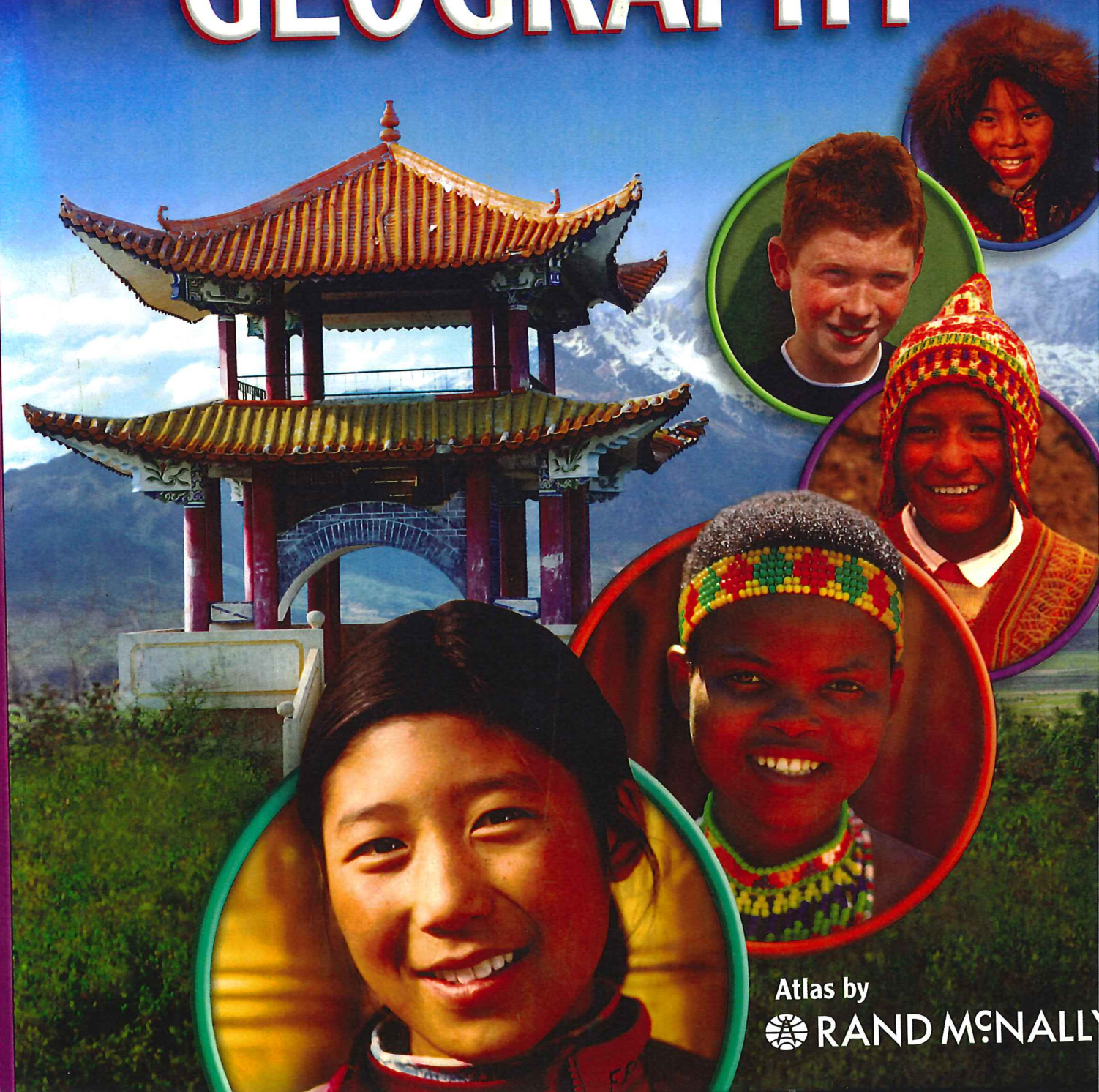


McDougal Littell

World Cultures *and* GEOGRAPHY



Atlas by
 RAND McNALLY

CHAPTER
4

People and Culture

1

CULTURE

What Is Culture?

2

CULTURE

How Does Culture Change?



