

CHAPTER
6

Greek Civilization

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Think about how this question might relate to the culture of ancient Greece.



TALK ABOUT IT

Discuss with a partner what type of information you would need to know to answer this question. For example, one question might be: What kind of cultural advancements happened in ancient Greece?

DIRECTIONS: Now write down three additional questions that would help you explain the parts of society that makes a culture unique.

MY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Supporting Question 1:

Supporting Question 2:

Supporting Question 3:

- 3 ANALYZING** Reread the section of the chapter about ancient Greek comedies and tragedies. Now think about the movies, plays, and stories you know of today. Write the name of one tragedy and one comedy that you have seen on television, in a theater, or read in literature.

- 4 HISTORY** Look at the drawing of the Parthenon. What does the architecture tell you about the people who used it?

Greek Papyrus

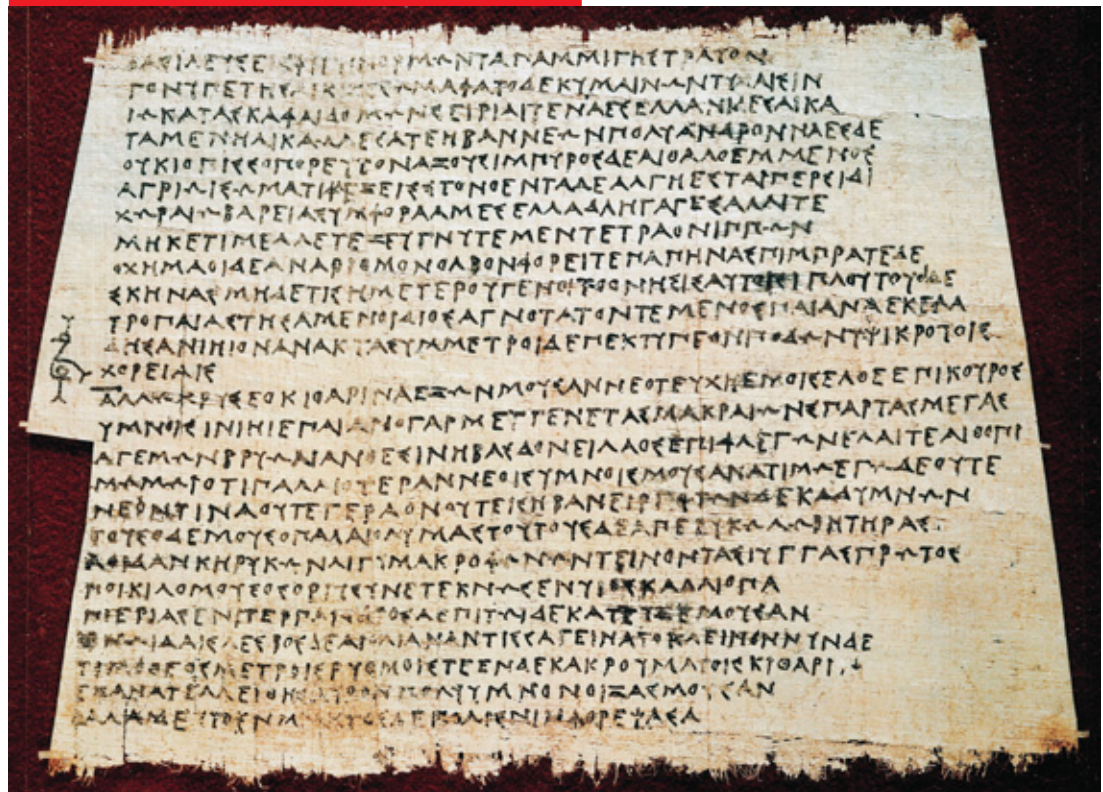
ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

DIRECTIONS: Examine the image below and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: This artifact from around the 300s B.C.E., which describes the battle of Salamis, is made of a plant material called papyrus. Papyrus grows best in wet areas of warm climates, like along the Nile River or in Mediterranean locations like Greece. This material was used as paper by early cultures. The ancient Greek people used papyrus to record their laws, poetry, and stories. Some papyrus artifacts have been recovered from graves. Others have been found wrapped and placed alongside mummies. Today, papyrus artifacts are preserved carefully in museums. They help modern historians understand what life was like many years ago.

