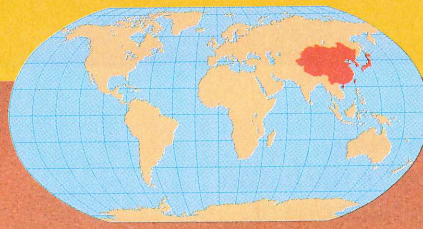


UNIT



9

East Asia

GeoJournal Activity

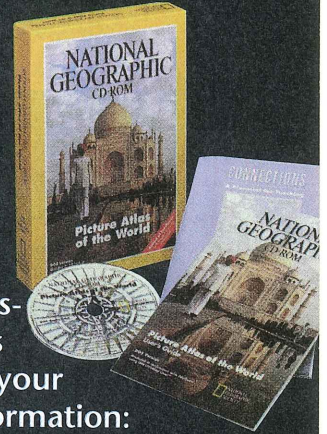
Follow news reports about the region on television or in newspapers. Record the developments under the following categories: Environment, Culture and Daily Life, History and Government.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Picture Atlas of the World CD-ROM

Create a file of East Asia information. (See the *Picture Atlas of the World User's Guide* on how to use the Collector button.) Read the essays and vital statistics, look at the photos, map, and videos, and listen to the musical selections for each country. Make sure your file includes the following information:



1. Examples of cultural phenomena that date back more than a thousand years
2. Major physical features of the region
3. Major problems of the region

interNET CONNECTION

For more information about East Asia visit the National Geographic Society's Web site.
www.nationalgeographic.com

For a unit-based activity visit the Glencoe Social Studies Web site.
www.glencoe.com



This fisherwoman paddles her raft and fishing birds down the Li River in Guilin, China.

◀ A Japanese cheerleader whips up the crowd for this baseball game on Kyushu.

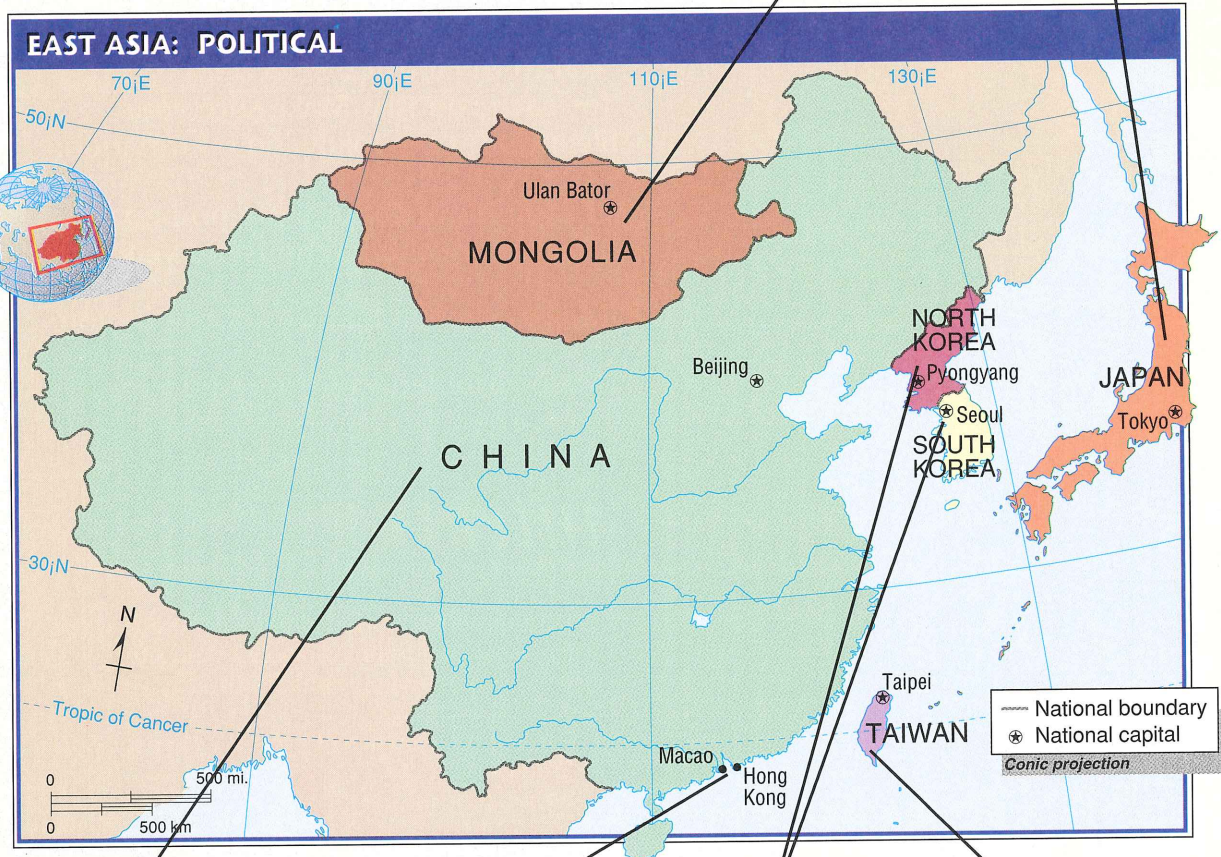
Cultural Geography

EXPLORING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

1. What nations make up East Asia?
2. What areas of China are most heavily populated? Most sparsely populated?
3. What is the approximate population of East Asia?
4. What are the national capitals for the six nations of East Asia?

During the 1200s, the **Mongols** built the largest empire in history, conquering the area from eastern Asia to eastern Europe.

The **Japanese** enjoy a mixture of Eastern and Western cultures. Their favorite spectator sports, for example, are baseball and sumo wrestling.



China's largest ethnic group is the Han nationality, which includes 94 percent of the population. The remaining 6 percent is divided among 50 ethnic groups.

The Chinese leased **Hong Kong** to the British for 99 years in 1898. Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

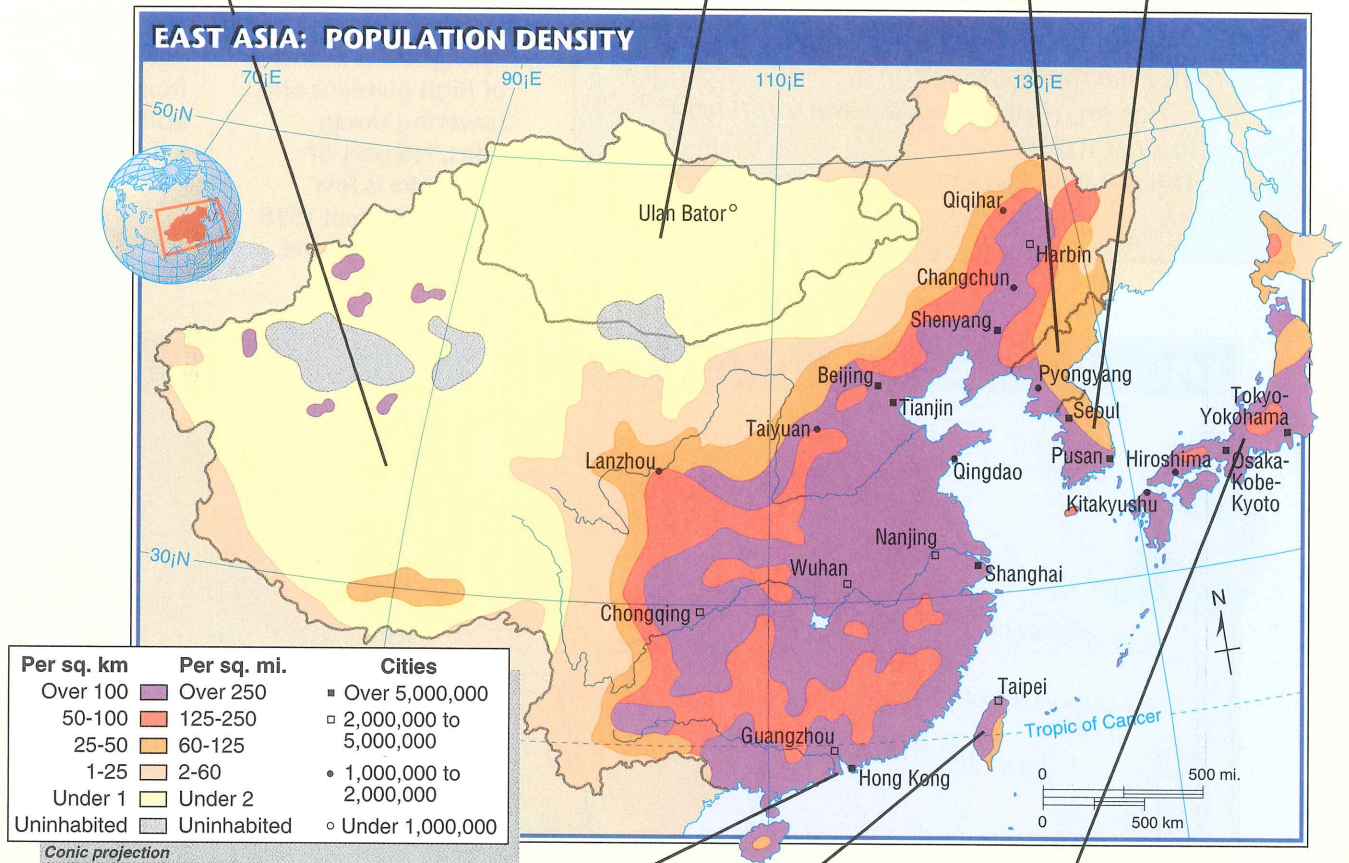
North and South Korea are divided by a heavily policed 2.5 mile- (4.0 km-) wide demilitarized zone. The zone was established in 1953, after the Korean War.