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

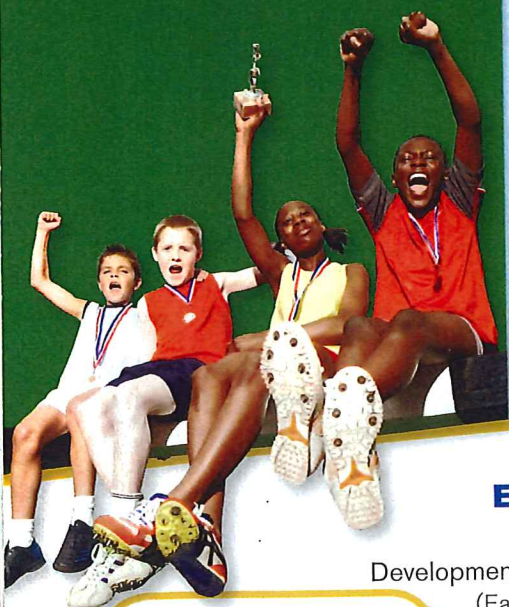
How does culture develop and how does it shape our lives?

CONNECT

Geography & History

Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. Which early cultural centers are found in Africa?
2. One of the world's oldest religions developed in the Indus River valley. What is the religion?



Economics

8000 B.C.

Development of agriculture (Early farm tools) ▶



9000 B.C.

Economics

9000 B.C.

Domestication of animals begins.

Culture

5000 B.C.

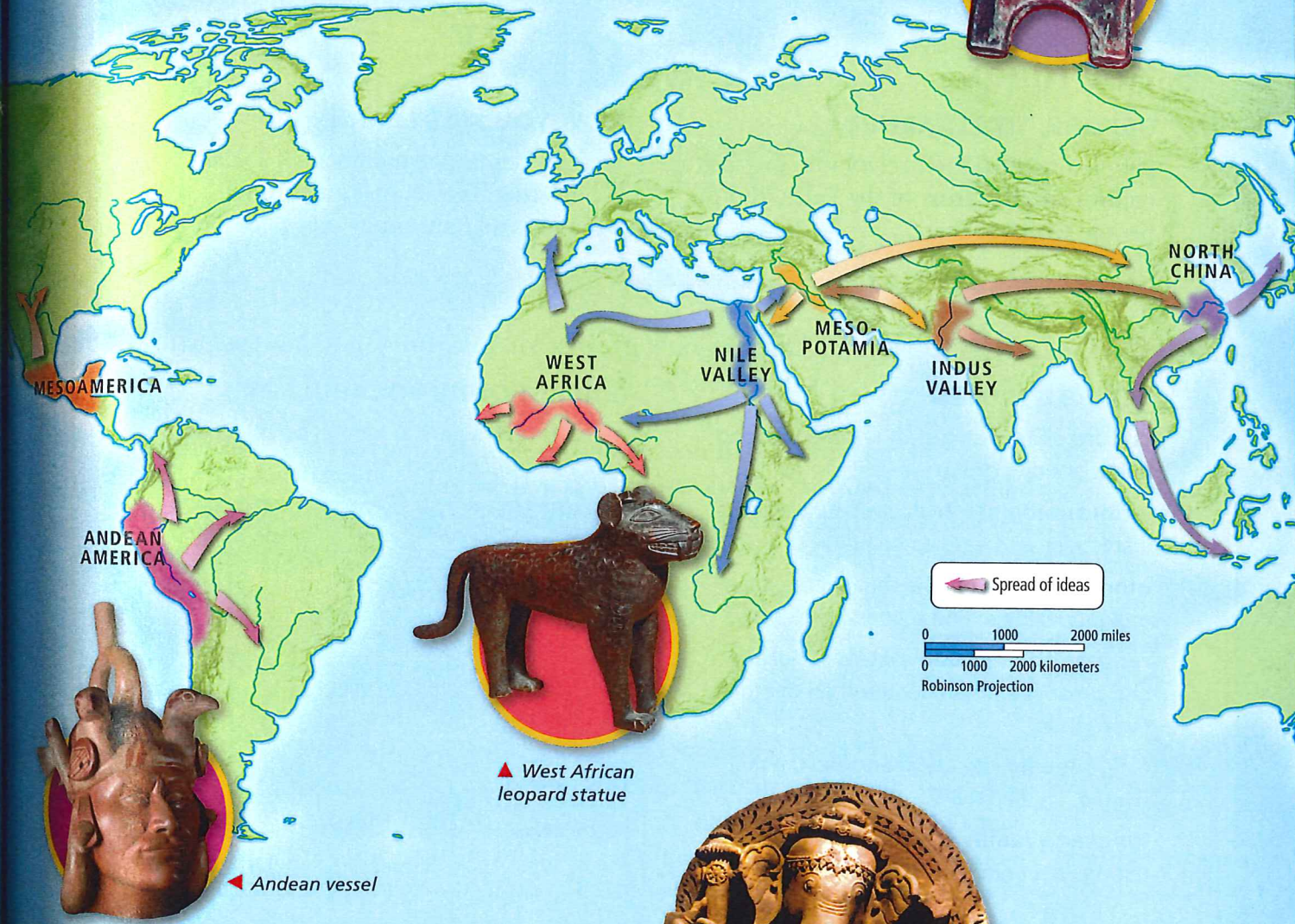
First cities develop. (Home in early city) ▶



