East Asia is made up of a vast mainland area and a number of important islands off the eastern coast.

CASE STUDY
POPULATION AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE

The Forbidden City is a walled enclosure in Beijing, China. Inside is a complex of palaces where 24 emperors ruled. Once closed to the public, it is now a museum and tourist attraction.
Mount Fuji, the highest peak in Japan at 12,388 feet, is a volcano that last erupted in 1707. It is considered a sacred mountain.

East Asia includes huge mountains and large deserts.

The region is called “East Asia” because it is on the eastern edge of the Asian continent, bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the east, Russia to the north, and the countries of south and southeast Asia to the south.

This area is bordered by a number of bodies of water, including the Pacific Ocean, the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea.

For more information on East Asia . . .
Today, East Asia faces the issues previewed here. As you read Chapters 27 and 28, you will learn helpful background information. You will study the issues themselves in Chapter 29.

In a small group, answer the questions below. Then participate in a class discussion of your answers.

Exploring the Issues
1. **physical forces**
   What might be some of the effects of earthquakes and volcanoes on daily life in the region? How might the effects be similar or different in an urban and a rural area?

2. **trade**
   What are some items you or your family have bought that were made in East Asia?

3. **population**
   Parts of East Asia are very crowded. What might be some of the advantages and challenges of living around so many people?

How might people in East Asia prepare for earthquakes and volcanoes?

A bus teeters on the edge of a highway torn apart by an earthquake in Kobe, Japan, in 1995.
What are some benefits of global trade?

Hong Kong is a thriving center of trade and economic activity. Once a colony of Britain, it is now a part of China. Its wealth and trading expertise are helping China compete with leading industrial nations.

What pressures does population put on the environment?

Subway attendants in Tokyo push people into crowded subway trains. Japan has a large number of people living on a small amount of land.
Use the Unit Atlas to add to your knowledge of East Asia. As you look at the maps and charts, notice geographic patterns and specific details about the region. For example, the charts on pages 610–611 give details about the rivers and mountains of East Asia.

After studying the pictures, graphs, and physical map on these two pages, jot down in your notebook the answers to the following questions.

**Making Comparisons**

1. What three main river systems run from west to east in China?
2. Which of the bodies of water surrounding Japan is the largest?
3. Compare East Asia’s size and population to those of the United States. Based on that data, how might the population densities of the two compare?

*Antarctica is not included because it has no permanent population.*
Patterns of Human Geography

Over the course of centuries, the political map of East Asia has changed. The Chinese empire expanded over thousands of years, absorbing much of the region. Study the historical and political maps of East Asia on these two pages. In your notebook, answer these questions.

Making Comparisons

1. What differences do you notice when you compare the historical map of the Chinese empire to the map of East Asia today?

2. What are some of the similarities between the historical map and the contemporary map of East Asia?

3. What countries in the region used to be a part of the Chinese empire but are now independent? Which country in the region was never a part of the empire?
These two pages contain a graph and three thematic maps. The graph shows the religions of East Asia. The maps show other important features of East Asia: its vegetation, languages, and population density. After studying these two pages, answer the questions below in your notebook.

**Making Comparisons**

1. Where is most of the population located in China? Why might people have settled in these areas rather than in other areas?

2. Which is the smallest country in East Asia?

3. What is the vegetation in much of southern China, Taiwan, southern Korea, and southern Japan? How does it differ from the vegetation in Mongolia?
Study the charts on the countries of East Asia. In your notebook, answer these questions.

**Making Comparisons**

1. Which countries have the most people? Are they also the largest countries in area?

2. Where in the region are the highest elevations located? What might this suggest about settlement patterns in the region?

**Sources:**
- Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook, 2010*
- *The World Almanac and Book of Facts, 2010*
- World Health Organization (WHO), 2007

**Notes:**
- *Figures do not include Hong Kong or Macao, both Special Administrative Regions.*
- GDP (purchasing power parity) is defined as the sum value of all goods and services produced in the country valued at prices prevailing in the United States.
- *Includes land and water, when figures are available.*
### Profile of East Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Country/Capital</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Life Expectancy (years)</th>
<th>Birthrate (per 1,000 pop.)</th>
<th>Literacy Rate (percentage)</th>
<th>Televisions (per 1,000 pop.)</th>
<th>Passenger Cars (per 1,000 pop.)</th>
<th>Total Area (sq mi)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1,333,613,000</td>
<td>73.5</td>
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<td>291</td>
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<td>99</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>449</td>
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<tr>
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<td>98</td>
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<td>14.8</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>364</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Seoul</td>
<td>48,509,000</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Taipei</td>
<td>22,974,000</td>
<td>77.9</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>307,212,000</td>
<td>78.1</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>3,760,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pakistan, though not a part of the region, is shown for purpose of comparison.
The Great Wall is a line of fortifications across northern China. The first walls were constructed mainly of tamped earth. Construction of the brick and stone wall we see today began in the 1400s. Its effectiveness against invaders was limited.

Essential Question
How have the extremes of East Asia's physical geography affected its people?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will learn about the landforms, climate, and resources of East Asia.

SECTION 1
Landforms and Resources

SECTION 2
Climate and Vegetation

SECTION 3
Human–Environment Interaction

Use the graphic organizer online to record information about the physical geography of East Asia.
Landforms and Resources

**Main Ideas**
- East Asia has a huge mainland area that includes rugged terrain.
- East Asia has a number of important islands off its eastern coast.

**Places & Terms**
- Kunlun Mountains
- Qinling Shandi Mountains
- Huang He
- Chang Jiang
- Xi Jiang

**Connect to the Issues**

**Physical Forces**
East Asia’s rough terrain and unevenly distributed resources have influenced settlement and ways of life in the region.

**A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE**
Time and again in its early history, China was attacked by invaders from the steppes of Central Asia. The Chinese built and extended the Great Wall over many centuries in an attempt to keep out such invaders from Mongolia. From the Yellow Sea to the Gobi Desert, the wall twisted for thousands of miles across China. The wall was built by hundreds of thousands of peasant workers. Many died from the backbreaking labor or the severe weather. The Great Wall remains one of the largest building feats in history—partly because it had to cross mile after mile of China’s difficult terrain.

**Landforms: Mountains and Plateaus**

East Asia stretches from the western provinces of China to the eastern coast of Japan. Mongolia, Taiwan, North Korea, and South Korea are the other countries in the region. East Asia includes high mountains, vast deserts, cold climates, and Pacific waters. The mostly rugged terrain was formed by the collision of tectonic plates. One result of these natural barriers was to limit people’s movement and increase their isolation.

**Mountain Ranges of the Region**
High mountains in the region limited contact between people living in China and in other parts of Asia. The world’s highest mountains are located on the western edge of East Asia in southwestern and northwestern China and western Mongolia. The Kunlun Mountains, which are located in the west of China, are the source of two of China’s great rivers, the Huang He (Yellow) and the Chang Jiang (Yangtze). In southeastern and east central China, the Qinling Shandi Mountains divide the northern part of China from the south.

**Plateaus and Plains**
The landscape of East Asia is among the roughest in the world. The mountain areas in the western part of the region restricted movement and were underpopulated. Although few flat surfaces exist, the region has some low basins and barren deserts. These include the Plateau of Tibet (also known as the Xizang Plateau), the Tarim Pendi Basin in western China, and the Taklimakan Desert in western China. All these areas are sparsely populated.

**Place**
The Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet, has many floors and more than 1,000 rooms. It was once the residence of the Dalai Lama and other monks and is now a major pilgrimage site.
One of the largest deserts in the world—the Gobi—stretches from northwest China into Mongolia. It covers more than 500,000 square miles, which is larger than Texas and California combined. The Mongolian Plateau reaches into northeastern China. Northern China encompasses the Manchurian Plain and the North China Plain.

**Peninsulas and Islands**

East Asia includes a number of important peninsulas. Most of these form a part of China, although one peninsula contains independent nations. In addition, a number of islands off the coast of China include possessions of China as well as independent nations.

**THE COAST OF CHINA** The eastern coast of China features several peninsulas. These include the Shandong Peninsula, the Leizhou Peninsula, and the Macao Peninsula. Macao was owned by Portugal until 1999, when it returned to Chinese control. Because of its peninsulas, China has a long coastline that has allowed several major port cities, such as Shanghai, to develop. Bordering China on the east is the Korean Peninsula, which contains the two independent nations of North Korea and South Korea.

**THE ISLANDS OF EAST ASIA** An important feature of East Asia is the continental shelf—the submerged border of the continent—that extends east from China. A number of islands stand above this
Japan is made up of four main islands and numerous smaller islands. The isolation of the islands has permitted them to develop in greater security and peace than parts of the mainland. Further, many of these islands have developed trading economies.

The islands off China include Hainan and part of Hong Kong. Long one of the major harbors in the world, Hong Kong (while originally a part of China) used to be a British colony. In 1997, Hong Kong once again came under the authority of mainland China.

The smaller nations of East Asia are located on islands and peninsulas. For example, Japan is an island nation with enormous economic power. Taiwan is a separate island that at one time belonged to mainland China—and is still claimed by China.

River Systems

China has three great rivers, which have been critical to the development of China’s civilization. The rivers have helped to feed hundreds of millions of people because of the fields and crops they irrigate.

**The Huang He** The Huang He (or Yellow River) of northern China starts in the Kunlun Mountains in the west. It winds east for about 3,000 miles before emptying into the Yellow Sea. Both the sea and the river get their names from the yellow silt, or particles of soil, that the river carries to its delta. Another name for the river is “China’s Sorrow” because of the terrible floods that it has caused.

**The Chang Jiang** The Chang Jiang (or Yangtze River) is the longest river in all of Asia. The name Chang Jiang means “long river.” It flows about 3,900 miles from Xizang (Tibet) to the East China Sea. The river has been a major trade route since ancient times. Even today, the Chang Jiang carries most of the goods shipped on China’s waterways. But this river, too, floods frequently, causing a great deal of damage to nearby villages, as well as to the surrounding countryside.

**The Xi Jiang** The Xi Jiang (or West River) runs its course in the south of China. It flows eastward through southeast China and joins up with

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**Connect to the Issues**

How might rivers facilitate trade?

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**Movement**

Workers pull a boat ashore along the Huang He (Yellow River).

What are some of the uses that people might make of a river?
the Pearl River (Zhu Jiang) to flow into the South China Sea. The Xi Jiang joins with three other rivers to form an estuary (where the river’s current meets the ocean’s tides) between Hong Kong and Macao. Important mineral resources are located in this river’s valley.

**OTHER RIVERS OF THE REGION** The Yalu Jiang is another important river of the region. The Yalu, which is about 500 miles long, forms the border between North Korea and China. It is important historically because in 1950, Chinese troops entered the Korean War by crossing the river and attacking United Nations forces.

