

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Human Geography Research Project

Your small group will be assigned one of the following examples. Use the provided websites to conduct research and answer the questions for your assigned example.

## Example 1: The Roma

The Roma are a traditionally nomadic ethnic group. Nomadic peoples move from place to place. Roma ancestors are thought to have moved to Europe from northern India long ago. The Roma have had a presence in Europe for an estimated 1,000 years. However, Roma culture is still significantly different from the predominant European culture.

1. How are the Roma typically treated in Europe? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How has the Roma's nomadic lifestyle affected their culture? How has the nomadic lifestyle affected others' perceptions of their culture? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Has the treatment of Roma changed over time? Do you think it will change with the creation of more easily passable borders due to the formation of the European Union? Explain.

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## Example 2: The Basques

The Basque group of southern Europe lives in both Spain and France. This group does not have autonomy, or the power to govern itself as a separate entity from the countries it lives in. The origins of the Basque group are unknown. But the group is characterized by a shared language and culture distinct from the predominant Spanish and French culture.

1. Describe the physical barriers that may have caused the Basque culture to straddle two countries. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Do you think that the Basque group should be allowed to create its own country? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Are there other cultural or ethnic groups in Europe that face a similar challenge? If so, describe them. \_\_\_\_\_

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### Example 3: Moldova

The former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) combined many unique cultures under one governing system. Russians moved to every area of the U.S.S.R. once it was established. This movement and settlement created tensions between Russians and other ethnic groups when independence was achieved in 1991. Research the history of Moldova from 1900 to the present, including language and Russian influence.

1. How do you think the created borders and the influx of non-native people affected the preexisting culture? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Has conflict arisen between Moldova and Romania since Moldova's independence? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Are there similar situations throughout former U.S.S.R. countries today? If so, describe them. \_\_\_\_\_

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### Example 4: Cyprus

Cyprus has a long history with the countries Turkey and Greece. Cyprus gained its independence from Britain in 1960. But there has been a struggle in Cyprus between the Turkish and Greek peoples that has lasted to the present day. Cyprus was admitted to the European Union (EU) in 2004. However, the political division of the island prevents northern Cyprus from receiving the same level of EU benefits as the rest of the island.

1. Describe the major differences between the two cultural groups that reside in Cyprus.

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2. Do you think it is fair for a country to be part of an organization like the EU, if only half of its citizens participate? Explain your reasoning.

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3. Are there similar situations happening in other parts of Europe? If so, describe them.

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