Early Cultural Centers

Click here to explore elements of human culture @ ClassZone.com

Ancient Chinese coin ▶



◀ Andean vessel



▲ West African leopard statue



Government

1792 B.C. Hammurabi's code of law develops in the Babylonian Empire.



Culture

◀ **3000 B.C.** First system of writing is in use. (Cuneiform tablet)

Culture

▲ **1500 B.C.** One of the world's oldest major religions, Hinduism, begins to develop. (Ganesha, a Hindu deity)

1000 B.C.

SECTION
1

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

People organize themselves into groups to control specific areas of the Earth and the people who live there.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Human beings are members of social groups that have shared and unique behaviors and attitudes.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

culture shared attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors of a group

anthropologist (AN•thruh•PAHL•uh•jihst)
a scientist who studies culture

ethnic group a people that shares a language, customs, and a common heritage

religion an organized system of beliefs and practices, often centered on one or more gods

language human communication, either written, spoken, or signed

language family a group of languages that have a common origin

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

missionary a person sent to do religious work in another land



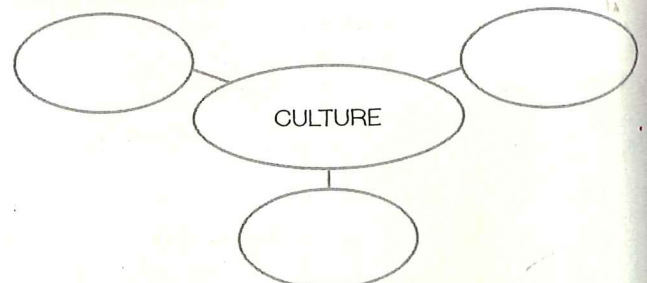
Visual Vocabulary anthropologist

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the web diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to find main ideas about culture.

 See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4

FIND MAIN IDEAS



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com



SECTION
1

CULTURE

What Is Culture?

Connecting to Your World

How does your daily life compare to the lives of students in other parts of the world? Maybe you get up, have cereal for breakfast, and then walk to school. A young person your age in a rural area in Africa may have to work in the fields. When your school day ends, you may have sports or club activities before you go home. If you lived in China's crowded capital of Beijing, you might go home to your family's one-room apartment, where you would study or watch television.

Culture: A Way of Life

KEY QUESTION What is culture?

People meet their basic needs in many different ways. This is because each society has its own culture. **Culture** is the shared attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors of a group. It is the total way of life held in common by a specific group of people. Culture includes language, religion, art, and music. It also includes how a group of people live, what work they do, what food they eat, what beliefs they hold, and how they use the environment to meet their needs. Cultures also create social customs and technologies to solve problems. A culture unites people by helping them to understand their world and to relate to others in the group or those outside the group. Culture is passed from generation to generation.

Newspaper Rock, Utah For perhaps 2,000 years, native peoples and passersby have carved symbols into this sandstone rock.



Elements of Culture Scientists called **anthropologists** study culture. They have found that there are basic elements for all cultures. These include language, religion, certain foods and clothing, arts and crafts, technology, and government. Cultural elements also include a group's common practices, its shared understandings, and its social organization. The way a group uses these elements is what makes its culture unique, or one of a kind. Geographers study where different cultures are located and how they interact with their environment.