**Resources of East Asia**

Natural and mineral resources are unevenly distributed throughout East Asia. China, for example, is rich in natural resources. Mongolia and North Korea also have substantial mineral resources. However, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan have limited natural resources. Even so, these latter three nations have grown into major economic powers.

**LAND AND FORESTS** The number of mountains in East Asia means that the amount of land available for agriculture is limited. For this reason, China’s population is concentrated in the east, where river basins are located. The land in these valleys is highly productive, allowing the Chinese to grow rice and many other crops. In contrast, the mountainous western regions of China are more sparsely populated.
Forests are also abundant in the region. China, Japan, Taiwan, and both North Korea and South Korea all have forest resources. Japan has been able to keep most of its forests in reserve by buying timber and other forest products from other regions of the world.

**MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES** China has large energy reserves of petroleum, coal, and natural gas, and Korea has coal reserves. Japan also has deposits of coal. China’s resources have enabled it to be self-sufficient for much of its history. In contrast, Japan’s shortage of resources has forced it to trade for what it needs.

China’s mineral resources include iron ore, tungsten, manganese, molybdenum, magnesite, lead, zinc, and copper. North and South Korea possess important tungsten, gold, and silver reserves. Japan has reserves of lead, silver, and coal.

**WATER RESOURCES** China’s long river systems are important to the country’s economy. They provide crop irrigation, hydroelectric power, and transportation. To control flooding on the Chang Jiang and produce more electricity, China constructed the Three Gorges Dam. (See pages 628–630.) The Huang He and Xi Jiang also provide hydroelectric power and a means of transportation.

People in East Asia look to the sea for food. In fact, Japan has developed one of the largest fishing industries in the world. Japanese factory ships process huge amounts of seafood for human consumption throughout the world, as well as in Japan.

You will read about East Asia’s climate zones in the next section. You will also read about its vegetation.
Interpreting a Contour Map

Suppose that you are vacationing on the Japanese island of Hokkaido. As part of your trip, you will be climbing Mount Asahi, the highest point on the island. The members of your group decide to study a contour map to understand the challenge that faces you. You can use a contour map to get a better idea of elevation and the steepness of the mountain.

THE LANGUAGE OF MAPS A contour map shows elevations and surface configuration by means of contour lines. Contour lines are lines on a map that show points of equal elevation. These lines are also called isolines. Numbers on the contour lines show the elevation in meters.

Elevation on Hokkaido

1. Seeing Patterns How high, in meters, is Mount Asahi? What is the elevation of the last contour line on the map before the peak?

2. Making Decisions From what direction of the compass would you approach Mount Asahi if you wanted to make the steepest climb?

3. Drawing Conclusions Where on the island do the isolines converge most densely to show a very dramatic increase in elevation?
Climate and Vegetation

Main Ideas
• East Asia has a dry highland climate in the west.
• The region has a humid climate in the east.

Places & Terms
typhoon
Taklimakan Desert
Gobi Desert

Connect to the Issues
population
To feed its population, East Asian countries have had to farm in highly productive ways.

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE
Kublai Khan was the ruler of the Mongol Empire (which included China) in the 13th century. In 1281, the Great Khan sent a huge fleet against Japan. A typhoon—a tropical storm that occurs in the western Pacific—swept across the Sea of Japan and sank the Mongol ships or dashed them against the rocky Japanese shore. The typhoon had changed the course of history. Typhoons occur in parts of East Asia, but in other ways the weather is similar to that of the United States. Both are at the same latitude, and both have similar climate zones.

High Latitude Climate Zones
The climates in the highest latitudes present a serious challenge to all but the most hardy nomads and herders. These zones generally have severely cold climates. In addition, they tend to be very dry.

SUBARCTIC
Subarctic climate zones occur in a small sliver along Mongolia’s and China’s northern borders with Russia. The summers in these areas range from cool to cold. The winters are brutally cold, testing the survival skills of the inhabitants. The climate is generally dry.

The typical vegetation of this region is the northern evergreen forest. Varieties of mosses and lichens also grow on rocks and tree trunks throughout subarctic zones.

HIGHLAND
Highland climates are found mostly in western China. The temperature in highland zones varies with latitude and elevation. In general, the farther north the latitude and the higher the elevation, the colder the climate. The severe climate and topography of the western highlands are two of the reasons that the area is sparsely populated.

The vegetation in the highlands also varies with elevation. Forests and alpine tundra are the typical vegetation. Vast tundras reach as far as the eye can see. Tundras have no trees, and the soil a few feet below the surface is permanently frozen. In this environment, only mosses, lichens, and shrubs can grow. Because of the cold and the difficulty of growing crops, few people scratch out a living here.

A 78-year-old woman tends sheep from the back of a camel in a semiarid zone typical of Mongolia. What does the occupation of sheepherding and livestock grazing suggest about the vegetation in Mongolia?
Mid-Latitude Zones

Mid-latitude zones are much more comfortable to live in because of their moderate climates. The land is productive, and the rainfall is sufficient for agriculture. An important resource of these zones is their forests.

**HUMID CONTINENTAL** Northeastern China, North Korea, northern South Korea, and northern Japan all have humid continental climates. The forests of the region are mainly coniferous in the humid continental zone. Temperate grasslands ideal for grazing are also found in these areas. However, over the years agriculture has transformed the landscape and replaced many of the forests.

**HUMID SUBTROPICAL** Southeastern China, southern South Korea, southern Japan, and northern Taiwan are in a humid subtropical zone. The forests in such zones are both deciduous and coniferous. The broad-leafed, deciduous trees are usually found in the north. The coniferous forests are especially typical of areas with sandy soils in the south. However, loggers and farmers have greatly reduced the forests in the southeast.

Dry Zones

Dry zones of the region include both steppes and deserts. There is relatively little vegetation. These zones are not well suited to agriculture.
and so have not been much settled by people. Instead, nomads have used the semiarid areas to graze livestock.

**SEMIARID** Parts of the Mongolian Plateau make up the semiarid zones of the region. The vegetation of semiarid zones consists mainly of short grasses, which provide food for grazing animals and livestock.

**DESERT** Most of the deserts in the region are found in the west central area of the mainland. The **Taklimakan Desert** is located in western China between the Tian Shan and Kunlun Mountains. The **Gobi Desert** is located in northern China and southeast Mongolia. The Gobi is a prime area for finding dinosaur fossils, since thousands of these animals roamed through the region millions of years ago.

**Tropical Zones**

The tropical zones of East Asia contain mainly wet climates. The most common vegetation is the rain forest.

**TROPICAL WET** The tropical climate zone in East Asia is fairly small. It includes a small strip of land along China’s southeastern coast, the island of Hainan, and the southern tip of Taiwan. These areas have high temperatures, heavy rainfall, and high humidity every month of the year. The tropical rain forest in these places is made up of tall dense forests of broadleaf trees.

In the next section, you will read how human-environment interactions affect the quality of life in rural China and urban Japan.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  Hundreds of thousands of Chinese died in floods in the 20th century. Most of these deaths were caused by the flooding of the Chang Jiang and the Huang He rivers. These vast river floodplains are home to, and help feed, hundreds of millions of people, and this makes people vulnerable to the rivers’ wrath. In addition to the many deaths, the flooding has also forced millions of people to abandon their homes. You will read more about one such flood in Chapter 28 (pages 640–641). In the early 1990s, the Chinese began building an enormous dam on the Chang Jiang to help control flooding. This is one example of how East Asians have shaped their environment.

The Three Gorges Dam
The Three Gorges Dam was built on the Chang Jiang in China. The dam is helping to control flooding along the great river, the third longest in the world after the Nile and the Amazon. But the dam is also generating power and is expected to allow ships to sail farther into China.
AN ENGINEERING FEAT  The Three Gorges Dam is China’s largest construction project and is the world’s biggest dam. The dam towers more than 600 feet high and spans a valley more than one mile wide. This dam will create a reservoir around 400 miles long. More than 1,000 towns and villages have disappeared under the waters since the reservoir began filling.

POSITIVE EFFECTS  The building of the Three Gorges Dam is a complicated issue because it has had both positive and negative effects. Experts disagreed about whether the dam should be built. But the Chinese government, which began construction of the dam in 1994, argued that the dam will have three positive effects.

First, the dam will help control the frequent flooding of the Chang Jiang, which causes great damage and loss of life. This is critical because the Chang Jiang irrigates about half of China’s crops. Also, the river drains about one-fifth of China’s total land area.

Second, the dam will generate huge amounts of electrical power. Giant turbines will produce electricity that will be hooked up to electrical grids in central and eastern China. This will improve the reliability of electricity throughout China. By some estimates, the dam’s turbines will produce about 2 percent of China’s electrical power. (See the bar chart below for a comparison of the projected generating capacity of the Three Gorges Dam with other large dams.)

Finally, the dam will make it easier for ships to reach China’s interior. A series of locks along the river raise ocean-going ships up from the river to the reservoir. The Chang Jiang carries more than half of the goods moving on China’s interior waterways. The dam and the locks will increase shipping capacity and decrease shipping costs.

Seeing Patterns

What are three benefits of building the dam?

Facts and Figures

• Length of river: 3,915 miles
• Length of reservoir: 410 miles
• Height of dam: 607 feet
• Width of dam: 1.4 miles
• Number of turbines: 26, generating 18,200 megawatts of electricity
• Lives lost to flooding: about one million deaths in 20th century
• Location of dam: about 1,500 miles from the ocean
• Many hundreds of miles from headwaters in western mountains of China

Electric Generating Capacity of World’s Largest Dams

SOURCES: Encyclopaedia Britannica; Infoplease.com
NEGATIVE EFFECTS  Most observers agree that the Three Gorges Dam will also have negative effects. The central issue is whether the negative impact on the environment will be greater than the positive benefits.

First, the human costs of the dam are enormous. As of 2010, between one million and two million people have been forced to relocate for the dam’s construction. Some estimate that millions more may eventually have to leave their homes once the dam’s long-term effects become clear. Also, hundreds of archaeological, historical, and scenic sites are being submerged.

Second, construction of the dam cost more money than originally anticipated. The Chinese government first estimated the cost at approximately $11 billion. However, construction costs totaled an estimated $26 billion.

Third, environmental concerns about the dam trouble many observers. The giant reservoir created by the dam has put hundreds of square miles of land under water. This reduces the habitat of many animals. It is feared that abandoned factories submerged under the reservoir are leaking contaminating chemicals into the water. The huge reservoir has affected the climate and temperature of the region as well as the plant and animal life. Such species as the alligator, leopard, sturgeon, white crane, and river dolphin may not survive.

