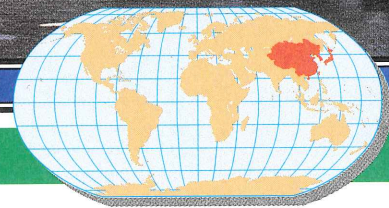


The Cultural Geography of East Asia



CHAPTER FOCUS

Geographic Setting

The geography of East Asia has greatly influenced how and where people live. The rugged mountains and plateaus are thinly populated, while the coastal plains are some of the most crowded places on the earth.



Geographic Themes

Section 1 Population Patterns

MOVEMENT East Asian cultures began in river valleys.

Section 2 History and Government

MOVEMENT Throughout much of history, Chinese influences spread throughout the region.

Section 3 Cultures and Lifestyles

REGION Although Chinese influence has been strong, each country in East Asia has a unique culture.

▲ **Photograph:** *Bustling Taipei, Taiwan*

Population Patterns

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the different ethnic peoples who live in East Asia.
- how the population of East Asia is distributed.
- how people live in East Asian cities.

Key Terms

- ethnic group
- homogeneous
- megalopolis

Identify and Locate

Xizang (Tibet), Xinjiang, Taiwan, Hokkaido, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Yokohama

Chuncheon, South Korea

Ahannounghaseyo!
I live in Chuncheon,
South Korea. In my

spare time I enjoy hobbies such as swimming, playing the piano, singing, being with friends, reading, and taking long walks in the park. I like a variety of foods, such as Italian, Mexican, and American, but my favorite is Korean.

Sonmin Kim



Sonmin Kim describes the typical lifestyle of a teenager in South Korea, one of the countries in East Asia. East Asia is a region made up of many different religions, languages, and lifestyles. The majority of people in East Asia live in China, the world's most populous country.

PLACE

Human Characteristics

The East Asia culture region contains about 1.5 billion people—a little more than 25 percent of the world's population. East Asians are members of many different **ethnic groups**—groups that share a common

language, religion, ancestry, or a combination of such characteristics.

China

About 94 percent of the people of China belong to the group, or nationality, called the Han. They live mainly in eastern and southern China. The rest of China's 1.2 billion people belong to about 50 different ethnic groups. The non-Chinese peoples live mainly in the far north and west. Although they live in China, non-Chinese peoples such as the Tibetans have long cultural histories and traditions of their own.

Most of the people of Taiwan are Chinese, some of whom are descendants of Nationalist Chinese who fled the mainland after the defeat of the Nationalists by the Communists in



China

Only about 30 percent of China's people live in cities. The rest live and work on farms. However, since the country has more than 1 billion people, there are more than 35 major cities with populations well over 1 million. The largest cities are the seaport of Shanghai, with about 13.5 million, and Beijing, the capital, with about 11.2 million.

Like other cities in Asia, China's cities are very crowded. Population density in Shanghai, for example, is more than 87,000 people per square mile (33,590 per sq. km). At rush hour, thousands of bicycles fill the streets. People in cities live in crowded apartments, often behind a store or shop. Sometimes many families share what was once the private home and courtyard of a wealthy family.

Japan

Unlike China, Japan is very urbanized. This is not a new development. Even in the 1700s, city life flourished in Japan. In 1721 Edo, present-day Tokyo, had about 1 million people. Today more than three-fourths of the people in Japan live in cities.

About half of all Japan's people live in the crowded coastal corridor about 320 miles (515 km) long on the island of Honshu. This is the Tokaido **megalopolis**—a super-city that includes several large cities and the smaller cities near them.

The largest urban center in the corridor is the area around Tokyo-Yokohama, with a population of about 28.5 million in 1998. The other centers are Nagoya and the industrial areas of Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto.

Japan's busy modern cities have glass and concrete skyscrapers and huge neon signs advertising cars, cameras, and watches. Private homes are small and crowded closely together. A suburban family of four typically lives in a three-room wooden house—with a tiny garden if they are lucky. An average city couple probably has a small, two-room apartment.

Korea

About two-thirds of the people in both North and South Korea live in cities. Seoul

(SOHL), the capital of South Korea, had about 11.6 million people in 1998, making it one of the world's largest—and most crowded—cities. Korean urban life first expanded after Japan seized control of the country in 1910. The Japanese brought industry to Korean cities and took much farmland away from farmers. As a result, many Koreans moved to the cities to find work. After World War II, the division of Korea into two countries, the Korean conflict, and the continued growth of industry furthered urbanization.

Today, population density in Seoul is about 46,000 per square mile (17,760 per sq. km)—4 times that of New York City. South Korea's cities are growing as many people move there in search of jobs.

Taiwan

On the island of Taiwan, too, about three-fourths of the people live in cities. The largest city is Taipei with a population of about 2.6 million. Taipei is the capital of Taiwan and a growing manufacturing center. The Chinese Nationalist government moved to Taipei in 1949 after the Chinese Communists conquered mainland China. Since then, the city and its suburbs have grown rapidly both in area and population.

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** ethnic group, homogeneous, megalopolis.
- 2. Locating Places** Where is the Tokaido megalopolis located?
- 3. Place** In what part of China does most of the population live?
- 4. Place** Which has the greater population density—North or South Korea?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Determining Cause and Effect** Why are some parts of East Asia overcrowded while others are almost uninhabited?