The Chinese Nationalist government rules **Taiwan**.

Although almost 70 percent of all Chinese live in rural villages, **China** has more than 35 major cities with populations of 1 million or more. More than 90 percent of China's 1.2 billion people live crowded into one-sixth of the country's land.

About half of all people of **Mongolia** live and work on livestock farms.

About 70 percent of all Koreans live in cities. **South Korea**, however, has almost three times the number of large cities as **North Korea**.

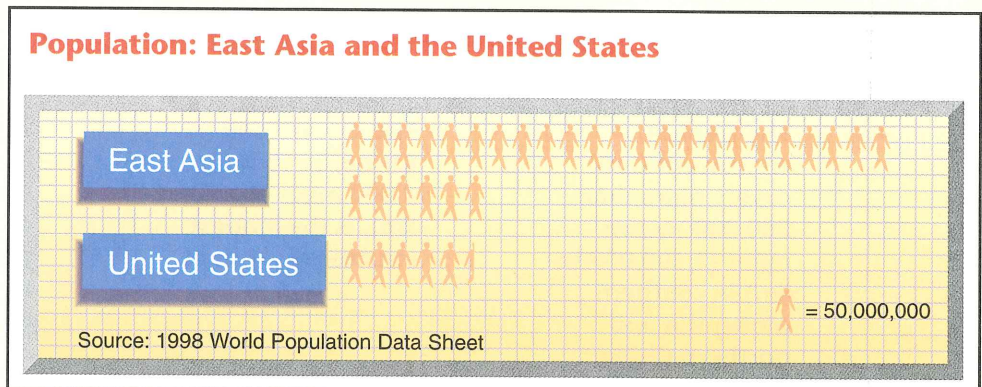


The majority of **Hong Kong's** people live on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsula. These areas are major centers of economic activity.

Almost all of **Taiwan's** people live on the western third of the island, which is a coastal plain.

So much of **Japan's** land is covered with mountains and hills that its population of 126.4 million lives densely packed along the islands' coasts.

The population of East Asia is about 5½ times that of the United States.



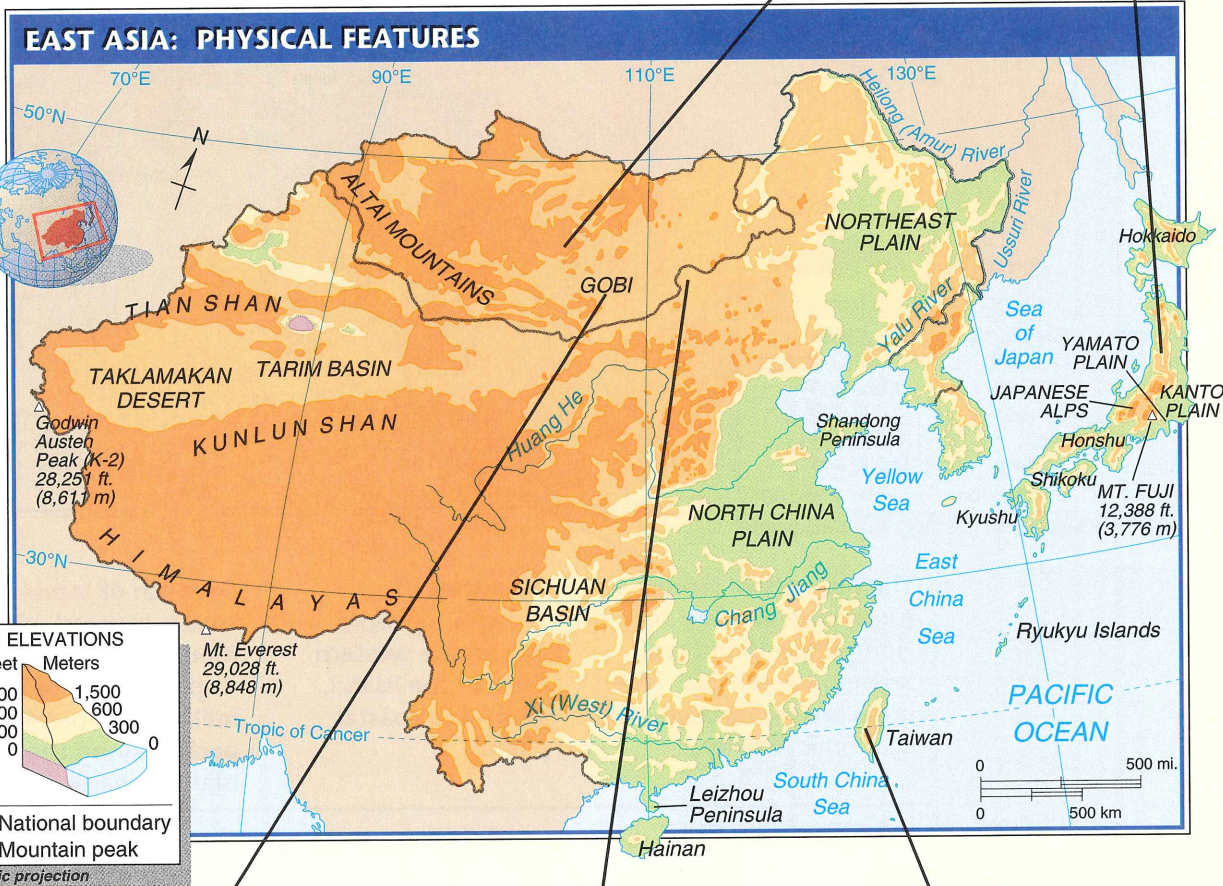
Physical Geography

CHARTING YOUR COURSE

1. What four large islands make up Japan?
2. What desert area is found in Mongolia and northern China?
3. What are three natural resources found in East Asia?
4. What is the highest point in East Asia?

Mongolia is a land of high plateaus and towering mountains. No part of Mongolia is less than 1,700 feet (518 m) above sea level.

Japan consists of four large islands and thousands of smaller ones.



The treeless, windswept Gobi covers more than 500,000 square miles (1,300,000 sq. km) in southern **Mongolia** and northern **China**.