The main part of the Three Gorges Dam was completed in 2006. However, the Chinese government has not been careful in protecting the environment from the consequences of building the dam. Many people question whether the benefits of the Three Gorges Dam will outweigh its human and environmental costs.

Use of Space in Urban Japan

Throughout history, the geographic challenges facing Japan have been different from those facing China. One of the most important challenges is that Japan is made up of a series of mountainous islands. Most of the cities are on the coasts of these islands. But because of nearby mountains, many of the cities cannot expand to absorb any more of the Japanese population, which is more than 127 million people. Tokyo is a good example. The largest metropolitan area in the world, it holds more than 35 million people. There is, however, no more land for the city to grow.

CROWDED LIVING AND WORKING SPACES  More than 60 percent of the Japanese people live on only about three percent of the land. The population is clustered along the narrow flat coastal plains.

These plains are among the most densely populated areas in the world. The largest cities in Japan are Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Nagoya, and Sapporo. Close to 66 percent of the people in Japan live in cities.

Partly because of their large populations, some Japanese cities have become very polluted. For example, in the 1950s and 1960s, a number of factories were built in the city of Tokyo, polluting the air and water. Many Japanese cities have also been affected by earthquakes and typhoons, which have caused damage to buildings and infrastructure.

Seeing Patterns  What might be some negative effects of the dam?

Using the Atlas  Use the map on page 615. Why might the Japanese people live on such a small percentage of coastal land?
of Japanese cities experienced poisoning from mercury and PCBs—industrial pollutants that build up in tissue and can cause disease and birth defects. PCBs were banned in 1977. Water pollution laws were revised several times from 1989 to 2000. Soil pollution controls took effect in 2003. However, cars and factories still cause massive air pollution.

**ADAPTING TO LIMITED SPACE**
The Japanese have shown great ingenuity in adapting to limited space. Because of the cost of land, houses are small by U.S. standards. The rooms are separated by sliding screens and are sparsely furnished. People sleep on thin mattresses called futons that can be rolled up and stored during the day.

Many people, especially in the biggest cities, live in apartments. It is not uncommon for a family of four to live in a one-bedroom apartment. Some Japanese attempt to escape the overcrowding by moving away from the city to distant suburbs, but they must commute for two or even three hours a day to and from work.

One solution to the shortage of space is landfill. **Landfill** is a method of solid waste disposal in which refuse is buried between layers of dirt to fill in low-lying ground. The Japanese have used landfill to reclaim land for most of the major cities on the coast. Tokyo, for example, has built factories and refineries on landfill sites. Landfill sites have also enlarged some of Japan’s ports.

You will explore more about how East Asians live in the next chapter, on human geography.
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.
1. Kunlun Mountains
2. Huang He
3. Chang Jiang
4. Xi Jiang
5. typhoon
6. Taklimakan Desert
7. Gobi Desert
8. Three Gorges Dam
9. PCBs
10. landfill

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.
11. On which river will the Three Gorges Dam attempt to control flooding?
12. What is another name for a tropical cyclone or hurricane?
13. What is the source of two of China’s great rivers?
14. Which river joins with others to form an estuary between Hong Kong and Macao?
15. How have landfill sites been used in Tokyo?
16. Where in the region is there a rich supply of dinosaur fossils?
17. What has contributed to the poisoning and pollution of the environment in Japanese cities?
18. Which desert is located in western China near the Kunlun Mountains?
19. Which river is known as “China’s Sorrow”?
20. What project is supposed to contain flooding?

Main Ideas

Landforms and Resources (pp. 619-624)
1. Why are the Kunlun Mountains especially important to China?
2. What is the approximate size of the Gobi Desert?
3. What are some of the important islands off the coast of China?
4. Why are China’s three river systems so important to the country?

Climate and Vegetation (pp. 625-627)
5. In which latitude and climate zones is most of China’s productive agricultural land located?
6. What landforms make up the dry zones of the region?
7. What two factors affect vegetation and temperature in the highland climate?

Human-Environment Interaction (pp. 628-631)
8. What are some benefits of the Three Gorges Dam?
9. What are some drawbacks of the dam?
10. What are some of the ways in which the Japanese have adapted to living in a crowded space?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landforms</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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a. Where are the highest mountains in China located?
b. What are some energy resources found in abundance in China and Korea?

2. Geographic Themes
a. LOCATION Where is the largest desert found in East Asia?
b. REGION Write a sentence or two describing the settlement patterns of East Asia in terms of its mountains and coasts.

3. Identifying Themes
Based on landforms and climate, which areas of East Asia would be the least agriculturally productive? Which of the five themes are reflected in your answer?

4. Making Decisions
What factors must people in China consider when they are trying to decide what to do about flooding along one of their great rivers?

5. Drawing Conclusions
How does a typhoon create so much damage?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps

Precipitation in East Asia
Use the map at right to answer the following questions.

1. REGION Which parts of the region have the least precipitation?
2. REGION Which parts of the region have the most precipitation?
3. MOVEMENT How might precipitation patterns have affected settlement in the region?

GeoActivity
Create a way to display the map information in graph form. Be sure to list the six countries of the region by name in your graph.

For Additional Test Practice
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TEST PRACTICE

For Additional Test Practice
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TEST PRACTICE

Creating Multimedia Presentations
Combine charts, maps, or other visual images in an electronic presentation that shows the most productive farming areas and the most common crops in the region.
Essential Question
How has China influenced the cultures of East Asia?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will explore features of East Asia's human geography.

SECTION 1
China

SECTION 2
Mongolia and Taiwan

SECTION 3
The Koreas: North and South

SECTION 4
Japan

Taking Notes
Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about each subregion’s history, economics, culture, and modern life.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  In ancient times, China had been open to attack from nomadic horsemen who roamed the plains of northern China and Mongolia. Around 220 B.C., the emperor Shi Huangdi decided to build a protective wall by closing the gaps between smaller walls built by earlier rulers. Hundreds of thousands of peasants were used as forced labor to build the wall. From the Yellow Sea in the east to the Gobi Desert in the west, the wall twisted and turned for thousands of miles, partially protecting China from the barbarian warriors beyond its borders. Later rulers would rework Shi Huangdi’s construction to build what we know today as the Great Wall of China.

China’s Early History

China is the world’s oldest continuous civilization. The beginnings of that civilization extend back into the mists of prehistory. Because of China’s geography—the long distances that separated it from Europe and other continents—it followed its own direction.

EARLY CIVILIZATION AND THE DYNASTIES  China has been a settled society for more than 4,000 years. In its earliest days, China was made up of a number of Stone Age cultures. Then it was ruled by dynasties. A dynasty is a series of rulers from the same family. The first Chinese dynasty was the Shang. This dynasty arose during the 1700s B.C. It ruled a central area in China for about 600 years until it was overthrown by the Zhou Dynasty, which ruled part of northern China.

The next important dynasty, the Qin (chihn), gave its name to China. In 221 B.C., the Qin Dynasty united a number of smaller states under a strong central government and established an empire. The first Qin emperor was Shi Huangdi. The Chinese empire, ruled by different dynasties, lasted for more than 2,000 years.

Another important Chinese dynasty was that of the Han. These rulers pushed the empire into central Asia, home to many nomadic tribes. Many other dynasties followed over the centuries.

In 1644, the Manchu people of Manchuria invaded China and established the Qing (chihng) Dynasty. In 1911, the Manchus were overthrown by revolutionaries, and this ended the dynasties and the Chinese empire.
China Opens Up to the World

Even though China remained isolated from other regions for centuries, that started to change in the 13th century. At that time, European travelers began to visit China. Marco Polo, for example, traveled from Venice, Italy, to China in the 13th century and wrote a book about his adventures, *The Travels of Marco Polo*.

China and Europe had few contacts until the 19th century, when European powers sought access to Chinese markets. At that point, China had a weak military and an ineffective government. Europeans took advantage of China and forced it to sign a series of treaties that granted special privileges to the Europeans. Consequently, China was carved up into *spheres of influence* controlled by Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan. This outside control angered China, which burst forth in the *Boxer Rebellion* of 1900. Chinese militants attacked and killed Europeans and Chinese Christians in China. A multinational force of about 20,000 soldiers finally defeated the Boxers.

**REVOLUTION AND CHANGE** After the Boxer Rebellion, the Qing Dynasty, founded by the Manchus, attempted to reform the Chinese government, but it was too late. Many individuals and groups wanted to form a republic, which would give the people a voice in their government. In 1912, Sun Yat-sen and others founded the *Kuomintang*, or Nationalist Party. However, the republic, led by Sun Yat-sen, was undermined by civil war throughout China.

When Sun Yat-sen died in 1925, a general named Chiang Kai-shek took over the Nationalist Party. Chiang’s troops fought against the warlords of China and united most of the country in the 1920s. However, throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the Chinese Communist Party became an increasingly powerful force in China.

The Nationalists and the Communists fought for control of China. In 1949, the Communists, under the leadership of *Mao Zedong*, finally defeated the Nationalists. Mao and the Communists ruled mainland China (now called *The People’s Republic of China*) from Beijing. Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan.
After Mao died in 1976, Deng Xiaoping, a moderate, became China’s most powerful leader through the 1980s. In 2003, Hu Jintao became president and Wen Jiabao became premier. The two took responsibility for overseeing economic reforms to improve the standard of living.

Rural and Industrial Economies

When the Communist Party came to power in China in 1949, its leaders promised to modernize China by encouraging the growth of industry. From the 1950s through the 1970s, the central government tried to do this by planning all economic activities. That approach led to more failures than successes. Since the 1980s, though, China has allowed the marketplace and the consumer to play a role in the economy. As a result, China now has one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

THE RURAL ECONOMY In spite of this economic growth, China remains a largely rural society, self-sufficient in agriculture. Its great river valleys provide rich soil for crops such as rice to feed the vast population. Most of China’s workers—about 60 percent—work on farms.

Farming is possible only on about 13 percent of China’s land because so much of western China is made up of mountains and deserts. Even so, China manages to grow enough food to feed its people. Much of the population is concentrated in the areas where food can be grown.

The eastern river basins of China produce crops such as rice, maize, wheat, and sweet potatoes. This productivity is aided by the long growing season in southern China. Farmers there can grow two or more crops on the same land during each year.

THE INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY The industrial heartland of China is in the northeast. Here are abundant resources important to manufacturing, such as coal, iron ore, and oil. (See map, page 622.) In addition, the northeast has better transportation systems than the rest of the country.

Shanghai leads China as a center of manufacturing and is one of the great industrial centers in the world. Other Chinese cities with many factories and industries include Beijing and Tianjin. Southeastern China
has industrial centers in Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Wuhan, and Wuxi.

China has developed heavy industries, such as steel and machinery. It also produces consumer goods. For example, the country has a huge textile (cloth) industry that produces goods for the home market and export. Many textiles are exported to the United States. 