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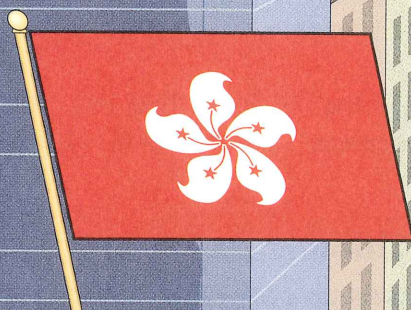
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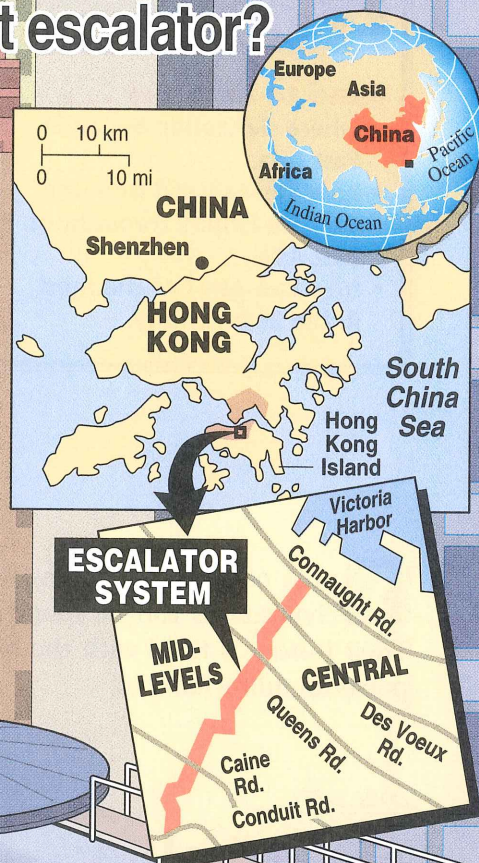
r 9

Where is the world's longest escalator?

Among the longest single escalators are two at Metro subway stations, one in downtown Moscow, the other in suburban Washington, D. C. The 115-foot (35-m) Wheaton, Maryland, escalator is the longest in the Western Hemisphere.



ESCALATOR



MOVING SIDEWALK

The world's longest escalator system is a half-mile-long (800-m) covered outdoor network that snakes through the crowded streets of Hong Kong.

It opened in October 1993 to ease rush-hour traffic congestion on densely populated Hong Kong Island. The series of moving sidewalks and escalators, with 23 exits and entrances, links the central

business district with residences about mid-way up Victoria Peak.

The 28-million-dollar escalator network runs downward for the morning commute, and then reverses direction at 10 a.m. and runs uphill until its 10 p.m. closing. The entire ride, which is free, takes about 20 minutes. At least 27,000 people are expected to use the system every day.

Designed by BILL PITZER



History and Government

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- where civilization began in East Asia.
- how ideas spread from the Chinese Empire throughout East Asia.
- how East Asia has changed in the 20th century.

Key Terms

- culture hearth
- dynasty
- clan
- shogun
- samurai

Identify and Locate

Huang He, North China Plain, Kyoto

Some of the world's longest continuous civilizations can be found in East Asia. Their history is filled with the rise and fall of powerful ruling families.

LOCATION

River Valley Civilization

The culture of East Asia began in China about 2000 B.C., in the valley of the Wei River, a major tributary of the Huang He. China is considered East Asia's **culture hearth**, the center from which ideas and traditions spread.

Dynasties

Recorded Chinese history begins about 1700 B.C. with the Shang (SHAHNG) **dynasty**, or ruling house. The Shang and all succeeding dynasties faced similar problems—rebellions by local lords, attacks by central Asian nomads, and natural disasters, such as floods or famine. When the government was stable, it could defend its people against these problems. Sooner or later, however, the dynasty would weaken and fall. People explained this

event by saying that its rulers had lost “the mandate of heaven,” the approval of the deities.

Imperial China







Shang rulers set up a city-state in the North China Plain. Evidence shows that the Shang were skillful metalworkers and had a writing system.

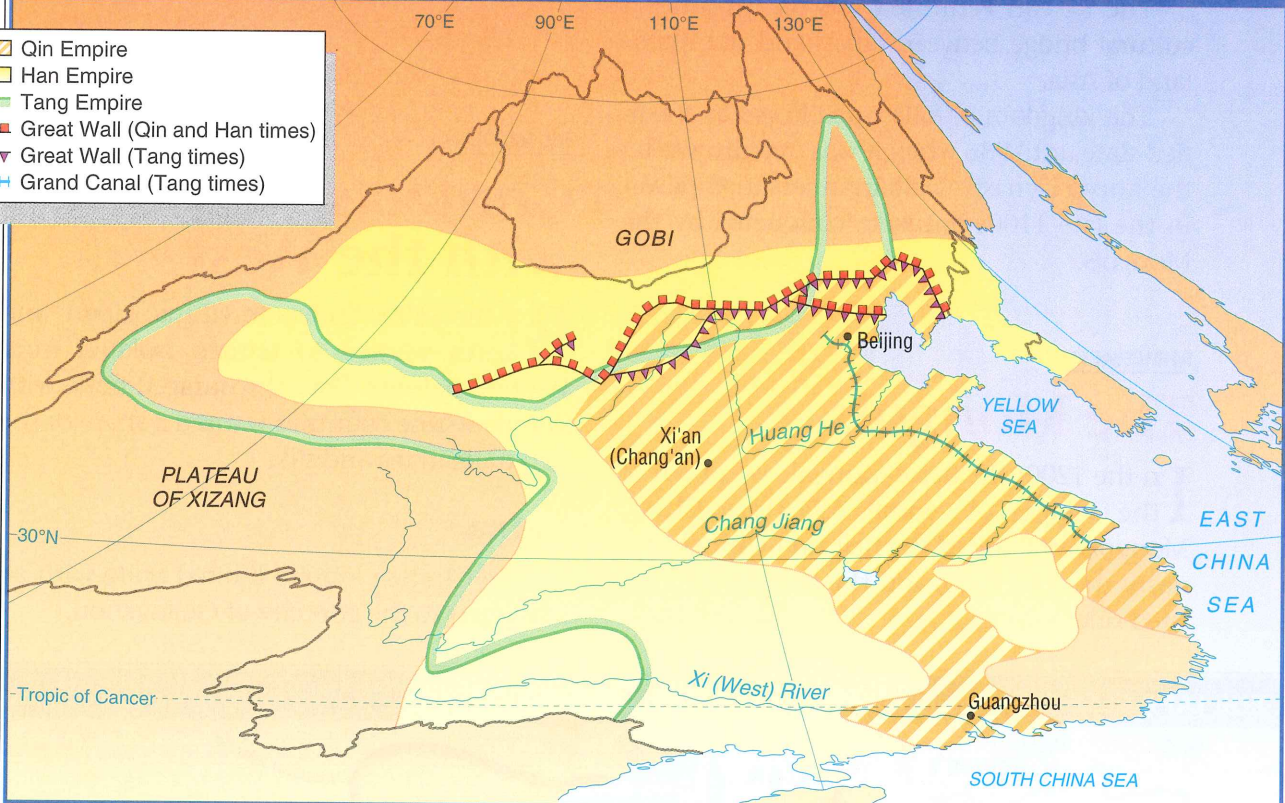
The Zhou (JOH) dynasty conquered the Shang in about 1100 B.C. and ruled for 900 years. During that time Chinese culture spread, trade increased, and China entered the Iron Age. China's best-known philosopher and teacher Kung Fu-tzu, known as Confucius (Konfuzi), lived during this time. Another philosophy, Daoism (DOW•ism) also appeared. The Zhou were followed by a series of powerful dynasties that expanded Chinese territory.

