



The Great Wall of China

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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

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TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about each subregion's history, economics, culture, and modern life.





China

Main Ideas

- China is the world's most populous country.
- China has been the dominant culture of East Asia since ancient times.

Places & Terms

dynasty

spheres of influence

Boxer Rebellion

Mao Zedong

Confucianism

Taoism

Buddhism

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES

POPULATION China's huge population puts a great strain on the environment.

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.

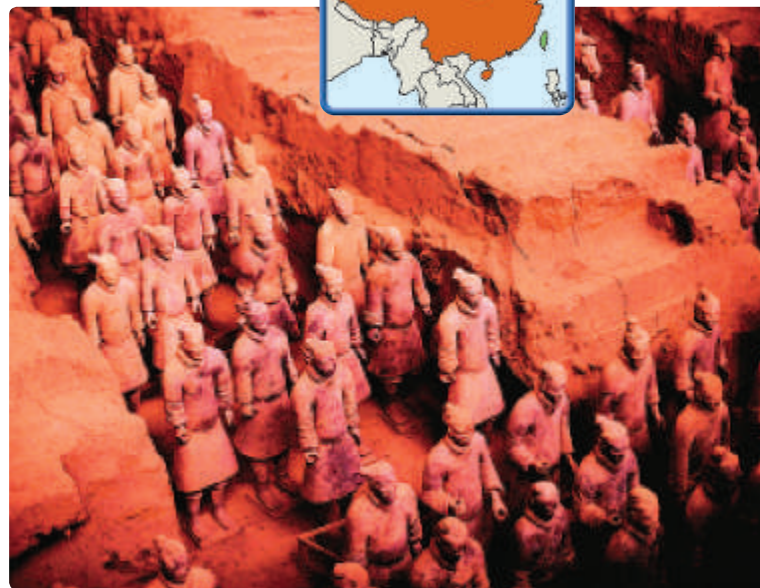
EARLY CIVILIZATION AND THE DYNASTIES China has been a settled society for more than 4,000 years. In its earliest days, China was made up of a number of Stone Age cultures. Then it was ruled by dynasties. A **dynasty** is a series of rulers from the same family. The first Chinese dynasty was the Shang. 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.

PLACE Thousands of life-sized terra cotta (clay) soldiers have been unearthed by archaeologists near the tomb of the emperor Shi Huangdi near Xian, China.



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.

BACKGROUND
The Boxers were a secret society whose Chinese name meant "fists of righteous unity."



VIDEO

China: Boxer Uprising

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China, 600 B.C.–A.D. 2000

551 B.C.
Chinese philosopher **Confucius** (*below*) is born.



1368
The Mongol (Yuan) Dynasty is overthrown.

1430
During the **Ming Dynasty** (1368–1644), Chinese artists create beautiful porcelain vases (*below*).

600 B.C.

200 B.C.

1400

356 B.C.
Building of the first section of a protective wall begins in northern China.

221 B.C.
Shi Huangdi (*above*) becomes the first emperor of unified China.

1271
Marco Polo sets off from Venice on a journey to China.



636

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

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES

POPULATION

▶ Why is so much of China's population in the east and so little in the west?

1557
Portuguese found colony of Macao on peninsula in China.

1627
Manchu armies overrun northern Korea.

1720
China takes control of Tibet.

1949
Mao Zedong (left) and the Communists gain power in China.

1661
Shunzhi (left), Qing emperor who came to the throne as a child, dies of smallpox.

1839
War breaks out between Britain and China.

1989
Chinese troops fire on student demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.



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. ▶

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES

TRADE

▶ Why might trade between the United States and China be important to both countries?

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.

BACKGROUND

Other important Chinese art forms include calligraphy and brush painting.

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.

Chinese Artifacts



An ancient Chinese coin (above left) is from about 450 B.C. The jade pendant (above right) is from about 250 B.C.




This printed book (above) from about A.D. 1000 contains a Buddhist prayer. This navigational compass (left) dates from the 18th century.



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.



