

Name _____

North American Cultures

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions that follow using complete sentences.

The Peoples of North America

North America is home to many different cultures, languages, and traditions. Long before modern borders existed, Indigenous nations lived across the continent. Groups such as the Haudenosaunee, Inuit, Navajo, Maya, and many others developed rich systems of art, storytelling, government, and trade that continue to shape modern life. Their histories and contributions remain important parts of North American identity.

Over time, people from around the world arrived and settled in various regions. Explorers and settlers came from Europe, followed by millions of immigrants from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Each group brought its own customs, foods, and beliefs. As communities grew, they blended old traditions with new ones, creating unique cultural combinations in cities and towns across the continent.

Today North America is known for its cultural diversity. Cities like Toronto, Los Angeles, and Mexico City include people who speak many different languages, celebrate different holidays, and practice different forms of art and music. This diversity influences everything from what foods are served in restaurants to what music is played on the radio. Although these cultures may differ, they often interact, helping people learn from one another and shaping a shared experience across the continent.

Cultural diversity continues to grow as people move, communicate, and share ideas. Whether through language, music, traditions, or beliefs, the peoples of North America reflect a wide and vibrant mix of identities that make the continent unique.



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Comprehension Questions

1. What are two ways Indigenous peoples influenced the cultural identity of North America?

2. How did immigration contribute to cultural diversity in North America?

3. What is one example of how cultural blending can be seen in modern cities?

4. Why is North America often described as culturally diverse?

5. According to the passage, how does cultural diversity continue to grow today?