By 221 B.C. the Qin (CHIN) dynasty had established the Chinese Empire. It would continue to influence East Asia for centuries. The Great Wall, stretching about 4,000 miles (6,437 km) along China's northern border, was built in the Qin dynasty. Rulers of a later dynasty—the Tang—continued to make the empire larger. By A.D. 620 merchants, travelers, missionaries, and silk traders were taking Chinese culture to all of East Asia.



CHINESE EMPIRES

-  Qin Empire
-  Han Empire
-  Tang Empire
-  Great Wall (Qin and Han times)
-  Great Wall (Tang times)
-  Grand Canal (Tang times)



FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES



1. **Movement:** What barrier did the Chinese build to keep out nomadic invaders?
2. **Place:** Which rivers are linked by the Grand Canal?
3. **Place:** What city developed in central China under the empires?

PLACE

Japan and Korea

Many people borrowed Chinese ideas but shaped them to fit their own cultures.

Ancient Japan

The people of early Japan lived in **clans**, small tribal communities. From China and Korea, they learned metalworking and ways of growing rice in irrigated fields.

The Yamato people, whose main clan became the imperial family, ruled Japan by the A.D. 400s.

During the 500s and 600s, Japanese leaders sent students to China to learn technology, government, and the arts.

Feudal Japan

By the 1100s, local nobles and their armies were fighting to control Japan. The country's first military ruler, or **shogun**, took power in 1192. He was supported by professional soldiers, or **samurai**, who lived by a strict code of loyalty. Military dictators would rule Japan until the late 1800s.



Korea

The Korean Peninsula was for centuries a cultural bridge between Japan and the mainland of Asia.

The kingdom of Silla ruled Korea as a unified state until 936 when it was overthrown by the Koryo Dynasty. Military rulers took power in the late 1100s but were conquered by the Mongols.

MOVEMENT

The Mongols

In the 1200s the fierce Mongols swept out of the steppes of central Asia, into China. Mongols established the first non-Chinese dynasty there in 1260, and the two cultures existed side by side.

Japanese samurai fought off two huge Mongol invasions in 1274 and 1281.