Every culture contains smaller social groups. The family is the smallest and most basic unit of a culture. Sometimes a culture includes ethnic groups. An **ethnic group** is a people that shares a language, customs, and a common heritage. Mexican Americans and Korean Americans are examples of ethnic groups that are part of the larger culture region that is the United States.

Learning Culture People are not born with cultural knowledge—they learn it from family, friends, and others. Generally, people learn culture in two ways: by observing others in their culture, and from direct teaching. Think about how you learned to speak. At first, you learned from listening to others and by imitating them. Later, when you went to school, you were directly taught the language, so that you could not only speak it, but write and read it too.

 **FIND MAIN IDEAS** Identify the elements of culture.

ANALYZING Primary Sources

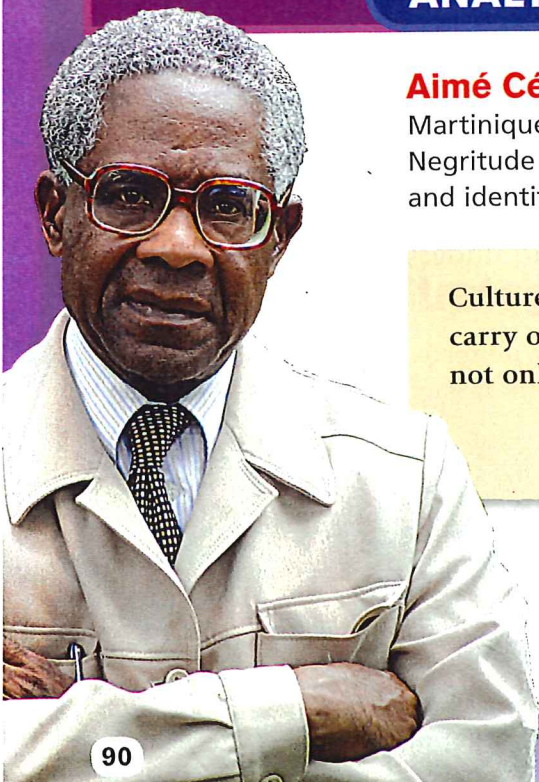
Aimé Césaire (born 1913), a poet and political leader, was born in Martinique, a French island in the West Indies. He helped to found the Negritude movement. Its purpose was to glorify traditional African culture and identity.

Culture is everything. Culture is the way we dress, the way we carry our heads, the way we walk, the way we tie our ties—it is not only the fact of writing books or building houses.

Source: Aimé Césaire, speech to the World Congress of Black Writers and Artists, Paris, France, 1956

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What point is Césaire making about the role of culture in life?





To learn more about how culture is learned, go to the Activity Center @ ClassZone.com

How Culture Is Learned We learn about common practices, shared understandings, and social organization from direct teaching and from observing cultural practices. Family and friends, school, the media, the government, and religious institutions all help us learn our culture.



Family, Friends, and School

Family and friends teach us social customs, values, religious and political beliefs, and the basics of living with others. At school, students learn about their culture and the cultures of others.



Media Media, such as television, the Internet, music, books, magazines, and newspapers, help communicate what is happening in our society and in the world around us.



Government Some of the most directed cultural learning comes from the government. It provides schools to instruct young people in the customs and traditions of their culture.

Religious Institutions

Personal values and religious beliefs help people learn to live with others.



CONNECT to Your Life

Journal Entry Think about the culture in which you live. What objects might best represent parts of your culture? Record your ideas in your journal.

World Religions and Culture

KEY QUESTION What role does religion have in a culture?

Because religion has such an influence on people's lives, it is an important element in most cultures. **Religion** is an organized system of beliefs and practices, often centered on one or more gods. Religion establishes beliefs and values. These beliefs and values guide people's behaviors toward each other and toward the environment.

Types of Religions There are thousands of religions in the world, but many religions have common elements. These elements may include specific behaviors to be practiced, important dates and rituals, holy books, and standards of proper behavior. Religions are often divided into three types—those with a belief in one god, those with a belief in more than one god, and those with a belief in divine forces in nature. The five major world religions are Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, as described in the chart below. You will learn more about them in other chapters of this book and in the World Religions handbook at the back of this text.