A Rich and Complex Culture

As the world’s oldest continuous civilization, China has one of the world’s richest cultures. The country has highly developed art, architecture, literature, painting, sculpture, pottery, printing, music, and theater. In all these areas, the Chinese have made influential contributions to the cultures of Korea, Japan, and other countries in the region.

FROM POTTERY TO PAINTING Some of the earliest Chinese works of art have been found in burial sites. Pottery, bronze vessels, and jade disks have been discovered in the excavation of old tombs. In addition, paintings have been found on tiles decorating the walls of tombs. Chinese artists created beautiful works using different materials, such as clay, bronze, jade, ivory, and lacquer.

CHINESE INVENTIONS The Chinese introduced many inventions to the world, such as paper, printing, and gunpowder. Other Chinese inventions include the compass, porcelain, and silk cloth.

RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL TRADITIONS China has three major religions or ethical traditions. The beliefs of most people include elements of all three. Those traditions have influenced beliefs throughout the region.

Confucius was a Chinese philosopher who lived from 551 to 479 B.C. He believed in respect for the past and for one’s ancestors. He thought that in an orderly society, children should obey their parents and parents should obey the government and emperor. He stressed the importance of education in a well-run society. His thinking about the importance of order, education, and hierarchy in a well-ordered society is called Confucianism.

Taoism gets its name from a book called the Tao-te Ching, based on the teaching of Lao-tzu, who lived in the sixth century B.C. He believed in the importance of preserving and restoring harmony in the individual and in the universe. He also thought the government should leave the people alone and do as little as possible. Another of his major beliefs was that the individual should seek harmony with nature.

Buddhism came to China from India and grew into an important religion in China by the 300s A.D. Confucianism and Taoism influenced Buddhism as it developed in China. Among ideas important in Buddhism are rebirth and the end of the rebirth cycle.
The Most Populous Country

One out of every five people in the world lives in China. This makes it the most populous country in the world.

**Population Patterns** China's estimated population in 2010 was about 1.34 billion. Somewhere between 40 and 50 Chinese cities have populations of more than one million people. Many of China's 22 provinces and five autonomous regions have more people than entire countries. In 2010, Henan province was estimated to have a population of more than 98 million people—more than the population of Germany.

Seventy percent of the people live in 14 provinces located in the east. (See map, page 615.) About 6 percent of the people live in the west on 55 percent of the land.

**Health Care** One of the great achievements of China since 1950 has been to provide health care for its enormous and far-flung population. The country has pursued a dual strategy in developing its health-care system.

On the one hand, people make use of traditional Chinese medicines, including herbal remedies. Acupuncture is another important part of Chinese medicine.

On the other hand, China's doctors also use Western medicine to treat disease. Western drugs and surgery have their place in the treatment of illness. Most Chinese cities have hospitals, and the villages have clinics staffed by trained medical workers called “barefoot doctors.”

In the next section, you will read about two of China's neighbors, Mongolia and Taiwan. China has greatly influenced both places.
Chang Jiang (Yangtze River) Flood of 1931

Throughout Chinese history, the flooding of the Chang Jiang has cost millions of lives. On average, the Chang Jiang has caused a major flood about every 50 years, although in the past century or so the floods have been more frequent. The floods of 1931 and 1954 were particularly devastating. The 1931 flood resulted from monsoon rains. In May and June of that year, six enormous waves poured down the river, demolishing dams and dikes. More than 35,000 square miles of land were flooded and many thousands of people died. Floods along the Chang Jiang continue to the present day. Bad floods occurred in both 1996 and 1998.

Nanjing was one of the cities in China that remained underwater for weeks because of the 1931 flood.

Wuchang, Hanyang, and Hankou are three cities that make up one huge urban complex called Wuhan. Much of Wuhan remained underwater for more than four months in 1931. The water ranged from 6 feet to 20 feet in depth.

The Three Gorges Dam was constructed to control the flooding of the Chang Jiang.
This panoramic aerial view of one of the Chinese cities flooded in 1931 was taken by Charles Lindbergh. He was the American aviator who had made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927.

In the city of Hankou during the flood, wealthy people traveled in boats while poor tradespeople waded up to their necks through the water.

Along the Chang Jiang, human labor is still essential for flood control. These laborers work with shovels and other tools to fortify the banks of the river with dirt to prevent flooding.

**OTHER DEADLY RIVER FLOODS**

- **1887**
  - Huang He in northeastern China; possibly more than 1,000,000 people killed

- **1889**
  - Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on May 31; about 2,200 deaths (more than any other river flood in U.S. history)

- **1911**
  - Chang Jiang in China; 100,000 killed

- **1937**
  - Mississippi and Ohio rivers; about 250 killed

- **1988**
  - Three major rivers in Bangladesh; about 1,600 deaths

- **1993**
  - Mississippi River; millions of acres flooded; about 50 dead

- **1998**
  - Chang Jiang in China during July and August; about 4,000 dead
Main Ideas
- Taiwan and Mongolia have developed in the shadow of their giant neighbor—China.
- The countries of the region include both capitalist and socialist economies.

Places & Terms
- economic tiger
- Pacific Rim

Connect to the Issues
- trade

Trade has helped Taiwan achieve prosperity, while Mongolia has not been as economically successful.

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE
The Mongols of the Asian steppe lived their lives on horseback. In 1206, a great leader named Temujin (later called Genghis Khan) united the Mongol clans and led them in conquering much of Asia. He is reported to have said, “Man’s greatest good fortune is to chase and defeat his enemy, seize his total possessions, leave his married women weeping and wailing, and ride his horse.” The Mongols eventually created the largest unified land empire in history, extending from the Pacific coast of China westward into Europe.

A History of Nomads and Traders
The histories of Mongolia and Taiwan have been closely connected to that of China.

THE MONGOLIAN EMPIRE
The Mongols were nomadic herders for thousands of years. Mongol history was changed forever by Genghis Khan, a title that means “supreme conqueror.” Genghis Khan died in 1227, having conquered all of Central Asia and begun the conquest of A Mongol army was like a moving city. The cavalry of 10,000 was accompanied by an even greater number of family members and by tens of thousands of horses and livestock.

Mongol soldiers were superb horsemen, having spent all their lives in the saddle. Hunting and other activities gave young men a chance to practice skills they would use in battle.

Teams of oxen pulled the mobile yurts of the khan and other leaders.
China. He was succeeded by his son Ogadai, who continued his policies of conquest and expansion. Mongol armies commanded by other sons and grandsons of Genghis Khan moved east, west, and south out of Mongolia.

The Mongol empire broke up in the 1300s. Eventually the Chinese gained control of Mongolia in the 17th century. The Chinese ruled Mongolia for hundreds of years. Only in 1911 were the Mongolians finally able to push the Chinese out and achieve their independence.

Under the influence of its powerful neighbor Russia, Mongolia became the Mongolian People’s Republic in 1924. For about 72 years, the Communists ruled Mongolia. However, after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989, the Communist Party in Mongolia lost its power. The country began moving toward political democracy and a free-enterprise economy.

TAIWAN’S LINK TO CHINA The island of Taiwan experienced many prehistoric migrations from southern China and southeast Asia. Malay and Polynesian peoples also settled there. Over the centuries, other settlers and groups of people from China settled on the island. In the sixth century, for example, some Han Chinese arrived. Later, when famine struck Fujian province in the 17th century, a large number of Chinese migrated from the mainland. That contributed to the large Chinese settlements on the island. The Manchu Dynasty conquered Taiwan in 1683. (See Unit Atlas, page 613.)

The Japanese seized Taiwan (then called Formosa) after winning a war with China in 1895. Japan kept the island until its defeat in World War II. Then Chinese Nationalists took control of the island as part of their fight with the Communists for control of mainland China. When the Nationalists lost to the Communists in 1949, they moved their government to Taiwan. There they established the Republic of China. However, the People’s Republic of China has never recognized Taiwan as a separate country and considers it a province.

Cultures of Mongolia and Taiwan

China is a cultural hearth that has influenced its neighbors. It has been the source for many of the important ideas and inventions that have shaped Mongolia and Taiwan and the rest of the region.

MONGOLIA Mongolia has both ruled and been ruled by China. Kublai Khan was the Mongol emperor of China when Marco Polo visited in the 13th century. In the mid-14th century, the Chinese rose up against their
Mongol rulers and drove them out of China. In the 17th century, the Chinese under the Manchus conquered Mongolia, which they ruled for hundreds of years. This interaction produced a profound cultural influence as the Mongols adopted many aspects of Chinese culture.

The most important festival in Mongolia is the annual Naadam festival of the Three Games of Men. The festival, which dates back 2,300 years, begins each year on July 11. The three games are wrestling, archery, and horse racing. The competitors are highly skilled, and winners receive titles proclaiming their abilities. All of these contests have their roots in the ancient way of life of the Mongolian people.

TAIWAN Unlike Mongolia, Taiwan has a population that is almost exclusively Chinese. Thus, the culture of the island is Chinese. The capital city of Taipei includes Buddhist temples as well as museums of Chinese art. The island has many universities and about 30 daily newspapers. The population is well-educated, and most of the people speak the official language of Northern Chinese (also called Mandarin).

The people of Taiwan combine a number of religious and ethical beliefs. More than 90 percent practice a blend of Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. A small number are Christian and an even smaller percentage practice other religions.

Two Very Different Economies

The economies of Mongolia and Taiwan have roots in the past. Raising livestock, a part of the nomadic life, is at the core of the Mongolian economy. Because Taiwan is an island, trade is key to its economy.

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR MONGOLIA A large part of the population of Mongolia still engages in herding and managing livestock. For centuries, the economy was based on the nomadic herding of sheep, goats, camels, horses, and cattle. More goats are being raised to meet the demands of the cashmere industry, which uses soft wool from goats of the region. Of the millions of animals kept in herds in the country, nearly a third are sheep. Animals and animal products are used for domestic consumption as well as for export.

Although livestock remains the basis of the economy, Mongolia is now committed to the development of other industries. Under the Communist government, the state owned and operated most of the factories in the country. The Soviets guided Mongolia’s economy for about 70 years. When the Soviet Union fell
Making Comparisons

What are some differences between the economies of Mongolia and Taiwan?

apart, Mongolia was one of the first Communist countries to attempt to shift to a market economy. The transition has been difficult as the country has turned increasingly from a Soviet-style managed economy to a free-market economy. Mongolia has large deposits of fuels such as coal and petroleum. It also has rich deposits of metals such as copper, gold, and iron. Those resources are used in both manufacturing and construction, industries which are of growing importance to the economy.

**TAIWAN’S ECONOMIC SUCCESS** Taiwan has one of the world’s most successful economies. It has succeeded despite the fact that it has few natural resources. However, it has a highly trained and motivated work force.

