Help All Students Master Rigorous Narrative Text

- Active learning through note taking
- Reading strategies and vocabulary support
- Easy-to-read summaries of key content
- Perfect for Differentiating Instruction
Acknowledgments

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How to Use the *Reading and Note Taking Study Guide*

The *Reading and Note Taking Study Guide* will help you better understand the content of *Contemporary World Cultures Texas Grade 6*. This section will also develop your reading, vocabulary, and note-taking skills. Each study guide consists of three components. The first component focuses on developing graphic organizers that will help you take notes as you read.

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**Focus Question:** What is the role of people in government?

In this topic, you learned about the three nations in North America. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, use the graphic below to help organize your thoughts about each nation’s government. Compare and contrast the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Think about the role of people in government in each of these countries.

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The United States is located in the Northern Hemisphere and has 50 states. The country has several geographic regions with different physical features. There are plains, mountains, coastal areas, and volcanic islands. The climate—the normal pattern of temperature and precipitation—is temperate. This means that temperatures are neither very high or very low most of the time. Most wind travels across the United States from west to east. Weather conditions often move west to east also.

The United States is rich in natural resources. The Great Plains, a region of plains and prairies in the middle of the country, produces a large amount of crops. Oil, natural gas, and coal production are important parts of the economy. Wood, water, and metals are other valuable resources.

Physical features have played a big part in determining where people settled in the United States. This was true for the American Indians and the early European settlers. The growth of towns and cities was often determined by how close a region was to natural resources. As trade increased, rivers and railroads were used more, and cities sprang up along these trade routes.

Immigration has played a large role in the development of the United States and its culture. People have come to this country from all around the world. Migration, or movement of people, has also occurred within the United States. For example, many people have moved to cities in search of jobs.

Today, about 80 percent of people in the United States live in urban areas. These are places with a high population density, which is a measure of the number of people per unit of land. However, there are still states with low populations and population densities.

Population growth in the United States has affected the environment. Pollution of the air, water, and land are serious issues. Today, there is a large effort in the United States to minimize the impact our large population has on the environment.

## Lesson Vocabulary
- **climate**: average weather of a place over many years
- **temperate**: moderate in terms of temperature
- **migration**: movement of people from one place to another
- **population density**: measure of the number of people per unit of land

### How to Use the Reading and Note Taking Study Guide

- **Modified Cornell Notes**
  - Use the *Modified Cornell Notes* section in the side column to record important information from the lesson summary as you read.
  - The *Lesson Vocabulary* section defines some key terms used in the lesson summary.

- **Each Summary highlights Terms, People, and Places**
  - In boldface and summarizes the key points in the section.
The third component consists of review questions that assess your understanding of the section.

| Name ___________________ | Class ___________________ | Date ______ |

### Topic 1: Review Questions

**Mexican Americans**

**Lesson 1: Geography of the United States**

1. How did natural resources and physical features influence early settlement patterns in the United States?

2. **Sequence Events** Based on the information in the Lesson Summary and your knowledge of the history of the United States, place the following events in the correct sequence:
   - More than 80% of the United States’ population lives in urban areas.
   - Most Americans live in rural areas.
   - Railroads connect the whole country, making transportation of people and goods easier.
   - Towns and cities begin to grow based on location of natural resources.

**Lesson 2: History of the United States**

3. What events contributed to the belief in a Manifest Destiny for the United States?

4. **Identify Cause and Effect** What event or events led to the United States becoming the world’s top superpower?

**Lesson 3: The United States Today**

5. **Apply Concepts** Why is civic participation necessary in a representative government?

6. Describe the relationships that the United States has with its neighbors and countries around the world.

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Population growth in the United States has affected the environment. Pollution of the air, water, and land are serious issues. Today, there is a large effort in the United States to minimize the impact our large population has on the environment.

Lesson Vocabulary

climate average weather of a place over many years

temperate moderate in terms of temperature

migration movement of people from one place to another

population density measure of the number of people per unit of land
Long before Europeans came to the Americas, many different American Indian societies developed in North America. Groups varied in their cultures and ways of living depending on the resources available to them. For example, American Indians in the East farmed and fished in rivers or the Atlantic Ocean. People of the plains depended on the buffalo that roamed the grasslands. Other American Indian groups were farmers or lived nomadic lives.

In the 1500s, Europeans began to arrive in North America. By 1733, the original 13 British colonies were settled. Each colony also developed based on the natural resources that were available to it.

Over time, the British colonies grew unhappy with British rule. The colonists fought for their freedom in the Revolutionary War. By 1787, the United States of America was an independent nation governed by the Constitution.

The United States expanded over time. It purchased the huge Louisiana Territory from France. As the nation grew, it came into conflict with American Indians. These groups were removed and forced to live on reservations.

Geographic features, such as the Mississippi River, helped explorers and settlers travel through the new areas. Natural resources in the West attracted settlers to move to the region. In the early 1800s, many Americans moved to the land called Texas, which was then part of Mexico. American settlers rebelled and formed the Republic of Texas in 1836. Eventually, the United States took control of Texas and much of the rest of the West after defeating Mexico in the Mexican-American War. This expansion helped fulfill the popular idea of Manifest Destiny, the belief that the United States was bound to stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

While the United States grew, it was not fully united. Conflict over slavery helped lead to a Civil War between Northern and Southern states. The North won in 1865, leading to the end of slavery in the United States. After the war, the Industrial Revolution and the growth of railroads were key in expanding the United States’ economy.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

nation  country; state that is independent of other states  
reservation  an area of land set aside by the U.S. government for American Indians
In the early 1900s, huge numbers of immigrants from all over the world came to the United States. As the economy grew, the United States became more involved in affairs around the world. Americans took part in faraway wars, including World War I.

In 1929, the country entered a time of severe economic hardship called the Great Depression. This crisis ended only with the beginning of another: in 1941, the United States entered World War II. Victory in this war left the United States as the world’s top superpower.

Meanwhile, however, African Americans struggled for fair treatment in their own country. A difficult struggle for equality—the civil rights movement of the 1960s—pushed the United States Congress to pass laws that guaranteed African Americans basic rights they had long been denied.

Lesson Vocabulary

immigrant a person who moves to a new country
Lesson Summary

The United States has a limited government, which means the government’s power is limited by laws. The United States Constitution is an example of laws that place limits on government. The United States also has a representative government. All citizens have a role in government because they choose leaders to represent them. Voting in elections is a key example of the civic participation, or participation in government and public life, necessary in a representative government. Citizens must also obey laws, respect the rights of others, pay taxes, and serve on juries when called. In exchange for these few responsibilities, Americans enjoy many rights and freedoms that others around the world do not.

The United States has the world’s largest economy. It is a free enterprise economy, which means that individuals, not the government, make most decisions about what is bought and sold. Some countries have socialist economies in which government owns some key industries and pays for services such as healthcare. The government may collect higher taxes to provide these services. Citizens make fewer decisions about what they will buy and what they will sell than citizens in a free enterprise system. A few countries have a communist system, or a command economy. In these countries, government makes most economic decisions. Citizens have few choices.

The United States has several economic regions. For example, agriculture is important in the Midwest. Oil and natural gas are important to Texas. Entertainment and computers are important in California.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

limited government  government structure in which government actions are limited by law

civic participation  taking part in government

free enterprise economy  economy in which individual producers and consumers make all economic decisions
Lesson Summary

Lesson 3

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

(Continued from page 5)

Trade is necessary for all large economies. The United States exports some goods, such as farm products, and imports cars, oil, and many other goods. To export something is to sell it to another country, and to import something is to buy it from another country. The United States trades most with its neighbors Canada and Mexico. It has an agreement with these countries to help trade move freely and easily across borders.

The United States has economic interests and responsibilities all around the world. U.S. leaders practice diplomacy in dealing with other nations. Diplomacy is the process of discussing issues and conflicts with other nations. However, sometimes diplomacy does not work. On September 11, 2001, an Islamist terrorist group called al Qaeda attacked the United States. In response, the United States led a military attack on Afghanistan, where al Qaeda was based. The United States then attacked Iraq, whose leader Saddam Hussein was also viewed as a threat to the United States. The fighting in both countries continued for several years.

The United States has always attracted people from around the world. Immigrants from many nations continue to come here. The history of immigration is one reason that the United States has such a rich culture. The music, food, and religious beliefs found in the United States have many influences. At the same time, American culture has a big influence around the world.

Lesson Vocabulary

export  good or service produced within a country and sold outside the country’s borders
import  good or service sold within a country that is produced in another country
diplomacy  managing communication and relationships between countries
Lesson Summary

Canada is located directly north of the United States. It is the second-largest country in the world in total land area. Like the United States, Canada has several geographic regions. They include plains, mountains, lakes, and the Arctic. Most Canadians live in the southern and coastal areas. These areas have moderate climates, fertile soils, and resources to support larger populations.

Canada’s climates are varied. Much of the area close to the United States has a **continental cool summer** climate. Temperatures along the Pacific Coast do not vary as much from season to season, but the region does see large amounts of **precipitation**—rain, snow, sleet, and hail. Much of Northern Canada has a **tundra** climate, with cool summers and bitterly cold, dry winters. In the **subarctic** zone, summers are generally short, cool, and rainy.

The Canadian Shield is Canada’s largest region. It covers half of the country and produces many important minerals used throughout the world. The Arctic Archipelago region of Canada, which is made up of thousands of islands, extends far north of the Arctic Circle. Soil there never thaws and is called **permafrost**.

The Saint Lawrence River and the Great Lakes form a key transportation route connecting the interior of Canada to the Atlantic Ocean. The area surrounding the river and the Great Lakes is the heartland of Canada because it is home to the majority of Canada’s population and industry.

The waters off the Atlantic Coast have long been one of the best fishing areas in the world. However, overfishing has seriously harmed this fishery.

The Interior Plains in central Canada are well suited for farming. The Cordillera, or Canadian Rocky Mountains, has many ski resorts and spectacular views.

Canada faces environmental problems, such as pollution and overuse of land. Canada adopted a Climate Change Plan in 1997, but ice and permafrost in Canada’s northern region continue to melt.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- **continental cool summer** climate region with hot and humid summers and very cold winters
- **precipitation** the amount of rain, snow, sleet, or hail that falls in an area
- **tundra** climate with cool summers and bitterly cold, dry winters; an area with limited vegetation such as moss and shrubs
- **subarctic** climate region with where summers are generally short, cool, and rainy
- **permafrost** permanently frozen soil
Lesson Summary

HISTORY OF CANADA

Thousands of years ago, humans crossed a land bridge that once linked Asia to North America. People then migrated throughout the continent. In different places, different groups emerged. Each group developed its own culture based on the geography and natural resources available to it.

The Inuit people settled and continue to live in the Arctic Region. The First Nations are native groups who settled south of the Arctic. Each group used available resources to survive. For example, the Algonquin of present-day Quebec were hunters. The Iroquois, who lived to the south in the milder climate, were farmers. Plains dwellers in the Midwest hunted buffalo and the groups on the Pacific Coast fished in the Pacific Ocean.

Europeans arrived in Canada in the late 1400s and traded with native peoples. They carried diseases that killed many American Indians and greatly weakened their cultures.

In time, the French settled in southeastern Canada, giving it the name New France. The fur trade supported the economy there. The British moved in somewhat later, and conflicts with France developed. The British eventually won control during the Seven Years’ War, which was fought from 1756 to 1763. Canada became part of the British empire. Still, French Canadians preserved much of their culture.

Under British rule, Canada grew and expanded. In 1867, the British established the Dominion of Canada. A dominion is a territory that governs itself but is still tied to the country that colonized it. This meant Canada for the most part enjoyed self-government. By 1905, Canada’s borders had expanded all the way to the Pacific Coast. Many First Nations people in the West, however, were forced onto reservations. Immigration in the early 1900s led to expansion of the Canadian economy. Although it continues to be linked closely with Britain, Canada has mostly ruled itself since 1931.

As with the United States, Canada faced economic challenges during the Great Depression. World War II helped lift the country out of the depression. The Canadian economy grew and became more diverse.

Cultural differences between Quebec and the rest of Canada created tensions during the 1900s. In the 1970s, French was made the official language of Quebec. Many wanted Quebec to become a separate country. In recent years, support for Quebec independence has declined somewhat.

Lesson Vocabulary
land bridge a strip of land connecting two continents
dominion territory that governs itself but is still tied to its colonizing country
The government of Canada is a constitutional monarchy. This means the power of its monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, is limited by a constitution. The monarch serves mostly a ceremonial role. Like the United States, Canada’s government is made up of three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. Its executive branch includes the prime minister, who leads in setting government policy, and a cabinet. These leaders are members of the legislature, as well. The executive branch also includes a governor general, who represents the British monarch. Canada has a federal system: in addition to the central government, the provinces and territories have their own governments.

Canada’s government tries to balance the needs of all Canadians. It has established a well-educated workforce. The literacy rate is 99 percent, one of the highest in the world. Canada also provides healthcare for every citizen.

Canada trades a great deal with the United States as well as with other countries. Natural resources are one of Canada’s most important exports. Canada has been one of the leading countries in providing peacekeeping support to United Nations (UN) missions over the years. The UN is an international organization formed after World War II to help encourage good global relations. Canadian troops have also supported U.S. forces in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Canada is a multicultural society—one made up of many cultures. Canadians are encouraged to maintain their own identities and cultures. Both French and English are national languages. Canada has a long history of welcoming immigrants that continues today. Immigrants make up almost all of the current growth in Canada’s labor force. Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver are Canada’s most diverse cities. With its diverse population and the flow of American culture through television and music, Canada struggles to maintain a distinct national identity. However, a recent explosion of Canadian fine arts, music, and television helps preserve a Canadian identity.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- **constitutional monarchy** system of government in which the laws in the constitution limit the monarch’s or emperor’s power
- **multicultural society** society made up of many cultures
Lesson Summary

GEOGRAPHY OF MEXICO

Mexico is split into two sections by the Gulf of California. Baja California is a peninsula west of the Gulf of California. The larger part of Mexico is east of the gulf and includes the Mexican Plateau, a high, mostly flat region that covers much of the central part of the country. This area has several of Mexico’s main cities. Earthquakes can occur in this area. Two mountain ranges border the plateau. Between the mountain ranges and along both coasts, there are two lowland regions. Both are vulnerable to hurricanes.

Mexico has many climates. The south is tropical and warm year round. In the north, temperatures vary more with the seasons. Climate also varies by elevation. Higher elevations are generally cooler, even in the tropics. The northern region and Baja California are very dry. Two deserts cover much of northern Mexico. The southern part of the country receives much more rain and has rainforests. The southern part of the Mexican Plateau has the best conditions for farming. It is much more populated than the other parts of the country. Many different plants and animals are found in Mexico. Different climates support different species.

Mexico is rich in metals and is the world’s leading producer of silver. Mexico is also one of the top producers of oil in the world. Natural gas is another energy resource. Mexico also produces hydroelectric power, which is electricity generated by the force of flowing water. Only one fifth of Mexico’s land supports farming, but crops such as corn, sugar, and coffee are exported. Many of Mexico’s farms are very small, with enough land to support only the owners. Fishing and ranching are two other important industries.

Mexico’s population continues to grow, and Mexico City is one of the largest cities in the world. Overcrowding and the spread of industry have made pollution a major problem. Population growth has also led to increased demand on the land, resulting in overgrazing and deforestation.

Lesson Vocabulary

peninsula  area of land almost completely surrounded by water by connected to the mainland

hydroelectric power  the power produced by water-driven turbines
The earliest people to live in what is now Mexico survived by hunting animals and gathering plants. About 7,000 years ago, people developed the ability to grow maize, or corn. Farming made it possible for larger, more settled communities to form.

The Olmec civilization began around 1500 B.C. along the Gulf Coast. The Maya people followed, settling in southern Mexico. The Maya built temples and recorded their history. They excelled at astronomy, which is the study of stars and planets. In the A.D. 1300s, the Aztecs settled in the area that is now Mexico City. They were skilled farmers and engineers. They built canals and aqueducts, or channels that delivered water. They also had a strong military.

In the late 1400s, Spanish soldier-explorers called conquistadors reached the Americas. In 1519, Hernan Cortés landed in Mexico. He conquered the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán and founded Mexico City in its place. The Spanish gained control over Mexico, held the highest places in society, and introduced the Roman Catholic religion. Over time, however, Spain’s grip on Mexico weakened. The people of Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821.

The first few years of Mexican independence were very unstable. Leaders fought among themselves for power and control. In the mid-1800s, the large northern territory of Texas broke away from Texas. It later became part of the United States. In 1846, Mexico and the United States went to war. The U.S. victory cost Mexico another large piece of land in what is now the southwestern United States.

Porfirio Díaz became president in the 1870s. He remained in power for decades. Díaz tried to build Mexico’s economy, but most people remained in poverty. Unrest spread. Finally, in 1911, unrest exploded in the Mexican Revolution, an armed rebellion in which Mexican people fought for reform. Fighting continued until 1917, when a constitution was declared. However, true reform did not come, and the Mexican people continued to struggle.

Lesson Vocabulary

maize  corn

astronomy  the study of the stars and planets

aqueduct  channel that moves water over a long distance

conquistador  Spanish soldier-explorer
Lesson Summary

**MEXICO TODAY**

Mexico is a federal republic, with a central government sharing power with state governments. Mexican voters elect their leaders. They have a constitution that protects their rights and lays out the structure of government. That government has three branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. The Intuitional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, held power in Mexico for about 70 years. In 2000, Vicente Fox of the National Action Party won election as Mexico’s leader. Since that time, elections in Mexico have been fairer.

Mexico has a culture that includes Spanish and Native American influences. Most Mexicans have both Spanish and Native American ancestors. The art of Mexico reflects its many cultures. Most people in Mexico are Roman Catholic, but a growing number belong to Protestant churches. Many people practice a faith that blends traditional and Christian beliefs.

Mexican leaders have worked hard in recent years to improve education so that young people are prepared for the modern world. Success has been greater in Mexico’s cities.