Seeing Patterns

 What does the immense size of China suggest about its future?


Connect TO
THE Issues

POPULATION

One-Child Policy

Because of its rapidly growing population, China adopted a policy of one child per family in 1979. The country also outlawed early marriage. A man must be 22 and a woman 20 before they can marry. Those policies have reduced China's birthrate dramatically.

However, the government policy of one child per family has run into opposition. Rural families, in particular, feel the need for more than one child to help work on their farms. In 2002, the government reaffirmed the one-child policy but promised extra help to rural families.





Assessment

1 Places & Terms

Identify each of the following places and terms.

- dynasty
- spheres of influence
- Boxer Rebellion
- Mao Zedong
- Confucianism
- Taoism
- Buddhism

2 Taking Notes

REGION Use your notes to answer the questions below.



- What are aspects of China's cultural legacy?
- What are some Chinese dynasties?

3 Main Ideas

- a. Why is China's rural economy still so important?
- b. What are some of China's most important religious ideas?
- c. Why is population such an important issue in China?

4 Geographic Thinking

Making Generalizations

How has China's rugged terrain affected its relations with other countries and civilizations? **Think about:**

- the mountains and deserts to the west
- the ocean to the east

 See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6.

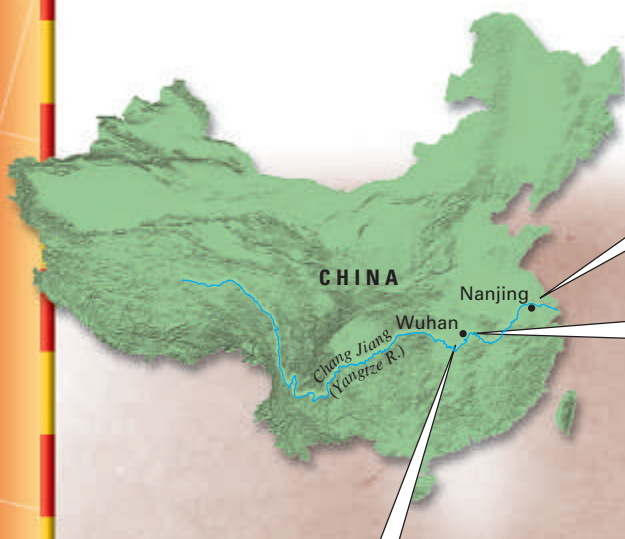


SEEING PATTERNS Pair with a partner and investigate an invention of the Chinese, such as printing or the compass. Then present your findings to the class in a brief **oral report** accompanied by an illustration of the invention.

Disasters!

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.





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

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.

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.



GeoActivity

UNDERSTANDING FLOODS



Working with a partner, use the Internet to research one of the floods listed below. Then create a **presentation** about it.

- Create a diagram showing the extent of the flood, the damage caused by it, and the number of lives lost.
- Add a map of the affected region.
- Write a paragraph explaining how the flood affected the people and life of the region.

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RESEARCH WEB LINKS

GeoData

OTHER DEADLY RIVER FLOODS

1887

1887

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

1889

1889

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

1911

1911

Chang Jiang in China; 100,000 killed

1937

1937

Mississippi and Ohio rivers; about 250 killed

1988

1988

Three major rivers in Bangladesh; about 1,600 deaths

1993

1993

Mississippi River; millions of acres flooded; about 50 dead

1998

1998

Chang Jiang in China during July and August; about 4,000 dead

Mongolia and Taiwan

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

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 Mongol Army on the Move

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.

A cavalry warrior's weapons included leather armor, a lance, a dagger, a bow and arrows, and his stout, sturdy horse.

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.