COMPARING World Religions

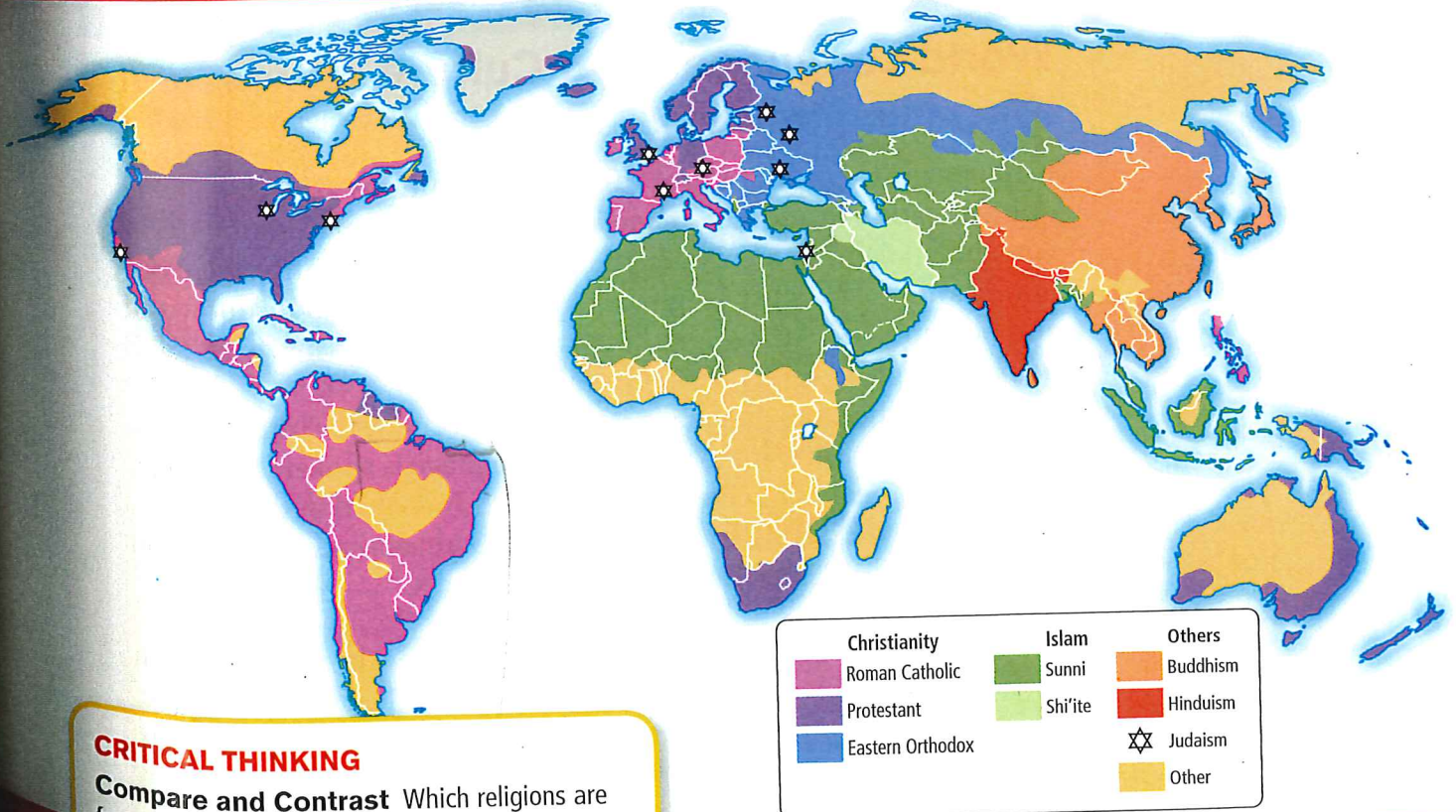
RELIGION	BASIC BELIEFS	TEACHER OR LEADER	FOLLOWERS
Buddhism	Followers can achieve enlightenment by understanding the Four Noble Truths and following the Eightfold Path.	Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha	379 million
Christianity	There is only one God. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus' death and resurrection made eternal life possible.	Jesus of Nazareth	2.1 billion
Hinduism	The soul never dies but is continually reborn until it becomes enlightened. Enlightenment comes after people free themselves from earthly desires.	no one leader	860 million
Islam	There is only one God. Persons achieve salvation by following the Five Pillars of Islam and living a just life.	Muhammad	1.3 billion
Judaism	There is only one God. According to believers, God loves and protects his people, but then holds them accountable for their sins.	Abraham	15.1 million