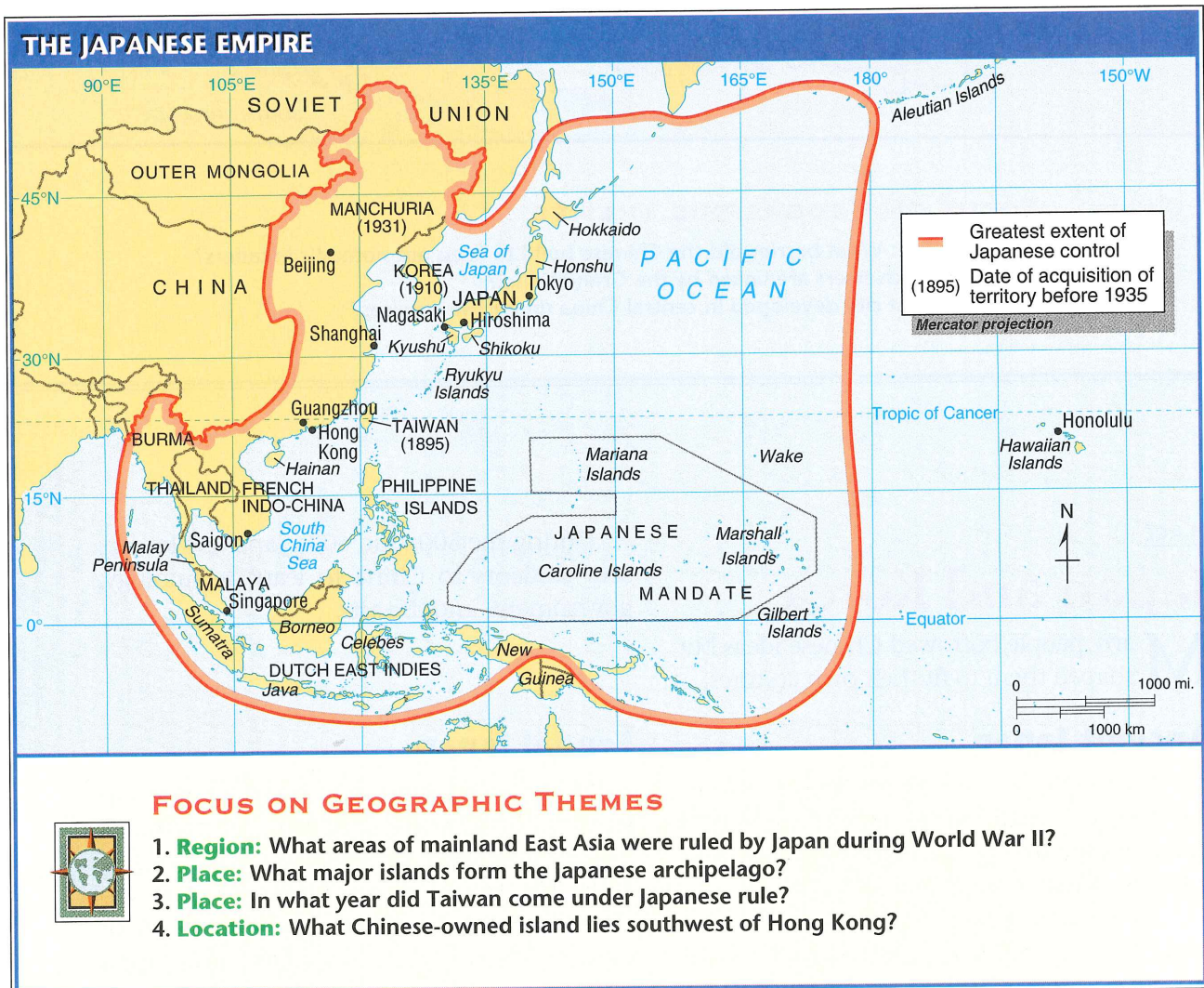
MOVEMENT

Contacts with the West

By the 1600s leaders in China, Japan, and Korea wanted to remain isolated from Western nations. They discouraged trade with Europe whose countries wanted a share of the rich trade in tea and silk.

China

The Chinese Empire limited trade with all foreigners to the port city of Guangzhou.



Eventually the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, and France all forced trade treaties on China. They also made China give them “spheres of influence” in various parts of the country.

Japan

In 1853 United States steamships sailed into Tokyo Bay. Rather than fight, Japanese officials signed trade treaties with the United States and European nations.

Foreign influence gave the Japanese a chance to introduce changes. Japan quickly built factories and railroads and modernized its government, military forces, and economy. It also began to build an empire in Asia, taking over Korea and parts of Manchuria.

MOVEMENT

War and Revolution

The 20th century involved East Asia in two world wars, brought two revolutions to China, and divided the Korean Peninsula.

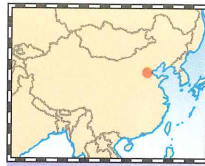
Wars and Recovery

Japan aided the Allies in World War I, gaining Germany’s former possessions in China and the Pacific. During World War II, Japan took over parts of China and Southeast Asia. After that war ended in its defeat, Japan lost its empire. In 1948, Korea, once its colony, was divided into pro-American South Korea and Communist-ruled North Korea.

Postwar Japan transformed itself into a democracy. Within a few decades, an economic boom made the country one of the richest in the world.

Revolutions in China

The Chinese Empire came to an end in 1911 when a Nationalist revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen (SUN YAHT•SEN) overthrew the Manchu dynasty. In 1927 Chiang Kai-shek set up a Nationalist government, but his rival Communist Mao Zedong (MAU ZUH•DUNG), gained huge support from peasants.



Geographic Themes

Region: China

In 1989, Chinese students unsuccessfully tried to limit the power of China’s Communist government. Who was the first Communist leader of China?

During World War II, Nationalists and Communists together resisted Japan. At the end of the war, the two groups fought each other again. By 1949 the Communists set up the People’s Republic of China on the mainland. The Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan and set up the Republic of China.

In 1924 Mongolia set up a Communist government. After the fall of the Soviet Union, the Mongolians in the 1990s began to move toward democracy and free enterprise.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

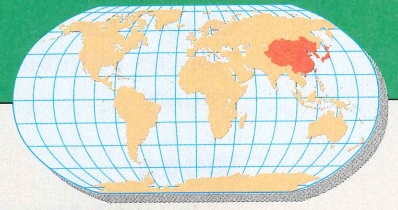
Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** culture hearth, dynasty, clan, shogun, samurai.
- 2. Locating Places** Where did East Asian civilization begin?
- 3. Movement** What elements of Chinese culture did the Japanese borrow and adapt?
- 4. Place** How did China’s government change during the 20th century?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Drawing Conclusions** Why would the East Asian nations want to be isolated from Western countries in the 1800s?

Geography and History



HONG KONG: HARBOR OF FREE ENTERPRISE

As you read, examine the changes that have come to Hong Kong.