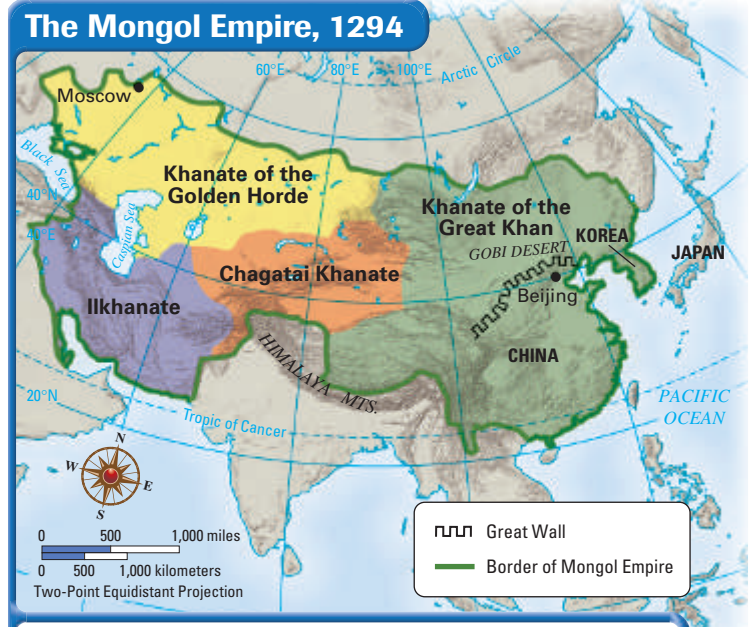
The Mongol empire broke up in the 1300s. Eventually the Chinese gained control of Mongolia in the 17th century. The Chinese ruled Mongolia for hundreds of years. Only in 1911 were the Mongolians finally able to push the Chinese out and achieve their independence.

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.



SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1 **REGION** Which khanate controlled Mongolia and China?
- 2 **MOVEMENT** What object may have restricted movement between the Gobi desert and the heartland of China?



Seeing Patterns

A What are some of the countries that have controlled or been controlled by Mongolia over the centuries?

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.

BACKGROUND
The population of Taiwan is one of the best educated in Asia, second only to that of Japan.

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION A

Mongolian mother and daughter use red paint to mark the horns of their goats.

What purpose might marking goats serve?



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



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.

Connect TO THE Issues

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.



Making Comparisons

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

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

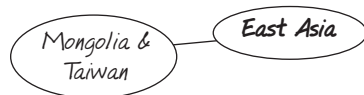
1 Places & Terms

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



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RESEARCH WEB LINKS

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.





The Koreas: North and South

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.

Main Ideas

- The Korean peninsula is divided into two separate countries.
- North Korea is a Communist country, and South Korea is a republic.