Mexico’s economy has strengthened recently. In the past, the economy depended heavily on oil production. Now the economy is more diverse. The government has loosened its control on many industries and allowed more free enterprise. The North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, has increased trade, jobs, and pay for Mexicans. Most Mexicans work in service industries, such as healthcare, finance, and tourism. Entertainment is another big industry. About one quarter of Mexican workers have jobs in factories. Agriculture employs only a small number of people. Some poor Mexicans cannot find jobs and travel north to look for work in the United States. These workers often send part of their earnings back to families in Mexico. These payments are called remittances.

Exports are an important part of the Mexican economy. Oil, manufactured goods, and crops are all important exports. New rules about trade between countries have helped Mexico’s economy grow. However, many of the new jobs in Mexico are low-paying. Also, the Mexican economy is linked closely with the United States’ economy. As a result, Mexico suffers when the United States economy slows down. This explains why Mexico’s economy has grown slowly since 2008.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

*free enterprise* individual consumers and producers making economic decisions

*remittance* money sent to another place
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

**Lesson 1: Geography of the United States**

1. How did natural resources and physical features influence early settlement patterns in the United States?

2. **Sequence Events** Based on the information in the Lesson Summary and your knowledge of the history of the United States, place the following events in the correct sequence:
   - More than 80% of the United States’ population lives in urban areas.
   - Most Americans live in rural areas.
   - Railroads connect the whole country, making transportation of people and goods easier.
   - Towns and cities begin to grow based on location of natural resources.

**Lesson 2: History of the United States**

3. What events contributed to the belief in a Manifest Destiny for the United States?

4. **Identify Cause and Effect** What event or events led to the United States becoming the world’s top superpower?

**Lesson 3: The United States Today**

5. **Apply Concepts** Why is civic participation necessary in a representative government?

6. Describe the relationships that the United States has with its neighbors and countries around the world.
Lesson 4: Geography of Canada
7. How does climate impact where people in Canada live?

8. Connect Name two Canadian industries that depend on the physical environment. Describe the relationship between these industries and Canada’s geography.

Lesson 5: History of Canada
9. Identify Cause and Effect What effect did the arrival of Europeans in Canada in the late 1400s have on the American Indians living there?

10. Identify Steps in a Process Use the blanks to describe important events in Canada’s process toward independence.
   1867: __________________________________________
   1905: __________________________________________
   1931: __________________________________________

Lesson 6: Canada Today
11. Compare and Contrast What elements of Canada’s government are democratic? What elements of Canada’s government make it a monarchy?

12. Use your knowledge of word parts to break down the word “multicultural.” Then use examples from the Lesson Summary to illustrate how Canada is a multicultural society.
Lesson 7: Geography of Mexico

13. **Support Ideas with Evidence**  Why is the southern part of the Mexican Plateau much more populated than the other parts of the country? Use evidence such as climate, physical features, and economic conditions to support your answer.

14. What natural and human-made dangers does Mexico’s environment face?

Lesson 8: History of Mexico

15. What modifications did early people in Mexico make to their environment?

16. How did Mexico’s geography and the struggle for resources affect the history of Mexico?

Lesson 9: Mexico Today

17. **Draw Conclusions**  Why was Vicente Fox’s election good for Mexico’s democracy?

18. **Identify Supporting Details**  List two details from the Lesson Summary to support the statement: “Trade is crucial to Mexico’s economy.”
Focus Question: How much does geography affect people’s lives?

In this topic you have learned how geography influences many aspects of people’s lives. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, complete the graphic organizer below to organize your thoughts about the specific ways geography affects people in Central America and the Caribbean.
Central America is an isthmus, which is a strip of land with water on both sides. This isthmus connects North and South America and separates the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The human-made Panama Canal crosses the isthmus and connects the two oceans. The canal serves as major trade route. To the east of Central America are the Caribbean Sea and hundreds of islands. Mountains are found on many of the islands, as well as across Central America.

Earthquakes are common in this region. This is because of the movement of plates below Earth’s surface. Earthquakes can be severe and have caused widespread damage. There are also more than 80 active volcanoes in the region.

A few mountains are high enough to be covered with snow in the winter. Most of the region, however, is wet and warm because it is close to large bodies of water and the Equator. Powerful rainstorms called hurricanes occur often in this region. These storms, with their heavy rainfall and high winds, can cause tremendous damage.

The highlands of Central America are drier and cooler. The climate allows for farming. The highlands are also good for ranching. These higher areas are also where most people live. The Caribbean countries have generally lower elevations. Because of this, they have tropical ecosystems. Rain forests cover much of the land that has not been cleared of trees. Coral reefs surround most of the Caribbean islands. These underwater islands support great biodiversity.

The countries in this region are small and do not have many natural resources. Farming is an important land use in the region due to the warm temperatures and fertile soil. Major crops include coffee and sugar. In drier areas, ranching is dominant. Tourism is also important to the region. However, foreign companies and investors make more money from tourism than the local workers.

The environments of Central America and the Caribbean are in danger due to tourism, farming, pollution, and deforestation. Loss of forests has reduced biodiversity, made land useless for farming, and destroyed the homes of Native Americans who live in the rain forests.

Lesson Vocabulary

isthmus  strip of land with water on both sides that connects two larger bodies of land

hurricane  intense tropic cyclone that forms over the tropical Atlantic Ocean

biodiversity  variety of different kinds of living things in a region or ecosystem
Lesson Summary

HISTORY OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Early civilizations grew in Central America and the Caribbean in the centuries before Europeans arrived in the region. The Maya civilization began in what is now Guatemala around 1000 B.C. The Maya developed advanced systems of writing and mathematics, and they traded widely. Around A.D. 900 the Maya civilization began to decline, perhaps because of war, crop failure, or environmental problems.

The Caribbean islands were home to the Carib and Arawak peoples. They lived in villages ruled by chiefs. The people farmed and also gathered fruit and shellfish. Caribbean peoples also traveled among the islands using canoes.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus arrived in the Caribbean. More Spanish soon followed. They conquered the region and established colonies—lands and people under the control of a distant country. Under the encomienda system, Spanish newcomers took legal control of the American Indian populations. They taught them Christianity but also forced them to work. Spanish landowners grew very wealthy from their haciendas, which were huge farms or ranches. So many American Indians died from harsh treatment, however, that the Spanish began importing enslaved Africans to work.

By the 1600s, other European countries had formed Caribbean colonies. They also relied on enslaved Africans to raise valuable crops. Trade in enslaved Africans, crops, and other goods linked the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa.

In the late 1700s, rebellion broke out in the region. In Haiti, the enslaved Toussaint L’Ouverture led a rebellion. In 1804, the people of Haiti won independence, or the right to rule themselves. Other colonies soon followed.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

- **colony**: group of people living in a new territory with ties to a distant state
- **encomienda**: legal system to control American Indians in Spain’s American colonies
- **hacienda**: huge farm or ranch in one of Spain’s American colonies
- **independence**: right to rule oneself
These new governments looked for economic help from wealthier countries. Companies from the United States soon took control of many industries in the region. However, democracy did not follow. Dictatorships, in which governments are controlled by a single, powerful leader, became common. Soon people in the region were struggling to free themselves from these dictators and to achieve democracy. This struggle is ongoing.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

dictatorship  government controlled by a single leader
This region enjoys great diversity in religion, ethnic backgrounds, language, and other cultural features. For example: Today, 90 percent of people from the Caribbean are Roman Catholic. However, Carnival, a Catholic festival that takes place in late winter, mixes American Indian, African, and European traditions. Many religious practices in the region combine Catholicism with native or African traditions. The ethnic features of the region are also a mixture. **Mestizos**, or people of Spanish and indigenous background, are the largest ethnic group in Central America.

There is widespread poverty in Central America and the Caribbean. As a result, many people have migrated to other parts of the world in search of better opportunities. This has led to the spread of Caribbean and Central American culture throughout the world. This spread is called **cultural diffusion**.

The region is generally democratic. Most Central American nations are led by elected leaders. Many governments are unstable, though. A lack of social services, such as healthcare and education, often leads to unrest. Governments have changed often, sometimes through violence. In Cuba, a dictatorship exists. The Communist Party runs the government.

There have been efforts for change in the region to improve the lives of the people, but it has been slow to develop. **Free trade** is a system in which governments lower taxes and other barriers to trade. Free-trade agreements have brought some economic improvements. Investors from nations such as the United States build factories and create jobs. However, some people think free trade leads to low wages for workers in poor countries. Also, it may encourage farmers to use too much harmful fertilizer and pesticides in their drive to grow crops for market. Debate about free trade is ongoing.

Tourism is an important part of the region’s economy. **Ecotourism**—tourism that focuses on the environment—is growing. It is a way for tourists to enjoy the region’s natural beauty in an environmentally friendly way.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

*mestizo*  person of mixed Spanish and American Indian ancestry  
*cultural diffusion*  spread of cultural traits from one culture to another  
*free trade*  removal of trade barriers  
*ecotourism*  tourism that focuses on the environment and seeks to minimize environmental impact
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of Central America and the Caribbean
1. **Summarize** What physical features occur in Central America and the Caribbean? What natural disasters does the region face?

2. How are climate and industry related in Central America and the Caribbean?

Lesson 2: History of Central America and the Caribbean
3. What systems of government ruled Central America and the Caribbean, and when?

4. **Identify Cause and Effect** Why were enslaved Africans brought to Central America and the Caribbean? What labor force were they replacing?

Lesson 3: Central America and the Caribbean Today
5. **Identify** How does Carnival reflect this history and ethnic makeup of Central America and the Caribbean?

6. How are the economies of Central America and the Caribbean interdependent with other world economies?
Focus Question: Who should benefit from a country’s resources?

In South America today and in its history, there have been a variety of ways to distribute resources. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, complete the graphic organizer below to help you recognize different ways of distributing resources and who benefits from each way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Era</th>
<th>Type of Economy</th>
<th>Who benefits?</th>
<th>Who does not benefit?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>export (coffee)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>business owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1990s–today</td>
<td>socialist/command economy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Today</td>
<td></td>
<td>very poor Brazilians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson Summary

GEOGRAPHY OF CARIBBEAN SOUTH AMERICA

Lying along the northern coast of South America, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana all border the Caribbean Sea. Colombia, in the west of the region, has three mountain ranges, called cordilleras. They are part of the larger Andes mountain chain. The central range is volcanic, with fertile soil for growing coffee. The eastern range borders Venezuela.

To the east of these mountains are lowland plains called llanos and the Orinoco River basin in central Venezuela. Tropical rain forests and savannas cover this basin. Southeastern Colombia includes an area of the Amazon rain forest. East of the Orinoco basin are the Guiana Highlands, which stretch from southeast Venezuela through Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.

Hot temperatures characterize the region, which is close to the Equator. There are wet and dry seasons across most of the region. Climate zones range from a small arid area along the northern coast of Venezuela to a wet, maritime climate in the mountains where Bogotá, Colombia, is located. There are also lush rainforests in parts of the region. These different ecosystems support unique wildlife.

Population patterns vary throughout the region. In Colombia, most people live in the cooler elevations of the Andes. In Venezuela the population is concentrated in cities such as Caracas, the capital. In Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana, most people live in the lowlands along the coast.

Along the coasts of these three countries, large farms produce sugar cane, bananas, and rice. Venezuela is largely unsuited for farming but has oil deposits that are very important to the economy. Although Colombia has little arable land, it exports agricultural products such as coffee and bananas. The varied climates of the Andes allow Colombian farmers to produce many different kinds of crops.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

cordillera  chain of mountains
llano  lowland plain in Colombia and Venezuela
maritime climate  climate that is wet year round with mild winters and cool summers
ecosystem  group of plants and animals that depend on one another and their environment for survival
Lesson Summary

GEOGRAPHY OF CARIBBEAN SOUTH AMERICA

(Continued from page 23)

This region is very ethnically diverse. It has fewer Native Americans than other parts of South America, but many people in the region have mixed European, Native American, and African ancestry. Some people in the region are descended from communities of Africans that escaped from slavery, called maroons. In French Guiana, Suriname, and Guyana, there are large communities of people whose ancestors came from India, China, and the Indonesian island of Java.

Lesson Vocabulary

maroons  people descended from groups of enslaved Africans who escaped slavery
Lesson Summary

Lesson 2
HISTORY OF CARIBBEAN SOUTH AMERICA

Groups of Native Americans lived in Caribbean South America for many centuries before Europeans arrived. The Spanish explored and conquered the region in the 1500s. They came, in part, to search for a legendary place full of gold called El Dorado.

The Spanish forced Native Americans to work in gold mines and on coastal plantations. However, so many died from European diseases and mistreatment that the Spanish brought enslaved Africans to the region to do this work instead. Spanish people also settled in the region.

The Spanish empire included much of South and Central America. It was so large that Spain could not control all of it. English and Dutch pirates threatened Spanish shipping. Eventually the British, Dutch, and French took control of territory in the east of the region.

The Spanish kept control of the west of the region, or modern Colombia and Venezuela. Members of the middle and upper classes in these areas eventually became unhappy with Spanish rule. In 1805, Simón Bolívar led a rebellion against Spain and Venezuela became independent. Colombia soon followed, as did other nations in Spanish South America. However, these nations had weak economies and unstable governments.

In the 1910s, the discovery of oil in Venezuela led to an economic boom. By 1928, Venezuela was the largest oil exporter in the world. The country nationalized its oil industry in 1976. In the 1980s, it suffered due to a drop in oil prices. As a result, government services were reduced, which led to riots. Elected in 1998, President Hugo Chávez used oil revenues to help the poor. Many business leaders and others worried that Chávez had too much power and acted like a dictator. Chávez died in 2013, and Nicolas Maduro became president. Maduro has continued Chávez’s policies.

While Venezuela benefited from oil, much of the region remained poor. In Colombia, conflict over land ownership broke out in the 1940s and again in the 1960s. Rebel groups and paramilitaries, or armed forces that are not authorized by the government, took control of parts of the country. They funded their wars through the illegal drug trade. These conflicts continue today, and negotiations to end the fighting are ongoing.

Lesson Vocabulary

pirate  person at sea who attacks and steals goods from other ships
nationalize  to take government control of an industry
paramilitaries  unauthorized armed forces
The population of Caribbean South America is very diverse. The region is considered part of Latin America, a term used to refer to areas of the Americas influenced by Spain, France, and Portugal. These are countries in Europe that speak languages that come from ancient Latin.

Venezuela and Colombia, the largest countries in the region, are mainly Roman Catholic and Spanish-speaking. French Guiana is also mostly Catholic, but the main language is French. Guyana’s main language is English, and in Suriname people speak Dutch, English, or Surinamese. Hindustanis from South Asia form the largest ethnic group in Guyana and Suriname. The languages and ethnic origins of people in Guyana and Suriname make these countries different from others in South America.

Many of the region’s economies depend heavily on natural resources. Venezuela, especially, relies on its oil. Oil wealth provides Venezuelans with many benefits, but much of the population is still poor. Venezuela’s oil industry has caused serious environmental problems around Lake Maracaibo, where much of the country’s oil is found. Deforestation and the problems it causes are also a challenge for the region.

Nearly every country in Caribbean South America is an independent republic, except one. French Guyana is not independent but instead is considered an overseas part of France. Political conflicts are a problem in parts of this region. In Suriname and Guyana, political parties are divided along ethnic lines. In Suriname, warfare between South Asian and African ethnic groups has occurred. Colombia’s government, meanwhile, has been fighting a civil war against insurgents for decades.

In Venezuela, former president Hugo Chávez changed the laws so citizens voted directly about many government decisions, rather than leaving them up to elected representatives. Under Chávez, Venezuela moved toward socialism, angering many landowners and business people. The new president, Nicolas Maduro, has continued Chávez’s policies.

Lesson Vocabulary

_deforestation_ the loss of forest cover in a region that results from the trees in a forest being destroyed faster than they can grow back

_insurgent_ rebel
The Andes, the longest mountain range in the world, stretch along the entire west coast of South America. These mountains formed millions of years ago as two tectonic plates crashed against each other. Southeast of the Andes lie the Pampas, fertile grasslands that spread out along the Río de la Plata. To the west of the Andes, the coasts of Chile and Peru are desert. However, to the east of the Andes many lowlands have rainy, tropical climates. In the eastern parts of most Andean countries, rainfall has helped create an ecosystem with diverse plant and animal life. Because of the mountain range and varying elevations, climates throughout the region vary greatly.

Because of the different climate zones, an amazing variety of crops can be grown. Farming in the Andes takes place on high mountain plateaus or in valleys. Farmers have also built terraces to create flat land for farming. To the east, the Pampas, with a humid subtropical climate, are well suited for cattle ranching and large-scale farming. Dams across rivers help produce electricity.

Today, most people live in coastal cities such as Buenos Aires, Argentina. The population of the Andes differs from that of the Pampas in terms of its ethnic makeup. The Andes region is populated by a mix of native people and the descendants of Europeans. The Pampas region is populated mainly by descendants of Spanish and Italian immigrants. Cultures in the Andes have always been isolated from each other because the mountains are difficult to cross. In contrast, the flat, fertile Pampas has attracted settlers from other places.

Lesson Vocabulary

tectonic plate one of the huge blocks of Earth’s crust

humid subtropical climate climate with year-round precipitation, mild winters, and hot summers
Before the arrival of Europeans, pre-Columbian Americans developed lifestyles that fit the environment in which they lived. They grew different types of crops, caught different types of prey based on environment, and traded their goods with other societies.

In the 1400s, the Incas built the largest empire in the Americas in the Andes. In 1532, Francisco Pizarro brought Spanish troops into Incan territory in search of gold and other riches. European diseases weakened the population, and the Incan empire fell to the Spanish. Many Incas continued resisting for decades, but the Spanish had too many advantages, such as horses, steel weapons, and cannons.