PRIMARY SOURCE: ARTIFACT



1 GEOGRAPHY What can you tell about the climate and environment of ancient Greece from the artifact?

2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT What type of document is pictured in this image? How does this help you understand ancient Greek culture?

3 HISTORICAL INFERENCE The writing on the papyrus tells the story of an important battle in which a Greek fleet overpowered Persian naval forces that were much greater in number. What inference can you make about how documents such as this were shared among people in ancient Greece?

4 DRAWING CONCLUSIONS What conclusion can you draw about the artifact from knowing that it has been preserved from ancient times?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

The Temple of Apollo at Delphi

DIRECTIONS: Look at the image and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: The image shows the ruins of the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. The temple was built around the 700s B.C.E. Temples were often dedicated to specific Gods and Goddesses, especially Apollo, the God of the sun. The grand temple was home to the Oracle of Delphi and would have been considered a sacred site. Today it draws thousands of visitors who want to understand the culture of people who lived long ago.

PRIMARY SOURCE: ARCHITECTURE

1 DETERMINING CONTEXT What was the purpose of the temple? Why was it built?

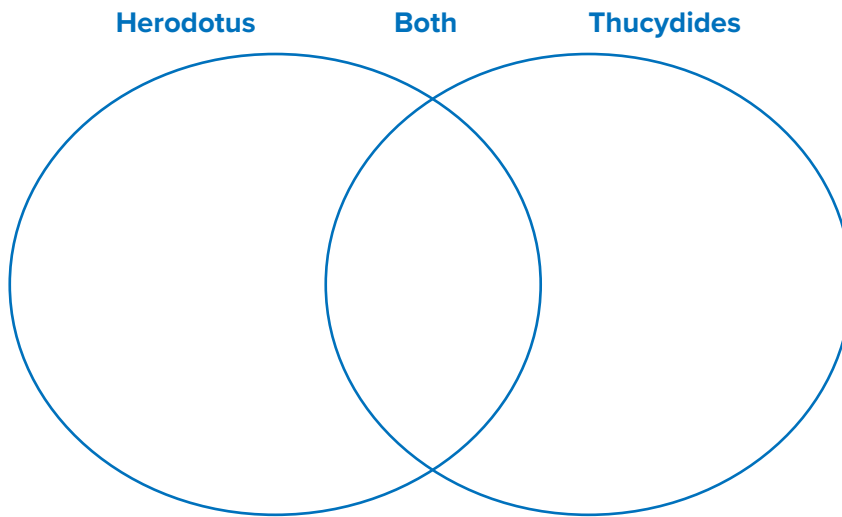
2 ANALYZING What can you tell about the number of people who likely visited the temple when it was built? What type of people likely visited the temple? What evidence can you gather from the image that helps you answer that question?

3 GEOGRAPHY What features of the setting of the temple of Apollo at Delphi help you understand its meaning and importance?

4 ECONOMICS What could you learn about the culture of ancient Greece from visiting the ruins of the temple of Apollo at Delphi?

3 ANALYZING Which Greek philosopher’s work laid the groundwork for the study of science? Provide some examples of his studies.

4 COMPARING AND CONTRASTING How were the historians Herodotus and Thucydides alike in their thinking, and how were they different?



5 DETERMINING CENTRAL IDEAS Important ancient Greek scientists are listed in the first column of the chart below. In the second column, write details explaining what each scientist is famous for.

Scientist	Major Contribution
Thales	
Pythagoras	
Hippocrates	

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Athenian Constitution

DIRECTIONS: Study the following excerpt and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: Aristotle wrote many works on government. He was interested in how people interacted with their rulers. Each city in ancient Greece had its own system of government. In the passage below, Aristotle explains the political system of the ancient Greek city of Athens.

PRIMARY SOURCE: POLITICAL TREATISE

“There should be a Council of Four Hundred, as in the ancient constitution, forty from each tribe, chosen out of candidates of more than thirty years of age, selected by the members of the tribes. This Council should appoint the magistrates and draw up the form of oath which they were to take; and in all that concerned the laws, in the examination of official accounts, and in other matters generally, they might act according to their discretion. They must, however, observe the laws that might be enacted with reference to the constitution of the state, and had no power to alter them nor to pass others.”

