Name _____   Date _____

CALIFORNIA CONTENT STANDARD 11.8.8

Popular Culture After World War II

Specific Objective: Understand forms of popular culture, with emphasis on their origins and geographic diffusion.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

The Spread of Popular Culture

Music

- Jazz originated among African Americans in the South and moved north. Centers of different styles of jazz were New Orleans, Chicago, New York, Kansas City, and the West Coast. Jazz musicians such as Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, and Thelonius Monk were also composers and used improvisation in their music.
- Electronic instruments combined with traditional blues to create rhythm and blues. Alan Freed was a Cleveland, Ohio, disc jockey who first began to play this music in 1951. Rhythm and blues combined with country and pop to produce a new form of music that Freed called rock 'n' roll.
- African-American performers from the South such as Chuck Berry and Little Richard became very popular. Elvis Presley and other white performers began recording this music and brought it to a wider audience.

Professional Sports

- Sports leagues were first integrated after World War II
- Sports became more popular as TV broadcast games across the country

Architecture

- Postwar housing shortages led to mass-produced houses and the growth of standardized suburbs, such as Levittown on Long Island in New York. Similar developments spread throughout the country.
- TV after World War II showed white families in suburbs. It established and spread stereotypes with images of idealized suburban life.
- The growth of suburbs required growth in automobile ownership. This led to a culture created around automobiles, such as motels, drive-in restaurants, drive-in movies, and shopping centers.

Art and Literature

- "Pop art" by Andy Warhol and others in the 1960s took images from advertisements and popular culture—soup cans, comic strips, road signs, and movie posters.
- Science fiction became popular during the 1950s and 1960s when people had fears about nuclear destruction and the growing power of computers.
- Beat culture was centered in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York's Greenwich Village in the 1950s. Poets and writers rebelled against social conformity. Their ideas attracted many college students.

PRACTICE

CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 11.8.8

Popular Culture After World War II

Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

1 **Why did both jazz and rock 'n' roll have their roots in the American South?**

   A because the music industry was centered there

   B because they were both connected with country music

   C because they were both grounded in African-American culture

   D because the most prominent music schools were located there

2 **Which statement *best* describes the diffusion of beat literature in the 1950s?**

   A It started in New Orleans and spread to northern cities.

   B It started in the South and spread through network television.

   C It started on both coasts and spread to college students.

   D It started in Cleveland and spread through national radio.

3 **_Most_ programs on 1950s television reflected images of**

   A rural families working on small farms.

   B single women with careers in business.

   C African-American families living in cities.

   D white families living in the suburbs.

4 **How did architecture reflect the values of the 1950s?**

   A Buildings reflected a burst of creativity after the limitations of the war years.

   B Regional building styles reflected a return to small-town values.

   C New building styles reflected the rebellious spirit of beat culture in cities.

   D Mass-produced houses in the suburbs reflected the culture of conformity.

5 **"Pop art" in the 1960s took images from**

   A advertisements and comic strips.

   B the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

   C photographs of the natural world.

   D the daily lives of working people.

6 **How did professional sports change after World War II?**

   A African Americans were barred from professional teams.

   B Interest in professional sports was spread through nationwide television.

   C Professional sports were limited to elite audiences in big cities.

   D People were more interested in playing sports than watching professional teams.