese American family practices the same traditions, but many residents support businesses and community events that reflect their heritage.
- ② These connections also shape a cultural group, people who share one or more cultural traits. In Little Saigon, residents may gather for Tết, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration. Families visit relatives, prepare special foods, and watch lion dances or music performances. Community organizations, temples, churches, and schools may help people maintain traditions while also participating in wider American life. A cultural group is not defined only by ancestry, because people can share language, beliefs, customs, or experiences in different ways.
- ③ Cultural landscapes are the visible places and features shaped by people and culture. Along Bolsa Avenue, Little Saigon has markets selling Vietnamese ingredients, restaurants serving phở, storefronts with bilingual signs, and places of worship. These features show how residents have used space to meet daily needs and express cultural connections. A landscape can change as new residents arrive, businesses open, or languages become more common. Looking at one feature alone may not explain a whole community. Several features, together with residents' stories, provide stronger evidence of a cultural landscape.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two characteristics from the passage that can contribute to cultural identity.

2 How does the description of Tết show a cultural group in action? Use one detail from the passage.

3 Identify three visible features along Bolsa Avenue that make Little Saigon a cultural landscape.

4 Why does the passage say that several features and residents' stories provide stronger evidence than one feature alone?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a cultural group connected to a place you know. Complete all three rows with a different cultural characteristic, its connection to the group, and a visible feature that could show that connection in the landscape.

CULTURAL CHARACTERISTIC	CONNECTION TO THE CULTURAL GROUP	VISIBLE LANDSCAPE EVIDENCE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline characteristics that contribute to cultural identity, circle details that show a cultural group, and number three visible features of the cultural landscape. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two characteristics from the passage that can contribute to cultural identity.	Any two: language, shared history, family ties, foods, or religious traditions.
2	How does the description of Tết show a cultural group in action? Use one detail from the passage.	Residents gather for Tết and families visit relatives, prepare special foods, and watch lion dances or music performances. These shared customs connect people.
3	Identify three visible features along Bolsa Avenue that make Little Saigon a cultural landscape.	Any three: markets selling Vietnamese ingredients, restaurants serving phở, storefronts with bilingual signs, and places of worship.
4	Why does the passage say that several features and residents' stories provide stronger evidence than one feature alone?	One feature may not represent the whole community. Several features and residents' stories give a fuller picture of how culture shapes a place.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

CULTURAL CHARACTERISTIC	CONNECTION TO THE CULTURAL GROUP	VISIBLE LANDSCAPE EVIDENCE
Spanish language	Some Mexican American residents use Spanish in daily life.	Storefront signs appear in Spanish and English.
Food traditions	Local restaurants serve foods connected to Mexican culinary traditions.	Taquerias and panaderías line a business street.
Religious practice	Some Catholic families gather for worship and celebrations.	A church posts a sign for a Spanish-language service.

Accept varied examples when each row connects a cultural characteristic to a specific, plausible visible feature. Students should avoid claiming that every member of a cultural group shares the same practice.