The Incas were put to work, and the Spanish imported African slaves to create a large pool of workers. The native people were also introduced to Christianity. The region exported goods to Europe. Colonies could only trade with Spain, not with each other. This arrangement, called mercantilism, brought wealth to Spain, but it frustrated the people living in the colonies. As Spain grew weaker, rebellion began. Simón Bolívar led a revolution in Venezuela and the northern countries. José de San Martín led a rebellion in Argentina and quickly spread the uprising to defeat Spanish forces throughout Chile and Peru.

By 1824, the Spanish were defeated. The new countries were politically unstable, and there was a wide gap between rich and poor. The nations had weak economies, but starting around 1870, there was a boom in exports as immigrants arrived from Italy, Spain, China, and Japan to work on plantations and in mines.

In the early 1900s this boom ended, and industrialization took hold. People moved to the cities. New governments were created, but fear of communism sparked overthrows of the governments of Chile and Argentina in the 1970s. This led to violent military control throughout the region. In 1980, after Argentina failed in its attempt to seize the British-controlled Falkland Islands, the military lost face, and democracy returned to Argentina.

Lesson Vocabulary

mercantilism  economic system in which colonies sent raw materials to the mother country; in return, colonists were expected to buy products from the country

industrialization  growth of machine-powered production and manufacturing
European influence throughout this region remains strong. Spanish language and culture dominate. However, many indigenous cultures have survived in the Andes in countries such as Bolivia and Peru. Native cultures are actually reviving in many areas. In Bolivia, Evo Morales, a Native American, became president in 2006.

The richest nations are found in the south. Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay are wealthier than Andean countries such as Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Foreign companies have begun to invest in mining, petrochemicals, and transportation in several countries. Agricultural products have become important exports throughout the region.

Recent trade agreements have helped strengthen the economies of many of the countries in the Andes and the Pampas. Investing in the education and health of the population is important for the economic future of these countries. Democracy has returned to the region, and governments are fighting to ensure civil rights. Countries of this region continue to strengthen democracy and their economies in hopes of a brighter future. However, economic growth can also bring new problems. Deforestation, logging, and gold mining are damaging the environment in Chile and Peru. Pollution from cars is creating smog and causing health problems in Santiago, Chile, and water supplies are being damaged because of oil pollution.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

*smog* a cloud of dirty air resulting from cars and factories
Brazil is the fifth-largest country in the world and covers half of South America. The Amazon River carries more water than any other river in the world. The Amazon starts in the Andes in the west and empties into the Atlantic Ocean in the east. To the north and south of the river, Brazil has highlands with plateaus and hills. Western Brazil contains a huge wetland, and a strip of lowlands lie along the eastern coast.

Brazil’s climate is tropical in the north and subtropical in the south. Temperatures are very high in the north but decrease in the south. Most of the country is hot, humid, and rainy. Temperatures are cooler at higher elevations. Cattle ranching is the major activity in the northeast, while the rich soil of the south allows farmers to grow a variety of crops.

There are many rivers, and there are hydroelectric dams throughout the country. The many forests support a large logging industry. Mining and farming are also important industries suited to the landscape.

Brazil has a variety of ecosystems. Mangrove forests are found along the northern coasts. The northeast is drier than most of the country and supports plants and animals that can survive drought. The south and west of the country have vast rain forests, which are home to millions of species. Due to flooding from Brazil’s many rivers, many animals have adapted to live in both forest and river environments.

Brazil is ethnically diverse. Coastal cities are overcrowded, and the government has tried to encourage people to move inland through economic development. The cities are divided between rich and poor. A typical city center contains office buildings and the homes of the rich, while around the city, slums called favelas keep growing as people migrate to the cities to find work. Brazil has one of the largest gaps between rich and poor, but the country is unique because of the large amount of racial mixing in the general population.

Lesson Vocabulary

ecosystem group of plants and animals that depend on each other and their environment for survival
favela Brazilian slum
In A.D. 1500, Portuguese explorers arrived in Brazil. The Portuguese slowly began creating plantations and enslaving natives. After many natives died from disease, millions of African slaves were imported to work on the sugar plantations and in mines. As a result, African culture mixed with Portuguese and native cultures to create Brazilian culture.

In 1807, Napoleon invaded Portugal and forced Portugal’s royal family to flee to Brazil. In 1821, when the king returned to Portugal, his son Pedro stayed in Brazil and declared it an independent nation. Coffee became a major export, and coffee planters became very wealthy. The coffee planters became leaders of the new government when the monarchy was overthrown in a coup in 1889. Brazil was declared a republic. The planters drew up a constitution and put together a government much like that of the United States.

In 1929, the Great Depression hit the United States, and the demand for coffee and rubber exports declined. As coffee dropped in value, the coffee planters who were running the government lost power. In 1930, Getúlio Vargas overthrew the government. As dictator, he encouraged manufacturing and took steps to modernize the country. Brazil would continue to be controlled by dictators or the military until 1990, when democracy was restored.

Lesson Vocabulary

coup sudden violent overthrow of the government, often by the military

manufacturing building of goods or equiment
Brazil has a very diverse culture today. Almost half of Brazil’s people are of mixed racial ancestry. Cultural diversity has led to new kinds of religious worship as well as Carnival. Carnival blends European and African traditions and is held before the Christian season of Lent.

Many Native American cultures survive in the rain forests, Europeans dominate the south, and the northeast coast shows strong African heritage. A large majority of the population is Catholic, although religious diversity is increasing. Most Brazilians speak Portuguese. Soccer is the most popular sport in Brazil, and the great Brazilian players are a source of national pride.

Brazil’s main environmental issue involves the rain forest. The trees of the rain forest absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. The rain forest also helps to produce many modern medicines. However, the rain forests are being destroyed. Trees are being cut down for timber and to make farmland. The government is trying to stop the destruction. There are some bright spots in environmental issues. For instance, the southeastern city of Curitiba is admired throughout the world as a green city that is less damaging to the environment.

Brazil has a very diversified market economy. It exports oil, natural gas, and manufactured goods, as well as many agricultural products such as sugar, soybeans, and coffee. In 1990, democracy was restored, and now Brazil has a government similar to that of the United States. The country has a president, a National Congress made up of two houses, and a Federal Court.

Despite the stable government and growing economy, poverty remains widespread in much of Brazil. A wide gap exists between rich and poor. However, with newfound oil and increased production of ethanol, Brazil is heading toward energy independence. With a wealth of resources, Brazil has a bright future.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

energy independence supplying a country’s energy needs, such as coal or oil, entirely from resources in that country
Review Questions

Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of Caribbean South America
1. Use the information in the Lesson Summary to “draw” a map of this region with words. Start in the western part of the region, and work your way east, describing geographical features.

2. Contrast Where do people live in the different countries of this region?

Lesson 2: History of Caribbean South America
3. Connect What modern conflicts in Caribbean South America have their roots in colonial history?

4. How did economic conditions affect government policy in Venezuela in the 1980s and early 1990s?

Lesson 3: Caribbean South America Today
5. Compare and Contrast What legacies did European colonialism leave on the cultures of Caribbean South America? Describe differences and similarities among the countries.

6. What issues fuel conflicts in Caribbean South America?
Lesson 4: Geography of the Andes and the Pampas

7. **List** Make a list of three climates in this region, and briefly describe the characteristics of the climate and where it occurs.

8. How have landforms affected cultural and ethnic diversity in this region?

Lesson 5: History of the Andes and the Pampas

9. Who benefited from the mercantilist system? Who was hurt by the system?

10. **Explain** Define *industrialization*, using root words to help you. How did industrialization change where people in the Andes and the Pampas lived?

Lesson 6: The Andes and the Pampas Today

11. Why could environmental problems be particularly damaging to the economies of the Andes and the Pampas?

12. In what ways have nations in the region tried to diversify their economies?

Lesson 7: Geography of Brazil

13. Name and describe three physical features that cover much of Brazil.

14. **Identify Main Idea and Details** What is the main idea of the fourth paragraph? What is one supporting detail from that paragraph?
Lesson 8: History of Brazil
15. In the colonial era until the 1800s, did the export of resources from Brazil benefit everyone? Why or why not?

16. List important events for Brazil’s government next to each of the years below.
   1807
   1821
   1889
   1930
   1990

Lesson 9: Brazil Today
17. List two reasons why the rain forest is important for Brazil.

18. Explain Use context clues to explain the phrase “diversified market economy,” seen in paragraph four. What information in the paragraph supports the idea that Brazil has a diversified economy?
**Focus Question:** What distinguishes one culture from another?

Culture is defined as the beliefs, customs, practices, and behaviors of a particular group of people. It includes things like language, food, clothing, beliefs, rituals, celebrations, art, and music. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, complete this graphic organizer to help organize your thoughts about European culture throughout its history. Write defining cultural characteristics—such as language, religion, type of government, and so on—of each place and era in the flowchart below.
Lesson Summary

GEography of WESTerN EUROPE

Europe is a peninsula—land that is mostly surrounded by water. Three main landforms cover Western Europe: uplands, mountains, and plains. Plains are flat or gently rolling lands. The Ural Mountains divide Europe from Asia. Northern Europe is made up of the Scandinavian Peninsula and the islands that contain the United Kingdom and Ireland. The Central Uplands and Alps make up the center of Europe. Glaciers, slow-moving masses of ice and snow, have left behind streams and rivers that flow out of the Alps Mountains at the southern edge of the Central Uplands. To the South is the warmer Mediterranean region, which is made of peninsulas and islands.

The climate in Western Europe is mostly mild because of warm air blowing in from the Atlantic Ocean. Northern Scandinavia is much colder and drier, with an Arctic climate. Areas near the Mediterranean Sea tend to have wet winters and drier summers. Climate change has led to warmer temperatures, less rainfall, and melting glaciers in this region. Air and water pollution as a result of industrialization and a large population is a problem as well. Pollution is harmful material released into the environment.

Most Western Europeans can read and write, and the region has benefited from strong education systems. The standard of living is generally high. People speak a large variety of languages; English is a second language for many. The movement of people, especially immigration into Western Europe, gives this region a diversity of cultures, customs, and religions.

In Western Europe, most people live within 100 miles of the coast. The coasts and the rivers that flow through the region have helped promote trade. Populations are more spread out, however, in Central and Southern Europe. More Europeans live in cities than in the rural areas. Thus, European cities tend to be densely populated with extensive public transportation systems. Most countries in the region limit the growth of cities to protect land for farming, for forests, and for recreation.

Lesson Vocabulary

peninsula area of land almost completely surrounded by water but connected to the mainland
plain large area of flat or gently rolling land
glacier slow-moving body of ice
pollution waste that makes the air, soil, or water less clean
Eastern Europe is a region with high mountains and broad plains. Huge glaciers moved across the region during an ice age, a time long ago when temperatures were much lower and ice covered much of the land. The movement of these glaciers created long ridges and many lakes and rivers.

The climate of Eastern Europe is varied. Most of the region has a continental cool summer climate. Winters are cold, and summers are generally mild. Rainfall is generally greater in the west than it is in the east. Southern parts of the region have a milder climate. The presence of mountains has a big impact on climate. Higher elevations are cooler. In addition, depending on the direction in which winds normally blow, mountainsides can be very wet or very dry.

In the North European Plain, mechanized farming is common. This is because the land is flatter and the climate is favorable to growing wheat and other crops that can be harvested with machines. The warmer, more mountainous south favors crops such as grapes and olives. Machines are less useful in this area. Industry is found in areas with natural resources such as coal and iron ore.

Access to energy is a big issue in Eastern Europe. Most areas have little oil and natural gas and must import these sources of energy. Coal is plentiful, but burning coal has caused serious pollution problems. Acid rain—precipitation that has been made acidic by the burning of fossil fuels—destroys crops and forests and contaminates soil. Nuclear power plants are an option, but a serious accident in 1986 at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine showed that nuclear energy has risks too. With improvements, pollution from coal is decreasing, and the forests are starting to recover.

Eastern Europe is a religiously diverse region. Christianity is dominant. Some parts of Eastern Europe are mainly Roman Catholic, some are chiefly Protestant, and others are home to the Eastern Orthodox Church. Muslims are the largest group of non-Christians in the region. Judaism also has a long history in Eastern Europe. For many years, Eastern Europe was dominated by communist governments, and religion was discouraged. Today, many people in the region do not belong to any religion. However, after the fall of communism, people experienced new freedoms in their religious and everyday lives.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- **ice age** time of lower temperatures when much of the land is covered with snow and ice
- **mechanized farming** farming with machines
- **acid rain** rain, snow, or mist that is acidic
The ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome have had a great effect on today’s world. Ancient Greeks developed the idea of democracy as a form of government. Ancient Romans developed the idea of checks and balances, which is an important part of many governments today.

The first civilizations in Ancient Greece were the Minoans and the Mycenaeans. Then came the rise of city-states, which were independent cities that controlled the areas around them. City-states gained power as they expanded trade, and they developed colonies throughout the Mediterranean. Under Pericles in the mid-400s B.C., Athens became the first direct democracy, where citizens were involved in day-to-day workings of the government. The years between 500 B.C. and 323 B.C. are the classical period of ancient Greece. Thinkers studied philosophy, mathematics, and science. Greeks made great advances in art and learning that still influence the world today.

Athens and Sparta, the two major city-states, often fought, and Athens finally fell. Greece was taken over by Alexander the Great, a king from the north. He conquered the Persian empire and spread Greek culture to new areas.

The town of Rome was founded before 700 B.C. in central Italy. In 509 B.C., the Romans overthrew their king and established a republic, or a government with elected leaders. The new government had three branches that could check, or keep under control, the power of each other. The power of the branches was balanced so none would grow too strong. The U.S. government uses this idea of checks and balances today.

Around 80 B.C., the Roman republic was torn apart by civil wars. After many years, Augustus gained control and became the first Roman emperor. Rome entered a long period of peace and stability. The empire grew and spread Latin, the Roman language, and Roman law around the Mediterranean Sea. The Romans made great advances in architecture and engineering.

Around 4 B.C., in the Roman province of Judea, Jesus of Nazareth was born. Christianity grew out of his teachings and spread throughout the empire. Eventually, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman empire.

Lesson Vocabulary

direct democracy government in which citizens take part directly in the day-to-day affairs of government

republic a government with elected leaders rather than kings or emperors
Later, the Roman empire was divided into two parts. The Eastern Roman empire became the Byzantine empire, while the western part fell to invaders. The Byzantine empire grew strong, and its capital, Constantinople, became rich from trade. In 1054, Christianity split. The Byzantine church became the Eastern Orthodox Church, and the western church became the Roman Catholic Church. The Byzantine empire ended in 1453, when Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople.

After the fall of the western Roman empire, Germanic invaders moved into Western Europe. The Visigoths settled in Spain, the Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain, and the Franks settled in France. Vikings came from Scandinavia and conquered some lands from England to Ukraine.

A social system called feudalism developed in Europe during the Middle Ages. Kings gave land to nobles, who gave some of that land to knights in exchange for military service. Peasants farmed the land for the landowners. During this period, monasteries were built, Christian art and architecture thrived, and Europeans built huge churches.

The years between 1000 and the early 1300s are known as the High Middle Ages. It was a time of wealth and stability in Western Europe. A new middle class of merchants and craftspeople grew in the busy cities. Advances were made in farming.

During the Middle Ages, the Turks had conquered Palestine, which Christians called the Holy Land. Christians went to the area to take control of it from Muslims in a series of wars called Crusades. Christians also conquered Muslim-held areas of Spain. These wars resulted in new ideas being brought back to Christian lands. They also resulted in attacks on Jews in Europe. Many Jewish people moved to Eastern Europe to avoid persecution.

In England, nobles believed that the king had grown too powerful. They forced him to sign the Magna Carta. This document was a step toward a more democratic government because it limited the king’s power. The growing population of Europe was outpacing the available food supply. Famine resulted, followed by the Black Death, an epidemic that killed about 25 million Europeans. As a result of so many deaths, feudalism weakened, and European society began to change.

Lesson Vocabulary

feudalism  a social system in which landowners grant people land or other rewards in exchange for military service or labor
The social and political changes of the Middle Ages gave rise to a period called the Renaissance. Greek and Roman ideas were reintroduced, and the study of nonreligious subjects, such as philosophy, history, and art, grew in importance. Renaissance ideas began in Italy and spread north with the help of the newly invented printing press. The Renaissance led people to think critically about religion, which led to the Reformation. New churches called Protestant churches were founded. For a time, religious conflicts between Catholics and Protestants were common.

Trade grew during the Renaissance. Europeans began to search for a faster route to Asia to make trade easier. New technologies in sea travel introduced the age of exploration. In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail, hoping to reach Asia by traveling westward. Instead, he reached Caribbean islands. Europeans eventually founded colonies throughout the Americas. They brought millions of enslaved Africans to some of these colonies and forced them to work on plantations.

Some thinkers made important discoveries during the Scientific Revolution. Others wrote about building a better society. Their ideas led to a period called the Enlightenment. Some thinkers argued that people have certain natural rights and freedoms. These ideas led to democratic revolutions, with government put into the hands of the people. In 1689, the English made the king and queen agree to the English Bill of Rights. It protected the rights of the English people. In 1789, the French Revolution ended the French monarchy. During the 1800s, democratic governments formed across Europe.

The Industrial Revolution brought another kind of change. Steam power, coal, and new machines led to faster transportation and more efficient production of goods. Cities grew and became manufacturing enters. The cost of goods fell, and people could afford to buy more goods. Advances were made in education and medicine, though the growing cities were crowded and polluted.

In 1914, World War I erupted between Europe’s major countries. The United States entered that war in 1917 to fight with the nations called the Allies. They defeated Germany in November 1918. The Allies forced Germany to sign the Treaty of Versailles, but many Germans saw its terms as too harsh.

In 1929, the United States’ stock market collapsed. It led to a worldwide financial crisis called the Great Depression. Anti-democratic leaders took power in some countries. In Germany, Adolf Hitler came to power. He attacked surrounding countries, starting World War II. Hitler ordered millions of Jews and others to be put to death in the Holocaust. Together, the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union defeated Germany to end the war.
After World War II, the Soviet Union set up communist governments in much of Eastern Europe. The United States and Britain wanted to stop the spread of communism. The result was the Cold War, a long period of **hostility** between democratic Western Europe and communist Eastern Europe.