Leading Asian Port

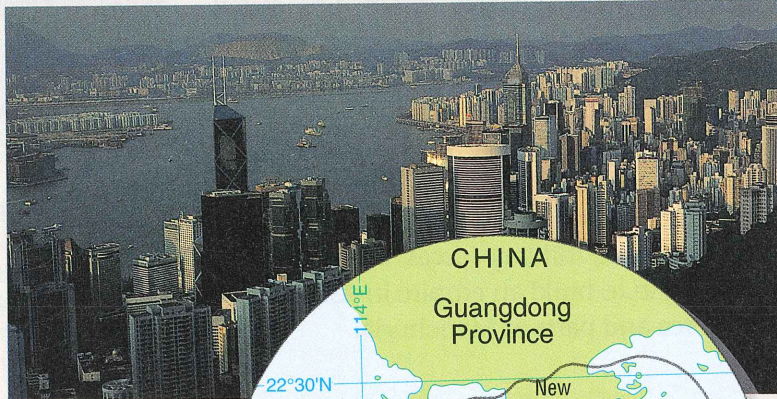
Hong Kong, on the south-east coast of China, consists of three major parts: Hong Kong Island; the Kowloon Peninsula on the Chinese mainland; and the New Territories, made up of islands and mainland territory.

Once barren and sparsely populated, Hong Kong during the past century has grown and prospered. An excellent natural harbor has transformed the territory into a major port. Hong Kong's low taxes and free port status—no duties are collected on imported goods—have made it a center of trade. Hundreds of banks as well as stock exchanges make Hong Kong one of the world's major financial centers.

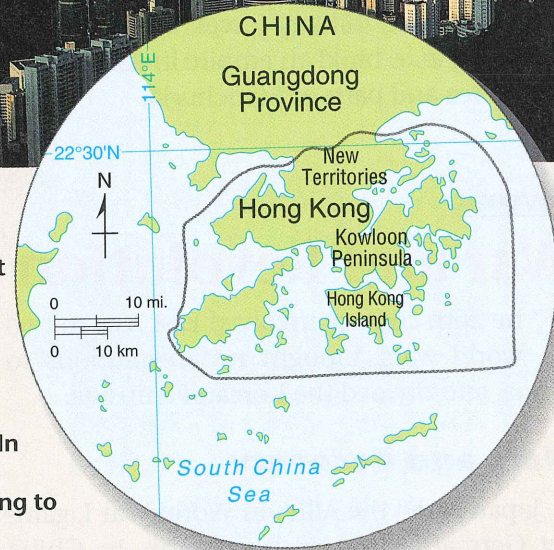
Under British Rule

Although 98 percent of Hong Kong's population is Chinese, the territory until 1997 was a colony of Great Britain. Through wars and treaties with China, the British gained control of Hong Kong Island in 1842, then Kowloon Peninsula in 1860. In 1898 China leased the New Territories to Great Britain for 99 years.

The Chinese Communists, who came to power in China in 1949, never officially rec-



Hong Kong is one of East Asia's busiest ports. Most of Hong Kong's people are Chinese, but the territory came under British rule during the 1800s. In 1997 Great Britain returned Hong Kong to China.



ognized British rule of Hong Kong. In 1984 the British agreed that all of Hong Kong would return to China in 1997 when the New Territories lease expired.

A Change of Hands

On June 30, 1997, Hong Kong switched from British to Chinese rule. Under a "one country, two systems" plan, Hong Kong keeps its capitalist system and some of its freedoms for 50 years after its return to China. Many people in Hong Kong believe that China will respect Hong Kong's unique status and promote its economic well-being. Others, however, are

concerned about the future of the territory under Chinese rule. They especially resent Chinese restrictions on the political rights of Hong Kong residents.

Checking for Understanding

1. **Place** Study the map on this page. How does Hong Kong's coastline contribute to its success as a trading center?
2. How did Great Britain acquire control of Hong Kong?



Cultures and Lifestyles

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the languages and religions of the peoples of East Asia.
- how standards of living differ among countries in East Asia.
- the importance of arts and leisure activities in the countries of East Asia.

Key Terms

- ideogram
- shamanism
- calligraphy
- haiku

Identify and Locate

Xizang (Tibet), Mongolia, Korea, Mount Fuji, Kyoto

The people of East Asia have a long and rich cultural tradition. The ideas of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and Shinto have been major influences. Communism has also had a major impact on the cultures of China, North Korea, and Mongolia.

REGION

Languages

People in East Asia speak languages from several different language families. The largest, Sino-Tibetan, which includes Chinese and Tibetan, is spoken by more than 1.1 billion people.

Chinese Languages

Chinese has many dialects, pronounced very differently from one another. Mandarin, the northern dialect, is the most widely spoken and is taught in schools.

The Chinese written language is based on **ideograms**, or pictorial characters, that each carry one meaning. When each character becomes a spoken syllable, however, it takes on a different meaning—these pronunciations form a dialect. Chinese languages are also tonal. The same syllable has different meanings depending upon tone and pitch. Other

languages spoken in China include Mongolian, Manchu, and Uygur.

Japanese and Korean

Japanese and Korean languages are related. Learning to read and write Japanese is challenging because three different writing systems are used. The Japanese borrowed many ideograms from Chinese. Then, in the ninth century, two phonetic alphabets were invented to represent the actual sounds of Japanese.

Koreans have their own writing system developed by a 15th-century ruler.

PLACE

Religion

People in East Asia may follow more than one religion. Many Japanese, for example, practice both Buddhism and the traditional Japanese religion of Shinto. Confucian ideas have also influenced the entire region.

Communist governments in China and North Korea have discouraged religious practices, but many people have held to their beliefs. In China these beliefs can mean a blend of Buddhism or Christianity with Confucian and Daoist ideas. In the far western province of Xinjiang, the Uygurs are Muslims.