— Aristotle, *The Athenian Constitution*, 350 B.C.E.

VOCABULARY

magistrate: judge

- 1 HISTORY** What type of document is this? How does this information help you understand the document?

2 EXPLAINING How were the members of the council chosen?

3 ANALYZING SOURCES What details from the source give information about the rules council members were required to follow?

4 CIVICS What can you tell about the government of ancient Athens from the document?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Hippocrates

DIRECTIONS: Study the following excerpt and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: Hippocrates lived from around 460 to 370 B.C.E. He wrote many essays on medical issues. Some of his works include *On Injuries of the Head*, *On the Heart*, *On the Glands*, *On the Veins*, and *On the Diseases of Women*. He wrote so many essays on health and anatomy that he is sometimes called the “father of modern medicine.” This excerpt is from his work called *Regimen in Acute Diseases*.



PRIMARY SOURCE: BOOK

“The course I recommend is to pay attention to the whole of the medical art. Indeed all acts that are good and correct should be in all cases well or correctly performed; if they ought to be done quickly, they should be done quickly, if neatly, neatly, if painlessly, they should be managed with a minimum of pain; and all such acts ought to be performed excellently, in a manner better than that of one’s own fellows.”

— Hippocrates, *Regimen in Acute Diseases*, 400 B.C.E.

1 HISTORY What type of document is this? What does it help you understand?

2 ASKING QUESTIONS Does Hippocrates want something specific to happen by writing this document? What is his motive for writing?

3 HISTORICAL CONTEXT When was the document written? How does that help you understand it?

4 HISTORICAL INFERENCE What inference can you make about Hippocrates from the details in the document? What evidence do you use to make your inference?

2 EXPLAINING CAUSE AND EFFECT Use the cause-and-effect organizer below to explain what caused Alexander the Great to come to power and the effect of his leadership.

The image shows three identical cause-and-effect organizer boxes stacked vertically. Each box is a rectangle with a downward-pointing arrow at the bottom center, indicating a cause leading to an effect.

3 CIVICS How did Alexander the Great and the later Hellenistic rulers spread ancient Greek culture?

A set of seven horizontal lines for writing an answer.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Map of Alexander the Great's Territory

DIRECTIONS: Study the following image and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: Alexander the Great had a vision of uniting Macedonia, Greece, Egypt, and Asia Minor into one empire. The map in this image, created in 1862 C.E., marks the area that he ruled when he was at his greatest power.

SECONDARY SOURCE: MAP



- 1 GEOGRAPHY** What are the beneficial natural features that Alexander has access to in his vast territory?

2 **GEOGRAPHY** How does the geography of Greece, the homeland of Hellenistic rule, present challenges for Alexander the Great's rule?

3 **CIVICS** How does the vast territory with its challenging geographic features place limits on the government that Alexander the Great imagined?

4 **CONNECT TO TODAY** Alexander the Great's empire stretched from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and across southern Asia to the Indian subcontinent. Which modern-day countries within the boundaries of that ancient empire have been in the news lately? Name at least two countries and explain what has happened there.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

On Alexander from the Works of Christina Queen of Sweden

DIRECTIONS: Study the following passage and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: Christina, Queen of Sweden, lived from 1626 to 1689 C.E. She became queen at age 6 when her warrior king father died. Christina was educated as a prince and cared deeply about reading and the arts. She loved exciting stories and admired Alexander the Great for his adventure and bravery.



SECONDARY SOURCE: BOOK EXCERPT

“But this great, this invincible Alexander, who so well discharged the duties of his rank, however engrossed by ambition, however employed in great and important affairs, read almost as much as if he had been retired. Greece at that time, learned as it was, could not furnish him with books enough. Homer and his sword lay always by his side. He loved letters little less than glory. He favored every fine genius; he was liberal to profusion in encouraging arts and sciences, as appeared in many shining instances. . . . Philosophers, orators, poets, sculptors, and every able man in his age partook of his liberality and shared in his fortune.”