The United States and Western European nations formed a military alliance called NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In response, the Soviet Union and the European communist countries it controlled formed the Warsaw Pact.

The people of communist Eastern Europe struggled for decades under poor economies and undemocratic rule. By the 1980s, communism had begun to weaken there. People were frustrated over shortages of food and consumer goods. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev became the new leader of the Soviet Union. He loosened government control in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In 1988, Lech Walesa led a workers’ union strike in Poland. The strike forced the government there to hold free elections, in which communists lost.

The fall of communism in Poland inspired people in other Eastern European countries. Communism soon fell across the area, and East and West Germany were reunited. In 1991, communism even collapsed in the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union was broken up into 15 new nations. The largest of these new nations was Russia.

In contrast to the east, Western Europe’s economy recovered quickly after World War II. In 1957, six Western European nations formed the Common Market, a group designed to encourage trade among them. Over time, more nations joined, and in 1992, these nations formed the European Union. The EU is both a political and economic partnership. Recent new members of the EU include many that had once been under Soviet control.

After adopting market economies, the citizens of former communist countries had to learn new ways of doing business. They also had to work to end corruption and learn how to participate in their governments. Many Eastern European nations are still struggling to catch up with the west.

The face of Europe has changed due to massive numbers of immigrants, many from Africa and Asia. Leaders work hard to **integrate** these groups into their societies. In addition, incidents of terrorism have scarred Europe. Europeans today are also finding ways to use cleaner energy and to reduce dependence on foreign oil.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

**hostility** conflict or disagreement, often armed

**integrate** to bring together different groups into one group
The United Kingdom is made up of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The British government today is a constitutional monarchy. The monarch, or king or queen, is just a ceremonial head of the government. Parliament, with most of its members elected by the people, makes the laws. The Prime Minister is the head of the House of Commons and the leader of British government. The independent nation of Ireland is also part of Northwestern Europe.

The UK and Ireland both have high standards of living. As European Union members, they benefit from free trade with other EU members. Like many nations in Europe, both the UK and Ireland were hurt by the global recession that began in 2008. However, the economies of both countries have improved since then. Tourism forms a large part of both their economies.

Scandinavia is made up of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, and Norway. Denmark, Sweden, and Norway are constitutional monarchies, and Finland is a democratic republic. Except for Norway, the Scandinavian countries are all members of the EU. The Scandinavian countries all have a cradle-to-grave system. In this system, the government provides basic services like education and healthcare to all people throughout their lives. Because high taxes finance this system, healthcare and housing costs can remain low.

Geography plays a large part in the Scandinavian economies. Important industries include fishing, lumber, and oil production. Agriculture and dairy farming are important in Denmark. Exports and high-technology industries also fund these nations’ economies. Finland, for instance, is a major maker of mobile telephones.

Life in Northwestern Europe is fast-paced. Most people live in urban areas, including the major cities that have long histories and rich cultures. Most people have easy access to modern technology. The region is also culturally diverse, with large immigrant groups from the Caribbean, India, Pakistan, Turkey, and Somalia.

Lesson Vocabulary

**constitutional monarchy** system of government in which the monarch is the ceremonial leader, but an elected government makes the laws

**cradle-to-grave system** a socialist system of basic services for citizens at every stage of life
West Central Europe includes Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Most of these countries are members of the European Union, or EU. The member nations of the EU trade and work together to expand prosperity and spread democracy. Some use the EU currency, called the euro. Some European countries choose not to be part of the EU. Their leaders believe the larger EU nations, such as Germany and France, have too much power and influence in setting EU policies.

EU countries in northern and western Europe are generally wealthier than those countries in southern and eastern Europe. The economic crisis of 2008 increased these differences. Germany suffered less than other countries and recovered more quickly.

Known for its rich heritage, France has taken a leading role in the European Union. Tourism is one France’s leading industries. High unemployment is a problem in France, partly due to high taxes and laws that make it hard to start businesses or hire new workers. Its capital, Paris, is the nation’s economic, political, and cultural center. France faces many challenges today due to its large immigrant population. To address issues such as discrimination and unemployment, the French government has added a new immigration ministry. It tries to encourage immigrants to return to their home countries.

Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands form the Low Countries. Belgium is the political center of Europe because the headquarters of the EU is in Brussels, Belgium’s capital city. Landlocked Luxembourg is one of Europe’s oldest and smallest nations. It is known worldwide as a banking center. The Netherlands is also known as Holland. Most of its land is below sea level, and as a result, the Dutch live in a fragile balance with their environment. Pollution and the loss of farmland are major concerns.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

discrimination being treated worse or differently because of one’s race, ethnicity, economic status, or other characteristic
Modified Cornell notes

Lesson Summary

WEST CENTRAL EUROPE TODAY

(Continued from page 44)

Germany has the largest population in the European Union and one of the world’s largest economies. During the Cold War, it was divided into East Germany and West Germany. **Reunification**, or the process of becoming unified again, brought many changes. Many East Germans moved to what had been West Germany because the economy there was stronger. Germany is an important member of international organizations such as NATO. Painful memories of World War I and World War II have led Germans to seek to avoid the mistakes of the past. They work to ensure a better future by emphasizing the importance of education and tolerance.

Austria shares a language as well as economic and cultural ties with Germany. The economies of Austria and Switzerland thrive due to tourism and winter sports. Switzerland is one of the world’s oldest democracies and a nation known for its long history of neutrality.

Lesson Vocabulary

**reunification** process of becoming unified again
Lesson Summary

SOUTHERN EUROPE TODAY

The cultural legacy of the classical world still influences Southern Europe today. Most of the languages in Southern Europe originated in ancient Greek or Latin. The region’s cathedrals and palaces date back to the Middle Ages or the Renaissance. Throughout history, traders and missionaries passed through Southern Europe and brought their cultures with them.

Rome is the center of the Roman Catholic Church, while Athens is the center of the Greek Orthodox Church. Cultural diffusion, or the spread of many cultures, enriches life in the cities in Southern Europe. This region is also home to famous artists, poets, musicians, and architects. Their artworks often explores universal themes, or subjects and ideas that people all over the world can relate to. Southern Europe’s modern, prosperous cities reflect the economic growth that has come about following the end of dictatorships. Their new leaders have made laws for running businesses less strict. This change encouraged entrepreneurs to open new businesses and led to the growth of jobs.

Advances in technology have also helped these countries produce goods more quickly. Portugal has had some success because of privatization of businesses and diversifying its economy. In addition, European Union membership has improved the quality of life for the people of Southern European countries. However, Southern Europe was hit hard during the global recession of 2008. Southern European nations needed loans from wealthier EU countries. Paying back these loans has been difficult. Greece is still struggling economically, and the problems have led to violent protests there. Some Europeans worry that the EU may break apart if the economies of these or other members collapse.

Immigration is also a challenge in Southern Europe. Many immigrants have come to these countries in recent years. They provided needed workers because populations of these countries were declining. However, many people in those countries feel the large numbers of immigrants are a threat to their jobs and cultures. Fear of deportation, or being sent back to their home countries, has led many immigrants to hide from officials.

Lesson Vocabulary

cultural diffusion  the spread of culture
deportation  being sent back to one’s home country
Lesson Summary

Eastern Europe Today

Countries have taken different paths since the end of communism in Eastern Europe. Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have developed successful economies and democratic governments. Poland moved quickly to create a market economy and businesses have developed. During the 1990s, the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia all developed market economies, and along with Poland, they have been accepted into the European Union. The three Baltic countries faced difficult times when the global economic crisis of 2008 hit, however. Poland and the Baltic nations have a rich cultural heritage, and, with new freedoms since the Soviet Union fell, these countries continue to celebrate their traditions.

In 1989, communism gave way to democracy in Czechoslovakia. However, after internal disagreements, the country divided peacefully into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Both nations have democratic governments and built growing economies. Both joined the European Union and prospered until the worldwide economic slowdown of 2008. Hungary has built a market economy and a democratic government. However, a large national debt has slowed its economic progress. Hungarians have also returned to their Catholic roots.

The Balkan Peninsula experienced many major political changes after 1990. This region was once home to Yugoslavia, a communist nation that was created in 1917 by combining several regions. Each area had a different ethnic majority, although other groups lived in each region as well. In 1991, Slovenia and Croatia declared independence. Macedonia and Bosnia followed by 1993, and in the 2000s Montenegro and Kosovo split away as well.

Ethnic fighting broke out in the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s, and some ethnic groups tried to gain control of areas by eliminating other ethnic groups. Finally, the United Nations, the United States, and other nations worked to negotiate peace. Even with this help, ethnic violence still continues in some areas. The fighting made it difficult for the economies of the new republics also. During the 2000s, Slovenia and Croatia became members of the EU.

Romania, Albania, and Bulgaria also shifted away from communism to market economies in the late 1980s, but political corruption was a problem. Bulgaria and Romania have since fixed this problem and been accepted into the European Union. Albania remains poor and less developed than other European nations.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

eliminate  to destroy or kill
Lesson Summary

EastErn EuropE today

(Continued from page 47)

Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova all gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Ukraine is now a democracy. It is the second-largest country in Europe in terms of land area, but due to corruption and complicated business laws, the economy has been slow to develop. The country has seen recent unrest. It is divided between those who want closer ties to Russia and those who want to be closer to the EU. In 2014, Russia seized a part of Ukraine as its own. Belarus has had a president who is in fact a dictator since 1994. The country remains poor because it depends on other countries for many raw materials. Moldova is a small country with a weak government. It continues to face political turmoil. It has experienced slow economic growth and is one of the poorest countries in Europe.

Lesson Vocabulary

turmoil trouble or confusion
Review Questions

Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of Western Europe
1. **Describe** Define “peninsula” in your own words. Where in Western Europe are peninsulas found?

2. **Identify Patterns** How does the climate of Western Europe change from north to south?

Lesson 2: Geography of Eastern Europe
3. What geographical process shaped the land of Eastern Europe? How is this land primarily used today?

4. What environmental challenges does Eastern Europe face?

Lesson 3: Europe Before 1945
5. How did the Magna Carta affect English government?

6. Identify two major contributions to world civilization from Europe’s history.

Lesson 4: Europe Since 1945
7. What was the basis of the conflict during the Cold War? What organizations and areas were involved?
8. **Sequence Events**  Put the following events into the correct sequence.

   ______ Communist government in Poland falls.
   ______ European Common Market formed.
   ______ European Union formed.
   ______ Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union.
   ______ World War II ends.

**Lesson 5: Northwestern Europe Today**

9. What types of government are there in Northwestern Europe? Give examples of each kind.

   ____________________________________________________________

10. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the cradle-to-grave system?

   ____________________________________________________________

**Lesson 6: West Central Europe Today**

11. How has the recent past influenced policy in Germany today?

   ____________________________________________________________

12. **Categorize**  Sort the countries of this region into two categories: large countries and small countries. Choose one country from each category and write a main idea sentence about that country.

   ____________________________________________________________

**Lesson 7: Southern Europe Today**

13. How did the end of dictatorships in Southern Europe lead to economic change?

   ____________________________________________________________


   ____________________________________________________________
Lesson 8: Eastern Europe Today

15. **Categorize** Which countries in Eastern Europe have joined the European Union? Which have not?

16. Name and describe two major issues countries in Eastern Europe face today.
Focus Question: What should governments do?

In this topic you have read about different types of governments in the past and present of Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. While you read the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, use the graphic organizer below to consider types of actions that governments can take, an example of that action from this region, the result of that action, and your opinion as to whether or not that action is something a government should do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government Action</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>My Opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plan the economy</td>
<td>the Soviet Union</td>
<td>Not enough food or consumer goods were produced.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Lesson Summary

GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA

Russia is the largest country in the world in area, stretching almost halfway around the world. Russia sits on two continents: Europe and Asia. The Ural Mountains separate European Russia from Asian Russia, which is a vast region called Siberia. The Russian Plain covers most of European Russia, with the Caucasus Mountains in the south. The West Siberian Plain stretches east from the Urals until Asian Russia rises in highlands and mountains, many of which are volcanic. Waterways include European Russia’s longest river, the Volga, and many rivers that flow from Siberia to the Arctic Ocean. Siberia has the world’s deepest lake, Lake Baikal.

Much of Russia has a subarctic climate because its land area lies close to the Arctic Circle. Much of European Russia has a continental climate, with long, cold winters and warm summers. Southern Russia has temperate forests and vast grasslands called steppes. The steppes have rich soil good for farming. In Siberia, weather and climate are more extreme than in European Russia. Treeless, snow-covered tundra lies to the north of the subarctic zone. In Siberia, much of the subarctic zone is covered by taiga, a land of dense evergreen forests. Much of the soil of Siberia is permafrost, which is always frozen. This frozen soil is difficult to build on. The eastern edge of Russia has a warmer climate, with diverse vegetation.

Russia has rich resources, especially in Siberia. They include large deposits of oil, gas, and coal as well as timber, hydroelectric power, and many different metals. Because Siberia’s climate is harsh, it is difficult to transport these resources. Large-scale economic development in Siberia began only after the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railroad in 1905. Many rivers can be used to transport goods for only part of the year, as they are frozen in colder months. A vast network of underground pipelines transports Russia’s oil and natural gas.

Most of Russia’s 140 million people live in European Russia due to its more moderate climate. People of many ethnic groups live in Russia, though 80 percent of the population is Russian-speaking Slavs. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, more and more Russians have returned to the Russian Orthodox Church. In addition, there are Muslims, Protestants, Jews, and Buddhists in Russia. While Slavs dominate the population, Russia has more than 100 different ethnic groups, each with its unique language, customs, and religion.

Lesson Vocabulary

steppes  vast area of grasslands
permafrost  permanently frozen soil
Russians are descended from East Slavs who migrated from Poland and Ukraine into western Russia in the A.D. 400s and 500s. Later, Vikings came to the region and mixed with the Slavs. These people formed a state called the Kievan Rus, based in the city of Kiev. Over time, this state formed close ties with the Byzantine empire and adopted Orthodox Christianity. In 1240, Mongol armies invaded and conquered the Kievan Rus.

As Kiev declined, the city of Moscow gained importance. By 1480, Muscovite prince Ivan III overthrew the Mongols and became the first tsar. In the early 1600s, the tsar Boris Godunov ordered that peasants would be serfs, meaning bound to the land they farmed for landowners. Godunov was followed as tsar in 1613 by Michael Romanov. His family ruled Russia for the next 300 years.

In the 1700s, Peter the Great set about modernizing Russia, bringing in Western ideas and constructing a new capital—St. Petersburg. Catherine the Great continued to strengthen Russia, transforming St. Petersburg into a cultural center and adding vast lands to the empire. These rulers did nothing to better the lives of the serfs, however. The tsars and nobles of Russia lived off the work of these laborers, who were largely poor.

In the 1800s, as most of Europe moved toward democracy and industry, Russia remained a monarchy with an economy based on agriculture. In 1856, Russia lost the Crimean War to Britain, Turkey, and France. The loss was a shock to the nation, and worker revolts took place throughout Russia. Tsar Alexander II finally freed the serfs in 1861, but they remained poor and powerless. Problems and unrest plagued Russia for decades.

The Russian monarchy collapsed and ended in the Russian Revolution during World War I. In 1917, a political group called the Bolsheviks, under Vladimir Lenin, took power. Lenin established a system called communism, based on the idea that everyone should share the goods and services produced by a society. He and his followers took over the government and put communism into action, with the central government controlling the economy. In 1922, the Communists established the Soviet Union, which included much of the old Russian empire.

Lesson Vocabulary

serf a peasant who is legally bound to live and work on land owned by a lord

communism political and economic system in which government owns all property and makes all economic decisions

(Continues on the next page.)
Lesson Summary

(Continued from page 54)

Lenin died in 1924, and Josef Stalin took power. Stalin ruled as a dictator, repressing any kind of opposition. He pushed the country to industrialize at a rapid pace and forced peasants to work on collective farms owned by the state. This policy resulted in a massive famine that killed millions of people in Ukraine in 1932–1933.

During World War II, the Soviet Union joined with the Western powers to defeat Germany. However, tensions between the West and the Soviet Union grew after the war when the Soviets set up communist governments in Eastern Europe. These long years of rivalry were called the Cold War because there was never any direct, armed conflict.

The Soviet Union began to crumble in the 1980s after a failed war in Afghanistan and a poor economy led to unrest. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev introduced a new policy of freer speech and economic reform. Gradually, the Soviet Union eased its control over Eastern Europe, where communist governments fell. Supporters of democracy and independence finally forced the breakup of the Soviet Union itself in 1991.

Russia was the largest of the former Soviet republics. Boris Yeltsin became its first president, and he turned the country away from communism and toward free market economics. Much of the nation’s wealth was grabbed by a small group of powerful people, called oligarchs. After Vladimir Putin was elected president in 2000, he reduced the power of the oligarchs. At the same time, he increased the power of the state.

In a communist nation, all the economic decisions are made by the government. In a free market, or capitalist, economy such as the United States, these decisions are made mostly by individuals. Most nations around the world have free market economies. The sudden change in Russia’s economy caused hardship for many of its citizens at first. Today the Russian economy is much stronger.
The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 resulted in a decade of hardships and instability. Elected as president in 2000, Vladimir Putin worked to rebuild Russia with strong leadership and greater government control. Critics say this increase in control has come at the cost of human rights and democracy. Putin’s supporters say the improved economy and reduced corruption are worth the trade-off. Putin’s reforms did reduce poverty and lead to economic growth and the rise of a new Russian middle class. He also oversaw dramatic growth in the energy industry, taking advantage of Russia’s vast oil and natural gas reserves.