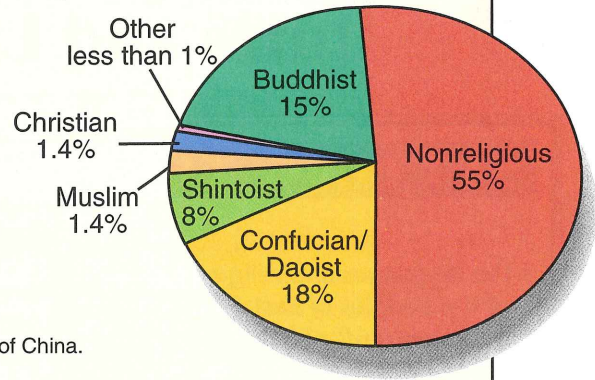
East Asia: Religions

Nonreligious ¹	822,000,000
Confucian/Daoist	258,000,000
Buddhist	215,000,000
Shintoist ²	118,000,000
Christian	22,000,000
Muslim	20,000,000
Other	14,000,000

¹Religious statistics not available from People's Republic of China.

²Many Japanese practice both Shintoism and Buddhism.

Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year, 1998; World Almanac, 1998*



Many Koreans are Buddhists or Christians. Others follow **shamanism**, a belief in a leader who can communicate with spirits. Before Communist governments took power, Tibet and Mongolia were religious states led by Buddhist monks. Today, the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, leads a worldwide movement in support of Tibetan rights from his place of exile in India.

PLACE

Standards of Living

Standards of living in East Asia have steadily improved as these nations' economies have developed. Contrasts are still great, however—from glittering skyscrapers to mud houses in rural parts of the region.

Japan

Japan is the most modern and industrialized country in East Asia. In 1997 its average annual household income was \$61,597, one of the highest in the world. Most Japanese live in cities where housing shortages are a continuing problem.

Consumer costs in Japan are high by American standards, but income is distributed more evenly. Japanese businesses emphasize teamwork and cooperation. A *sarariman*, the Japanese term for a white-collar worker, can usually enjoy the security of a lifetime job and good benefits. Breaking with tradition, many Japanese women now have professional careers.

Korea and Taiwan

Both South Korea and Taiwan have developed quickly into modern industrial nations, with rising standards of living.

Prosperity in Taiwan has improved living standards for both farmers and city dwellers.

China

Communist leaders in China have tried new approaches to running the economy, reforming land ownership, and increasing food production.

After the death of Mao Zedong, new leaders began to allow people to improve their own standard of living through opening businesses and working private farm plots.

PLACE

Education and Health

East Asians respect learning. Today elementary education is free and compulsory throughout the region. Opportunities for higher education have increased greatly since the 1950s.

Literacy

Japan has a long tradition of literacy. Today almost all Japanese adults can read and write. North and South Korea, and Taiwan also have literacy rates of more than 90 percent. In



Mongolia, 83 percent of the people can read and write.

Historically, only the wealthiest people in China were literate. Since the 1940s the Communist government has built more elementary schools and has started adult education. Today the literacy rate in China is about 82 percent.

Schools

Japan's demanding school system teaches students to work together and value cooperation. Students must finish ninth grade, attending school almost year-round. More than 90 percent of all students also finish high school, but a difficult entrance exam is required for most colleges or technical schools.

Advanced education has been one of the reasons for the economic development in much of East Asia.

Health Care

Better health care has caused life expectancies to rise and infant deaths to decline in East Asia. In general, the life expectancy for women is more than 74 years, and for men—

69 years. Japan, with the most up-to-date medical facilities, has the longest life expectancies—84 years for women, and 77 years for men.

In the Communist countries, medical treatment is free. In Korea, Taiwan, and China both Western medical techniques and traditional herbal medicine and acupuncture are used.

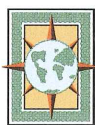
PLACE

Leisure Time

People in East Asia participate in a variety of free-time enjoyments from music to sports. Family life is at the center of many activities.

Food

East Asia has many national and regional styles of cooking with some staple foods in common. Grains such as rice, wheat, and millet are basic foods, often made into noodles or dumplings. Asians eat less red meat than North Americans or Europeans, getting more



Geographic Themes

Region: Japan

Japanese workers at a Tokyo plant perform exercises before beginning a busy day. The Japanese workforce is one of the most highly skilled in the world. *What values does it stress?*



protein from soybeans and fish. Many strict Buddhists are vegetarians.

Sports

East Asians enjoy many sports such as baseball, soccer, and volleyball. Olympic champions in skiing, swimming, gymnastics, table tennis, and other sports have come from this region. Many people, old and young, also practice traditional exercises and martial arts.

Ceremonies and Holidays

Several Asian philosophies and religions, such as Shinto and Zen Buddhism, require followers to celebrate rituals. Each Asian country also celebrates traditional ethnic and national holidays. Many celebrate the New Year according to the lunar calendar, in late January or early February.

MOVEMENT

Arts and Architecture

Chinese styles in art and architecture have influenced all of East Asia. Religion has also inspired much great art.

In 1966, communism changed the standards for Chinese arts with Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution. It tried to wipe out the memory of centuries of art. After Mao died, however, many Chinese artists returned to traditional forms.

Painting, Sculpture, and Pottery

Daoism's emphasis on quiet contemplation of nature has influenced both Chinese



Geographic Themes

Place: Seoul, Korea

This Buddhist temple in Korea reflects the historical influence of Buddhism on the arts of East Asia. *In what arts do East Asians excel?*



and Japanese painting. Many paintings include a verse or inscription done in **calligraphy**, the art of beautiful writing.

Japanese artists of the 1700s and early 1800s also developed a style of wood-block printing with vivid colors. Famous print artists, such as Hiroshige and Hokusai, influenced Western artists.