Places & Terms

Three Kingdoms

Seoul

Pyongyang

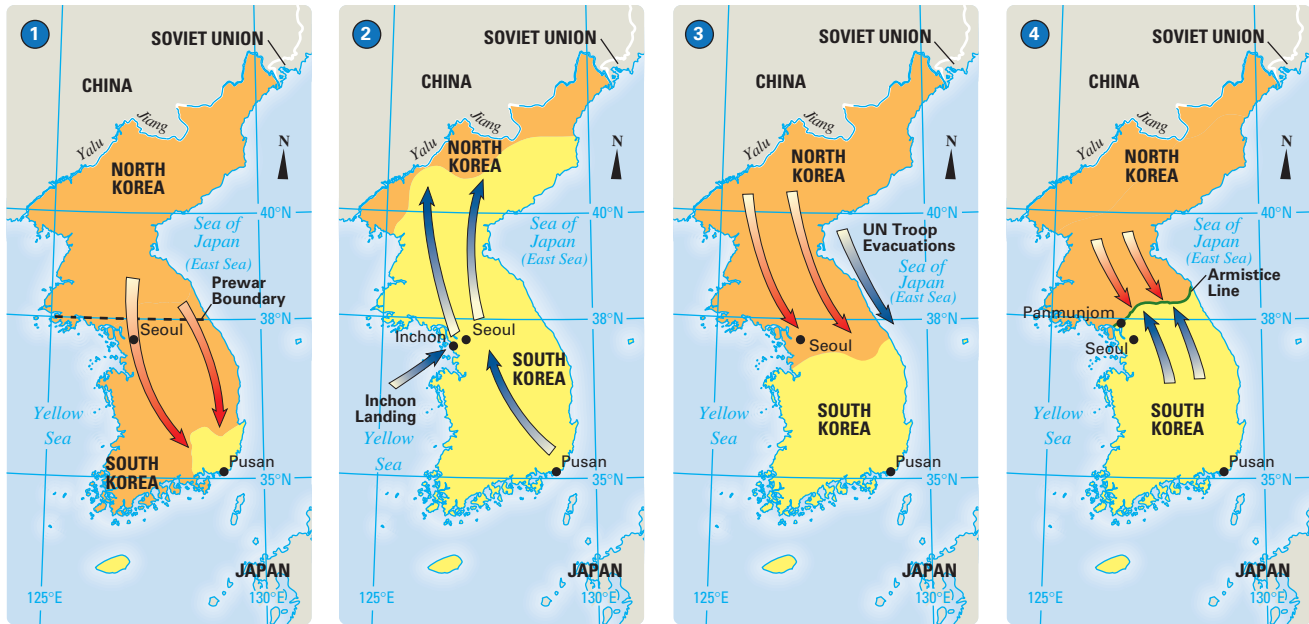
CONNECT TO THE ISSUES

TRADE South Korea is one of the economic tigers of the region, and much of its prosperity depends upon industry and trade.

PLACE Ky’ongbok Palace is located in Seoul, South Korea.

What does the setting of the palace amidst the bustle of Seoul suggest about the culture?





- 1 North Korea Invasion, 1950
 - 2 UN Offensive, 1950
 - 3 Chinese Offensive, 1950
 - 4 Stalemate and Armistice, 1953
- Area occupied by Communist forces
 - Area occupied by UN forces
 - Movement of Communist forces
 - Movement of UN forces

0 100 200 miles
0 100 200 kilometers
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1 **MOVEMENT** Which forces moved south almost to Pusan?
- 2 **REGION** Compare maps 1 and 4 above. Did either side gain more territory?

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 has 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



Seeing Patterns

 What have been the main differences dividing North Korea and South Korea?

growing up in... South Korea

Young people, like most other South Koreans, follow at least some of the teachings of Confucius. For example, education is highly valued. The state requires by law that students obtain a primary education, and this schooling is free. The majority of children attend secondary schools. More than one million students attend college-level schools in South Korea.

However, in addition to traditional ideas and ways of life, there is a strong western influence in South Korea. This can be seen in the Western clothes worn by these students as they enjoy an outing in the Nampodong shopping district in Pusan, South Korea.

If you lived in South Korea, you would pass these milestones:

- You would be required by law to attend school through 6th grade.
- You would next attend middle school—grades 7 through 9.
- You would then probably attend high school—grades 10 through 12.
- You would be able to vote at age 20.
- The average age for a first marriage is 29 for men and 26 for women.
- The average age of women at the birth of their first child is 27.



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.



Assessment

1 Places & Terms

Identify and explain the significance of each of the following in the region.

- Three Kingdoms
- Seoul
- Pyongyang

2 Taking Notes

REGION Use your notes to answer the questions below.



- In which ways has China influenced the culture of Korea?
- Which countries in the region have invaded Korea?

3 Main Ideas

- a. What impact has the border between North Korea and South Korea had upon life in both countries?
- b. How is the economy of South Korea different from that of North Korea?
- c. Which two major influences have shaped North Korea and South Korea since World War II?

4 Geographic Thinking

Drawing Conclusions How has Korea's physical location affected its history? **Think about:**

- the definition of a peninsula
- the location of Korea's neighbors

 **See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R5.**



SEEING PATTERNS Both Taiwan and South Korea are considered economic tigers of East Asia. What are some characteristics that they share? Make a **Venn diagram** showing the similarities and differences between the two.



Japan

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.

Main Ideas

- Japan has an ancient culture and traditions.
- Japan is the economic giant of East Asia.