Russia still faces many challenges. Birth rates are low, as is life expectancy, especially for males. Alcoholism and the rate of deadly diseases are high. Many people have left cities for the countryside to grow their own food. Others have left rural areas for cities in search of jobs. Many others have moved from Russia altogether to live in other countries.

Under Putin, the government has done little to protect people’s human rights. The government censors the media, limiting the news that can be reported. Several journalists have died under mysterious circumstances. Ethnic and religious tensions continue, especially in the region of Chechnya. Corruption in business practices is common. In 2011, large numbers of protestors marched in Moscow. They demanded fair elections and the release of political prisoners, but these demands were ignored.

As a leading world power, Russia participates in global affairs in many ways. It has taken part in meetings discussing economic issues and pollution as part of the Group of 8 nations. At the same time, Russia has worked to oppose its neighbors Ukraine and Georgia from joining NATO. In 2008, Russia forces supported independence movements in regions of nearby Georgia. The act damaged Russian relations with the United States. Russian alliances with nations such as North Korea, Iran, and China and support for Syrian president Bashar al-Assad have also led to tension between Russia and the United States.

Russia has flexed its muscles in the global energy market as well. Much of Europe depends on Russian natural gas and oil. At times, Russia has used this power to try to force European cooperation with its goals. Russia’s location between Europe and China, as well as its rich supply of natural resources, means it will continue to be a powerful nation.

Lesson Vocabulary

censor  to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable
Central Asia and the Caucasus were long ruled by Russia, their neighbor to the north. The Caucasus nations lie to the west of the Caspian Sea, close to Europe and the Mediterranean. Central Asia lies east of the Caspian Sea, and several of its countries border China.

Central Asia is **landlocked**, or cut off from contact with any ocean. At its eastern edge, mountains separate Central Asia from East and South Asia. To the northwest of these mountains the **steppe**, or mostly flat grasslands, cover Kazakhstan. Deserts cover most of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Rainfall is scarce in this dry region, so the rivers fed by melting snow in the eastern mountains are very important. Most of Central Asia is dry and farming is difficult, except in northern Kazakhstan and the valleys of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Because of the steppe and mountain landscape, raising livestock is important to Central Asia.

The Caucasus region is the area near the Caucasus Mountains, which run between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. This area contains Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, and lies to the south of Russia. The mountains protect the region from the cold of the north. The western part of the Caucasus receives more rainfall than the east. Farming is common in the Caucasus because of the humid, temperate climate.

The region is rich in natural gas, oil, and mineral deposits, but these resources are not distributed evenly. Because of their location, countries with these resources must depend on others to get their resources to markets. Water is not distributed evenly either, and this has caused disagreements.

This region is very culturally diverse. The mountains of the Caucasus meant that many small, isolated groups developed their own cultures and languages. More than 40 different languages are native to the Caucasus region alone. There are many ethnic groups living in clusters throughout the region. As a result, some areas want to form their own governments. In Georgia, two regions have declared independence, and a large area of Azerbaijan has declared independence as well. In both nations, the conflicts remain unresolved and are sources of tension in the region.

Most people in Central Asia practice Islam and speak Turkic languages. Because these countries were part of the Soviet Union, Russian is spoken throughout the region as well.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

*landlocked* cut off from direct access to the ocean

*steppe* vast area of grassland
Trade passed through Central Asia and the Caucasus for thousands of years. As a result, many cultures have influenced these regions. The Silk Road cut through these regions and connected Europe to China. Central Asian cities became important stops along the route. They prospered as financial centers and areas of cultural blending.

The Caucasus became an important link between Europe and Southwest Asia. The Roman Empire brought Christianity to the area, and Armenia became the first state to make Christianity its official religion.

Islam also became a major religion in Central Asia due to trade and conquest. By the 1400s, Islam was the main religion in Central Asia. Great empires also rose on the steppes of this region. Many nomadic tribes of the plains became skilled horsemen. These warriors created great empires. The Huns conquered the Caucasus and terrorized Europe by attacking the Roman Empire. The Mongol empire, formed by Genghis Khan in the early 1200s, became larger than any empire before it. Trade increased along the Silk Road under Mongol rule. Central Asia was controlled by the Turks after the Mongols lost power.

In the 1800s, Russia took over the entire area, seizing control of the Caucasus and Central Asia. In 1917, Communists seized control in Russia. They divided these two regions into eight Soviet republics as part of the Soviet Union. The Soviet government controlled schools, the economy, religion, and all aspects of everyday life. The traditionally nomadic people were forced to settle and work on farms run by the government. Many Russians moved to the region and brought cultural changes.

However, in 1991 the Soviet Union fell and the Soviet republics became eight independent countries. Russia’s influence is still strong in the region today. Many ethnic Russians still live there, and Russian is still a widely spoken language.

Lesson Vocabulary

nomadic  moving from place to place without a permanent home; not settled

seize  to take by force
The collapse of the Soviet Union brought about great changes in the lives and culture of the people in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Soviet Union did not allow religious freedom. However, since its fall, countries have built churches and mosques. They have also begun to celebrate religious festivals and holidays again.

Culture has changed in other ways as well. Local languages have become important and widely used again, with schools teaching subjects in local languages rather than in Russian. Governments are trying to bring back local traditions in art, literature, and music as well. With new freedom, people in these countries now have contact with others in the United States, China, and India. These countries are a new cultural influence in the region.

One challenge the people in this region face is making sure that different ethnic groups are treated fairly. Tajiks in Uzbekistan have a difficult time finding jobs, for instance. Sometimes ethnic differences can lead to fighting, as between Uzbeks and Kyrgyz in southern Kyrgyzstan. Some groups in the Caucasus have tried to break away and form separate countries.

During Soviet rule, the economy of each republic was closely tied to that of the Soviet Union as a whole. Now, governments must develop their economies and link them to new trading partners. Many people in this region are poor. Pollution has caused harm to both people and businesses, and cleaning up pollution requires a lot of money.

Another common problem in Central Asia and the Caucasus is the government. Repressive leaders who want to stay in power have limited people’s freedoms in many countries. Popular protest movements in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan resulted in the removal of harsh leaders from power. Still, most countries in the region are not democratic. Government corruption has also made economic problems worse, as government officials steal money that should go to building the schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges needed for economic growth.

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Lesson Vocabulary

repressive  opposed to freedom
The Soviet Union developed the educational system in the region to teach students how to live in a communist society. It focused on the Russian language and Soviet culture and ignored local languages and customs. Today, governments in the region are trying to change the educational system. They need to teach students how to live and succeed in a free market system. They are also trying to promote their countries’ unique cultures. Classes are taught using national languages. Teachers emphasize critical thinking and problem solving instead of memorizing facts, as in the old Soviet system. Some countries have built new universities, and Internet access allows students to be in touch with people in other countries. Not all countries in the region have taken these steps to the same extent, however.
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of Russia
1. What kinds of transportation systems have been developed in Russia? Why?

2. Identify Patterns Where do most Russians live? What type of climate occurs there? How is climate related to where people live in Russia?

Lesson 2: History of Russia
3. Why were serfs not free to move around Russia under the tsars?

4. Who were the Bolsheviks, and what did they do in the Russian Revolution?

Lesson 3: Russia Today
5. What has the role of government in Russia been since the end of the Soviet Union?

6. Connect Think about the life expectancy and health issues Russia faces. What do you think the government can do about the health problems in Russia?

Lesson 4: Geography of Central Asia and the Caucasus
7. What resources are present in this region? What issues have arisen around resources here?
8. **Compare and Contrast** What cultural similarities do Central Asia and the Caucasus share? How are they different?

Lesson 5: History of Central Asia and the Caucasus

9. **Sequence Events** Place the following events from the history of Central Asia and the Caucasus in order.

   _______ Central Asia and the Caucasus are part of the Soviet Union.
   _______ Central Asia and the Caucasus become eight independent countries.
   _______ Central Asia and the Caucasus become part of the Russian empire.
   _______ Islam comes to Central Asia.
   _______ The Silk Road emerges as an important trade route.

10. How did Soviet rule change the way people in these regions made a living?

Lesson 6: Central Asia and the Caucasus Today

11. How did the end of the Soviet Union change religious freedom and the economy in Central Asia and the Caucasus?

12. **Compare and Contrast** How are the governments in Central Asia and the Caucasus today similar to the Soviet government? How are they different?
Focus Question: How should we handle conflict?

In one way or another, conflict happens to every person and group of people throughout the world. Individuals have conflicts with other individuals, communities conflict with other communities, and nations go to war with one another. There are many reasons for conflict. Some conflicts are avoidable, but others may not be. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, consider sources of conflicts, both in the region you are studying and in other areas. Write one source of conflict in each circle of the concept web, and then indicate whether or not you think this conflict is avoidable or unavoidable.
North Africa includes the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. It is a very dry region. In fact, the Sahara desert covers most of North Africa. In the western part of the region, people live largely along the coast or in valleys in the Atlas Mountains, which get some rainfall. In Egypt, most of the population lives in a narrow area of land around the Nile River, which provides water. The rest of Egypt is covered by sparsely populated deserts and mountains.

The population of North Africa is increasing rapidly. Egypt has the largest population in the region. In fact, nearly as many people live in Egypt as in the rest of North Africa put together. Slightly more than half of all North Africans live in cities. Cairo, Egypt, is one of the largest cities in Africa. The rapid growth of cities has caused overcrowding and a lack of clean drinking water.

North Africans have made major changes to their environments to make life easier. One important example is the Aswan High Dam, built on the Nile River in Egypt. It provides hydroelectricity and ended flooding. However, it also has negative environmental consequences. The region faces other environmental problems as well. Desertification, or the expansion of deserts, is a serious problem. It can be caused by overgrazing by livestock animals.

Water is essential to life in North Africa, but oil is the region’s most important export. Every country in the region exports oil. Algeria and Libya have the largest reserves. Many oil tankers pass through the Suez Canal in Egypt. This canal allows ships to go directly from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, making trade between Europe and Asia much faster. Because of its location, North Africa has had connections with Southern Europe, Southwest Asia, and Africa south of the Sahara for thousands of years.

Lesson Vocabulary

- rapidly in a very fast manner
- reserve amount of oil available
Lesson Summary

HISTORY OF NORTH AFRICA

One of the world’s first civilizations, ancient Egypt, developed in North Africa. It began around 5,000 years ago. Ancient Egypt depended on the Nile River, which flooded every year. The floods left behind silt, a rich soil that was good for growing crops to support people. Strong rulers, known as pharaohs, or kings, unified Egypt and built canals for irrigation.

The pharaohs were closely connected with Egyptian religion. Egyptians believed the pharaoh was like a god and worshipped him after his death. They worshiped many other gods as well and built temples for them.

The ancient Egyptians believed in an afterlife and worked hard to prepare for it. Pharaohs and wealthy Egyptians built elaborate tombs, including the Great Pyramids at Giza. They painted the walls with scenes from life and filled the tombs with goods and valuables to take into the afterlife. Some Egyptians had their bodies preserved as mummies after their deaths. Much of what we know about ancient Egypt comes from what was found in tombs.

The Egyptians studied mathematics, astronomy, and engineering. They invented hieroglyphics, a unique writing system. Scholars have learned much about ancient Egyptian society from its writings.

The Persians, Greeks, and Romans conquered North Africa in turn. Under Roman rule, Christianity spread in the region. Egypt became a center of Christian life. Egyptian Christians are known as Copts. In the A.D. 600s, Arabs conquered North Africa. They brought the Arabic language and the religion of Islam to the region. Culture and trade flourished under Arab rule. Over time, most North Africans became Muslims.

During the late 1800s, European powers took control of North Africa. France, Italy, and Great Britain each ruled part of the region. Many Europeans settled in Algeria, which was under French rule. North Africans resisted, and most countries eventually gained independence in the 1950s.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

pharaoh  king of ancient Egypt
mummy  body that has been preserved so it will not decompose
hieroglyphics  Egyptian system of writing using pictures and other symbols
In Algeria, it took a bloody eight-year war before independence was achieved. Most Europeans fled the country. In Egypt, Britain quietly controlled the country even after independence. Then, in 1952, a military officer named Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power. He became a leader in the Pan-Arab movement, whose goal was to unite all Arabic-speaking peoples into one country. Nasser also took control of the Suez Canal from its European owners.

Egypt fought several wars against Israel, its neighbor, from 1948 to 1973. In 1979, the two countries finally made peace.
Most North Africans speak Arabic and practice Islam, as do most people in many countries in Southwest Asia. This ties North Africa and Southwest Asia together into a culture region, or an area united by common cultural traits. North Africa and Southwest Asia together are often called the Middle East, although sometimes people who use this term may not mean to include all parts of these two regions.

Egypt has the largest population of any Arabic-speaking country. It is a center of Arabic-speaking culture today. Two large minority groups in the region are Berbers in western North Africa and Christian Copts in Egypt. A small Jewish population still lives in the region, mainly in Morocco.

North Africa is the wealthiest and most developed region in Africa. This is shown by measures such as life expectancy, literacy, and Human Development Index (HDI). These measures help geographers understand how developed a country is. Oil exports and tourism have both helped the region’s economies. However, poverty, water shortages, and overcrowding in urban areas are still problems. So are corruption and unemployment. In recent years, as governments have become unstable, economies have suffered. For instance, fewer tourists are visiting the region.

This instability began with the Arab Spring, a protest movement pushing for more democracy and greater freedom in the Arab world. It began in Tunisia, which, like most North African nations, was ruled by an oppressive government. Protests broke out late 2010. By January 2011, the country’s long-time president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was forced to flee. Free elections were held. Similar protests spread through the region. In Egypt, protestors forced Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak from office. The Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group, took power in an election. However, the military soon overthrew the elected government.

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Lesson Vocabulary

**culture region** area in which a single culture or cultural trait is dominant

**literacy** the ability to read and write

**Human Development Index (HDI)** measure of living conditions using factors such as life expectancy, education, and income
(Continued from page 67)

In Libya, the dictator Muammar Qaddafi refused to step down when protests broke out. A civil war began. With help from the United States and other countries, rebels defeated Qaddafi, who was killed. Elections were held, but Libya remains unstable. In Algeria, Islamic extremists are a threat to the government, which has rigged elections. Morocco is ruled by a king, but a constitution limits his power. Both Morocco and Algeria made reforms due to Arab Spring protests, but their governments remained in power.
Lesson 4
GEOGRAPHY OF ARABIA AND IRAQ

Iraq and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula are located in Southwest Asia. The Arabian Peninsula is surrounded by water on three sides. Iraq lies to the north of this peninsula. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers run through Iraq and provide fresh water, but elsewhere the region is mostly desert.

The nations of this region have some of the world’s largest oil reserves. Oil and natural gas are known as fossil fuels, because they are formed over millions of years from the remains of living things. They are nonrenewable resources.

Oil has made many nations in Arabia very wealthy. Much of the world depends on oil from this region. When conflicts arise in the Arabia and Iraq, they can affect the world’s supply of oil. Oil prices may rise, and the increase in cost affects people around the world. The region’s oil reserves will not last forever, however, so its economic future is uncertain.

Oil is essential for economies in the region, and water is essential for its people. In northeastern Iraq and the mountains of Yemen, rainfall supports agriculture. The rest of the region, however, is very dry. Countries must use profits from selling oil to import food from other regions. They must also build desalination plants to remove salt from seawater in order to have enough water to meet their needs.

People have long settled in the parts of this region that have enough water. These areas are found in the mountains of Iraq and Yemen, along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and at desert oases on the Arabian Peninsula. Outside of Yemen, the region is urbanized, and most people live in cities today. Populations are growing rapidly, partly due to a tradition of having large families.

In most countries in the region, Arab Muslims form a majority. However, many people from outside the region have moved there in recent years. They make up a majority in Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, though Arabs still hold political power in these countries. Iraq also has a large minority of Kurds, a non-Arab ethnic group.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

fossil fuel  nonrenewable resource formed over millions of years from the remains of ancient plants and animals
desalination  removal of salt from seawater
urbanized  place where most people live in cities
majority  more than half
The vast majority of the people in the region are Muslim, but there are important differences between Muslim groups. The two main groups of Muslims are Sunnis and Shias. In Iraq, these two groups, along with the Kurds, have fought one another in a civil conflict. In Bahrain, Shias have protested against Sunni rule. The region also has small non-Muslim religious minorities, including ancient Christian and Jewish communities. Many thousands of Jews fled the region in the 1900s, and fewer than 200 remain today.
The area that is now Iraq was one of the places where civilization first developed. The land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was known as Mesopotamia. The rivers made the land good for farming, and city-states grew. The Sumerians were a people who lived in southern Mesopotamia. They created cuneiform, one of the world’s first writing systems. Babylonians and Assyrians, from other parts of Mesopotamia, built large empires in later centuries. Eventually, outside empires like the Persians, Greeks, and Romans conquered the region. The people who ruled the region traded with the Arab nomads of the Arabian Peninsula at oases in the desert. Cities grew at these oases. One was called Mecca.

In the A.D. 600s, Mecca became a center for Islam, a new religion. Followers of Islam are called Muslims. According to Islam, a man from Mecca named Muhammad received messages from God. These messages, Muslims believe, were collected and preserved in the Quran, the holy book of Islam. Muhammad was forced out of Mecca and settled in Medina. When the Meccans attacked Medina, Muhammad and the Muslims won. They took control of the city of Mecca. When Muhammad died in 632, his followers disagreed about who should be the next leader, or caliph. This division led to the split between Sunni and Shia Muslims, which continues to this day.

Muslims believe in one God, and believe that his will can be found in the words of the Quran. Islam stresses the importance of family and community. There are five Pillars of Islam, or important religious duties that Muslims must follow: declaring faith, praying, helping the poor, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, and traveling to Mecca at least once.

The early Arab Muslims built a huge empire and grew rich from trade. Baghdad became the capital of the empire and a center of culture and trade. Arts blossomed, and math and science were advanced. The Arab Muslim empire eventually fell apart. In the 1500s, the Ottoman empire conquered much of Arabia and Iraq and held power until it fought on the losing side in World War I, which ended in 1918.