—from *The Works of Christina Queen of Sweden*, 1753 C.E.

VOCABULARY

Homer: a Greek poet and his written works

profusion: large amount

orators: public speakers

partook: took part in

liberality: open-mindedness

1 DETERMINING CONTEXT Who wrote the passage? What was her occupation and background? How does this information help you understand the document?

2 ANALYZING POINTS OF VIEW How does the author describe Alexander the Great? What does she call out as his best qualities?

3 ANALYZING SOURCES When was the passage written? Where was it written? How does this information help you understand the credibility of the information in this document?

4 DRAWING CONCLUSIONS What was the author's purpose in writing about Alexander the Great's passion for cultural activities?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
What makes a culture unique?

LESSON 4
Hellenistic Culture

THE STORY BEGINS...



No one knew what caused Alexander to fall ill with a fever. The story later became legend, the death brought many changes, but he had set in motion a quest for learning that continued after he was gone. It was an exciting time for scientists, philosophers, writers, and researchers. Many people were working to learn about the natural world and the experience of being human. Alexandria had grown from being a small port city to a bustling capital. The area had become a center for learning. It would be very different.

Although many of Egypt's temples in Abydos in Alexandria and other cities had been burned and looted, many of the temples had been preserved with religious care, and being treated as places to honor, not just as places of worship. The walls in the temples of both Greek and Egyptian, and they were filled with the names of the gods. It was in the days when the Hellenistic world was still young, it was that the king was first with the temples to show the story which he had founded in Alexandria with all of these temples.

—Book "The Story of the World," written by Henry W. Jones

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

As you gather evidence to answer the Essential Question, think about:

- how poets and playwrights illustrate the culture of a society.
- the connection between happiness and reason.
- how mathematics and science reveal information about a culture.

My Notes

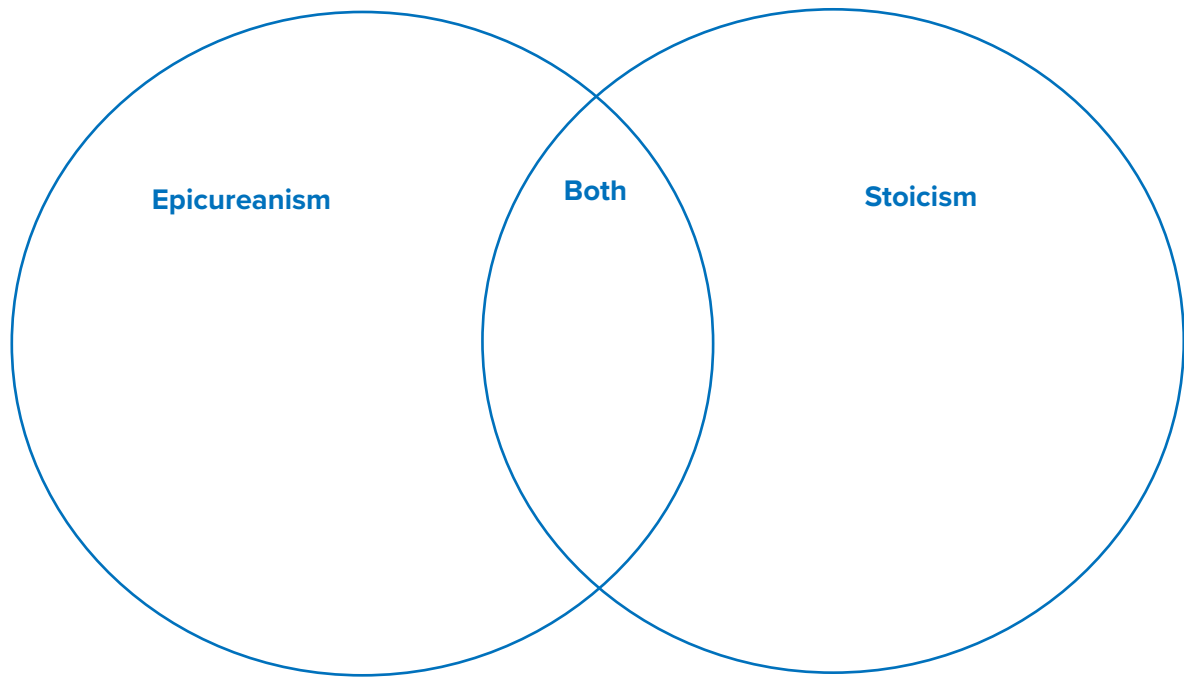
Hellenistic Culture

DIRECTIONS: Search for evidence in Chapter 6, Lesson 4 to help you answer the following questions.

