

If you only have 30 minutes ...

Look for evidence that demonstrates how local heritage can have universal significance.

Text Mining (12 minutes)

Task1: Cloze Reading—The History and Conservation of George Town

Complete the paragraph below using the **Cloze Word Bank**:

In today's _____ world, countries strengthen relationships by _____ heritage, education, customs, and _____ experiences. Often, this is a more effective way to _____ other countries than relying on military or economic _____. People better understand one another when they experience literature, art, architecture and historic _____ from other cultures. This understanding builds mutual _____ and encourages cooperation.

Chingiz Aitmatov introduced readers around the world to the traditions and values of _____. His novels were translated into more than 170 _____ and explored universal _____ such as family, justice, identity, memory and _____ dignity. His stories show that although cultures may _____, people everywhere share many of the same hopes and values.

Likewise, UNESCO World Heritage Sites preserve places of exceptional _____ significance and encourage _____ for humanity's shared heritage.¹

Cloze Word Bank

Appreciation	Central Asia	Cultural	Differ
Experience	Human	Human	Influence
Interconnected	Kyrgyz	Landmarks	Languages
Power	Respect	Sharing	Themes

Task 2: Text Evidence

Find three pieces of evidence from the article that show how literature or cultural heritage helps people from different cultures understand one another.²

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Text Analysis (12 minutes)

Fill in the table using complete sentences.

Article Themes	Guiding Questions	Answers
The Power of Local Culture³	How does Aitmatov show that local traditions can have universal meaning?	
Preserving Shared Heritage⁴	How do UNESCO World Heritage Sites encourage appreciation and cooperation across cultures?	

Cultural Exchange⁵	How do literature, architecture and artistic traditions demonstrate that civilizations influence one another?	
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Synthesis (6 minutes)

Using evidence from the article, explain how literature, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and artistic traditions help build understanding among people from different countries?⁶

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 In today's **interconnected** world, countries strengthen relationships by **sharing** heritage, education, customs and **human** experiences. Often, this is a more effective way to **influence** other countries than relying on military or economic **power**. People better understand one another when they experience literature, art, architecture and historic **landmarks** from other cultures. This understanding builds mutual **respect** and encourages cooperation.

Chingiz Aitmatov introduced readers around the world to the traditions and values of **Central Asia**. His novels were translated into more than 170 **languages** and explored universal **themes** such as family, justice, identity, memory and **human** dignity. His stories show that although cultures may **differ**, people everywhere share many of the same hopes and values.

Likewise, UNESCO World Heritage Sites preserve places of exceptional **cultural** significance and encourage **appreciation** for humanity's shared heritage.

2 Possible answers:

- Countries strengthen relationships by sharing culture, education, heritage and human experiences.
- Literature, architecture and historic places help people better understand one another.

- Aitmatov's novels introduced millions of readers to Kyrgyz culture while exploring universal themes.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites preserve places that belong to all humanity and encourage appreciation across cultures.
- Heritage sites, literature, architecture and artistic traditions promote understanding and cooperation among nations.

3 Students should include some or all of the following:

- Aitmatov drew inspiration from the traditions, folklore and landscapes of his homeland.
- His novels introduced readers around the world to Kyrgyz culture.
- His stories explore universal themes including family, justice, identity, memory and human dignity.
- His writing demonstrates that although cultures differ, people share many common hopes, struggles, and values.

4 Students should include some or all of the following:

- UNESCO protects places of outstanding cultural and natural importance.
- These sites preserve traditions, history, languages and archeological treasures.
- They encourage dialog, appreciation and mutual respect among cultures.
- They recognize achievements that belong to all humanity rather than a single nation.

5 Students should include some or all of the following:

- Historic Jeddah reflects centuries of cultural exchange through trade and pilgrimage.

- Samarkand demonstrates how the Silk Roads connected civilizations through commerce and scholarship.
- The Alhambra reflects artistic and architectural achievements that bridged Islamic and European traditions.
- The Taj Mahal blends Persian, Islamic and Indian architectural influences.
- Shakespeare's plays continue to resonate because of their universal themes.
- Portuguese ceramic tiles illustrate how artistic ideas and esthetics moved across cultures and blended with local traditions.

6 Students should include some or all of the following:

- Literature introduces readers to different cultures while highlighting universal human experiences.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites preserve places of global significance and encourage appreciation for humanity's shared heritage.
- Architecture, art and literature demonstrate that civilizations have influenced one another through trade, storytelling, education and cultural exchange.
- Together, these forms of cultural heritage promote understanding, cooperation and respect across cultures by showing that local traditions often have universal meaning.