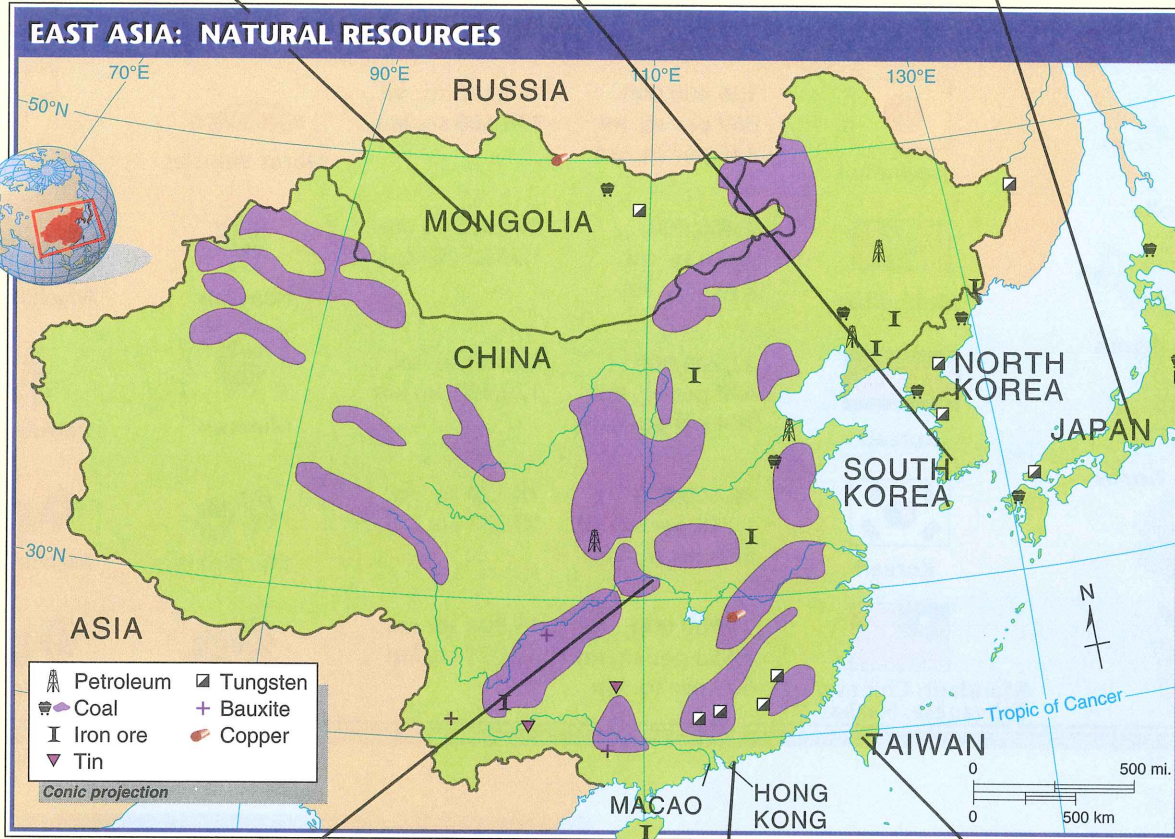
The **Great Wall of China**, stretching 4,000 miles (6,437 km), is the longest structure ever built.

Taiwan's thickly forested mountains blanket about half of the island. Many plunge sharply to the sea along the eastern coast.

Mongolia has rich deposits of coal, copper, gold, iron, and petroleum.

Anthracite (hard coal) and tungsten are **South Korea's** chief mining products.

Although **Japan** has few natural resources, it is a world industrial superpower. It imports most of its raw materials.

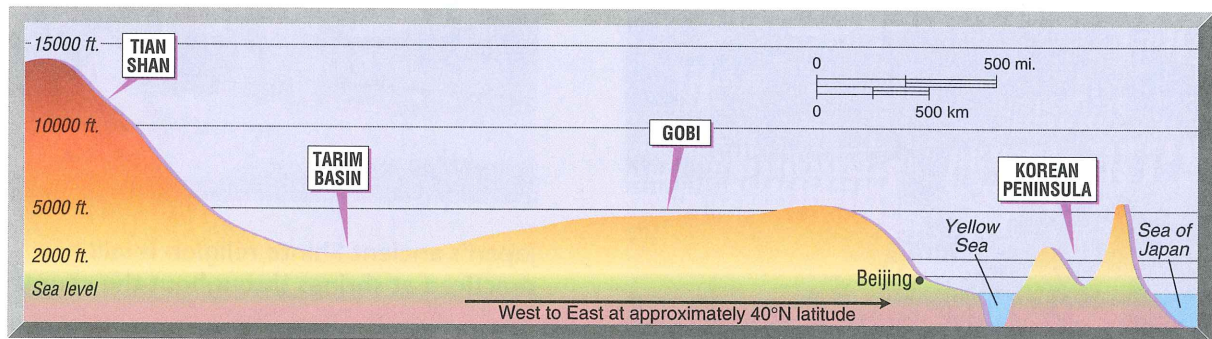


























The Sichuan Basin's mild climate and long growing season make it one of **China's** main agricultural regions.

An accessible location and excellent natural harbor have helped make **Hong Kong** a world center of trade, finance, manufacturing, and transportation.

Cedar, hemlock, and oak trees grow in **Taiwan's** forests, its most important natural resource.

China and the Korean Peninsula: Physical Profile



COUNTRY* AND CAPITAL	FLAG AND LANGUAGES	POPULATION	LANDMASS	PRINCIPAL EXPORT	PRODUCTS IMPORT
China 	 Mandarin, Yue Wu Hakka, Xiang	1,242,500,000 345 per sq. mi. 133 per sq. km	3,600,930 sq. mi. 9,326,409 sq. km	 Textiles	 Machinery
Japan 	 Japanese	126,400,000 869 per sq. mi. 346 per sq. km	145,370 sq. mi. 376,508 sq. km	 Motor Vehicles	 Fuels
Mongolia 	 Mongolian	2,400,000 4 per sq. mi. 2 per sq. km	604,825 sq. mi. 1,566,500 sq. km	 Minerals	 Machinery
North Korea 	 Korean	22,200,000 477 per sq. mi. 184 per sq. km	46,490 sq. mi. 120,409 sq. km	 Minerals	 Petroleum
South Korea 	 Korean	46,400,000 1,218 per sq. mi. 470 per sq. km	38,120 sq. mi. 98,731 sq. km	 Machinery	 Machinery
Taiwan 	 Mandarin Chinese, Taiwanese, Hakka	21,700,000 1,555 per sq. mi. 600 per sq. km	13,900 sq. mi. 36,001 sq. km	 Machinery	 Machinery

*Country maps not drawn to scale.

The Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet, was once home of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled Buddhist leader.



Japan's ancient Shinto religion is still practiced at shrines throughout the country.



Yurts, or tentlike structures, are common living quarters in the far western part of China.



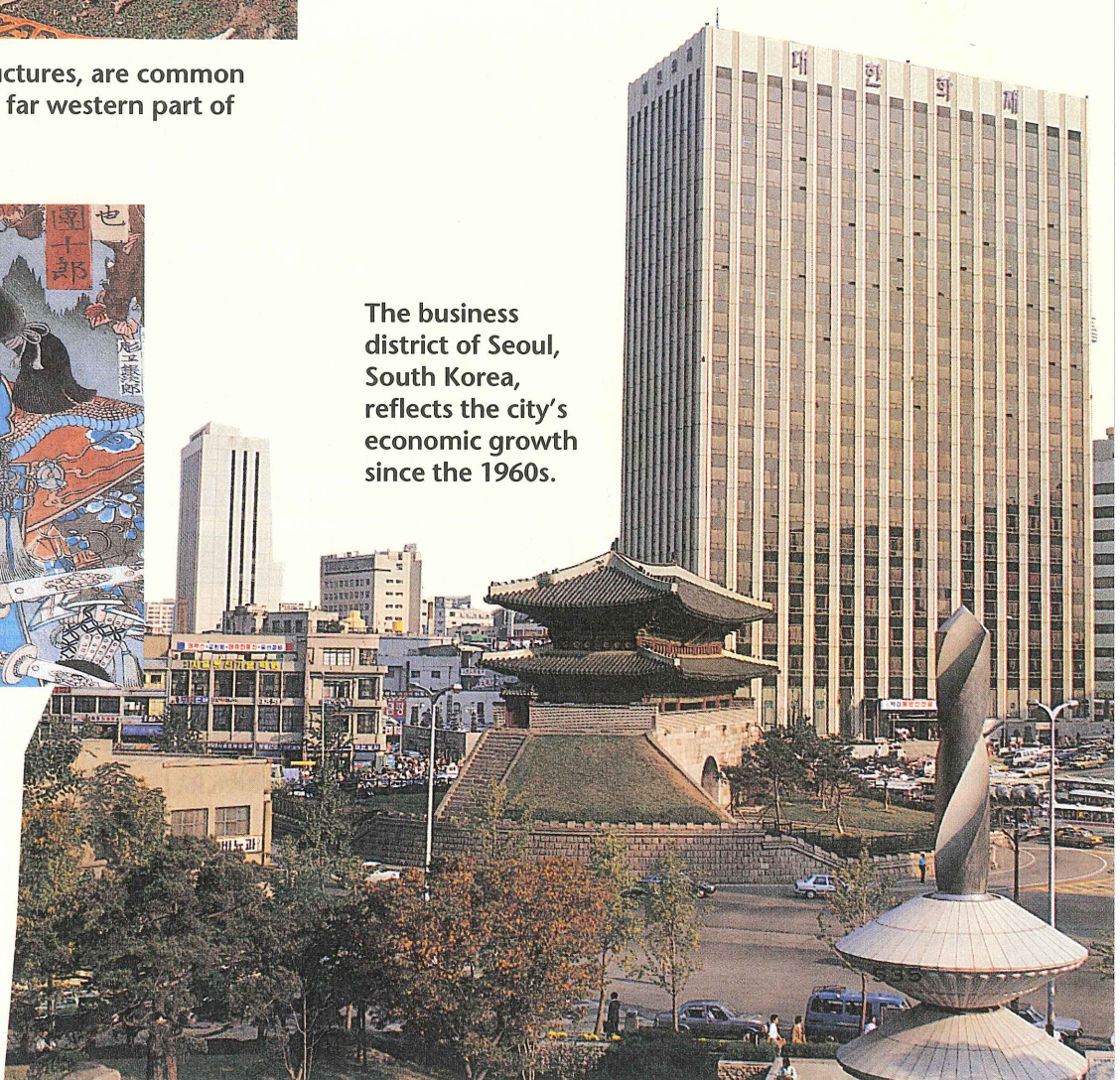
Taiwan has an industrial economy that exports products to other parts of the world.