Asian sculptors have often portrayed the Buddha or traditional deities. Buddhist temples in Korea, China, and Japan contain many statues and images of stone, bronze, or jade.

Pottery makers worked in Japan as long ago as 10,000 B.C. During the Tang dynasty, Chinese potters learned how to make fine, thin porcelain called china. Korean potters in the Koryo dynasty were famous for their pale green celadon vases.

Music and Theater

East Asian music is based on a five-tone, or pentatonic, scale that has a melody line but no harmony. Music originally was used in temple rituals and to accompany dancers with flutes, drums, and gongs. Stringed instruments included the lute, guitar, and *koto*, a zither.

Traditional musical dramas, combining music and story, are popular. The Chinese perform opera, and the Japanese enjoy serious *Noh* plays, and the livelier Kabuki theater. Several countries have motion picture industries.

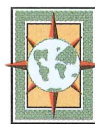
Literature

In about 1010, what is thought to be the world's first novel, *The Tale of Genji*, was written in Japan. The author was a noblewoman at the Heian court, Lady Murasaki Shikibu.

Poetry has long been important in East Asian culture, from the Chinese Confucian writing to the 17-syllable form of Japanese poetry, the **haiku**.

Architecture

Except for modern city skyscrapers, most East Asian architecture is based on simple wood construction, often with gracefully curved tile roofs. People also build with brick or stone if it is locally available. One common style is the pagoda, derived from Buddhist



Geographic Themes

Place: Tokyo, Japan

Lavish costumes and colorful stage sets characterize Kabuki theater, which has been popular in Japan for centuries. *What other type of play developed in traditional Japan?*

temples in India. It is a multistory building, with each story smaller than the one below.

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** ideogram, shamanism, calligraphy, haiku.
- 2. Locating Places** Where do people speak languages from the Sino-Tibetan family?
- 3. Place** What religions are practiced by people in different parts of China?
- 4. Place** When and where was the first real novel written? By whom?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Generalizations** How have rising standards of living changed the lives of people in East Asia?



MAP & GRAPH SKILLS

Reading a Population Density Map

In most countries, population is concentrated in particular areas—in cities, in moderate climates, near rivers, and so on. Because of uneven distribution, population density varies within each country.

REVIEWING THE SKILL

Population density is the number of people living in a square mile or square kilometer. A **population density map** illustrates the distribution of population in a given region. On some maps, different colors represent various population densities. On other maps, a dot represents a particular number of people, such as 1,000 or 100,000. The number of dots clustered in an area indicates the population density.

When reading a population density map:

- Study the map key to determine what the colors and symbols represent.
- Find the areas that have the greatest and least population density.
- Compare the map with other regional information to draw conclusions about the causes and effects of population density patterns in this area.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

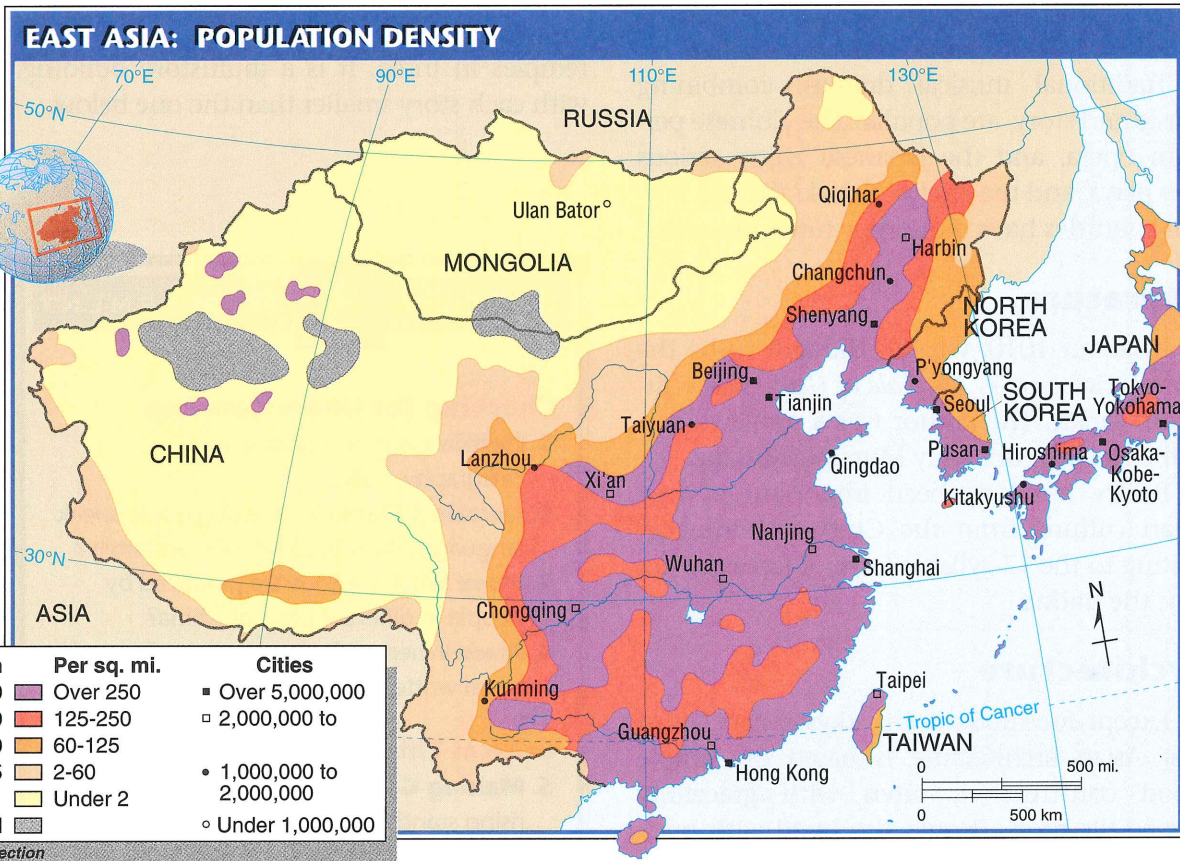
Answer the following questions:

1. What does the color yellow represent?
2. What symbols stand for cities of more than 2,000,000 people?
3. Which areas of China are least densely populated?
4. What physical features affect population distribution in China?

