

If you only have 15 minutes ...

Observe (3 minutes)

- Skim the article. Identify three examples that show how literature, historic places or artistic traditions connect people across cultures. For example, explain what it shows.¹

Discuss (10 minutes)

Chingiz Aitmatov, Ambassador to the World

- How did Chingiz Aitmatov help connect Kyrgyz culture with the wider world? Use evidence from the text to explain how his writing and public service promoted cultural understanding.²

World Heritage Site: Recognizing Outstanding Cultural Sites

Why are UNESCO World Heritage Sites more than famous landmarks? Use two examples from the text to explain how they encourage dialog, appreciation or cooperation among cultures.³

Artistic Traditions Share Common Themes of Human Achievement and Emotion

How do literature, architecture and artistic traditions communicate ideas that people from different cultures can relate to? Support your answer with evidence from the article.⁴

Reflect (2 minutes)

Which do you think has the greatest power to bring power from different cultures together: literature, UNESCO World Heritage Sites or artistic traditions? Explain your choice using evidence from the article and your own reasoning.⁵

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

1 Possible responses:

- Countries strengthen relationships through culture, education, heritage and shared human experiences.
- Literature, art, architecture and historic landmarks help people better understand one another.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites preserve places that belong to humanity.
- Heritage sites and artistic traditions promote appreciation, cooperation and cultural exchange.

2 Possible responses:

- His novels were translated into more than 170 languages, introducing readers to Kyrgyz traditions and values.
- His stories explored universal themes such as family, justice, identity and human dignity.
- As a diplomat, he organized the Issyk-Kul Forum, bringing together international

3 Possible responses:

- UNESCO protects places of outstanding cultural and natural significance for all humanity.
- Historic Jeddah reflects centuries of cultural exchange through trade and pilgrimage.
- Samarkand demonstrates how the Silk Roads connected Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

- The Alhambra illustrates artistic and architectural exchange between Islamic and European civilizations.
- The Taj Mahal blends Persian, Islamic and Indian architectural traditions while inspiring worldwide appreciation.

4 Possible responses:

- Aitmatov's novels show that people around the world share common hopes, struggles and values.
- Shakespeare's plays remain meaningful because their themes are universal.
- Portuguese ceramic tiles demonstrate how artistic ideas and aesthetics move across cultures and blend with local traditions.

5 Answers will vary, but students should support their choice with evidence from the article and explain why they believe literature, UNESCO World Heritage Sites or artistic traditions has the greatest influence in promoting cultural understanding.