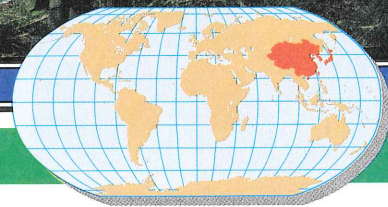
The samurai, the warrior class of traditional Japan, wore elaborate clothes and distinctive headdresses.

UNIT 9

The business district of Seoul, South Korea, reflects the city's economic growth since the 1960s.



The Physical Geography of East Asia



CHAPTER FOCUS

Geographic Setting

The culture region of East Asia includes much of the Asian mainland south of Russia, along with nearby islands. High inland mountains and plateaus separate mainland East Asia from the rest of the continent.



Geographic Themes

Section 1 The Land

PLACE East Asia has a varied landscape. Landforms range from towering mountains to barren deserts to rich river valleys.

▲ **Photograph:** Mount Fuji, Japan

Section 2 The Climate and Vegetation

LOCATION East Asia's large landmass puts it in many different climate zones, from subarctic to tropical rain forest. Location inland or near the coast also has a great effect on climates.

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the variety of landscapes in East Asia.
- the importance of East Asian rivers.
- the natural resources of East Asia.

Key Terms

- archipelago
- tsunami
- loess

Identify and Locate

Mongolia, Korean Peninsula, Japan, Taiwan, Huang He, Chang Jiang, Xi River, Plateau of Xizang, the Himalayas, Gobi, Tarim Basin, North China Plain, Hong Kong



This postcard from Japan mentions Mount Fuji, one of many amazing sights in the lands that make up East Asia. A few hundred miles away, Erna Ito would have seen a very different landscape. East Asia is a place of immense contrast—towering, snow-covered mountains in the west, barren deserts in the north, lush green fields in the southeast, and hundreds of islands.

PLACE

Land and Sea

The huge People's Republic of China dominates the geography of East Asia, occupying almost 3,600,000 square miles (9,326,000 sq. km)—about 81 percent of the land area. With about 1.2 billion people, China has the largest population of any nation.

Mongolia, north of China, covers more than 604,000 square miles (1,567,000 sq.

km)—an area larger than Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado combined. Its population, however, is only about 2,400,000.

The other countries in East Asia are Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan. The region also includes the former colonies of Hong Kong and Macao.

Peninsulas, Islands, and Seas

The smaller nations of East Asia are located on peninsulas and islands. These landforms divide this part of the Pacific Ocean into small seas.

The Korean Peninsula juts out from northern China, between the Sea of Japan and the Yellow Sea. To the southwest, between Japan and the mainland, is the East China Sea. Still farther south, beyond the island of Taiwan, the South China Sea lies between the Philippines and the peninsula of Southeast Asia.





The Japanese Islands

Japan is an **archipelago**, a group of islands made up of four large, mountainous islands and thousands of smaller ones. Most of Japan's major cities are on the large island of Honshu. The other islands, from north to south, are Hokkaido (hah•KY•doh), Shikoku (shi•KOH•KOO), and Kyushu (kee•OO•shoo).

Other Islands

South from Japan, a curving arc of small islands sweeps toward the mainland of Asia. The Ryukyu (ree•YOO•KYOO) Islands end near Taiwan (ty•WAHN), a mountainous island about 100 miles (about 161 km) from the coast of mainland China. This island is the home of the Republic of China. This small country also includes 2 other offshore islands, Quemoy and Matsu, and an island chain called the Pescadores.

The island arc that includes Japan, the Ryukyus, Taiwan, and the Philippines is at a boundary where tectonic plates meet. The islands are part of the Pacific Rim's Ring of Fire, where violent earthquakes and volcanoes are frequent.

Volcanoes originally formed most of these islands. Japan still has about 50 active volcanoes, and more than 1,000 small earthquakes shake the country every year. Violent quakes occur less often but bring disaster to people and buildings. An undersea earthquake can send a huge **tsunami** (tsu•NAH•mee), or sea wave, crashing against the islands.

Hong Kong and Macao

Farther south, on the China coast, are two Chinese territories on offshore islands and

peninsulas that were until recently European colonies. Hong Kong and Macao are both bustling commercial shipping ports.

REGION

Mountains and Lowlands

Mountain ranges and rugged highlands cover much of East Asia. The only large lowland areas are on the mainland, in eastern China.

The world's highest mountains mark the western edge of East Asia where many peaks soar more than 25,000 feet (7,620 m) high. This area is known as "the roof of the world." Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, is found here.

The region has several other mountain ranges. They fan out in different directions from this center. They include the Himalayas, the Karakoram Range, the Kunlun Shan, the Tian Shan, and the Altai Mountains.