◀ A Chinese-Buddhist Enlightened Being

Spread of Religion Over the centuries, religions have spread from their points of origin to the rest of the world. All of the world's major religions began in Asia and moved to other continents. At first, religious beliefs were carried to different places by followers of the religion or traders. Later, **missionaries**, people sent to do religious work in other lands, spread their faiths. For example, Christianity began in Southwest Asia and was spread throughout the world by missionaries. Still later, immigrants brought their religious beliefs with them as they moved to other countries.

In some lands, traditional religions have been practiced for as long as people have lived in a culture group. In areas where there has been little immigration, most of the people have the same religion. In countries where there has been much immigration, several religions might be practiced. This is the case in the United States, where all the world's major religions and many others are practiced. In fact, the United States has more religious groups than any other country in the world, although the two largest groups are Protestant and Roman Catholic.

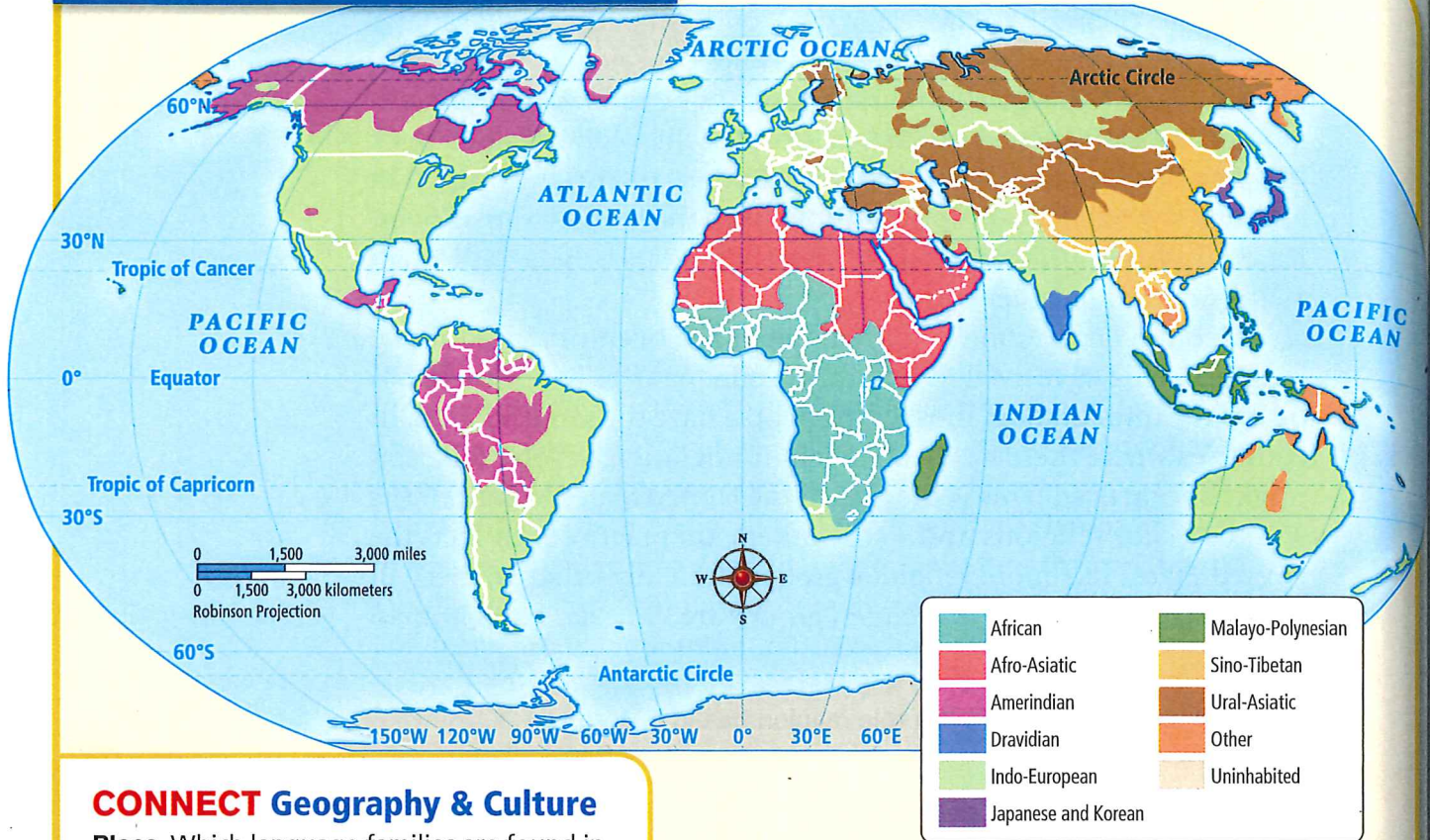
SUMMARIZE Explain the role religion has in culture.