Places & Terms

samurai

shogun

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES

PHYSICAL FORCES Japan is vulnerable to devastating earthquakes and huge ocean waves because of its location.

PLACE This 1597 woodblock print shows a samurai field marshal.

What were important skills and gear for a samurai?



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.



Seeing Patterns

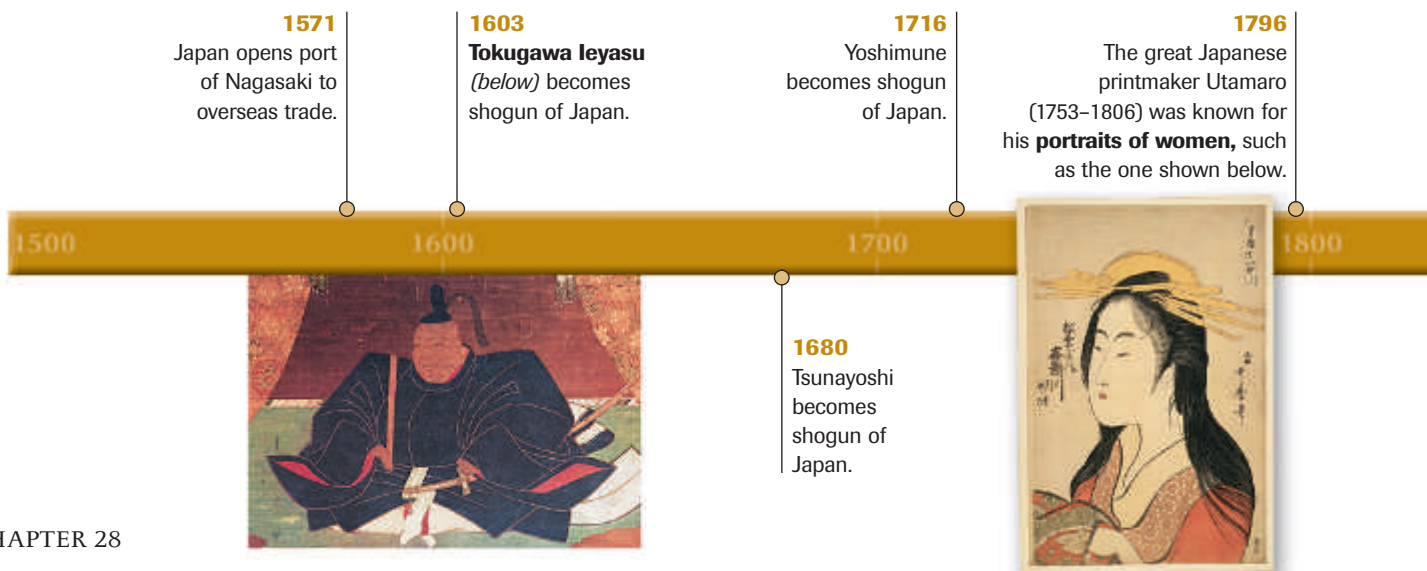
▶ How might Japan's 20th century empire have reflected its history?