Taiwan’s prosperity is based on its strong manufacturing industries and its trade with other nations. Among the most successful products of its factories are radios, televisions, calculators, and computers. Taiwanese companies sell their products around the world.

Taiwan is considered one of the economic tigers of Asia, along with Singapore and South Korea. An economic tiger is a nation that has rapid economic growth due to cheap labor, high technology, and aggressive exports. It is one of the very prosperous economies of the western Pacific. These economies are highly industrialized and trade with nations around the world. They are part of the Pacific Rim—the countries surrounding the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Rim is an economic and social region. It includes the countries of East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, and the west coast of the United States.

**Daily Life in Mongolia and Taiwan**

The daily life of people in Mongolia and Taiwan shows traditional influences as well as modern influences. This blending of old and new can be seen in both work and play.

**HERDING IN MONGOLIA** As you learned earlier in this section, the people of Mongolia were nomads who guided their animals from grassland to grassland. The land through which they traveled has an unpredictable, hostile environment. The climate is extreme. Long, cold winters lasting six months alternate with short, hot summers of only two months. Severe winter weather makes it difficult for livestock to survive. Bad weather can kill animals from intense cold and starvation.

Nomads live in tents called yurts that are made of felt covered with leather. This is the traditional form of shelter in Mongolia. Yurts can even be found in the capital of Ulaanbaatar.

Today, many of the people of Mongolia still spend their days raising sheep, cattle, and goats. Some still follow the nomadic way of life, but most people care for livestock on farms and ranches. Often these farms have small villages in the center, with shops, offices, and houses.

**TRADE**

**Trade and Taiwan**

Taiwan has a trading economy, and its success as a trader has made it one of the economic tigers of the region. The electronics industry is at the core of Taiwan’s prosperity. Its capitalist economy has developed a number of profitable computer companies that export personal computers all over the globe.

In addition to its electronic products, Taiwan exports many other products. These include machinery, steel, textiles, plastics, and chemicals.
MOVEMENT
Taiwan’s team celebrates winning the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in 1996.

WESTERN INFLUENCES IN TAIWAN
Although Mongolia remains relatively isolated from the West, Taiwan has opened itself to many Western influences.

For example, baseball has become popular in Taiwan and in other parts of Asia, particularly Japan. As a part of this general interest in the sport, Little League baseball has also become popular in parts of Asia.

Little League became popular after World War II. In 1974, the United States banned teams from foreign countries from the Little League World Series. In part, that was a response to the success of Taiwan’s teams which, throughout the 1970s, dominated the World Series. However, they were restored to competition in 1976. By 2007, there were leagues in the United States and more than 70 other countries.

In the next section, you will read about two countries that share one peninsula: North Korea and South Korea.

Assessment
1. Places & Terms
   - Identify each of the following places and terms.
     - economic tiger
     - Pacific Rim

2. Taking Notes
   - REGION: Use your notes to answer the questions below.
     - How are the economies of Mongolia and Taiwan different from one another?
     - What effect did Genghis Khan have on the history of the region?

3. Main Ideas
   - a. In which ways has China influenced its neighbors?
   - b. What are some of the characteristics of an economic tiger?
   - c. In what ways does the modern life of Mongolia and Taiwan show a blending of ancient and modern traditions?

4. Geographic Thinking
   - Drawing Conclusions: How might the locations of Mongolia and Taiwan have made them open to the influence of China? Think about:
     - the relative locations of Taiwan and Mongolia

GeoActivity
SEEING PATTERNS: Pair with a partner and do Internet research on Little League baseball in Taiwan or some other country in East Asia. Create a poster showing various teams in the region. You might include photographs and charts in your poster, listing the names of teams, their win-loss records, and any other information your research turns up.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  Korea is surrounded by water on three sides and by mountains on its northern border. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Korea chose self-protected isolation and became known as “the hermit kingdom.” This isolation has continued in North Korea, which has little contact with other nations even today. However, that may be changing.

A Divided Peninsula
Korea is a peninsula. To the east lies the Sea of Japan (East Sea). To the west lies the Yellow Sea. To the south lies the Korea Strait. To the north lie China and Russian Siberia. Korea’s location has shaped its history.

ANCIENT KOREA AND FOREIGN INFLUENCES The ancestors of today’s Koreans probably migrated into the peninsula from Manchuria and North China many thousands of years ago. Over the course of the centuries, different clans or groups controlled different parts of the country. About 2000 B.C., the first state, called Choson, arose in Korea.

Around 100 B.C., China conquered the northern half of the peninsula. This began the history of invasions by China and Japan. Because of its location, Korea has been a buffer between the two countries.

After being partially conquered by China, the Koreans gradually won back their territory. By the late 300s, the Three Kingdoms had formed in the peninsula. These were Koguryo in the northeast, Paekche in the southwest, and Silla in the southeast. In the 660s, Silla conquered the other two kingdoms and controlled the peninsula for hundreds of years.
In 1392, a general named Yi S’ong-gye became ruler of Korea. He founded a dynasty that lasted for hundreds of years. But the dynasty ended in 1910, when Japan took control of the entire peninsula. The Japanese ruled Korea until they were defeated in World War II in 1945.

**TWO KOREAS: NORTH AND SOUTH** After Japan’s defeat in the war, the northern part of Korea was controlled by the Soviet Union, and the southern half was supported by the United States. In 1950, Korean troops from the North invaded South Korea, starting the Korean War. The war ended in 1953 with a treaty that divided the peninsula between the Communist state of North Korea and the democratic country of South Korea. The two nations remained hostile toward each other, but since 2000, they have taken some small steps towards reunification.

**Influences on Korean Culture**

The shadow cast by China has fallen across the Korean peninsula. Korean culture, including language, art, and religion, shows this influence.

**THE CHINESE INFLUENCE** In philosophy and religion, Korea has adapted many ideas from China. Confucianism (see Section 1) is a system of teachings based on the beliefs of the Chinese scholar Confucius. His ideas stressing social order have influenced many Koreans. Buddhism, which came to Korea by way of China, has also influenced many Koreans. In turn, Korea has influenced its neighbors. For example, Buddhism spread from Korea to Japan.
OTHER CULTURAL INFLUENCES  Since World War II, two major influences have had a profound effect on Korea. First, Communism has molded the culture of North Korea. Non-Communist South Korea, on the other hand, has been greatly influenced by Western culture.

In North Korea, the government only allows art that glorifies Communism or the folk tradition. In South Korea, artists have more freedom of expression. They work with themes drawn from their own history and culture, as well as themes drawn from Western art.

Moving Toward Unity

The most important recent development in North Korea and South Korea is the movement toward unification. However, the communist North and democratic South must overcome years of mutual hostility.

AN ARMED SOCIETY  After World War II, both North Korea and South Korea built up huge armies. The armed forces of South Korea number more than 600,000 soldiers and sailors. The armed forces of North Korea are even larger, numbering well over one million. In addition, North Korea probably has chemical weapons and tested nuclear weapons.

Both countries have existed with the threat of war for many years. Only recently has there been an attempt to defuse the situation. War has been a real possibility along the border between the countries, which is guarded by nearly 2 million troops on both sides.

A SINGLE FLAG  There are signs of hope, however. In June 2000, the leaders of both Koreas held a summit meeting at which they declared their intention to reunite the two countries. Shortly after, the defense...
The chiefs of the two Koreas met and agreed to reduce tensions along their border. They agreed to discuss clearing land mines so they could rebuild a rail link between the two countries. Perhaps most importantly, families in North Korea and South Korea were allowed to visit each other.

At the summer Olympics held in Sydney, Australia, in 2000, there was another sign of a thaw. The two Koreas marched into the Olympic Stadium under a new flag designed for a single, unified Korea.

There are also setbacks to reunification. One occurred in 2010, when a South Korean ship exploded and sank. Many South Koreans suspected that North Korea had torpedoed the ship.

Economic and Human Resources

Before the Korean War, the economies of North Korea and South Korea were agricultural. After the war, industry gained in importance in both countries.

**ECONOMIC PATTERNS** If North Korea and South Korea reunite, they will form an economic powerhouse. North Korea will be able to provide natural resources and raw materials for South Korea’s industries.

South Korea, like Taiwan, is one of the economic tigers of Asia. It is a highly successful and competitive economy. It has the world’s largest shipbuilding industry, as well as large automobile, steel, and chemical industries. South Korea is today one of the world’s top trading nations.

**POPULATION PATTERNS** Most of the people in Korea live on plains along the coast or in river valleys among the mountains of the peninsula. South Korea has 45 percent of the Korean peninsula’s land area but about 66 percent of its people. Seoul is by far the largest city in South Korea, with a population of more than 10 million. The largest city in North Korea is Pyongyang, with more than 2.5 million people.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE The Japanese flag shows a red sun against a white background. The red sun symbolizes Amaterasu, the sun goddess. According to myth, the Japanese emperor and his family are descended from the goddess. The Japanese call their country Nippon, which means “source of the sun.” The name Japan may have come from a Chinese phrase meaning “origin of the sun,” or it may have come from Chipangu, a name for the country recorded by Marco Polo.

Samurai and Shogun

Japan lies east of China—toward the rising sun. In their earliest history, the Japanese were close enough to China to feel its civilizing effects, but they were far enough away to be protected from invasion.

ANCIENT JAPAN The original inhabitants of Japan may have come to the islands from the mainland of Asia and from the South Pacific. There is some evidence to suggest that the ancestors of today’s Japanese came eastward through Siberia and Korea and entered Japan. By about 1,500 years ago, most of Japan was actively growing food, such as rice. Weapons and tools made of bronze and iron were introduced, along with textiles.

Until the A.D. 300s, Japan was not a unified country. It was made up of hundreds of clans ruling separate territories. Then, by the fifth century, the Yamato clan had become the ruling clan. It claimed descent from the sun goddess, and by the seventh century, its leaders called themselves emperors of Japan.

In 794, the rulers moved the capital to the city of Heian (modern Kyoto). The era from 794 to 1185 is called the Heian period. During this time, Japan’s central government was strong, but eventually the great landowners and clan chiefs began to act as independent rulers.

Professional soldiers called samurai served the interests of the landowners and clan chiefs. The samurai (the word means “one who guards”) served as a bodyguard of warriors loyal to the leader of a clan.

THE SHOGUNS In 1192, after a struggle between two powerful clans, the Japanese emperor created the position of shogun. The shogun was the general of the emperor’s army with the powers of a military dictator.
All officials, judges, and armies were under his authority. The shoguns appointed governors, called daimyo, to each province. They were responsible for maintaining order.

Rule by the shoguns lasted for about 700 years. During those years, the Japanese fought off Mongol invasions and saw the arrival of Portuguese traders, who brought Christianity and firearms to Japan in the 1500s. In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry’s arrival to Japan from the United States ended Japan’s isolation. In 1868, the last shogun resigned, and the emperor became head of the government.