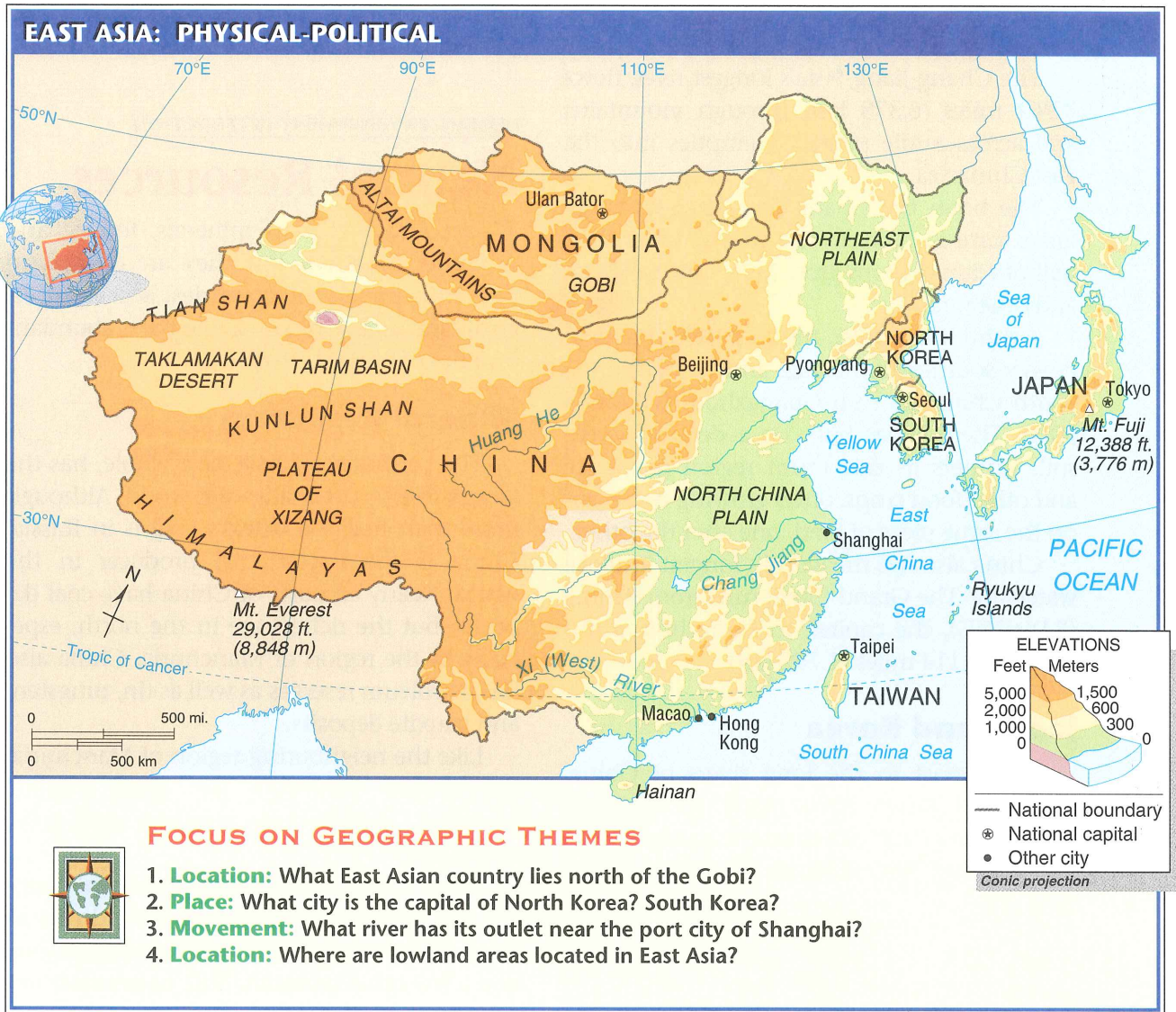
The mountain ranges of Manchuria extend southward through the center of Korea. Coastal plains edge both sides of the peninsula. Japan is even more mountainous than Korea and also has coastal plains.

The highest plateau region in East Asia is the Plateau of Xizang, at elevations ranging from 13,000 to 15,000 feet (3,962 to 4,572 m)—higher than many mountain peaks in other places. North and east of the plateau are other rugged highlands, at elevations ranging from 3,300 to 6,500 feet (1,006 to 1,981 m). The huge Mongolian Plateau extends over much of Mongolia and parts of northern China.

Between the highlands are broad, flat basins. For example, the huge Tarim Basin lies between the Kunlun Shan and Tian Shan. It is part desert and part salt marshes. By contrast, much of Sichuan (SSU•CHWAN) province in southwestern China lies in a great fertile basin that is heavily cultivated.

Large parts of northwestern China and Mongolia are dry, windswept desert waste-





lands. The sandy Taklamakan Desert and the treeless Gobi are among these deserts. The Gobi stretches across southern Mongolia and parts of China.

PLACE

River Systems

Extensive river systems have always been important on the mainland of East Asia. Chinese civilization began in these river valleys, and they are still crucial to China's economic well-being.

China's Rivers

China's major rivers begin in the highlands of the Plateau of Xizang and flow eastward to the sea. The northernmost is the Huang He (HWAHNG HUH), which flows across the North China Plain and empties into the Yellow Sea. This river is known as the Yellow River because it carries tons of fine, yellowish-brown topsoil called loess (LES), which is blown from the western deserts into the air and water by winds. This rich soil, along with water from the river, makes the North China Plain a rich wheat-farming area.

The Huang He is also known as "China's sorrow." For thousands of years, the river's frequent and terrible floods have destroyed



villages and towns, killing hundreds of thousands of people.

The Chang Jiang, Asia's longest river, flows 3,964 miles (6,378 km) through mountains and across fertile plains. It empties into the East China Sea.

The basin the Chang Jiang and its tributaries form is China's "rice bowl." More than half of China's crops grow here, especially rice and other grains.

A third major river, the Xi (SHEE), or West, crosses southeastern China and flows into the South China Sea near Guangzhou (GWANG•JOH). There it has built up a delta of fertile soil. Farmers in this warm region grow rice and other food crops, often growing two crops on the same piece of land, one after the other.

China also has the world's longest artificial waterway. The Grand Canal runs from Beijing (BAY•JING), the capital, to Hangzhou, a distance of 1,114 miles (1,792 km).

Japan and Korea

In contrast to the long rivers of China, Japan and Korea have many short, swift-flowing rivers that run from the mountains to the sea. They flow through deep valleys with

forested hillsides, often forming spectacular waterfalls.

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Natural Resources

East Asia is rich in minerals, forests, and other resources, but they are distributed unevenly among the countries. Because of its great land area, China has the most abundant supplies of natural resources.

Mineral Resources

The continent of Asia, as a whole, has the largest reserves of coal in the world. Although more than half the world's coal is in Russia, China is the largest coal producer in the world. Nearly all parts of China have coal deposits, but the richest are in the north, especially in the region of Manchuria. China also has petroleum reserves as well as tin, tungsten, and bauxite deposits.

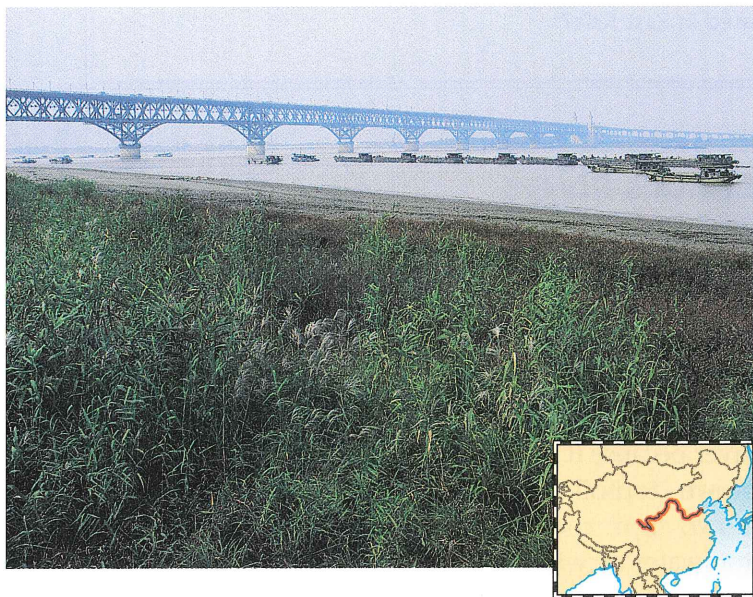
Like the neighboring region of Manchuria, the Korean Peninsula has good mineral resources. They include iron ore, coal, gold, and copper.

Japan is East Asia's leading industrial country, but mineral resources are scarce in its islands. It does have coal, copper, some iron ore, and a few other minerals. Still, Japan must import a variety of minerals.

Land and Forest Resources

Asia's many mountains provide little available land that is flat enough or rich enough for farming and growing food. In China, only about 10 percent of the land—most of it in the north—can be used for growing crops. Larger areas in western China and Mongolia are grasslands where animals can graze. The soil in much of north China's farmland is made up of thick deposits of loess blown from the Gobi. Loess can also pile up and form thick, rounded cliffs. Since ancient times, people in areas of northern China have dug cave homes in such loess cliffs.

Forests once covered huge areas of China, but over many centuries, the Chinese people have cut down trees for heating, building, and



Geographic Themes

Place: Huang He Valley

The Huang He flows through one of China's important agricultural and industrial areas. *Why is the Huang He River also known as the Yellow River?*





Geographic Themes

Place: Inland Sea, Japan

Hundreds of hilly, wooded islands dot Japan's beautiful Inland Sea, which separates Honshu from Shikoku. *Why are the people of East Asia so dependent on the sea?*

other uses. Today, about 14 percent of the country is forested.

In Japan farmland is very scarce. Japanese farmers try to make good use of every inch of land, and they have the most efficient agriculture in Asia. While urban areas are crowded and farmland is scarce, most of the steep hillsides of Japan are still covered with thick forests. Some trees supply lumber for building.

Korea's best farmland is on the coastal plain in the south. Many trees have been cleared for farmland, but forests still grow in the mountains.