An Economic Powerhouse

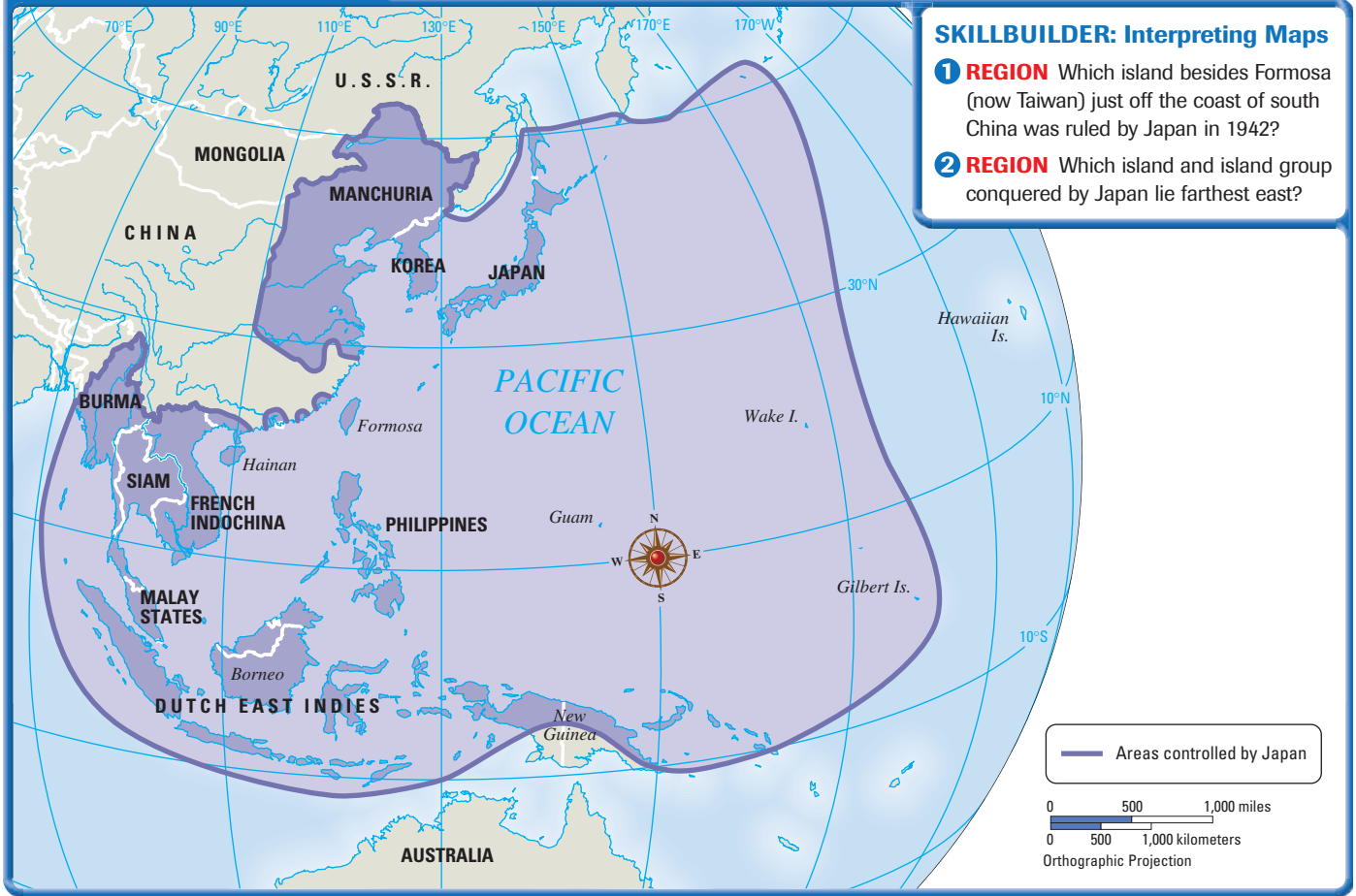
After its defeat in World War II, Japan transformed itself into one of the world's most powerful economies. It experienced an economic boom, even though it has few natural resources. Japan is second only to the United States in the size of its economy.

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.

Japanese History, 1500–2000



Japanese Empire, 1942



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?

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.



1853


A Japanese woodcut shows **Commodore Perry** (*above*) upon his arrival in Japan.

1945

The **mushroom cloud** (*below*) is from an atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.




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. 

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES

TRADE

 How are the economies of the region connected?

Japanese Culture

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



PLACE Toyozo Arakawa, one of Japan's leading potters, was named a "Living National Treasure" in 1955.

What does the naming of a person as a national treasure say about a 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.

BACKGROUND

A tradition of print-making native to Japan is called *ukiyo-e*, which means "pictures of the floating world," the Japanese term for scenes from everyday life.

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.

5 THEMES

MOVEMENT

The Bullet Train

Japan's bullet train, called *shinkansen*, is among the fastest in the world. It can reach speeds of 186 miles per hour. The train was built primarily to connect cities on the main island of Honshu. Among the cities linked by these high-speed electric trains are Tokyo and Osaka.

