Group 1

Mexico City, Buenos Aires, NYC

All three cities have a rich culture, where the history of the city was very important for the culture to develop. Mexico City’s culture relied a lot on traditional Aztec rituals and beliefs, which carry into the modern day. Each place in Mexico city has a lot of lore, for example, Montezuma’s revenge if foreigners drink the tap water. Buenos Aires is a city with cosmopolitan flair, from colonization and the city being founded twice. NYC, with history of being founded by the British and the Dutch, as well as a large immigrant population, found huge amounts of diversity. Mexico City has the highest native population out of the three cities, while Buenos Aires is one of the most diverse cities in the world, as well as NYC.

Group 2

Prague, Valbrich, New Orleans

Prague is the capital of Czhechia, with a population of 2.7 million people, 64% Czech. It was founded in 800 CE with Prague Castle, and in the late middle ages, it was the third largest city in Europe. The city was ruled by Austria-Hungary, then Czechoslovakia until its collapse and independence. The city operates mainly on a service based economy, and makes up 25% of Czechia’s GDP. It is very well known for its large public transit system, with 1.2 billion trips per year. Valbrich is the capital of Valbrich Country in Poland, with a population of 110,000 people. It is primarily a coal mining town, surrounded by spa towns catered toward the older population. Finally, New Orleans is the largest city in Louisiana, with a population of 387,000 people. It has significant French, Spanish, African-American, Creole, Cajun influences in the city, with a focus on spirituality with Mardi Gras culture. It is famous for its Cajun inspired food as well as its jazz music, as New Orleans was the birthplace for jazz. Among the cities, between Prague and Valbrich, they were centers of large scale industrialization, and have preserved their 20th century culture very well.

Group 3

Changchun, Buenos Aires, Boston

Changchun was founded in 1800, and fell to Japan in 1949. In 1979, it was one of the great economic centers, and is the home to FAW Group, one of the largest automobile makers in China. It is also known for its cold climate, which impacts its cuisine, as they serve mainly warm and hearty foods due to the cold weather. Buenos Aires was founded twice in 1536 and 1580, and became a trade center with Spain in the 1700s, as they exported cereals, cattle hides, and beef. In 1810, the country gained its independence from Spain, and industrialized in the 1850s, with European influences. The city is marked by European influences, with French architecture and Italian food. Finally, Boston was founded in 1630, and was known for starting the Revolutionary War nearby in 1775. In the 1800s, the city recovered from the Molasses flood, and in 2012, another large historical event in the form of the Boston Marathon Bombing occurred in the city. Boston is home to many landmarks, such as the Fenway Park, Boston Common and the public gardens, as well as its seafood.

Group 4

Beijing, NYC

Beijing, with a population of almost 22 million people and 16 districts with their own unique developments is the capital city of China. In its history, it was founded in 1420, and actually lost its capital seating in 1928. It fell to Japan in 1937, and began its expansion and development after it was handed back to china in 1949. In 2022, its development hit a landmark, as it was one of the only cities to hold both a summer and winter Olympics. New York has a population of 8,200,000, the most populous city in the US. It is a very diverse city, with more than 80 languages spoken. Through its history as an entry port for immigration, the immigrant population has defined a lot of culture through their traditions in the city, with diverse food, cultural museums and areas, and a popular nightlife industry. With a $1.5 trillion GDP, it is the 3rd largest state economy in the United States as well. Similarities between the two cities include their housing and traffic issues, expansive public transit, strong economies, and diverse food, but their differences include NYC being a financial center while Beijing is a political center, NYC is much more diverse than Beijing, and NYC is much younger than Beijing as a city and its history.

Group 5

Middletown, Chicago, Hoboken

Middletown is a commuter suburb of NYC, with a population of 67,106. It is located in Raritan Bay, and discovered by Henry Hudson. It is similar to most suburbs, being highly residential, however, this suburb is mostly middle-class and generally wealthy. It a boomer town at the intersection of two state roads, with much of its population commuting to the city for work before the pandemic. Being a newer city, though, its culture is very homogenous, with general northeastern US influences. Chicago is the third most populated city in the US, with 2.7 million people. It is a freshwater beach, also known as the Windy City. Hoboken is a commuter city to NYC with a population of about 60,000. 80% of its population is under 45 years old, making it a very young city. It is known for being the home of the first modern baseball game and developed a hub for transportation in 1855, making it a popular commuter city. Similarities between the cities include both Chicago and Hoboken being very densely populated with good public transit networks, and Hoboken and Middletown being mainly commuter cities. Middletown stands alone in its reliance on motor vehicles, with low density and diversity.

Group 7

Hoboken, Ho Chi Minh City, Shanghai

Hoboken was first occupied by Lenape tribe, called it Lenape for land of the tobacco pipe. The land was bought by John Stevens in 1784, and Stevens Institute of Technology was founded in 1870. After WWI, European immigrants came to Hoboken, increasing the variety of cuisines as well as making Italian food prominent in the city. Ho Chi Minh City was originally called Saigon, with a population of 9 million people. It is 50% Buddhist, with French, Chinese, Japanese, and American influences in the city. Shanghai is one of the largest cities in China, with a population of 28 million people. It is known for international cultural influences with its own traditions, a diverse food culture, and expansive transportation options. It started as a small fishing village, but rose into prominence in the 18th-19th centuries, and is growing today into a booming international city in China. Similarities between these cities include a well preserved culture in food and architecture, international cultural influences, and convenient transportation options, while differences include Hoboken being much smaller than the other two cities, and the ingredients that make up the local cultures, such as the different nations that influence them.