Farmers use about one-third of the land on the island of Taiwan, growing rice and tropical fruits like bananas and pineapples. About half of the island is thickly forested mountains.

Water and Ocean Resources

For thousands of years, farmers in East Asia have depended on water from the rivers for irrigating their fields. Where the weather is warm enough, irrigation lets farmers grow two or three crops a year. The rivers also carry fertile soil and deposit it on the flood plains and in deltas.

Because farmland is scarce throughout East Asia, island nations and coastal areas depend on the oceans as an important food source. Their fishing fleets bring back food both for people at home and for export. China is the world's leading fish producer, while Japan now ranks third.

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

1. **Define** archipelago, tsunami, loess.
2. **Locating Places** In what countries is the Gobi located?
3. **Place** What are China's three major rivers?
4. **Location** Which nations of East Asia are located on islands?

Critical Thinking

5. **Expressing Problems Clearly** How has the Huang He both helped and hurt the people of northern China?



The Climate and Vegetation

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the different climate regions in East Asia.
- how seasonal winds affect climates in East Asia.
- the kinds of plants and trees that grow in different parts of East Asia.



Key Terms

- monsoon
- typhoon

Identify and Locate

Japan Current, Climate regions: humid continental, humid subtropical, steppe, desert, highland, tropical rain forest

East Asia has a large landmass. In latitude, it spans a greater range than the contiguous United States. Heilongjiang (HAY•LUNG•jee•AHNG) Province in northern Manchuria is about as far north as Hudson Bay in Canada, while the Chinese island of Hainan is at about the same latitude as Mexico City. As the *People's Republic of China Yearbook* says:

— — — — —

When Heilongjiang Province in the north is snow-bound in winter, it is stifling hot on the islands in the South China Sea. And when the sun rises over the Wusuli River in the east, it is still night on the Pamir Plateau in the west.

 — — — — —

East Asia's location as well as factors such as ocean winds, storms, and mountains, give the region a great variety of climates and vegetation.

REGION

East Asia's Climate Regions

Much of East Asia is in one of the mid-latitude climate zones, while the rest is generally divided among highland, desert,

and steppe climates. Small parts of northern Mongolia are subarctic. Small areas in southern China are tropical rain forest.

Monsoons

As in South Asia, the seasonal winds called **monsoons** have a great effect on East Asia's climate. In the summer, warm monsoon winds blow from the Pacific. They bring hot, humid weather and soaking downpours of rain, especially near the coast. Most rain falls between April and October.

In the fall and winter, the winds switch direction. Icy winds blow from Siberia and Mongolia. Because of these winds, winters in monsoon areas of China are colder and drier than in other countries at the same latitudes. When these cold winds blow across the Sea of Japan, however, they pick up moisture and bring heavy snow to northern Japan.

The monsoons are necessary to life in Asia, especially for farmers to grow crops. If the summer monsoons are late or do not bring enough rain, even the coastal plains in northern China may have droughts.

Violent hurricanes called **typhoons** also blow across coastal East Asia from the Pacific Ocean. Most occur between late August and October. High winds and heavy rains can do great damage, but typhoons also may bring welcome rain in the dry season.

Ocean Currents

Ocean currents also influence the climate of island countries in East Asia. The warm-water Japan Current flows along the southern and southeastern coasts of the Japanese islands, making winters milder there.

Along the coasts of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, the cold Okhotsk Current flows from the Arctic. It brings harsh, cold winters to Hokkaido.



Mid-latitude Climates

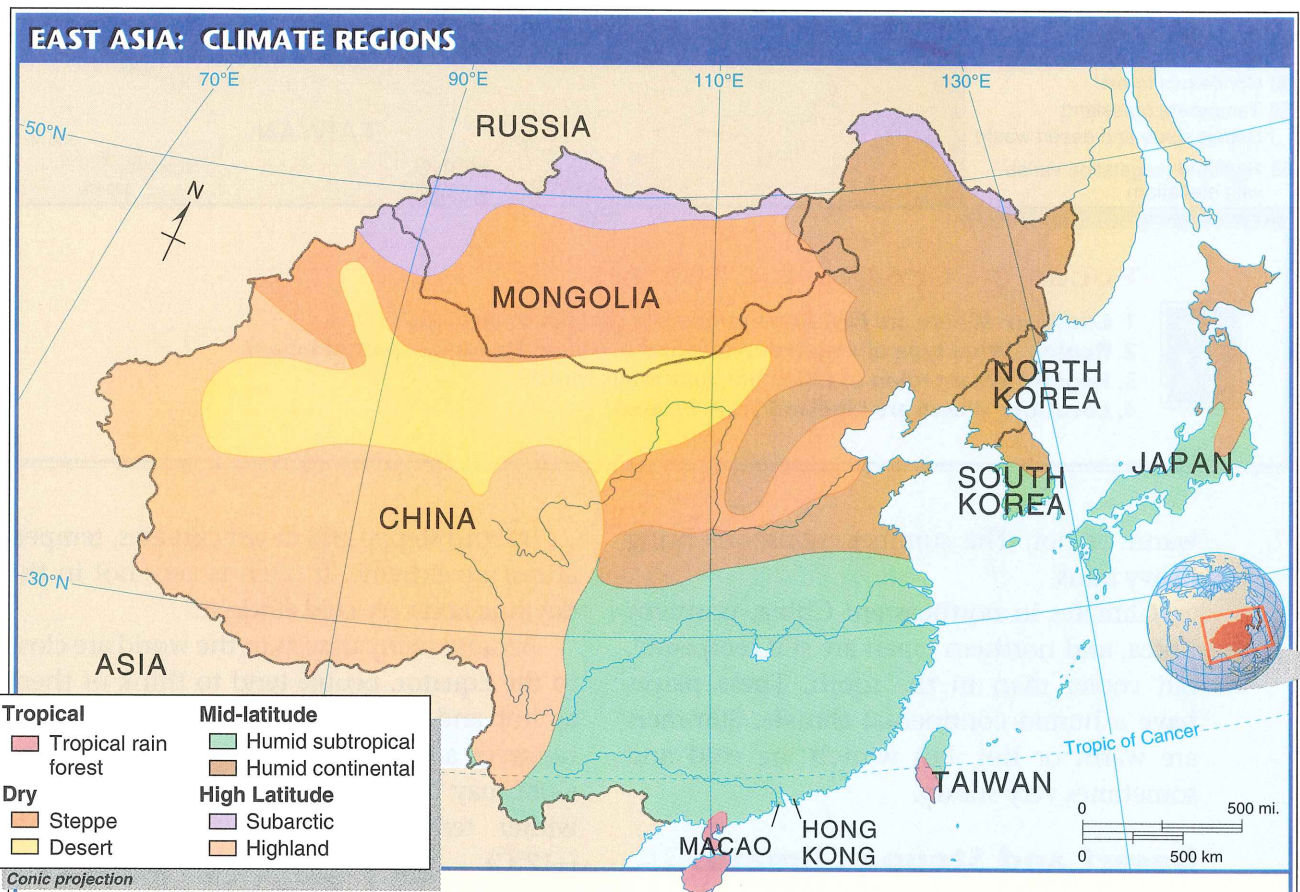
Southeastern China, southern Korea, Taiwan, and the southern islands of Japan have a humid subtropical climate. Summers here are



Geographic Themes

Place: Hokkaido, Japan

Winters are cold and snowy in the northern part of the Japanese archipelago. *What type of climate is found in southern Japan?*