The bullet trains' high speed makes it possible for people to commute from jobs in Tokyo to homes in locations far from the capital city. Here, a bullet train speeds past Mount Fuji.



Assessment

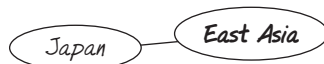
1 Places & Terms

Identify and explain the significance of each of the following in the region.

- samurai
- shogun

2 Taking Notes

REGION Use your notes to answer the questions below.



- What happened to Japan in World War II?
- What is the importance of education in Japan today?

3 Main Ideas

- a. What is the basis of Japan's economic prosperity?
- b. What are some examples of traditional Japanese culture?
- c. How did the Western world influence Japan beginning in the 19th century?

4 Geographic Thinking

Making Inferences How might Japan's isolation and its uniform population have both helped and hindered it in its attempts to achieve prosperity? **Think about:**

- the advantages of uniformity
- the importance of creativity

GeoActivity

SEEING PATTERNS Japan has some very distinctive cultural forms, such as Kabuki theater and sumo wrestling. Present a brief **report** to the class on some aspect of Japanese culture, illustrated by visuals that you have found in your research.

Comparing Cultures

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

21ST
CENTURY

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.



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RESEARCH WEB LINKS

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.

VISUAL SUMMARY
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY OF EAST ASIA

Subregions of East Asia

● **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 | 6. Three Kingdoms |
| 2. Boxer Rebellion | 7. Seoul |
| 3. Mao Zedong | 8. Pyongyang |
| 4. Confucianism | 9. samurai |
| 5. Pacific Rim | 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

- HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** How have the river basins of eastern China supported a high population density?
- REGION** What are some of the natural barriers that have provided isolation or security to the different countries of the region?

3. Identifying Themes

Interaction between cultures occurred throughout the region. What are some of the consequences of this interaction? Which of the five themes are reflected in your answer?

4. Making Inferences

What might be the effect of innovations of modern life, such as computers and the Internet, on the development of democracy and free-market economies in the region?

5. Making Comparisons

How would you compare the economic prosperity and success of managed and capitalist economies in the region?

For Additional Test Practice



Geographic Skills: Interpreting Graphs

Stock Market in South Korea

Use the graph at right to answer the following questions.

- ANALYZING DATA** When did the stock market in South Korea reach its lowest level?
- MAKING COMPARISONS** What was its highest level before its plunge?
- DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** What level did it reach by the year 2000? What does this suggest about the economy of South Korea?

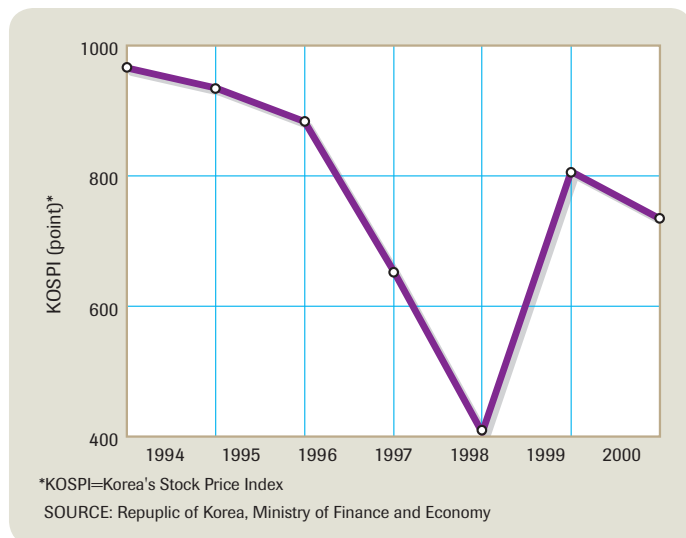


Research stock market activity in one or more of the other countries in the region. Show your findings in a graph tracking stock market activity for the late 1990s.