1 EXPLAINING CAUSE AND EFFECT For each effect listed in the graphic organizer below, write the cause of that effect.

Cause	Effect
	Alexandria became the Greek capital of Egypt.
	Hellenistic kings built public building projects.
	Hellenistic rulers supported talented writers.

2 COMPARING AND CONTRASTING Use the diagram below to compare and contrast Epicureanism and Stoicism. How are they alike, and how are they different?



3 SUMMARIZING The Greek scientists and mathematicians made important discoveries in ancient Greece. Summarize what you learned about each figure on the lines that follow.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Stoicism

DIRECTIONS: Study the following excerpt, and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: The philosophy of Stoicism was developed by Zeno, who lived from 334 to 262 B.C.E. His ideas became the dominant philosophy of the Hellenistic period. None of his works have survived, but we know about him from the works of his followers. Zeno studied the works of Socrates (c. 469–399 B.C.E.) as all Hellenistic thinkers did. Zeno taught that people should control their own emotions and passions to find wisdom. Socrates is most known for his method of tackling a problem. His Socratic Method is a systematic process of teaching in which difficult problems are broken into small questions. In answering these small questions, students taught under the Socratic Method are slowly led to a better understanding of a subject or truth.



SECONDARY SOURCE: BOOK EXCERPT

“The study of Stoicism cannot be properly begun without some attempt to trace its germs in earlier speculation, and to note what was the state of Greek society in which it first took root before it was transferred to other and perhaps to kindlier soils. Like all the famous systems which divided the earnest thinkers of the old Greek world, its real starting-point is to be found in the life and thought of Socrates, whose original and striking figure fills so marked a place in the pictures of the social life at Athens towards the close of the fifth century before our era. Not that Greek philosophy began with him. There had been no lack before of serious efforts to solve some of the many problems which had forced themselves upon men’s thoughts when they looked out upon the universe around them, or tried to think about their own relations to the world unseen, and to the infinities that lay before and after.”

— Rev. W.W. Capes, *Stoicism*, 1880 C.E.

VOCABULARY

germ: beginning

speculation: thought, theories

striking: impressive

infinities: endless unknowns

1 DETERMINING CONTEXT What type of document is this? How does knowing this help you understand the passage?

2 CITING TEXT EVIDENCE What point is the author making in his comparison of Stoicism to the ideas of Socrates? What evidence from the passage suggests that the author considers this point controversial?

3 HISTORY Why was the passage written? How does the purpose for writing help you understand it?

4 DISTINGUISHING FACT FROM OPINION The author includes some of his own opinions in the passage. In his argument about the roots of Stoicism, the author mixes his opinions with established facts. Identify the opinions and the facts in the author's argument.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Winged Victory of Samothrace

DIRECTIONS: Study the following image and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: The statue pictured here is called the Winged Victory of Samothrace. It is a statue of the Goddess Nike from the Hellenistic period, probably created around 200 B.C.E. to honor a naval battle at the Greek island of Samothrace. Nike is the ancient Greek Goddess of victory. The statue now stands in a famous museum in Paris, France, called the Louvre. Although historians have preserved Roman copies of Hellenistic statues, this Winged Victory of Samothrace is one of the few original sculptures from that period.

PRIMARY SOURCE: STATUE

1 HISTORY Describe the statue pictured in this image. What does its appearance help you understand about the work of art and the culture it came from?

2 INFERRING We know that the statue honors the Goddess of victory on the occasion of a battle triumph. What does this fact help you understand about the values of the ancient Greeks?