**EMERGING WORLD POWER** During the late 19th century, Japan’s government began bringing Japan into the modern age. By the early 20th century, Japan had become a major power.

During the early years of the 20th century, Japan expanded its empire. (See map on next page.) Its interests and those of the United States came into conflict in the Pacific region. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched a surprise attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The attack brought the United States into World War II, which ended with Japan’s defeat and surrender in 1945. After World War II, the United States headed the occupation of Japan and introduced political and economic reforms. Eventually Japan became a democracy—a constitutional monarchy with an emperor and an elected parliament.

**An Economic Powerhouse**

After its defeat in World War II, Japan transformed itself into one of the world’s most powerful economies. It experienced an economic boom, even though it has few natural resources. Japan is second only to the United States in the size of its economy.

**PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS** The population of Japan is more than 127 million. About 79 percent of Japan’s people live in cities. Sixty percent of the people live on 2.7 percent of the land. Japan has few minorities, and those few often experience discrimination.

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**Geographic Thinking**

**Seeing Patterns** How might Japan’s 20th century empire have reflected its history?

---

**Japanese History, 1500–2000**

- **1571** Japan opens port of Nagasaki to overseas trade.
- **1603** Tokugawa Ieyasu becomes shogun of Japan.
- **1680** Tsunayoshi becomes shogun of Japan.
- **1696** The great Japanese printmaker Utamaro (1753–1806) was known for his portraits of women, such as the one shown below.
- **1716** Yoshimune becomes shogun of Japan.
- **1796** The great Japanese printmaker Utamaro (1753–1806) was known for his portraits of women, such as the one shown below.
Most of Japan’s population and most of its industry and manufacturing are located in a corridor hundreds of miles long along the east coast of the main island of Honshu, with Tokyo as its anchor. The people who live in this corridor form the work force that produces goods sold around the world.

Manufacturing and trade are at the heart of Japan’s economy. Japan imports most of the natural resources for its industrial needs. Among the resources it imports are coal and petroleum. Then it uses those resources and others to manufacture products for export to the global market. Among the most important of those products are cars, trucks, and electronic equipment such as televisions and computers.

A strong alliance between business and government has been one of the reasons for Japan’s economic success during the second half of the 20th century. After the war, the United States gave economic assistance to Japan. Financial support from the government helped Japanese businesses develop products to market abroad.

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

1. **REGION** Which island besides Formosa (now Taiwan) just off the coast of south China was ruled by Japan in 1942?

2. **REGION** Which island and island group conquered by Japan lie farthest east?
**ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN**  After four decades of rapid growth, Japan’s economy began to slow down in the 1990s. As the economic growth rate declined, many companies scaled back their operations, and some went bankrupt. A number of reasons accounted for this slowdown.

Other economies in East Asia, such as those of Taiwan, South Korea, and Hong Kong, provided competition. Then, when the economies of Southeast Asia encountered problems, Japanese investments there lost value. Many banks proved vulnerable. The Japanese stock market suffered big losses. Also, the Japanese people tended to save rather than spend. As a result, the economy became even more dependent on exports, which declined because of competition from other countries.

**Japanese Culture**

Japanese culture reflects the influences of both East and West. From these influences, Japan has developed its own unique culture.

**A TRADITIONAL PEOPLE**  In developing their early culture, the Japanese borrowed from China. Japanese language, religion, art, music, and government were all influenced by the Chinese.

The city of Kyoto is a monument to Japanese culture. The city contains Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines built of wood in the old style. The entire city is a living testament to Japanese ideas of beauty. Gardens, palaces, and temples all reflect a very spare, elegant, and refined style. In Kyoto and throughout Japan, great emphasis is placed on achieving harmony between a building and its natural surroundings.

Traditional drama is still performed in Japan. Noh plays developed during the 14th century. They deal with subjects drawn from history and legend and are performed by actors wearing masks. In the 17th century, Kabuki plays developed. They have colorful scenery, an exaggerated acting style, and vivid costumes.

Japanese painting was influenced by Chinese techniques and themes. Many early Japanese paintings show Buddhist themes that often came to Japan by way of China. Some examples of Japanese artistic works include long picture scrolls, ink paintings, and wood-block prints.

**WESTERN INFLUENCES**  Since the day in 1853 when Commodore Perry sailed his fleet into Tokyo Bay, Japan has been open to Western influences. Those influences are visible in modern-day Japan.

Sports like baseball, golf, sumo wrestling, soccer, and tennis are popular in Japan. The clothes worn by most people are Western in style, although traditional clothing is worn on special occasions.

Western music is also popular in Japan. Rock music is popular among younger Japanese. They listen to Western groups and form rock bands of their own. Many cities in Japan have symphony orchestras that play Western classical music. Jazz is also popular.

Japan has been successful at balancing its traditional styles in art, theater, music, and architecture with influences from the West.
Life in Today’s Japan

The people of Japan are educated and disciplined. This work force has enabled Japan to achieve prosperity.

EDUCATION Japan’s educational system is highly structured. Students often attend school six days a week. They have a shorter summer vacation than American students—just six weeks in late July and August. Students attend six years of elementary school and three years of junior high school. Education is free during those years. Then they spend three years in high school. At the same time, many students attend classes at private schools called juku to help get them into good colleges.

Competition among students is high to gain admission to the best universities. Japan has more than 1,000 universities and technical colleges. Universities that rank at the top of the educational system include the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Keio University, and Waseda University.

CHANGES IN SOCIETY The Japanese are making some changes in the way their society is run. People are now increasingly demanding an end to pollution and overcrowding. Furthermore, workers at all skill levels are asking for shorter workdays and more vacation time.

In the next chapter, you will read about three important issues in East Asia. These include trade, the pressures of a large population, and the dangers posed by volcanoes around the Pacific Ocean.
Masks

Masks are coverings that disguise the face. Most cultures use masks for a variety of purposes. Followers sometimes wear ceremonial masks during religious celebrations. Actors wear theatrical masks during performances such as those in the classical drama of ancient Greece, China, and Japan. Mourners sometimes placed burial masks over the faces of the dead before they were buried. In ancient Egypt, they placed the mask directly on the mummy or else on the mummy case. Participants sometimes wear festival masks during celebrations such as Mardi Gras in New Orleans or Carnival in Rio de Janeiro.

A masked dancer in Bali, Indonesia, performs a ritual dance. Balinese dancers move to the music of gongs and flutes. In their dances, each movement and gesture helps to tell the story.

This mask from Angola represents a female ancestor with an elaborate headdress. A member of the Chokwe culture in Africa created this mask out of wood and fibers in the 20th century.
Native American ceremonial masks were used to calm angry spirits. This mask is a product of the Iroquois culture of the northeast woodlands and was used in healing ceremonies.

Japanese masks and costumes are worn by a performer in a Noh drama, the classical drama of Japan. Masked performers create music and dance in a highly stylized manner.

GeoActivity
MAKING MASKS
Use the Internet to research how to make different kinds of masks. Choose materials that are easy to obtain. Then make a mask that you will show to the class.
• Use a technique about which you have found information.
• Write a description of the procedure you followed to make the mask.
• Display your mask in an area set aside in the classroom.

GeoData
ODD FACTS ABOUT MASKS
• In Europe, masks have been discovered that date back as early as 30,000 years ago to Paleolithic times.
• The solid gold death mask of the pharaoh Tutankhamen, which covered the head of his mummy, weighs 22.5 pounds.
• Masks were worn by the performers of tragedies and comedies in ancient Greece.
• The Senesi people of New Guinea use masks that include skirts that cover much of the body.
• The Aleuts of Alaska cover the faces of their dead with wooden masks.
• Death masks made of plaster are sometimes put on the face of the dead to preserve their features for posterity. Death masks exist for Napoleon Bonaparte and Ludwig van Beethoven.
• The mask worn by actor Clayton Moore in the television show The Lone Ranger was sold at auction for $33,000.
China
- China has more people than any other country in the world.
- It is about the same size as the United States in area.
- It has been the dominant culture in the region since ancient times.

Mongolia and Taiwan
- The histories of Mongolia and Taiwan have been closely linked with that of China.
- They have pursued separate paths of development—Mongolia has had a managed economy, while Taiwan has a capitalist economy based on manufacturing and trade.

The Koreas: North and South
- The Korean peninsula is divided into two separate countries: Communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea.
- Recently, the two countries have begun discussing the possibility of becoming one country.

Japan
- Japan is a great industrial power.
- It has managed to achieve economic prosperity despite its small land area and limited resources.

Reviewing Places & Terms
A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.
1. dynasty
2. Boxer Rebellion
3. Mao Zedong
4. Confucianism
5. Pacific Rim
6. Three Kingdoms
7. Seoul
8. Pyongyang
9. samurai
10. shogun

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.
11. Which area extends from New Zealand in the western Pacific to Chile in the eastern Pacific?
12. What term means “one who guards”?
13. What is the largest city in North Korea?
14. Which city in the Koreas has about 10 million residents?
15. What event did it take a multinational force of 20,000 soldiers to end?
16. Which term describes a leader with the powers of a military dictator?
17. In which system of thought was there respect for the past and one’s ancestors?
18. Who ruled the People’s Republic of China from 1949 to 1976?
19. The Shang and the Han are examples of what?
20. Koguryo, Paekche, and Silla made up what?

Main Ideas

China (pp. 635-641)
1. In what ways has China influenced other cultures in the region?
2. How is China able to feed its enormous population?
3. What are some of the basic beliefs of Confucianism?

Mongolia and Taiwan (pp. 642-646)
4. What kind of economy does Mongolia have, and what activity is at its core?
5. What kind of economy does Taiwan have?

The Koreas: North and South (pp. 647-650)
6. Why did North Korea become a communist state and South Korea a democracy?
7. Why is South Korea considered an economic tiger?

Japan (pp. 651-657)
8. Why did Japan emerge onto the world scene in the 19th century?
9. Why is the city of Kyoto in Japan important?
10. Where does Japan get its resources, and how does it use them in its industries?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

- What are some of the ways in which China has influenced the culture of East Asia?
- What seems to be the general direction of economic development in the region?

2. Geographic Themes
a. Human-Environment Interaction
   - How have the river basins of eastern China supported a high population density?
b. Region
   - What are some of the natural barriers that have provided isolation or security to the different countries of the region?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Graphs

Stock Market in South Korea
Use the graph at right to answer the following questions.

1. Analyzing Data
   - When did the stock market in South Korea reach its lowest level?
2. Making Comparisons
   - What was its highest level before its plunge?
3. Drawing Conclusions
   - What level did it reach by the year 2000? What does this suggest about the economy of South Korea?