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Lesson Vocabulary

civilization  culture with a written language in which people have many different kinds of jobs

caliph  Muslims’ political and religious leader
Lesson Summary

(Continued from page 71)

Britain took control of the region after 1918. It formed the country of Iraq, which included several different ethnic and religious groups. Iraq gained independence from Britain in 1932. However, King Faisal I, who ruled Iraq, kept strong ties with Britain. Oil had been discovered in Arabia and Iraq in the 1920s and 1930s. Oil wealth in Iraq was controlled by a British company. In the 1960s, the Baath Party came to power. It took control of Iraq’s oil. Baath leader Saddam Hussein took power in 1979 and ruled as a dictator. Iraq fought a long war with Iran in the 1980s. It invaded its neighbor Kuwait in 1990, but the United States and other countries forced it to withdraw.

Many of the smaller countries of Arabia gained independence from Britain in the 1960s and 1970s. They are monarchies, like Saudi Arabia, and produce oil. In the 1970s, these countries, along with Iraq, formed OPEC. The countries of OPEC work together to control the supply of oil around the world. The decisions of OPEC can cause oil prices to rise or fall.

Lesson Vocabulary

dictator leader with complete control over government
Many countries in Arabia are monarchical. Some of these monarchs have absolute power. In other countries, a written constitution limits the ruler’s power. In some kingdoms, the laws are based on Islamic principles. For many years, Iraq was led by the dictator Saddam Hussein. He was a corrupt and brutal leader who ruled until he was removed from power in 2003. Today, Iraq is one of several nations in the region moving toward democracy and holding free elections.

In 2003, the United States led an invasion of Iraq. President George W. Bush and his advisors claimed that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. Hussein was quickly defeated, but no weapons were found. Conflict broke out between religious and ethnic groups, especially between Sunni and Shia Muslims. Troops from the United States and other countries left Iraq in 2011. Despite success in some areas, Iraq remains severely unstable. Violence in Iraq is a serious problem.

In addition to war, political protests have also led to changes in the region. The Arab Spring protest movement that began in North Africa spread to Arabia in 2011. They had the biggest effect in Bahrain and Yemen. Bahrain is a country with a Shia majority and a Sunni ruler. There, violent conflicts occurred between protesters and police. The Saudi Arabian military came to Bahrain and helped the government put down the protests. In Yemen, protests forced President Ali Abdullah Saleh from office.

Throughout this region, Islam is a major source of tradition. People in this region, as elsewhere, disagree about how to practice Islam and what role religion should have in society. One important religious group is the Wahhabis. They are fundamentalist Muslims who interpret the Quran literally and want to return to what they see as the original teachings of Islam. Wahhabis are also Islamists. Islamism is the belief that politics and society should follow Islamic teaching. A small number of Islamists in the region see European and American influence as a threat. Some commit acts of terrorism. The al Qaeda Islamist terrorist group, for example, was led by a Saudi, Osama Bin Laden, when it carried out the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. However, most Muslims reject violence and terrorism.

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Lesson Vocabulary

Islamism  belief that politics and society should follow Islamic teachings

terrorism  use of violence to create fear for political reasons
While Islam and local traditions are important, the region has also been influenced by other cultures. When oil production began in the mid-1900s, Western engineers came to the region to help build the oil industry. They helped expose people in the region to Western culture, and many local people have adopted parts of it. A greater role for women in society has been part of this change. Some people in the region oppose these new ideas.

Oil’s impact on the region’s economies is even more striking. Oil sales have made every nation in the region wealthy, outside of Yemen and Iraq. However, money from oil sales has led the region to ignore other ways to grow its economies. The region remains dependent on oil sales. Recently, leaders in the region have attempted to diversify by taking oil money and putting it toward education, construction projects, and banking.
Lesson Summary

GEOGRAPHY OF ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Gaza are located in Southwest Asia, where Asia and Africa meet. The West Bank and Gaza together are sometimes known as the Palestinian territories. The region has four geographic zones. Moving from west to east, they are: a narrow coastal plain; an area of mountains and hills; a chain of valleys; and finally a large desert plateau. The chain of valleys is part of the larger rift valley that extends into Africa. The lowest land on Earth’s surface, along the shores of the Dead Sea, lies in this part of the region.

The coastal plain along the Mediterranean Sea and nearby hilly areas get most of the rainfall in this region. Moist air flows inland over the coast but is blocked by mountains and hills. Areas to the east of these mountains are very dry. This is called a rain shadow effect.

Most people in this region are either Jews, the majority in Israel, or Arabs, who are the majority in other countries. Judaism is the major religion in Israel, and most of the people there speak Hebrew. Jews from around the world have moved to Israel, bringing their customs with them. Islam is the most widespread religion throughout the rest of the region. However, there are divisions among Sunni, Shia, and Alawite Muslims. The Druze are an important non-Muslim community in the region, which is also home to many Christians, especially in Lebanon. Conflicts have arisen among followers of the different religions.

Water is an essential resource for people of every ethnic and religious group in this region. Outside of the winter rainy season, this region gets very little rainfall. Underground aquifers are a major source for water, but some of them are becoming empty from overuse. Lebanon is the only country in the region with plenty of fresh water. Tensions have arisen in the region over who has the rights to water. Water scarcity has even caused an environmental problem. The Dead Sea has shrunk dramatically in recent decades as more and more water is taken from its source, the Jordan River.

Lesson Vocabulary
rift valley a lowland located between highlands or mountains, shaped by fault lines in Earth’s crust
rain shadow a dry area that forms behind a highland that captures rainfall and snow
aquifer underground layer of rock where water collects
Lesson Summary

HISTORY OF ISRAEL AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Israel and its neighbors were home to some of the world’s earliest civilizations. The Phoenecians of what is now Lebanon and Syria, for example, developed an alphabet. It spread and became the basis for the alphabet we use today.

Christianity and Judaism both have their origins in Israel and its neighbors. By 1200 B.C., a people known as the Israelites had moved to the region. They worshiped a single God. The Israelites built a powerful kingdom, which later split in two. Both Israelite kingdoms were conquered by outside empires. The city of Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed. Many Israelites were taken away as captives. However, the people of Judah, the southern kingdom, preserved their religion. They became known as Jews, and their religion became Judaism. They returned and rebuilt their Temple. The region eventually came under Roman rule. The Jews revolted, and in A.D. 70 the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and its Temple for a second time.

The origins of the Israelites and their early history are recorded in the Hebrew Bible, which is an important Jewish scripture. It tells of the Israelites’ long years of slavery in Egypt. According to the Hebrew Bible, God sent a prophet called Moses to lead the Israelites to freedom. He also gave them the Torah, a part of the Hebrew Bible. The Torah includes many teachings and laws, including the Ten Commandments.

Monotheism, or the belief in one God, is a cornerstone of the Jewish religion. Jewish teachings include a system of ethics, as well as guidelines for daily life such as dietary laws and rules for observing the weekly Sabbath, or day of rest. Important Jewish holidays include Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Hanukkah.

Lesson Vocabulary

**prophet**  a messenger of God
**ethics**  beliefs about what is right and wrong

(Continues on the next page.)
Christianity began when this region was under Roman rule. It centers around Jesus, a Jewish man who grew up in the town of Nazareth, in what is now northern Israel. He preached about Jewish ethics and beliefs. According to Christian scripture, the Romans put Jesus to death by crucifixion, but he was resurrected, or raised from the dead. His followers believed that this proved he was the messiah, a special leader chosen by God. They called him “Christ” which means messiah in Greek. Jesus’ followers became known as Christians.

Most early Christians had a Jewish background. Eventually the religion spread to non-Jews throughout the Roman world. The Romans persecuted Christians, but eventually the Roman emperor Constantine became a Christian himself. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman empire.

The Christian Bible includes the Hebrew Bible, which Christians call the Old Testament. It also includes the New Testament, which tells about Jesus and his early followers. Most Christians believe in the Trinity, the idea that God exists in three forms: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. This idea separates Christianity from Judaism and Islam. God’s forgiveness, the promise of eternal life, and the importance of Jesus’ death and resurrection are also central beliefs for Christians.

Today, Christianity is the most widely practiced religion in the world. There are more than two billion Christians today. Christmas and Easter are the two most commonly celebrated Christian holidays.

The Romans continued to rule this region long after Jesus’ lifetime. Roman rule was harsh, and the Jews revolted again in A.D. 135. After the Romans put down the revolt, they renamed the region Palestine, to break the Jewish connection with the land. Southwest Asia became mainly Christian.

In the 600s, Arab Muslims conquered the region. The region slowly gained a Muslim majority, and Arabic became its main language. Jerusalem became a holy place for Muslims, as it was for Jews and Christians. The city still has important holy sites and examples of architecture from all three religions.

Lesson Vocabulary

messiah in Jewish belief, a leader chosen by God who would restore the Jewish nation and help create God’s kingdom in the world
(Continued from page 77)

During the Crusades, Christian soldiers from Europe took control of parts of the region, starting around 1100. However, Muslim forces eventually defeated them. The Muslim Ottoman Turks took control of the region in the 1500s and ruled it until 1918.

After World War I, Israel and its neighbors came under British and French rule as mandates, or territories put under their control by the League of Nations. Since the late 1800s, Zionism, the idea of building a Jewish state, had spread among Jews in Europe. Many moved to the British Palestine Mandate to escape violent persecution. In 1948, after World War II, they founded the state of Israel in part of the Palestine Mandate. It was attacked by its neighbors but survived. During the war, many Arabs fled from areas conquered by Israel. Many Jews fled from other Arab countries to Israel as well.

After 1948, Israel and its neighbors fought several wars. In 1967, Israel defeated its neighbors in six days of fighting. It gained control of new territories: the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula. In 1979, it returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt as part of a peace deal.

In 1975, civil war broke out between ethnic and religious groups in Lebanon. Israel and Syria both intervened. The war ended in 1990, but tensions remain.
Israel and its neighbors have a variety of different systems of government, ranging from democracy to autocracy. Israel and Lebanon are **parliamentary democracies**. In Lebanon, control of the government is carefully balanced among different religious groups but in a way that no longer reflects their proportions in the population. Jordan is ruled by a constitutional **hereditary monarch**.

The Arab Spring pro-democracy movement led to protests in this region. In Jordan, protests led to reforms. In Syria, however, the protests were met with a military crackdown, and a civil war has broken out there. More than 100,000 people have been killed, and 5 million refugees have fled from their homes.

Like its governments, the region’s economies vary widely. Israel’s economy is stronger than others in the region, and Israelis have a higher standard of living than their neighbors. This is partly due to a good system of education. It is also because Israel has good relations with wealthy countries that provide **capital** and trade. Corruption and poor educational systems hold Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan back. Also, because of conflicts, other nations are less likely to invest in or trade with these countries.

In addition to the civil war in Syria, there has long been conflict in the region between Israel and Palestinian Arabs. Both Israelis and Palestinians view the same region as their homeland, and both claim Jerusalem as their capital. The two sides signed a peace accord in the 1990s, but conflict continues. There are many obstacles to a lasting peace. Palestinians object to growing Israeli settlements on the West Bank, to the West Bank separation barrier, and to the blockade of Gaza, for example. Meanwhile, Israelis suffer from rocket attacks launched from Gaza and Lebanon. During the Second Intifada in the early 2000s, Palestinians also committed many terrorist attacks inside Israel.

*(Continues on the next page.)*

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- **parliamentary democracy**  a democracy in which parliament chooses the government
- **hereditary monarch**  a ruler from a traditional ruling family who is the son, daughter, or younger relative of the last ruler
- **capital**  money or goods that are used to make products
Today, Israel is threatened by two organizations considered terrorist groups by many nations, Hamas and Hezbollah. Hamas has controlled Gaza since 2007. Hezbollah holds some political power in Lebanon. Both groups have launched rockets at Israel in recent years. Israel has responded by sending troops into Lebanon and Gaza at various times.

Conflicts in Israel and its neighbors are important to many people around the world. The region is home to sites holy to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This makes events there significant to followers of these religions, including those who live elsewhere. Conflicts in the region also threaten the supply of oil that comes from nearby parts of Southwest Asia. Tensions in this region can affect the price of oil in other countries.
Turkey, Iran, and Cyprus are mountainous countries. Turkey is located on two continents, Europe and Asia. A strait called the Bosporus cuts through Turkey’s capital, Istanbul. The strait connects the Mediterranean and Black seas. Europe lies to the west of the Bosporus, while Asia is on the east side. Istanbul’s location means it has been an important port city for centuries.

Mountains that surround a dry central plateau ring both Iran and Turkey. The island of Cyprus also has mountains along its coasts, and an interior central plain. Earthquakes occur frequently in this region.

The climate in this region is mostly dry, with some areas that receive more rain. In Iran, the shamal, which are winds that blow during the summer, creates powerful dust storms. In Cyprus, summers are hot, and winters are rainy and mild. In Turkey, coastal areas receive more rain and have milder winters than the central plateau or mountains.

In this region, more than 97 percent of people are Muslim. In Turkey, 80 percent of people are ethnically Turks and about 20 percent are Kurds. In the past, Turkey tried to ban Kurdish culture and fought Kurdish rebels who wanted their own country. More recently, the situation has improved. Most Iranians practice Shia Islam, but there are small communities of Jews and Christians in the country, as there are in Turkey. Cyprus is divided between Greek Christians and Turkish Muslims, and they have fought bitterly in recent years.

In this region, few people live in the high mountains or inland dry areas. Most people live on the coastal plains. Water is scarce. In Iran, people have built qanats since ancient times to use water effectively. They are underground tunnels that bring water from aquifers to where it can be used. Because they are underground, the water does not evaporate in the hot climate.

Iran has large oil reserves. They are very important to Iran’s economy. Turkey and Cyprus, on the other hand, have few energy resources.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

*strait*  a narrow body of water that cuts through land, connecting two larger bodies of water

*shamal*  dry winds that blow across the far western part of Iran from northwest to southeast

*qanat*  underground tunnels from aquifers in the foothills that bring water to Iranians’ homes and fields

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Lesson Summary

HISTORY OF IRAN, TURKEY, AND CYPRUS

Until recently, Iran was known as Persia. In ancient times, the Persian empire stretched from Egypt to Afghanistan. The Persians built a system of roads in their empire. Alexander the Great conquered the region in the 330s B.C., but after his sudden death, his empire split up. Later, the Sassanian empire ruled Iran. It made Zoroastrianism the official religion. At the same time, modern-day Turkey and Cyprus became parts of the Roman empire. After the Western Roman empire collapsed, the Eastern Roman empire survived. It was known as the Byzantine empire. Its capital was Constantinople, which is called Istanbul today.

In the 600s, Islam spread to most of the region. In the 1000s, Turks from Central Asia migrated into Iran and Turkey and began to gain power. In the 1400s, the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople and expanded their power into Europe and other regions. The Turkish-run Safavid empire rose in Iran in the 1500s. The Safavids made Shia Islam the official religion of Iran and built many famous mosques.

In the 1900s, the Young Turks took power in the Ottoman empire. They wanted to create a secular nation like those in Europe. They sided with Germany in World War I. During this war, Turkish troops were responsible for the deaths of between 600,000 and 1,500,000 Armenians. This is known as the Armenian Genocide. The Ottoman empire lost the war and collapsed. European powers tried to take control of Turkey, but the Turks resisted and formed a secular republic under Mustafa Kemal, called Ataturk.

In the 1920s in Iran, Reza Pahlavi took over the government and named himself shah, or king. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, became a close ally of the United States. The repressive policies of the shah created opposition. In 1978 a revolution broke out. The shah’s government collapsed, and a religious leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, took power in 1979.

Lesson Vocabulary

mosque  Islamic house of worship

secular  not religious

shah  the Persian word for king
Iran today is an Islamic Republic. The head of the government is a religious figure called the Supreme Leader. Iran has a president and a legislature, called the Majlis, but the Supreme Leader is more powerful. The Guardian Council, made up of clerics, or religious leaders, has the power to veto laws that it believes violate Islamic laws.

Iranians have the right to vote, but they lack many freedoms such as freedom of the press and freedom of speech. Iranian women do not have fully equal rights. Many Iranians oppose their government, but public protest can lead to imprisonment or death. In 2009 and 2010, reformists staged large protests, but the government used violence to stop them.

Iran has difficult relations with the United States. Before the Iranian revolution, the United States supported the shah, who oppressed Iranians. After the revolution, Iranians attacked the United States embassy and held Americans hostage for more than a year. Today, the United States and other nations fear that Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons and accuse it of supporting terrorism abroad.

Many nations refuse to trade with Iran because of its policies. This hurts Iran’s economy severely. Oil is the country’s main source of income. The lack of freedom and economic hardship have caused many educated people to leave the country since 1979. This is known as a brain drain and has also hurt Iran’s economy.

Turkey is a democracy, although it is sometimes less free than democracies in Europe or the United States. In the past, the army repeatedly took power violently in coups. Many Turks are secularists who try to keep religion and politics separate. In 2003, a president was elected who was a member of the AKP party, which embraces Islam. Many Turks feared he would make their country more like other Islamic nations. AKP leaders still run the government today.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

cleric religious leader

brain drain situation when large numbers of educated people migrate out of a country

coup sudden, violent overthrow of a government, often by the military
Turkey’s culture is influenced by both Europe and Southwest Asia. Women play a larger role in the economy and government than they do in other nations in Southwest Asia. Many people have moved to cities like Istanbul and Ankara to find a higher standard of living. Turkey’s economy has grown rapidly in recent years, as government control over the economy has lessened. The government has attempted to join the European Union. This move has caused controversy in Turkey and in European nations.

In 1960, Cyprus gained independence from Britain. Greeks and Turks fought to control the island. In 1974, Turkey invaded. Today, the island is divided between Greek- and Turkish-controlled areas. The Greek-run part of the island, the Republic of Cyprus, joined the European Union without the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. During the global recession of 2008, the Republic of Cyprus faced a financial crisis. Its economic future remains uncertain.
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of North Africa
1. What advantages are there in North Africa’s geography? Disadvantages?