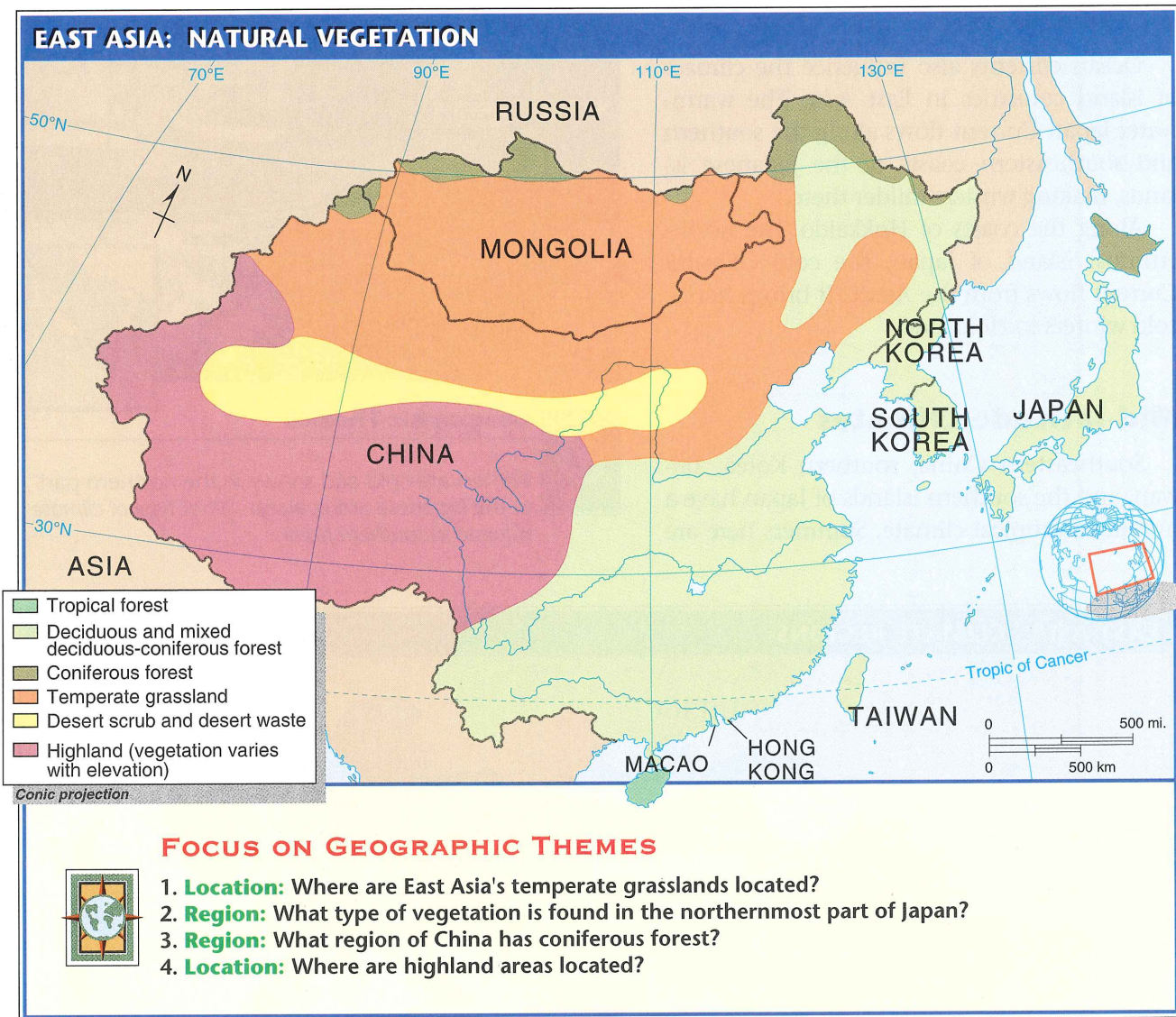


FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES



- Region:** Which area of East Asia has a humid continental climate?
- Location:** Where are highland climate regions located in East Asia?
- Place:** Which climate regions are found in Japan?





warm or hot. The summer monsoons bring heavy rains.

Climates in northeastern China, northern Korea, and northern Japan are still temperate, but cooler than in the south. These places have a humid continental climate. Summers are warm or hot, but winters are cold and sometimes very snowy.

Desert and Steppe Climates

Much of Mongolia and the inland areas of northern China have dry climates—desert and steppe. These great arid areas lie so far inland that moist winds from the ocean do not reach them. In addition, the high mountains that surround these areas trap any rainfall that might reach them.

In both steppe and desert climates, temperatures are extreme. It often is very hot in the daytime and very cold at night.

Because many deserts in the world are close to the Equator, people tend to think of them as hot and dry. The Gobi and Taklamakan, however, are often cold and windy. While the Gobi may have summer heat waves, average winter temperatures there are only 10°F (-12°C).

Highland Climates

The climate in mountainous areas depends mainly on elevation. It is usually cool or cold. As you climb higher, the air temperature drops by about 3.5°F (2°C) every 1,000 feet (305 m) of elevation. For example, the Plateau of



Xizang averages more than 13,000 to 15,000 feet (3,962 to 4,572 m) in elevation. Even in summer, average temperatures there are only about 58°F (14°C).

Tropical Climates

A small strip of land along China's southern coast, part of Taiwan, and the island of Hainan have a tropical rain forest climate. Here it is hot year-round, with a rainy season brought by the summer monsoons.

REGION

East Asia's Vegetation

Forests once covered more of East Asia than they do today. Over thousands of years, however, forests have been cut for timber and cleared for farms. In many places, this has led to serious erosion problems on hillsides and along river valleys.

Vegetation in the Middle Latitudes

In the mid-latitude climate of most of East Asia, forests are a mix of needleleaf evergreen trees, or conifers; broad-leaved deciduous trees; and broad-leaved evergreens.

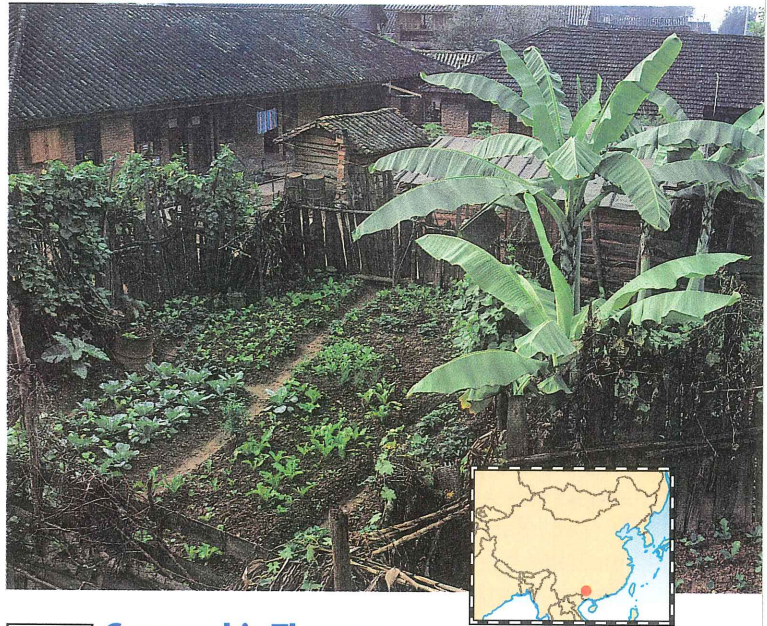
Both deciduous trees and broad-leaved evergreens grow in humid subtropical climates. Bamboos, which are not trees but tree-like grasses, grow in many warm areas of East Asia. Other valuable plants are the tea bush and the mulberry tree, whose leaves provide food for silkworms.

Tropical Vegetation

Where the climate is tropical, palms and tropical hardwoods grow along with broad-leaved evergreens and tropical fruits such as bananas. A lush rain forest covers much of the tropical island of Hainan.

Steppe and Highland Vegetation

Natural vegetation on the steppe is mainly grasses and a few trees. Many of the original



Geographic Themes

Place: Southern China

A small part of southern China has a tropical climate with warm temperatures and plenty of rain. *How does the climate of northern China compare with that in southern China?*

forests have been cut, leaving grasses and shrubs that can grow in the dry climate.

The lower slopes of mountains may have small alpine meadows with grass, flowers, and trees. Above a certain elevation—the treeline—trees cannot grow. Vegetation is similar to that found on the tundra. Mosses and colorful lichens grow on the rocky slopes.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** monsoon, typhoon.
- 2. Locating Places** In what two climate zones is Japan located?
- 3. Region** How do the monsoons affect climate in much of East Asia?
- 4. Place** What are the summers like in southern Korea and southeastern China?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Determining Cause and Effect** Why do northern China and Mongolia have a steppe climate and vegetation?



MAP & GRAPH SKILLS

Interpreting a Contour Map

A trail map would show the paths you could follow if you went hiking in the mountains. But how would you know if the trail follows an easy route, or cuts steeply up a mountain? To find out, you need a **contour map**.

REVIEWING THE SKILL

Contour maps use lines, called **isolines**, to describe the shape, or contour, of the landscape. Isolines connect all the points that are at the same elevation. The number on each isoline indicates its elevation. If you walked along one isoline, you would stay at the same height above sea level.