Research stock market activity in one or more of the other countries in the region. Show your findings in a graph tracking stock market activity for the late 1990s.

GeoActivity

Analyzing Data
Present the results of your research in a chart that shows the positive and negative effects of the Mongol conquests.

For Additional Test Practice

Multimedia Activity
Use the links at hmhsocialstudies.com to do research on the Mongol conquests. Focus on the reasons for the success of their conquests and whether the results of their conquests were mainly negative or positive.
Today, the Great Wall of China is an impressive symbol of the Asian giant’s power, genius, and endurance. It wasn’t always so. For much of its history, the Chinese people saw the Great Wall as a symbol of cruelty and oppression. This is just one way in which the wall differs from what we think we know. In contrast to popular notions, the wall that draws tourists to Beijing by the millions was not built 2,000 years ago. Nor is the Great Wall a single wall. Instead, it was patched together from walls built over many centuries. And for all its grandeur, the wall failed to keep China safe from invasion.

Explore facts and fictions about the Great Wall online. You can find more information, video clips, primary sources, activities, and more at hmh.socialstudies.com.
The Great Wall of China
Watch the video to learn the history and significance of the magnificent, mysterious walls that snake across northern China.

A Land of Walls Within Walls
Watch the video to learn how the Great Wall fits within the ancient Chinese tradition of wall-building.

The Human Costs of Building
Watch the video to learn about the miseries that awaited the men who built the wall.

Twentieth-Century China
Watch the video to examine the role that the wall has played in modern Chinese history.

CHINA AND THE GREAT WALL 659 MC2
TAKING NOTES
CURRENT EVENTS

A bus teeters on the edge of a highway torn apart by an earthquake in Kobe, Japan, in 1995.

TODAY’S ISSUES
East Asia

Essential Question
How have the region’s physical geography and rapid changes affected the people of East Asia?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will explore how this densely populated region meets the challenges of its physical and human geography.

SECTION 1
The Ring of Fire

SECTION 2
Trade and Prosperity

CASE STUDY
Population and the Quality of Life

For more on these issues in East Asia . . .

hmhsocialstudies.com
CURRENT EVENTS

hmhsocialstudies.com
TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer to take notes on the causes and effects of the issues that affect the region.
The Ring of Fire

How might people in East Asia prepare for earthquakes and volcanoes?

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  On January 17, 1995, at 5:46 A.M., a severe earthquake rocked Kobe, Japan’s sixth largest city. When the dust settled and the last of the fires burned out, about 6,000 people lay dead, and more than 40,000 suffered injuries. The government quickly began rebuilding the port city, but psychologists warned that reviving the spirit of Kobe’s people would take time. Many lost family members. Entire neighborhoods vanished. A year after the quake, nearly 50,000 people were still living in temporary shelters, and anger grew against the government. Clearly, much more than glass, steel, bricks, and mortar would be needed to bring Kobe fully back to life.

Physical Forces in the Ring of Fire

Like Kobe, many Japanese cities are threatened by earthquakes. This is because Japan is part of the Ring of Fire—a chain of volcanoes that line the Pacific Rim. (See the map on the next page.)

SHIFTING PLATES  As you learned in Unit 1, the outer crust of the earth is made up of a number of shifting tectonic plates that continually bump and slide into each other. When a dense oceanic plate meets a less dense continental plate, the oceanic plate slides under the continental plate in a process called subduction. The area where the oceanic crust is subducted is called a trench.

In East Asia, the Pacific oceanic plate encounters the Eurasian continental plate. When the oceanic plate moves under the continental plate, it crumples the continental crust, building mountains and volcanoes such as those that form the Ring of Fire.

At the same time, tremendous stress builds up along the edges of the plates. The stress keeps building until eventually the plates move suddenly and violently. The result is an earthquake.

Main Ideas

- The islands of Japan form part of a geologically active area called the Ring of Fire.
- Because of its location, Japan has faced disastrous earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.

Places & Terms

Ring of Fire
Great Kanto earthquake
tsunami

HUMAN–ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION  An elderly woman is carried from a collapsing building during the earthquake in Kobe, Japan, in 1995.

What damage is apparent in the photograph?
The Geology of Japan

The Japanese islands exist because of subduction. The islands were formed by volcanoes created as the Pacific plate slid under the Eurasian plate. But the same forces that build islands can also destroy them.

**VOLCANOES** Living along the Ring of Fire means living with volcanic activity. From the time historical records were first kept, at least 60 volcanoes have been active on the islands of Japan. In fact, the best-known landform in Japan, Mt. Fuji, is a volcano.

**EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS** Earthquakes like the one that destroyed Kobe are common in Japan. An average of 1,000 quakes occur there each year. Most are too mild to affect people’s lives. Some, however, cause many deaths and massive destruction. In 1923, the Great Kanto earthquake and the fires it caused killed an estimated 140,000 people and left the city of Tokyo in ruins. The quake partially or completely destroyed nearly 700,000 homes.

Another geological threat to Japan comes from the sea. When an earthquake occurs under the ocean floor, part of the floor moves. If the quake is strong enough, this shift may produce a tsunami, a huge wave of great destructive power. Underwater volcanic eruptions and coastal landslides can also cause tsunamis. Some waves have reached heights of over 100 feet.

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**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps**

1. **REGION** Which country in East Asia has the greatest concentration of active volcanoes?
2. **PLACE** Which body of water does the Ring of Fire encircle?

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**Making Comparisons**

How many lives were lost in the Great Kanto earthquake compared to the Kobe earthquake?
Preparing for Disasters

For thousands of years, people have tried to predict when natural disasters will occur. They are still trying, although modern science has provided some clues. Vulnerable nations like Japan are working to improve their defenses against the destructive power of geological forces.

**PROBLEMS** Many older buildings in Japan are not as likely to withstand earthquakes as newer buildings. In addition, some buildings have been constructed on ground or landfill that is not very stable. Underground gas lines are likely to rupture in the event of an earthquake, and leaking gas can catch fire. Crowded blocks and narrow streets spread the fires and hinder rescue operations.

**SOLUTIONS** Japan has established a strict building code. Whenever a quake rocks some area of the nation, engineers are quick to study how different types of buildings withstood the heaving ground beneath them. The results of their studies affect building codes governing construction materials and techniques. This has made newer buildings safer than older ones.

Because of the dangers, the Japanese people understand the importance of being prepared for disasters. Schoolchildren participate in yearly disaster drills with local fire-fighters. Organizations like the Japanese Red Cross Society and the Asia Pacific Disaster Management Center offer courses on disaster preparedness and management.

Japan and the other countries along the Ring of Fire cannot change the geology that shapes their land. They can, however, learn more about it and prepare to deal with disaster when it strikes next.

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**Earthquake Detectors**

Seismographs are modern instruments for detecting ground movement. They record the intensity, direction, and duration of a movement of the ground during an earthquake.

But the ancient Chinese invented earthquake detectors almost 2,000 years ago. The model shown dates from A.D. 132 and was invented by Chang Heng. Tremors caused a ball to drop from the mouth of a dragon into the mouth of one of eight frogs around the base of the bowl. This told the direction from which the earthquake came.

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**EXPLORING LOCAL GEOGRAPHY** Pair with a partner and research the natural disasters that might possibly occur where you live—flood, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, and so forth. Then develop an *Emergency Procedures brochure* that lists the steps you would take to deal with such an emergency.

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**Taking Notes**

**HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** Review the notes you took for this section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue 1: Ring of Fire</th>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What was the effect of subduction on Japan?</td>
<td>• What causes tsunamis?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main Ideas**

- What are some of the natural disasters that can strike around the Ring of Fire?
- What role do shifting plates play in earthquakes?
- What organizations help the Japanese prepare for natural disasters?

**Geographic Thinking**

Making Inferences How will Japan respond in the future to natural disasters such as earthquakes? Think about:

- how it has responded so far
- its location and the frequency of earthquakes there

Interpreting a Proportional Circle Map
The earthquake that devastated Kobe, Japan, in 1995 measured 6.8 on the Richter scale, which is a scale for measuring the magnitude of earthquakes. About 6,000 people died and many thousands more were injured. Although the Kobe quake was the most destructive in recent years, there have been many others in Japan in the 1990s. Some of these were more powerful than the Kobe quake but they did not do as much damage.

THE LANGUAGE OF MAPS A proportional circle map shows the relative sizes of objects or events, such as earthquakes. This map shows major earthquakes in Japan during a ten-year period beginning in 1991. The larger the circle on the map, the greater the magnitude of the earthquake as measured by the scale.

Major Earthquakes in Japan, 1991–2000

1. Analyzing Data
   What was the intensity of the earthquake that struck Kobe?

2. Making Comparisons
   On which islands did the most powerful quake occur in this period? In what range did it fall, as measured by the scale?

3. Making Inferences
   Why do you think the quake you identified in question 2 was not as destructive as the Kobe quake?
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  At the beginning of the 1990s, the economies of East Asia were growing very rapidly. Unfortunately, there was a dark side to this prosperity. In 1995, UNICEF (the United Nations Children’s Fund) reported that more than half a million children in East Asia were working in factories or begging on the streets. UNICEF regional director Daniel Brooks noted that, due to fast-paced economic growth, “We are seeing the erosion of family values and that includes the exploitation of children.” This is one of the important issues facing the region.

Opening Doors

The process by which East Asia became an economic powerhouse took centuries. Until the 1500s, the nations of East Asia had been isolated from the rest of the world. As Western demand for Asian products grew, European traders used a variety of means—including force—to end East Asia’s isolation.

Eventually, the economies of the region were to emerge as major players in the global economy. However, foreign intervention and world war lay ahead before East Asian nations achieved widespread prosperity.

OPENING TO THE WEST  By the 1800s, the nations of Europe had signed treaties that gave them distinct spheres of influence in the East. These were areas where they could control trade without interference from other Western nations. In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry set sail from the United States to Japan to persuade the Japanese to establish trade and diplomatic relations with the United States. The naval warships that accompanied Perry intimidated Japan into opening its doors to the United States and the West.
INDUSTRIALIZATION AND GLOBALIZATION After World War II, the nations of East Asia began industrializing, using cheap labor to produce goods for trade. Trade between East and West steadily increased. The labels “Made in China” and “Made in Japan” on goods became very common in the United States and Europe.

At the same time, regional economies, which had evolved from national economies, began to merge. Eventually, a **global economy** developed, in which nations became dependent on each other for goods and services. For example, Japan imported many natural resources from around the world and then transformed those resources into manufactured goods that it sold around the globe. The nations of East Asia used their supplies of cheap labor to become manufacturing powerhouses. The World Bank described this boom as an “economic miracle.”