2. How does water shape human settlement patterns in North Africa?

Lesson 2: History of North Africa
3. What feature or features of physical geography shaped the development of ancient Egypt? How?

4. Summarize Describe the culture of ancient Egypt.

Lesson 3: North Africa Today
5. Paraphrase Describe in your own words the culture region of North Africa and Southwest Asia.

6. How has the Arab Spring changed the political life of North Africa? Use two examples from the Lesson Summary.

Lesson 4: Geography of Arabia and Iraq
7. How do resources affect the economies of Arabia and Iraq?
Review Questions (continued)

NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

8. Why do most people in this region live in cities?

Lesson 5: History of Arabia and Iraq
9. How has geography shaped the history of Arabia and Iraq? Use two examples from the Lesson Summary to support your conclusion.

10. Identify Central Issues Why did Muslims split into Shia and Sunni groups?

Lesson 6: Arabia and Iraq Today
11. Describe and evaluate a recent change in government in one country of this region. What change occurred, and how? Has this change been positive or negative?

12. Summarize What two influences primarily shape culture in Arabia and Iraq?

Lesson 7: Geography of Israel and Its Neighbors
13. Describe Describe the four geographic zones, and indicate the climate of each.

14. Summarize Summarize the ethnic and religious diversity of this region.

Lesson 8: History of Israel and Its Neighbors
15. Explain What three religions shaped this region’s history? What similarities are there among these three religions?
Review Questions (continued)

North Africa and Southwest Asia

16. What was the goal of Zionism? How did it affect the history of this region?

Lesson 9: Israel and Its Neighbors Today
17. Identify Describe the types of governments of Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria.

18. What factors cause countries in this region to have very different standards of living?

Lesson 10: Geography of Iran, Turkey, and Cyprus
19. Describe What physical features define these countries?

20. What political issues have arisen from the ethnic diversity of these countries?

Lesson 11: History of Iran, Turkey, and Cyprus
21. List What empires ruled these countries?

22. How did empires of the past affect religion in this region?

Lesson 12: Iran, Turkey, and Cyprus Today
23. Contrast How are Iran’s and Turkey’s governments different?

24. Connect How have Iran’s government policies affected its economy?
Focus Question: How should resources be distributed?

In this topic you learned about resources—and sometimes lack of resources—in Sub-Saharan Africa. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, complete the graphic organizer below with information about the resources in these regions. Then, give your opinion as to whether or not people in the region should try to change the distribution of resources.

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Lesson Summary
Geography of West and Central Africa

West and Central Africa are located south of the Sahara. Geographers use latitude and longitude to state the absolute location of places within the region. The absolute location of Jos, a city in Nigeria, is 10°E longitude and 10°N latitude. In terms of relative location, Nigeria is south of Niger and east of Cameroon.

Physical features of West and Central Africa range from deserts and semiarid areas to rain forests and grasslands. Much of Africa is a large plateau, and elevation does not vary much in this region. Rivers in the region are fed by rain that falls on some of the largest drainage basins in the world. A drainage basin is the entire area of land from which rainfall flows into a river or lake. One major drainage basin in this region is Lake Chad, a large, shallow lake. Large river basins include the Niger River basin in the west and the Congo River basin in Central Africa.

The region has a variety of climates. Along the Equator, there is a tropical wet climate, with rain all year that supports dense rain forests. North and south of this zone, the climate is a tropical wet and dry zone. These areas support savannas, or grassy plains. To the north of the northern savanna region is the Sahel, a semiarid area. At the far north and south of the region are deserts. Temperatures are generally warm throughout the region.

The environment strongly affects how and where people live in the region. For example, in Chad, little of the country is arable land, or land fit for farming. The desert of northern Chad is sparsely populated, and the people who live there are mostly nomads. Nomads move from place to place without a permanent home. People who live in southern Chad farm because the area receives more rain. In Nigeria more land is fertile, and it also has huge oil reserves. While this oil benefits the economy, getting it hurts the environment.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

absolute location exact position on Earth in terms of latitude and longitude
savanna park-like landscape of grasslands with scattered trees that can survive dry spells, found in tropical areas with dry seasons
arable land land that can be used for farming
nomad person who moves from place to place without a permanent home
Two other environmental problems affect the region. Overuse of the land for farming or grazing animals can lead to desertification. In this process, the Sahel turns into desert. Deforestation is another issue. It results in loss of forest area and drying of the soil. Many people in the region have moved to cities because of desertification, conflict, or failed crops due to drought. As a result, cities are becoming overcrowded. Nigeria has the largest overall population in the region.

Another problem in the region is disease. Insects spread diseases like malaria and sleeping sickness. Sleeping sickness is carried by a fly and affects both cattle and people. People cannot raise cattle in areas where the fly lives. Malaria is spread by mosquitoes and is common throughout this region. Many people lack the resources to protect themselves from these diseases.

Lesson Vocabulary

desertification the change when arable land dries out and becomes desert
deforestation the loss of forest cover in a region that results from the trees in a forest being destroyed faster than they can grow back
Trade was important to the early civilizations of West and Central Africa. The natural resources and location of the area encouraged trade. Trade between West Africa and North Africa had lasting effects on the region. It spread Islam, Islamic scholarship, and Islamic law to West Africa.

Around A.D. 750, kingdoms in West Africa began to trade with Arab traders in North Africa. Salt from North Africa and gold from West Africa were the main goods in this trade. Three great empires rose in West Africa as a result of this trade. Ghana flourished between A.D. 600 and 1200. In 1240, Mali conquered what was left of the Ghana empire. Mali became a Muslim empire, and ties with North Africa strengthened. Then, in the mid-1400s, the empire of Songhai came to power and became the largest empire in African history. Tombouctou, one of its cities, flourished as the center of the salt trade and of Islamic learning and culture in West Africa.

In the 1400s, trade between Europeans and West and Central Africans increased. In the 1500s, when Europeans were colonizing the Americas, they began bringing enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to work on colonial plantations. Thousands of the captives died during the middle passage, the voyage across the Atlantic. Over the centuries, though, Europeans brought millions of people from the region to work in slavery. This forced migration brought African culture to the Americas.

Although the slave trade was outlawed in the 1800s, Europeans continued to be involved in West and Central Africa. They began seizing large areas of land and establishing colonies in Africa. European colonialism had lasting effects on Africa.

By 1900, European countries ruled almost all of Africa. Africans resented colonial rule and fought for independence. After World War II, the push for independence grew stronger. Between 1960 and 1975, nearly all colonies in West and Central Africa became independent. The sudden change in power and leadership led to problems, however. Many Africans had little experience in governing. European countries still controlled the new nation’s economies, and national borders did not reflect where different ethnic groups lived. Some nations, like the Congo, became dictatorships. Others, like Nigeria, experienced civil wars between ethnic groups. Most still depended on Europe for trade and loans. By the 1990s, most nations in the region had some form of elected government.

Lesson Vocabulary

middle passage  voyage across the Atlantic from Africa to the Americas that formed the middle leg of the triangular trade among Europe, American colonies, and Africa

colonialism  policy by which one country seeks to rule other areas
The nations in West and Central Africa are among the poorest in the world. War, poverty, disease, and undernourishment are serious problems in the region. The nations of the region have weak infrastructures. **Infrastructure** is the body of public works, such as roads, bridges, and hospitals, that a country needs to support a modern economy. To build infrastructure, many of these countries took out loans and now have large debts. These countries generally have poor economies, in part because they depend on just one or two products. **Corruption**, or using power for personal gain, is also a problem throughout the region. Because of corruption, few people benefit from the region’s resources.

More than half the people in the region live by subsistence farming, which means they grow their own food. The lack of good farmland in the region makes that difficult. Most farmers are too poor to buy equipment that would help them. Families must choose between using children to help farm the land or sending them to school.

After West and Central African colonies became independent, new borders cut across ethnic groups. This led to conflict. Poverty and violence in the region have led thousands to leave their homes. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been torn apart by war, in part because of its rich resources. It was ruled by a dictator for 30 years. Civil war between rival groups began in 1998 and continues today. The fighting left millions dead. On the other hand, Ghana has had more success. It has had a stable government since the 1990s. Ghana’s economy and its people’s lives have gradually improved.

Although the region is rich in natural resources, most people do not see the benefits. Corruption, poor leadership, and violent conflict mean that many people are poor and undernourished. Diseases like malaria and AIDS are problems as well.

West and Central Africa are rich in cultural history. Islam and Christianity are widely practiced in the region. Music, sports, dance, and literature all remain important parts of West and Central African culture. **Griots**, who are musician-storytellers, use music to record history and entertain people.

*(Continues on the next page.)*

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- **infrastructure** body of public works, such as roads, bridges, and hospitals, that a country needs to support a modern economy
- **corruption** use of power for personal gain
- **griot** African musician-storyteller who uses music to track heritage and record history as well as to entertain
Lesson Summary

West and Central Africa Today

(Continued from page 92)

The African Union was formed in 2002 to promote unity among African countries. It works for peace, promotes development and women’s rights, and tries to end poverty in Africa. Microcredit loans hold out hope for the region’s future. **Microcredit** involves the use of small loans to individuals to fund their own businesses. Many women use microcredit to start and run small businesses and better their lives. Many countries are building universities and developing hydroelectric power to provide cleaner energy.

Lesson Vocabulary

**microcredit** small loan
Lesson Summary

Southern and Eastern Africa are home to varied and impressive physical features. In Eastern Africa, the Great Rift Valley is a flat area of land between areas of higher ground. It was formed when two of Earth’s plates moved away from each other. Along this valley are mountains and many lakes and rivers that support diverse wildlife. Many of Africa’s largest rivers begin in this region. A vast swamp area called the Sudd sits in South Sudan. Deserts lie in the north and south of the region.

The Equator crosses this region, and climates are similar to those of West and Central Africa. However, the generally higher elevations of this region make it drier and cooler than the West and Central African countries along the Equator. There are woodlands and forests on both sides of the Equator and many highland areas. The most important ecosystem in the region is the savanna, a flat grass-covered plain with few trees. Savannas are home to many different kinds of animals. Poaching, or illegal hunting, is a problem in the area, and many animals are becoming endangered. National parks have been set up to protect animals and promote ecotourism, in which people learn about conservation and try to do little or no harm to the environment. Deforestation is also a problem in the region.

Southern Africa is rich in mineral and ore resources, such as gold, diamonds, iron, and copper. South Africa has by far the richest deposits of mineral resources. Mining helps some countries in the region build strong economies, but jobs in mines are very dangerous. Mining can hurt the environment as it scars the land and causes pollution.

Countries in the far north of the region and Namibia in the south are dry, making farming difficult. Farming and herding take place in other areas, though farmers in some areas need irrigation to grow crops. Cotton, tobacco, and tea are grown in irrigated areas. Coffee is a major export for Ethiopia. Large commercial farms, or plantations, in Southern Africa grow crops such as sugar cane, cotton, avocados, and tropical fruits.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

poaching illegal hunting

ecotourism tourism that focuses on the environment and seeks to minimize environmental impact
(Continued from page 94)

The location of water plays a major role in where people settle in the region. Many countries lack water, and this can lead to famine. Conflicts over water can arise between nations. Some countries dam rivers to produce **hydroelectricity**. Disease is also a major problem. Some diseases are spread through dirty water or by insects that breed in water. Tsetse flies carry sleeping sickness. This disease kills cattle and people and prevents people from raising cattle in many areas of the region.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

**hydroelectricity**  electricity produced by the spinning of turbines with water at hydroelectric power plants
The first humans may have lived in Africa more than 2 million years ago. **Fossils** including the remains of ancient humans have been found in Ethiopia and Tanzania. They spread from these areas to other continents.

Nubia, in modern-day Sudan, was the first civilization in this part of Africa. It began about 2000 B.C. Nubia traded with Egypt and was influenced by the culture of ancient Egypt. The kingdom of Aksum was a center for trade located in what is now Ethiopia. Roman traders most likely brought Christianity to Aksum. Ethiopia is still mostly Christian today.

Around A.D. 500, the Bantu people of West Africa migrated across Southern Africa and brought new farming methods. The Bantu spread the use of iron tools across Africa, along with their language. Later, Arabs came to the region for trade. Many settled along the coast of Eastern Africa and brought their language, religion, and cultural influence to the region.

In the 1400s, Europeans began to come to Southern and Eastern Africa. Europeans and Arabs took many people from the region and sold them into slavery.

In the late 1800s, Europeans colonized most of Southern and Eastern Africa. Ethiopia was the only country to remain independent. The Cape Colony grew in Southern Africa. Founded by the Dutch, it included farmers from several European countries. These farmers came to be known as Boers. In the late 1700s, Britain took control of this colony.

Many African people hated colonial rule. Europeans often treated Africans poorly, and Africans had little political power. On the other hand, the British outlawed slavery in 1833 and helped fight the slave trade across Africa. Europeans also built schools and took some steps to improve infrastructure.

By 1960, many African nations had become independent. Some, like Kenya and Somalia, experienced violence in order to break free from colonial rule. Countries in the region followed different paths after independence. Some nations were ruled by black Africans, while others were ruled by white settlers.

*Continues on the next page.*

**Lesson Vocabulary**

**fossil**  preserved remain of ancient human, animal, or plant
Lesson Summary

HISTORY OF SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA

(Continued from page 96)

In South Africa, apartheid was adopted by white leaders in 1948. This was a policy that separated white and black South Africans and oppressed black South Africans. Black South African protesters were often met with violence, and Nelson Mandela, a black leader of the anti-apartheid movement, was sent to prison for nearly 30 years. The anti-apartheid movement attracted attention from around the world. Some nations refused to trade with South Africa to pressure it to end this policy. Many artists, writers, and musicians around the world joined the anti-apartheid movement. In 1990, Mandela was released from prison by white South African president F. W. de Klerk. Together, the two men worked to end apartheid. In 1994, all races voted for the first time in South Africa. Mandela was elected president.

Lesson Vocabulary

apartheid official South African government policy of keeping white and black South Africans apart
The region today is very diverse. People belong to many different ethnic groups and speak many different languages. Most people speak one of the languages of the Bantu family. In the north, Arabic is spoken along with Swahili, a language of the Bantu family that includes many Arabic words. It developed as a result of trade between Eastern Africa and Arab peoples. English is spoken in many countries that had been British colonies.

Christianity is strongest in the southern part of the region and in Ethiopia. Islam is practiced in northern parts. Many people practice indigenous, or native, African religions.

Europeans split the region into countries that mixed and divided different ethnic groups. Partly because of this, ethnic conflict is a major problem in the region today. Sudan is divided among many ethnic groups, and this resulted in a civil that lasted many years. In 2011, South Sudan gained its independence. An ongoing conflict in Sudan’s Darfur region is considered by many people to be genocide, or the attempt to destroy a whole people. Rwanda was also the scene of ethnic conflict. In 1994, 800,000 to 1 million people were killed in ethnic fighting there. Today, terrorist attacks by Islamist extremists have become a problem in the region.

There are many different forms of government in the region. For example, South Africa has become a leading democracy, while Sudan is a dictatorship. In democracies like South Africa, people can participate in government and vote for their leaders. Because elections are fair and free and the government respects human rights, the government of South Africa is considered to be limited government. In dictatorships like Sudan, people cannot vote for leaders. Corruption and oppression are common in dictatorships. Oppression and violence are often aimed at a single ethnic or religious group. Dictatorships are considered to be unlimited government because there is no check on the government’s power. Because of the dictatorship in Zimbabwe, millions of people have fled to South Africa.

Lesson Vocabulary
indigenous native to a region
genocide attempt to destroy a whole people
limited government government structure in which government actions are limited by law
unlimited government government structure in which there are no effective limits on government
Several factors work against economic development in the region. Lack of stable government is one. Lack of resources is another factor. Poverty, corruption, lack of education, and disease are major problems. AIDS has become a huge problem in the region and kills about 1.5 million people per year in Eastern and Southern Africa.

However, there are positive signs for the future. The region’s rich mineral resources are bringing investors to area. Governments are making efforts to fight AIDS, and foreign countries are providing resources to help deal with environmental problems, poverty, disease, and conflict. They are also helping to provide educational opportunities for women. The African Union is trying to promote peace throughout the region.
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of West and Central Africa
1. How does the environment of Chad affect how people live?

2. How do water resources vary across West and Central Africa?

Lesson 2: History of West and Central Africa
3. List what empires ruled West Africa, and when?

4. Identify Supporting Details List two details from the Lesson Summary to support the statement “European colonialism had lasting effects on Africa.”

Lesson 3: West and Central Africa Today
5. Identify Effects What was one positive and one negative effect of West and Central African countries developing their infrastructure?

6. What positive economic developments have West and Central Africa pursued in recent years?

Lesson 4: Geography of Southern and Eastern Africa
7. Identify Name and describe two important geographical features in Southern and Eastern Africa.
8. How does the lack of some resources in this region lead to conflict? Use a specific example from the Lesson Summary.


Lesson 5: History of Southern and Eastern Africa
9. Make a list of the action verbs in the second and third paragraphs of the Lesson Summary. Based on these verbs, what actions do you think defined Southern and Eastern Africa from 2000 B.C. until at least A.D. 500?


10. Identify Steps in a Process Describe the process that ended apartheid in South Africa by listing specific steps.


Lesson 6: Southern and Eastern Africa Today
11. What languages are spoken in Eastern and Central Africa?


12. Describe and give an example of a limited government and an unlimited government in Central and Eastern Africa.
Focus Question: How do you measure a country’s development?

Development is a country’s economic growth and quality of life. Development can be measured in many different ways. Social scientists and demographers use specific measurements such as gross domestic product (GDP) and the human development index (HDI). However, statistics do not give the whole picture of development. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, use the concept web below to describe ways you would measure development. Add more circles if necessary.
The Himalayas, the highest mountains on earth, form the northern border of the Indian subcontinent. These mountains were formed when the subcontinent smashed into Asia, forcing the ground upward. The Hindu Kush range extends this wall of mountains west into Afghanistan and Pakistan. Large rivers drain the melting snows of the mountains. The southern part of South Asia extends into the Indian Ocean. Much of this area is a highland called the Deccan plateau.