The relationship of the isolines to one another indicates the slope of the terrain. Where the lines are far apart, the land rises gradually. Where the lines are close together, the land rises steeply. Rivers often flow through valleys between mountains and hills. Because they outline the topography of an area, contour maps are also called **topographic maps**.

When interpreting a contour map:

- Identify the area shown in the map.
- Read the labels on the isolines to determine how much the elevation increases with each line.
- Locate the highest and lowest points.
- Figure out which areas have the most gradual and steepest grades.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

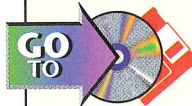
 Study the contour map on this page and then answer the following questions:

1. What area is shown on the map?
2. What is the interval, or difference, between each isoline?

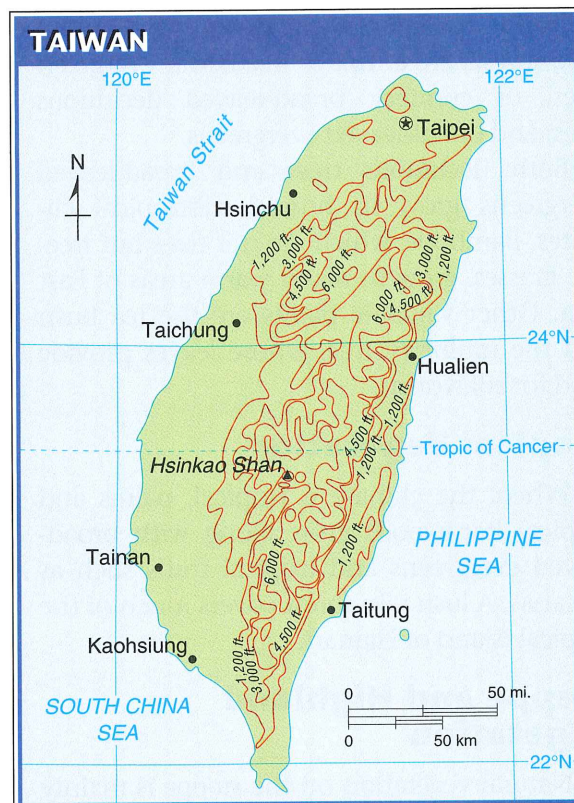


3. What is the highest point on Taiwan?
4. Which side of Taiwan has the steepest topography?
5. Which cities are located more than 1,000 feet (305 meters) above sea level?
6. If you were to hike to the top of Hsinkao Shan, what would be the most gradual route?
7. If you hiked straight up Hsinkao Shan from the city of Taitung, how many miles would you walk? On this route, how much elevation would you gain for every mile you walk?

For additional practice in interpreting a contour map, see **Practicing Skills** on page 548 of the **Chapter 26 Assessment**.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.



1

SECTION

The Land

KEY TERMS

archipelago (p. 538)
tsunami (p. 538)
loess (p. 539)

SUMMARY

- The region of East Asia is made up of China, Mongolia, and North and South Korea on the continent of Asia, and two island nations, Japan and Taiwan.
- China occupies 90 percent of the land area in East Asia. Other nations occupy peninsulas and islands.
- Mainland East Asia has mountains and highlands in the west, plateaus and basins in the central and northern regions, and coastal plains in the east.
- Because so much of East Asia is mountainous, population and cities are densely crowded on the coastal plains.
- East Asia is rich in minerals, but they are unevenly distributed and sometimes poorly located.
- Because population pressure is high and farmland is limited, the ocean is an important food source for East Asia.



Japan's Inland Sea

2

SECTION

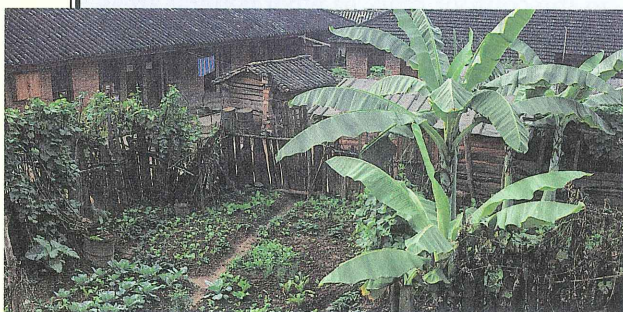
The Climate and Vegetation

KEY TERMS

monsoon (p. 542)
typhoon (p. 542)

SUMMARY

- East Asia has a wide variety of climates because of its great land area.
- Seasonal monsoon winds have a major influence on climates in East Asia.
- Much of East Asia is in the middle latitudes with humid continental or humid subtropical climates.
- Inland steppe and desert areas have dry climates with extremes of hot and cold temperatures.
- Many parts of East Asia, especially Japan, North and South Korea, and Taiwan, are thickly forested.



Tropical vegetation and village in southern China



Reviewing Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- archipelago (p. 538)
- tsunami (p. 538)
- loess (p. 539)
- monsoon (p. 542)
- typhoon (p. 542)

SECTION 1

1. Farmlands in eastern China are richer because of thick deposits of _____ carried by wind and water.
2. A _____ caused by an earthquake can do great damage to coastal areas.
3. Like Japan, the Ryukyu Islands are an _____.

SECTION 2

4. In Asia, a violent tropical hurricane is known as a _____.
5. China is cold and dry in the winter because of _____ winds from Siberia.

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

6. What highland area covers much of western China?
7. What are China's three great rivers?
8. Which is the largest and most densely populated of the Japanese islands?
9. What is China's richest energy resource?
10. Why are the oceans a valuable resource for East Asian countries?

SECTION 2

11. What is the pattern of monsoon winds in East Asia?
12. How does the Japan Current influence climate in Japan?
13. What are the characteristics of a humid subtropical climate? What parts of East Asia have this climate?

14. What are the climate and vegetation like on the steppes of East Asia?

Critical Thinking

15. **Predicting Consequences** China and East Asia are separated from the rest of Asia by steep mountains and highlands. How might this have affected the ways in which East Asian cultures developed?
16. **Making Comparisons** How do climate and vegetation differ between northern and southern China? Why?



Geographic Themes

17. **Interaction** How have the Huang He and Chang Jiang been important to the people of China?
18. **Location** What is the most important factor in the climate of a mountain region?



Practicing Skills

Interpreting a Contour Map

Refer to the contour map on page 546.

19. If you were to hike to the top of Hsinkao Shan, what would be the steepest route that you would take on your trip?
20. Look at the locations of the cities shown on the contour map. In what general areas are they located? Why are no major cities located on the central portion of the map?

Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the cultural geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 530–531.

21. Where do about 70 percent of most Chinese people live?
22. How vast was the Mongol Empire?
23. What kind of culture is dominant in Japan today?

Projects

Individual Activity

You have read about the three great rivers that have been important in China. Choose one of those rivers—Huang He, Chang Jiang, or Xi—and research its individual profile: Where does it begin and end? Through what kind of terrain does it flow? How does the river influence the people who live near it? Has the river changed over time? How? Prepare a short oral or written report telling what you have discovered about the river.

Cooperative Learning Activity

Work with two or three classmates to prepare questions for a game of Geography Jeopardy that the whole class can play. As in the television quiz show, players are given the answer and must supply the question.

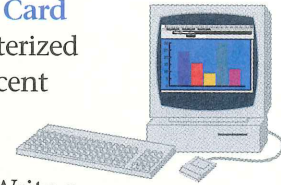
Writing About Geography

Description Consult your journal, text, and reference sources to find out how landforms and bodies of water have shaped the countries of East Asia. Select one country and describe how its physical features might affect the lifestyles of its people.

Technology Activity

Using a Computerized Card Catalog

Use a computerized card catalog to locate recent sources of information about the Three Gorges Dam project in China. Write a report on how large it is, how much electricity it generates, and how many villages and people it will ultimately displace. Summarize your report by explaining your pro or con opinion about the dam's development.



Locating Places

EAST ASIA: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Match the letters on the map with the places and physical features of East Asia. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tibetan Plateau | 6. Huang He |
| 2. Mongolia | 7. Yangzi River |
| 3. Korean Peninsula | 8. Taiwan |
| 4. Honshu | 9. North China Plain |
| 5. Yellow Sea | 10. Himalayas |