3 HISTORY What was happening in the region during the 200s B.C.E. that influenced the creation of this statue?

4 CIVICS The Winged Victory of Samothrace is held in a famous museum and considered one of the world's treasures. What does this fact say about western culture today?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

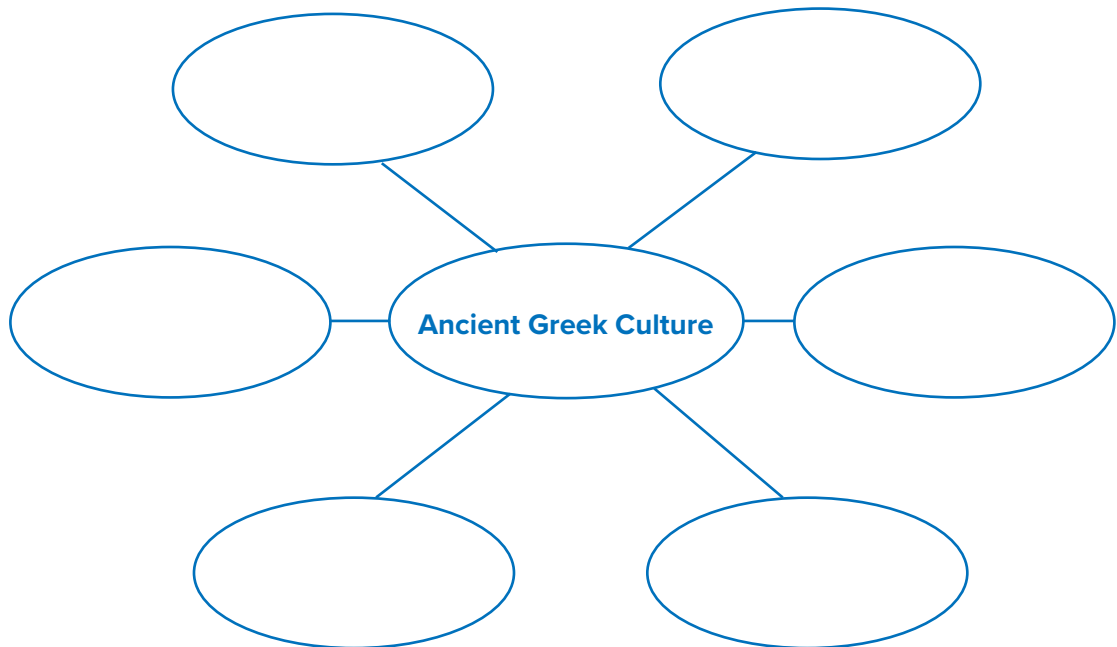
1 Think About It

Review the supporting questions you developed at the opening of the chapter. Review the evidence you found in Chapter 6. Were you able to answer each of your Supporting Questions?

If you didn't find enough evidence to answer your Supporting Questions, what do you think you need to consider?

2 Organize Your Evidence

Use a web like the one below to organize the evidence you will use to support your Position Statement.



3 Talk About It

Discuss the evidence you have gathered with a small group or partner. Check your group's understanding of the qualities that make a culture unique, and answer any questions members may have. Consider any additional advice or input they may have.

4 Connect to the Essential Question

On a separate piece of paper, write a scene for a play in the style of a Greek tragedy or comedy. Include information about the culture of ancient Greece and details that reveal how it made ancient Greek culture unique. Your scene should answer the ESSENTIAL QUESTION:
What makes a culture unique?

TAKING ACTION



MAKE CONNECTIONS In ancient Greece, culture thrived, and poets and playwrights became important, famous people. Today, ancient Greek poetry and drama remain part of Western culture. We are able to understand the day-to-day lives of the ancient Greeks, the issues they cared deeply about, and their values through their literature. Yet the window into a culture through literature is not unique to ancient Greece. That window exists for most cultures that have a well-developed literary tradition. This includes the United States today. Although you may not read poetry every day, there are countless modern American poets who capture the feeling, frustrations, and triumphs of modern culture through verse and drama.

DIRECTIONS: Use what you have learned about what makes a culture unique to participate in a modern poetry reading. Research modern American poets and select a poem or short work of literature that captures an idea about the culture you experience today. Then take turns among your classmates to read your selection aloud. Discuss as a class how the details of the poem you chose reveal information about the culture today.