For additional practice in reading a population density map, see Practicing Skills on page 568 of the Chapter 27 Assessment.



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



1

SECTION

Population Patterns

KEY TERMS

ethnic group (p. 551)
homogeneous
(p. 552)
megalopolis (p. 554)

SUMMARY

- The people of East Asia belong to many different ethnic groups, the largest of which is the Han of China.
- Population in East Asia is unevenly distributed. It is concentrated in river valleys and on coastal plains.
- Japan is the most urbanized nation in East Asia; China remains predominantly rural with hundreds of millions of its citizens living in a nonurban setting.



The Ginza, the main shopping street of Tokyo, Japan

2

SECTION

History and Government

KEY TERMS

culture hearth (p. 556)
dynasty (p. 556)
clan (p. 557)
shogun (p. 557)
samurai (p. 557)

SUMMARY

- East Asian culture began in the Huang He valley of China and spread to other countries in the region.
- Confucianism and Daoism, two influential schools of thought, developed in China about 500 B.C.; Buddhism was brought from India.
- The Chinese Empire dominated East Asia for several centuries.
- Contact with the West weakened China but led Japan to modernize.



Student protests in China, 1989

3

SECTION

Cultures and Lifestyles

KEY TERMS

ideogram (p. 561)
shamanism (p. 562)
calligraphy (p. 565)
haiku (p. 565)

SUMMARY

- Sino-Tibetan languages are the most widely spoken in Asia, while Korean and Japanese are spoken in their native countries.
- Rising standards of living have brought improvements in education and health care.
- People in East Asia practice traditional arts and leisure activities but also enjoy modern recreations.



A Buddhist temple in Korea



Reviewing Key Terms

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

- ethnic group (p. 551)
- homogeneous (p. 552)
- dynasty (p. 556)
- shogun (p. 557)
- calligraphy (p. 565)
- haiku (p. 565)

SECTION 1

1. The population of Mongolia is quite _____.
2. The largest _____ in China is the Han.

SECTION 2

3. Japan's feudal military leaders were called the _____.
4. The Great Wall of China was built during the Qin _____.

SECTION 3

5. _____ is an artful form of handwriting.
6. One Japanese verse form is the _____.

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

7. Which countries in East Asia are the most homogeneous in ethnic groups?
8. Which country in East Asia has the largest percentage of rural people?

SECTION 2

9. How did Japan respond to contact with the West in the 1800s?
10. How did China's government change after World War II?

SECTION 3

11. What are the major religions in East Asia?
12. Which Asian nation has the highest standard of living?

Critical Thinking

13. **Drawing Conclusions** How has geography influenced population density and distribution in East Asia?
14. **Identifying Central Issues** How did Confucianism influence government and society in China?
15. **Making Generalizations** Why do you think Japanese schools emphasize cooperation and teamwork? How has this philosophy helped Japan's economy?



Geographic Themes

16. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why are the valleys and coastal plains of China and Japan such crowded areas?
17. **Location** Where was the original center of East Asian culture?
18. **Movement** What religious ideas traveled from China to Korea and Japan?



Practicing Skills

Reading a Population Density Map

Refer to the population density map on page 566.

19. Which of the following cities have fewer than 2 million people—Beijing, Nanjing, Xi'an, Kunming, Lanzhou?
20. Along which major rivers lie the most densely populated areas of China?
21. What is the largest city in Taiwan?

Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the physical geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 532–533.

22. What geographic factors have made Hong Kong a world center of trade, manufacturing, and transportation?
23. What is the Great Wall and why is it extraordinary?

Projects

Individual Activity

From your textbook or other sources about East Asian art and architecture, choose one object or building from China, Japan, or Korea. Then write several paragraphs about the object, explaining the creator's skill, the material used, and how it represents the creator's culture.

Cooperative Learning Activity

Flags often include important symbols. Divide the class into six groups to each research the flag of one nation: China, Japan, Taiwan, North Korea, South Korea, Mongolia. Each group should draw a picture of the flag, and research its symbols and what changes it may have gone through, to report to the class.

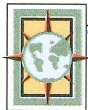
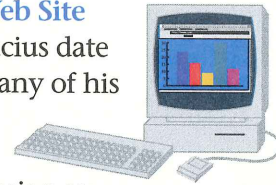
Writing About Geography

Argumentation Imagine that you are a Japanese official in 1851 as an American fleet arrives in Tokyo Bay. Write a short essay in which you argue either *for* or *against* adapting Western technology and ideas. Highlight issues such as available resources, population pressure, international trade and relations.

Technology Activity

Creating Your Own Web Site

The teachings of Confucius date back to 479 B.C., and many of his teachings are practiced in China today. Build a file of collected Confucian sayings, then share your collection by placing them on your own Web site. Include art and cite your sources.



Locating Places

**EAST ASIA:
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

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

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Taiwan | 6. Taipei |
| 2. Mongolia | 7. Guangzhou |
| 3. Tokyo | 8. Ulan Bator |
| 4. Chang Jiang | 9. Shanghai |
| 5. Seoul | 10. Beijing |