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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.



The stock market in South Korea has seen dramatic ups and downs corresponding to the economic crises in the region in recent years.

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

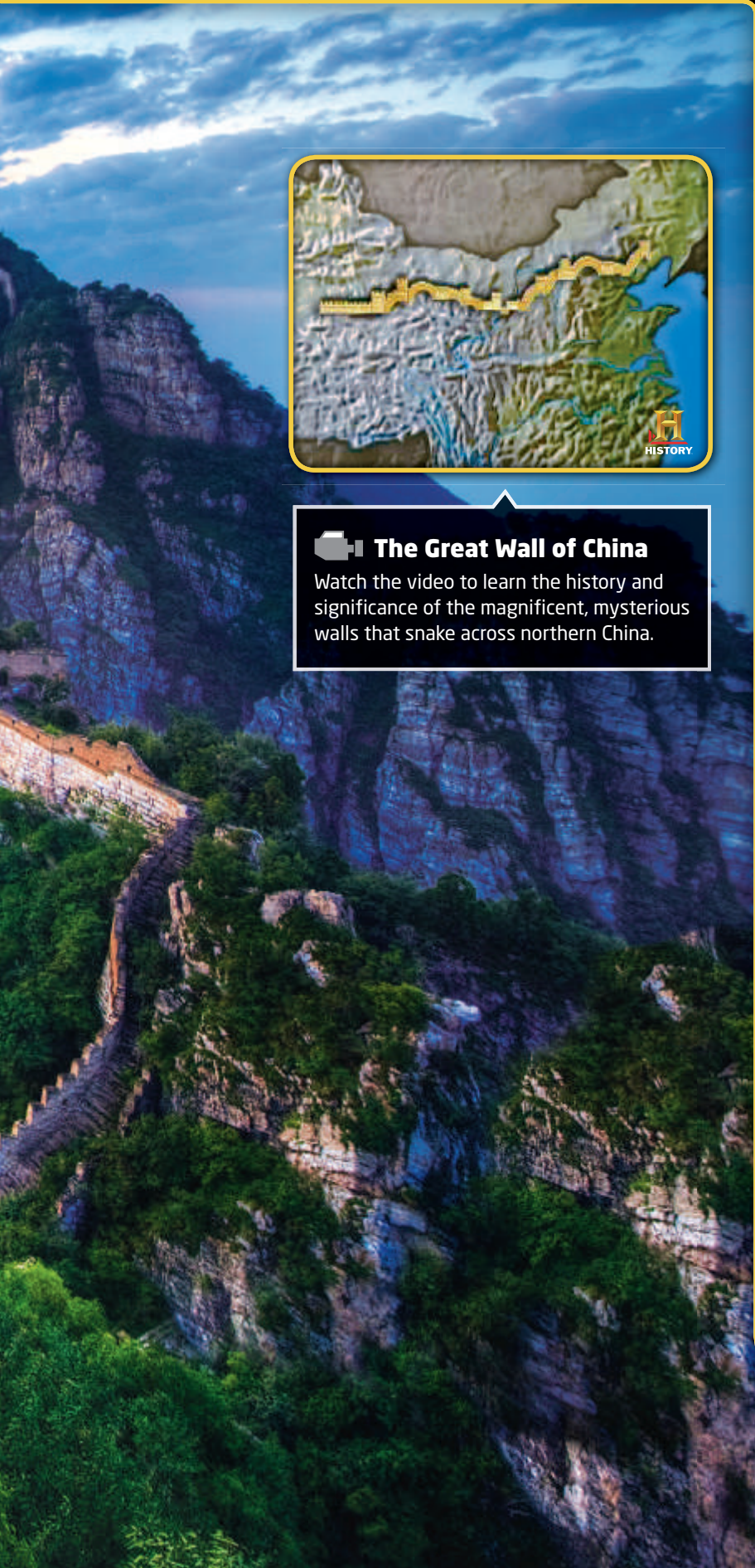


China and the Great Wall

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 hmhsocialstudies.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.