**Powerful Economies of East Asia**

During the 1980s and early 1990s, many Asian economies did very well. The most powerful of the Pacific Rim nations of East Asia—Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea—enjoyed record prosperity. These three countries formed a part of a zone of prosperity referred to by some as the **Jakota Triangle**—Japan, Korea (South), and Taiwan. By the mid-1990s, however, these economies were experiencing problems.
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARISE Although some East Asian economies appeared healthy, they were burdened by debt and mismanagement. The Asian economic miracle had been based in part on efficiency and innovation. It also had been built partly on the sacrifices of very poor and very young workers, who were paid low wages.

In the mid-1990s, a series of banks and other companies went bankrupt (could not pay their debts). This sparked panic among foreign investors, who began selling their Asian stocks and currency. In some countries, riots broke out. In Japan and South Korea, ruling politicians had to resign. Japan’s economy entered a recession—an extended decline in general business activity. The Asian economic miracle had come to an end. South Korea and Taiwan also experienced recessions.

A GLOBAL RIPPLE EFFECT Because the economies of many nations are interconnected, the crisis in Asia spread throughout the world. Uncertainty led to concern at the New York Stock Exchange and other national exchanges. To prevent a global economic downturn, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund stepped in, lending money to East Asian countries that promised reform. This began to reverse the downslide, but the world had learned an important lesson—a global economy could threaten prosperity as well as improve it.

THE PROMISE OF REFORM The economic crisis led to an awareness in East Asia that serious reform was necessary. Reform would have to include increased wages for adult workers, as well as a ban on child-labor and forced-labor practices. It would also mean an end to sweatshops. These are workplaces where people work long hours for pennies under poor conditions. By the 2000s, reforms had begun, and Asian economies were showing new signs of life.

In the next section, you will read about the expanding population of East Asia. The growth in population has had an impact on the quality of life in the region.

Assessment

1. Places & Terms
   Identify and explain the following places and terms.
   - UNICEF
   - global economy
   - Jakota Triangle
   - recession
   - sweatshop

2. Taking Notes
   HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION Review the notes you took for this section.
   
   **Issue 2: Trade**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why is trade important to the economies of the region?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How did the people of East Asia make possible the “economic miracle”?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Main Ideas
   a. How was the prosperity of East Asia linked to the wider world?
   b. What were some of the consequences of economic development in the region?
   c. What were some of the causes of economic decline in the region?

4. Geographic Thinking
   Making Inferences Why might changes in the global economy have a greater effect on South Korea and Taiwan than on China and Mongolia? Think about:
   - the global economy
   - agriculture and industry

SEEING PATTERNS Pair with a partner and choose one country in the region that is heavily dependent on trade—for example, Japan, South Korea, or Taiwan. Then use the Internet to find out how that country’s economy did in the year 2000. Give a class report on whether the economy is improving.
Because East Asia has changed so much, it’s hard to imagine how different the region looked 50 years ago. Today, some of the countries and cities of the region are among the most prosperous in the world. In Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, the statistics on per capita income, length of life, and literacy are all high. Despite recent problems, the economies are generally prosperous, as can be seen in the glittering shopping districts and luxurious residential neighborhoods of Tokyo, Seoul, and Taipei. But it wasn’t always that way. If the big problem of the past was industrializing, today it is managing population.

Patterns of Population

Many of the countries of East Asia have been so successful in dealing with the basic problems of feeding their people and industrializing that they now face other problems. Several of these problems are caused by the expanding populations in the region.

THE SITUATION AT MID-CENTURY At the middle of the 20th century, the nations of East Asia ranked among the least developed in the world. In fact, statistics on health, literacy, fertility, and economics in East Asia mirrored those of the poorest region of the world—sub-Saharan Africa. Widespread poverty was the norm. Life expectancy was short. Fertility rates were high, as were infant and maternal death rates. In 1950, East Asian women often married young and gave birth to six children on average during their lifetimes. Most economies remained rural.

Addressing Population Problems

Policy makers in the region understood that population control was key to solving a wide range of social and economic woes. Among the successful programs were those that stressed education and family planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS Unrestricted population growth put tremendous strain on the quality of life in the region and on the environment. Food production on existing farmland was barely adequate. The absence of basic sanitation fouled the region’s water supplies. In some countries, such as China, the water tables were drained to dangerously low levels. Fortunately, the governments of East Asia recognized this catastrophe-in-the-making. They moved quickly to reverse course.
PROBLEMS AND POLICIES Aggressive family planning programs were begun in the region. Birth rates began leveling off and then dropping. By the year 2000, women were marrying much later and giving birth to an average of 2.5 children. In China alone, the birth rate dropped from 6.22 children per woman in 1950–1955 to just 1.79 in the year 2009.

IMPRESSIVE RESULTS This drop in birth rates, combined with industrialization, led to fast economic growth. By the 1990s, the economies of East Asia were booming, transforming social and economic conditions. In just over a generation, the region’s quality of life has improved to the point where life expectancy and literacy rates are among the highest in the world.

The Quality of Life

Although these changes in East Asia have been dramatic, they have not solved all of the region’s problems. Some countries in the region, such as China and Japan, are among the most populous in the world. Furthermore, life expectancy in East Asia has increased from 41 years in the period 1950–1955 to 69 years in the year 2000.

SOME ONGOING PROBLEMS The huge populations of the region continue to put pressure on the environment. Even if China were to maintain a modest growth rate of one percent a year, it would still add 13 million people to its population annually.

The growing populations are concentrated in the cities of the region, where they must be provided with housing, sanitation, and transportation. Pollution, overcrowding, and flooding are all problems that are made worse by an expanding population.

However, not all family planning programs were well received. Some citizens criticized China’s one-child-per-family policy as harsh and an assault on their rights. In the face of such criticism, the region’s family planning efforts were expanded.

Despite these difficulties, East Asia has shown the world that rapid social and economic progress are possible. This requires that people and their leaders join hands with the world community to make difficult decisions and put in place sound policies.

A case study project on population follows on the next two pages.
Suggested Steps

1. Choose one East Asian nation to study. Search for information that can be presented visually in charts and graphs. The visuals you create should explain some aspect of the nation’s population and quality of life.

2. Use online and print resources to research your topic.

3. Look for information that shows relationships between population and quality of life. For example, one chart might illustrate declining birth rates while another shows rising literacy rates.

4. Include several different types of visuals: pie graphs, line and bar graphs, pictograms, population distribution maps, and so on.

5. Try to make your visuals as colorful as possible. Use color to make the information easier to understand.

6. Prepare a brief oral explanation of your visuals and the story they tell.

Materials and Supplies

- posterboard
- color markers
- computer with Internet access
- books, newspapers, and magazines
- printer

Clinton addressed a contentious [controversial] issue separating the two countries—global warming. He also announced a series of clean air and water measures to help China, which has five of the most polluted cities in the world, according to environmentalists. . . .

“You know better than I that polluted air and water are threatening your remarkable progress,” Clinton said. “Smog has caused entire Chinese cities to disappear from satellite photographs, and respiratory illness is China’s number one health problem.”
Though birth rates are slowing and some Asian countries are even worrying about a decline, overall expansion is still too high. Half the planet's population growth in the next 50 years will come from Asia—18 percent from India alone. If consumption patterns continue, the extra bodies will put a profound stress on limited land, food, and energy supplies—particularly in developing countries. The most important resource at risk, though, is clean water, not only for drinking, but also for food production and control of hygiene-related disease. Already supplies are strained in some areas, as a result of pollution degradation or overuse in wasteful farming and industrial practices. . . . Water tables are falling in China too, particularly in the northern plain, the country's main agricultural area. Conservation is the only realistic way to prevent catastrophe.

A shift to smaller families produced three important demographic changes: slower growth in the number of school-age children, a lower ratio of dependents to working-age adults, and a reduced rate of labor-force growth. These alone were not enough to create the educated work force, high wages and savings rates, and the capital-intensive industries that now characterize the [region]. But linked to an enterprising business sector, wise public investment, and an equitable education system, demographic change soon became economic opportunity . . . .

With fewer children, households placed more of their earnings in savings, and governments reduced public expenditures. In 1960, there were only 1.3 working-age adults for each child in . . . South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong. Because families chose to have fewer children, by 1995 there were 3.1 working-age adults for each child, dramatically reducing the dependency burden and allowing families to save more of their incomes.
**Reviewing Places & Terms**

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.

1. Ring of Fire
2. Great Kanto earthquake
3. tsunami
4. UNICEF
5. global economy
6. Jakota Triangle
7. recession
8. sweatshop

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.

9. How many people were killed and how many homes destroyed in the Great Kanto earthquake?

10. What is the basic cause of the physical events that characterize the Ring of Fire?

11. Upon what is the prosperity of the Jakota Triangle primarily based?

12. Why are sweatshops profitable?

13. What sorts of natural disasters occur around the Ring of Fire?

14. How does Japan participate in the global economy?

15. How might economic reform in East Asia affect sweatshops?

16. What besides earthquake damage made the Great Kanto earthquake so destructive?

17. What are three causes of tsunamis?

18. Which countries in the region experienced a recession?

19. What sorts of economies make up the Jakota Triangle?

20. With what issues does UNICEF concern itself?

**Main Ideas**

**The Ring of Fire (pp. 661–664)**

1. What causes an earthquake?
2. Why are the Japanese islands so unstable?
3. What are some Japanese organizations that help prepare for disasters?

**Trade and Prosperity (pp. 665–667)**

4. What effect did Western nations have on economic development in East Asia?
5. What is the connection between industrialization and globalization?
6. What are some of the things that went wrong in the economies of the region?

**Case Study: Population and the Quality of Life (pp. 668–671)**

7. What are some examples of the stress that population growth puts on the environment?
8. What are some effective ways to manage population growth?
9. How developed was East Asia in the middle of the 20th century?
10. How had East Asia changed by the beginning of the 21st century?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: Ring of Fire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Trade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. What are some of the effects of the Ring of Fire?
b. What role did labor play in the booming economies of East Asia after World War II?

2. Geographic Themes

a. REGION What are some of the ways that people respond to the dangers of living in the Ring of Fire?
b. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION How does a rising population put a strain on the environment?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Graphs

World Population and Growth
Use the graph to answer the questions.

1. ANALYZING DATA What was the population of the world in the year 1?
2. MAKING COMPARISONS How long did it take for the world’s population to double from the year 1?
3. MAKING COMPARISONS How many years might it take for the world’s population to double after 1974? What is the total expected to be in 2028?

GeoActivity
Do research to create a bar graph showing population growth and doubling time in one country in the region. Compare it with a bar graph showing the same information for the United States. Display the two bar graphs side by side.

Creating Multimedia Presentations Combine charts, maps, or other visual images in a presentation showing strategies to prepare for natural disasters along the Ring of Fire.