

Read the background information on cultural diffusion, then use the information provided to complete the mapping activity.

A thousand years ago, separate cultural regions thrived in the Americas, the Middle East, Europe, India, China, and Sub-Saharan Africa. These independent regions often had little contact or communication with one another, or none at all. Various elements of **culture**—including food, clothing, shelter, religious beliefs, language, customs, and technology--- were different in each part of the world. Today, developments in one region often spread quickly to other areas of the world, creating many similarities.

Diffusion refers to how something diffuses or spreads. A drop of ink, for example, will spread through a glass of water until the ink and water blend into a single mixture. Plants, animals, goods, and ideas are all capable of diffusing into new regions or cultures. Cultural traits spread from the areas where they originate through a process called cultural diffusion. ***Cultural Diffusion** is the process by which an object or an idea from one culture spreads to different cultures.* The mechanization or mode of transport may be migration, trade, or even war.

Historians and geographers are especially concerned with the patterns that cultural diffusion takes. They look at the spread of a phenomenon, the speed of its diffusion, the path it takes, and the effects it has on various regions of contact. The growing of wheat can be tracked over time and space as it diffused across the globe.

Find each location listed below on the given map. Write the number of the location in the space provided on the map .	The list below shows the diffusion of wheat and when wheat growing spread to these new locations. After numbering all of the locations in the list to the left, begin drawing the tail of an arrow from the location it diffused <i>from</i> and complete the arrowhead at the location it diffused <i>to</i> .
1. Fertile Crescent	From the Fertile Crescent to Egypt (4000s B.C.E.)
2. Egypt	From the Fertile Crescent to Europe (4000s B.C.E.)
3. Europe	From the Fertile Crescent to India (3000s B.C.E.)
4. India	From Egypt to Ethiopia (3000s B.C.E.)
5. Ethiopia	From Europe to western Russia (1500s B.C.E.)
6. Russia (western)	From the Fertile Crescent to China (1000s B.C.E.)
7. China	From Europe to the Caribbean (1400 C.E.)
8. Caribbean	From the Caribbean to Mexico (1500 C.E.)
9. Mexico	From the Caribbean to Peru (1500 C.E.)
10. Peru	From Europe to Argentina (1500 C.E.)
11. Argentina	From Europe to Virginia in the United States (1600 C.E.)
12. Virginia [U.S.]	From Virginia to the Midwestern United States (1700 C.E.)
13. Midwest of the U.S.	From Europe to Australia (1700 C.E.)
14. Australia	From western Russia to Siberia (1800 C.E.)
15. Siberia	

Cultural Diffusion: Growing Wheat Map

Use your book's atlas and other maps to write the **numbers** of the locations in the circles provided on the map (Location 1, the Fertile Crescent, has been written on the map for you). Draw the **arrows** on the map to illustrate the pattern of cultural diffusion of growing wheat as a food crop.