CRITICAL THINKING

Compare and Contrast Which religions are found in South America?

World Language Families Today



CONNECT Geography & Culture

Place Which language families are found in North America?

World Languages and Culture

KEY QUESTION Why is language important?

Language is the way cultural values and traditions are passed from one generation to another. **Language** is human communication either written, spoken, or signed, such as American Sign Language. Your family and teachers use language to help you understand your world and how to live in it. Because language relates to all aspects of life, it helps a people to establish a cultural identity.

Sharing the same language is also important to a culture's sense of unity. Sometimes, if more than one language is spoken in an area, people don't feel connected to each other. In Canada, for example, both English and French are spoken. As a result, at times English- and French-speaking Canadians experience conflict.

Language Families Geographers believe that there are between 3,000 and 6,500 languages in the world today. India, for example, has 18 official languages, and more than 800 other languages are spoken there. Some of the world's languages are spoken by only a few

thousand people. Other languages have millions of speakers. The language with the largest number of native speakers is Mandarin Chinese, spoken by an estimated 885 million people, mostly in China. English is the most widespread language in the world.

Scholars have arranged the world's languages into 11 main language families. A **language family** is a group of languages that have a common origin. English is in the Indo-European language family, the most widespread language family. An estimated one-half of the world's population speaks an Indo-European language.

Spread and Change of Language Geographers study how languages are distributed throughout the world as a way to learn more about cultures. Like religion and other elements of culture, language spreads in many ways. People bring their language and their culture with them when they move from place to place. Indo-European languages, such as English, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, and French, were carried to all parts of the world by European explorers and colonists.

Language not only spreads, it also changes. Language changes when people interact and borrow words from one another. Change also happens when people need new words to express new ideas or to represent new objects or activities, such as *weblog*, or *blog*.

FIND MAIN IDEAS Explain why language is important to culture.



Fun Facts!

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

All of the above greetings come to you from the same language family—Indo-European. These words are variations of *hello* in English, Italian, Russian, Polish, Hindi, Greek, and Irish. These seven languages are a part of more than 400 in this language family.

Section 1 Assessment

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](#)

TERMS & NAMES

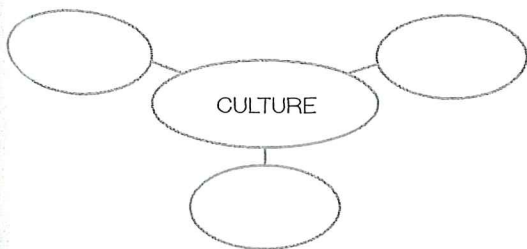
1. Explain the importance of

- culture
- ethnic group
- religion
- language

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Summarize** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

Why is language important in a culture?



KEY IDEAS

3. What are the basic elements of culture?
4. What are the five major religions of the world?
5. How are the world's languages organized?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Draw Conclusions** Why is religion an important part of a group's culture?
7. **Sequence Events** How does culture pass from one generation to the next?
8. **CONNECT to Today** What are the most influential elements in the culture of the United States?

9. **WRITING Write a Brief Description** Choose a cultural group. Write a description that includes information on cultural elements, such as religion, language, government, technology, arts and crafts, and food and clothing.