Looking at Culture

Ways of Life
Culture includes people’s beliefs, ideas, and languages. Celebrations, music, art, and even the lessons you learn in school are also part of culture. All cultures have traditions that are passed down from adults to children. Traditions are often taught through holiday celebrations and stories.

Comparing Cultures
People from all cultures must have food, water, clothing, and shelter to live. These things are basic needs. However, people from different cultures meet their needs in different ways. Different countries have different cultures. In some countries, most people are part of the same ethnic group. The United States is made up of people from many ethnic groups. The traditions of these groups are part of American culture.

Before You Read
Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word or term.
- culture noun, the way of life a group of people share
- tradition noun, a culture’s special way of doing something
- needs noun, the things people must have in order to live
- ethnic group noun, a group of people who have their own language and culture

After You Read
What are some ways of teaching traditions? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.
What basic needs do people from all cultures have? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.

SKILL  Reading Charts
What are language, stories, and art a part of? Circle the answer.