There are many climate zones in South Asia. India and Bangladesh have very warm temperatures. In the mountains, temperatures remain low at high elevations, but in valleys and foothills the climate is mild. The mountains help regulate the climate by blocking cold air from the north. They also draw moisture out of warm summer air, which falls as snow in the mountains. South Asia has seasonal winds called monsoons. For most of the year, monsoons bring dry air from the northeast. However, during the wet season from June to September, winds from the southwest bring drenching rain to many areas. Summer storms can cause heavy flooding that damages the land and results in loss of life. Afghanistan is much drier than other countries of this region.

Most South Asians work in agriculture. In the mid-1960s, a movement called the Green Revolution brought new farming methods to the region. With them, people have been able to grow more food. However, some farmers overused fertilizers and pesticides or took too much water from the ground. Pollution and health problems have resulted. The region also has many resources. Rivers provide hydroelectric power, and the mountains and plateaus contain minerals and fossil fuels.

High population is a problem in the region. Nearly half of the world’s poor live in South Asia. One reason this area is so poor is the large population, especially in cities. About half of the region’s people live in the Indo-Gangetic plain, or the valleys of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

**subcontinent** a landmass that is part of another continent but is usually separated by a physical feature

**monsoon** seasonal wind
Melting snow from the mountains washes rich soil down to the flat lands lying along rivers, called flood plains. Since prehistoric times, settlers migrated to these fertile lowlands. Eventually, civilizations rose and rich cities developed there, but their wealth attracted invading armies. They entered the region through gorges in the high mountains, such as the Khyber Pass. In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the mountainous landscape has kept many tribes isolated from outsiders. Modern governments still struggle with independent rebel forces in these areas.

Some parts of South Asia have long had contact with other areas. Travelers from Europe and China followed ancient trade routes, such as the Silk Road through northern Afghanistan. Sailors followed the monsoon winds and created trading routes by sea, connecting India to other regions.

Entry of traders and invaders in South Asia resulted in a cultural exchange of ideas and goods. The religion of Islam was introduced by merchants and invaders from Southwest Asia. The diverse religions, ethnic groups, and languages of South Asia have often coexisted peacefully, but at times tensions have risen and led to violence.

Lesson Vocabulary

flood plain  flat land along a river
Around 2500 B.C., a sophisticated civilization developed in the fertile region along the Indus River. Farmers grew food and cotton, and people built well-planned cities. Traders carried goods and ideas from this civilization to people in less-advanced areas. Around 1900 B.C. this civilization declined. Then, about 1700 B.C., a massive migration brought people we call Aryans—as well as their diverse cultures and ideas—to the Indus and Ganges plains. A caste system developed, dividing society into a hierarchy of four main groups.

Hinduism, the religion of most people in India today, formed in ancient times. Hindus believe in one spirit, called Brahman, that lives in all things. Hindus also believe that the soul is eternal and that when a person dies, the soul is reborn in a new physical form. In the 500s B.C., Siddhartha Gautama taught that all suffering is caused by desire. He became known as the Buddha, and his teachings became known as Buddhism. A third religion, called Jainism, emerged in the 600s B.C. To perfect their souls, Jains practice nonviolence toward all living beings.

The Mauryan empire rose in the 300s B.C. One of its leaders, Asoka, became a Buddhist, and due to his influence, Buddhism spread through the empire. After the Mauryan empire declined, the Gupta empire came to power about A.D. 320. During the two hundred years of Gupta rule, great advances in math and science were made.

Islam was spread through Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India by Arab traders and invaders. Muslims eventually gained control of large parts of South Asia, though Hindu princes ruled in the south. In 1526, the Mughal empire was founded. The ruler Akbar extended Mughal control over much of South Asia. Akbar protected other religions and supported the arts and learning. During the Mughal period, a British trading company, the East India Company, became powerful. Eventually, the British government made much of South Asia a colony.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

- **sophisticated** complicated; highly developed or advanced
- **caste** a group of people within a society
In the early 1900s, Mohandas Gandhi organized peaceful protests against the British and called for independence for the subcontinent, with Muslims and Hindus united in one nation. In 1947, Britain finally agreed to independence. The British divided the region into two nations—Pakistan, which was mainly Muslim, and India, which was mainly Hindu. Many Hindus moved to India and many Muslims moved to Pakistan. There have been conflicts between the two countries ever since. At first, Pakistan was split into western and eastern areas. In 1971, East Pakistan became the independent nation of Bangladesh.

Conflicts have erupted at times in other parts of South Asia. In Sri Lanka, a civil war was fought between the Sinhalese-speaking Buddhist majority and the Tamil-speaking Hindu minority from 1983 until 2009. In Afghanistan, fighting has occurred several times during the last four decades. In the late 1970s, it became a communist country. Then the Soviet Union invaded the country to help that government fight rebels. Eventually, one of the rebel groups, called the Taliban, took over Afghanistan. The Taliban aided al Qaeda, the terrorist group responsible for the attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. As a result, the United States, along with other nations, arrived in Afghanistan and helped remove the Taliban from power.
Despite regional differences in politics and religion, South Asians share many cultural traditions. Several times during its history, large areas of South Asia were united under a single empire or ruler. Many of the languages and religions grew from common roots in ancient history. Ancient epics, or long tales of adventure, express many Hindu values. Today, the films produced in “Bollywood” reflect these traditional values.

Hinduism is the majority religion in India and Nepal, while Islam is the majority religion in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh. Sikhism is strong in the region of the Punjab, in northwest India. Buddhism is strongest in Nepal, in Bhutan, in the Himalayas, and in Sri Lanka.

South Asia is home to more than 1.5 billion people, with about 1.2 billion of them in India alone. Countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan are experiencing high rates of population growth. Large populations and high growth rates have led to food shortages throughout the region. Rivers are polluted, and all people do not have access to clean water. Air pollution from factories, vehicles, and the burning of forests is believed to be raising temperatures in the Himalayas and contributing to global climate change.

In the past, under the rigid caste system, jobs and marriage partners were based on the caste into which a person was born. People in the lowest castes and those outside the caste system were considered unclean. The governments of Pakistan and India have passed laws to stop the mistreatment of people considered lower caste. Another problem is the treatment of women. Girls are not allowed to attend school in some areas, and females are treated unequally in other ways. Despite these limits, women have been elected to high political office several times in different countries in the region. Unemployment is also a major issue in this region because the economies have not grown fast enough to provide jobs to all workers.

There are many conflicts in the region. Violence between Hindus and Muslims occasionally erupts in India. Though the Taliban was removed from power in Afghanistan, its members continue fighting the government there. The Taliban follows a fundamentalist form of Islam. Tensions between India and Pakistan, especially over control of the region of Kashmir, sometimes take those countries to the verge of nuclear war.

(Continues on the next page.)

Lesson Vocabulary

epic  long poem of adventure and conflict
India is a representative democracy with elected leaders. Its citizens have many freedoms, and it is a secular democracy, which means that religion is separate from politics. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have long had democratic governments, and Nepal adopted one recently. Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Maldives are all Islamic republics.

Much of the region is very poor. Even with good economic growth, many people struggle because of high population growth. Bangladesh is the poorest country in South Asia, but its textile industry is strong. It is using microcredit to try to help the poor improve their lives. India’s economy has seen strong growth in recent years, and the middle class has grown. Indian government policies have emphasized trade and technology. European and American companies now send many computer-related tasks to India, which has helped improve the Indian economy. India has also produced space satellites.
Review Questions

Name ____________________________  Class ____________________________  Date ________

TOPIC 8

TOPIC 8

South Asia

Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of South Asia
1. How do mountains and elevation affect climate in South Asia?

2. What role did South Asia play in trade in earlier centuries? How did this affect South Asia?

Lesson 2: History of South Asia
3. Summarize Briefly describe the development and growth of Buddhism in South Asia.

4. What led to the creation of India and Pakistan?

Lesson 3: South Asia Today
5. Categorize List the countries of South Asia and indicate the majority religion of each.

6. What social issues are problematic in this region?
Focus Question: How do science and technology affect society?

Advances in technology have brought humanity to where we are today. Many of these technologies are helpful to people, but some are destructive. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, think about technologies—both ancient and modern—in East Asia. Complete the graphic organizer to analyze the effect of specific technologies on society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Invention or Use</th>
<th>Effect on Society</th>
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Lesson Summary

GEography of China and its Neighbors

China is bordered by the Himalayas to the southwest. The Huang and Chang rivers begin in the Tibetan Plateau in the west central part of the country. These rivers and others flow from west to east and bring water to billions of people. Mountains and highland plateaus cover northern Mongolia, and the Gobi Desert dominates its southern area.

China and its neighbors have two important climate patterns. First, the north is generally colder than the south. Second, the west is drier than the east. Climate determines which staple crop is grown in which location. In Taiwan and the southeast of China, where the climate is wet and warm, rice and tea are grown. In the north of China, with a colder and drier climate, farmers plant wheat. In Mongolia and the northwest of China, nomadic herders move frequently to find grassland and sources of water for their animals.

Most people in the region live along the lowland coasts of China and Taiwan. More than 90 percent of China’s people live in the eastern part of the country. About three-quarters of the people of Taiwan live in coastal cities. Recently, many people in China are leaving the rural areas to find jobs in Beijing and other large cities. Even so, almost half of China’s people still live in rural areas. About half of all Mongolians are nomadic herders. Almost a third of the country’s people live in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.

Nearly all Chinese people belong to the Han ethnic group. The Chinese government has worked to protect the cultures of ethnic minorities. However, the Chinese government also limits the number of churches and religious groups. Some groups have protested against the government and called for more autonomy. The Chinese government dealt harshly with these protestors.

Lesson Vocabulary

staple crop the most important crop produced or consumed in a region
nomadic herder person who raises livestock for a living and has no settled home but moves from place to place
Lesson Summary

HISTORY OF CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

China’s civilization began in the North China Plain thousands of years ago. The Chinese civilization was based on agriculture. By 1800 B.C. a series of emperors had begun to rule China. A uniform written language was created, which helped unite the whole country. The Chinese had many great accomplishments during this time. They built roads, canals, and the Great Wall of China and invented paper, silk, and gunpowder.

The Mongolian were nomadic herders and skilled warriors. The Mongol Genghis Khan conquered China in the A.D. 1200s, but the Chinese regained control in 1368.

Three important belief systems have influenced China. Confucianism was based on the idea that society would be peaceful if everyone acted according to strictly defined roles. Daoism centered on the belief that people should follow “the way” of the universe, which can be seen in natural things. Buddhism came from India and spread quickly throughout China. It was based on the idea that people can become free from suffering if they give up selfish desires.

China’s last dynasty, the Qing, lost power during the 1800s. Britain and other European powers gained great influence in China. Many Chinese blamed the Qing for making China weak. Reformers overthrew the Qing dynasty in the early 1900s and created a republican government.

Communists led by Mao Zedong fought with the republicans for control of China, and the communists won in 1949. The republican leaders fled to Taiwan. Communists also took hold of Mongolia’s government and economy in 1921. In a communist economy the government controls production. However, the communist command economy did not work very well in either country, and poor planning led to famine and revolt. In 1976, China began to open up to international trade and to move toward a market economy. The Chinese Communist Party remained in power, but the economy grew a great deal. Mongolia became a democracy with a market economy in the 1990s.

Lesson Vocabulary

dynasty  a series of rulers from the same family

communist economy  economy in which the central government makes all basic economic decisions

famine  a huge food shortage
Lesson Summary

China and its Neighbors Today

Since the 1980s, Taiwan and Mongolia have changed to allow parties to compete for political power. Citizens in Taiwan and Mongolia also have more freedoms as a result of these changes. China continues to be a communist single-party state, however. Although the Chinese Communist Party no longer controls the economy as completely as it once did, China’s people have very limited freedoms under its rule. In 1989, China’s leaders used force to crush a large protest in which thousands of people demanded more freedoms and protection of their rights.

Both China and Taiwan have improved their economies by making products for export. Taiwan helped its economy by improving its education system. Because its workers were more educated, they could produce more complex, expensive goods. Mongolia also exports minerals, but it is expensive to transport goods out of the country. Its economy has improved, but it has not grown as rapidly as Taiwan’s or China’s.

The leaders of China began reforming the country’s economy in the 1970s by letting farmers make economic decisions. China’s economy is now the second largest in the world. Growth in the west of China has been much slower than in the east. Rural areas struggle because the government now charges fees for services such as education and medical care, and many people cannot afford them. The Chinese government allows people to live legally only where they are registered, usually their birthplace. Migrants who move from the west to work in cities are often denied healthcare and other government services. Women also struggle in China, as many are forced to stay home and care for elderly parents while men go to school and get an education.

Chinese cities have some of the worst air pollution in the world due to their large populations and large number of vehicles. The growing economy has led to pollution through the burning of coal and oil. China is shifting to more use of cleaner forms of energy such as hydroelectricity.

Lesson Vocabulary

single-party state a country in which one political party controls the government

hydroelectricity electricity made by water power
Japan is a chain of islands to the east of the peninsula that holds North and South Korea. Because these countries are close to four tectonic plates, they experience many earthquakes. Earthquakes at sea can cause huge waves called **tsunamis** that can flood towns on coastal areas of Japan. Japan also has 108 active volcanoes because of this location near plates. Japan is very mountainous, and both North Korea and South Korea have high elevations as well.

The northern parts of the Japanese islands and the Korean peninsula have cool summers and long, cold winters. The southern part of Japan has mild winters and hot and humid summers. Summer seasonal winds bring large amounts of rain to the region, and sometimes tropical cyclones or hurricanes can cause flooding and mudslides. The rainfall also supports the growth of lush forests.

The region’s mountains do not provide much flat land suitable for farming. As a result, the limited land in plains is very crowded. South Korea and Japan are highly urbanized, so farmers have been forced to work on difficult, hilly land. All three countries in the region must import food. However, fish products are a major export for this region.

North Korea is rich in mineral resources and exports them. Japan and South Korea have few minerals. They mainly export manufactured goods and import raw materials. All three countries import oil and other resources to meet their energy needs. They also make use of fast-flowing rivers to produce hydroelectric power.

The people in the region have learned to adapt to the environment. The Japanese have found ways to adapt to crowded living conditions in large cities. Measures have been taken to lessen the impact of earthquakes, but an offshore earthquake in 2011 caused a huge tsunami that resulted in a great amount of damage. With many people in the region, there are serious environmental problems including **deforestation** and **overfishing**. The region also suffers from serious pollution of air and water.

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**Lesson Vocabulary**

- **tsunami** a large, destructive wave usually caused by an underwater earthquake
- **deforestation** the loss of trees and forests
- **overfishing** catching more fish than the fish population can replace
For thousands of years, the Korean Peninsula was ruled by different kingdoms, including the Chinese. In A.D. 668, the kingdom of Silla conquered the other Korean kingdoms and forced the Chinese off the peninsula. They were the first of a series of dynasties to rule a united Korea. Under these kings, Koreans made some important cultural advances.

In Japan, there was an emperor, but for long periods of Japanese history, military leaders called shoguns actually controlled the government. At times large landowners had great power. They granted land to samurai, or warriors, who fought one another to gain power for their landowners. In 1603, a shogun called Tokugawa Ieyasu came to power. Under him and the Tokugawa shoguns that followed, Japan was united and sheltered from foreigners. A class system was created. Japan grew prosperous, and the arts flourished.

In 1868, after the Tokugawa shogun had allowed trade treaties with the United States, new leaders arose and pushed out the shogun. They brought back the emperor but maintained control. In this period, called the Meiji Restoration, Japan expanded its industry and military. Later, it conquered Korea and Taiwan. In the 1930s, Japan invaded China and allied with Germany. In 1941, Japan invaded Southeast Asia and attacked the United States’ fleet at Pearl Harbor, launching World War II in the Pacific. In 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities. Japan surrendered and lost all the lands it had invaded.

After the war, United States forces occupied South Korea, and the Soviet Union occupied North Korea. No agreement could be reached on how to reunite the country. The north became communist and was supported by the Soviet Union, while the south became democratic and was supported by the United States. The Korean War erupted in 1950, but neither side won a clear victory. The two sides decided to create a demilitarized zone between the two countries. The United States also occupied Japan after the war and helped the Japanese people rebuild their country as a constitutional monarchy. Japan worked to educate its people and build new factories with up-to-date equipment. As a result, it had a strong manufacturing economy that exported goods around the world.

Lesson Vocabulary

shogun  powerful Japanese military leader who often had more power than the emperor
samurai  Japanese warrior noblemen
constitutional monarchy  system of government in which the laws in the constitution limit the monarch’s or emperor’s powers
South Korea and Japan are both prospering today. South Korea, after changing its constitution in 1987, is now a successful democracy. People have more rights and freedoms than before. The economy has grown, and as a result many South Koreans live comfortably. Most South Koreans now live in cities. Also, because South Korea is an economic leader, Korean influence has spread throughout the world. At the same time, South Korea has been influenced by many foreign sports and different religions.

North Korea is very different from South Korea. The country’s leader, Kim Jong Un, is a dictator who has total control over government. The people of North Korea have few rights and can be arrested for speaking against the government. The government controls all news outlets, religion, and arts. The economy in North Korea is weak, as the leadership has focused on building a strong military. The government focuses on keeping control instead of solving problems such as food shortages. North Korea continues to build nuclear weapons in spite of pressure from other countries to stop its nuclear weapons program. Relations between the two Koreas are often very tense, but many people in both countries hope the Koreas can be reunited.

Japan has one of the largest economies in the world, but economic growth has been slow in recent years. One challenge in Japan is the aging population. People live long lives, and Japanese families are having fewer children. As a result, there are fewer people entering the workforce, and fewer people to produce goods. Many Japanese companies are using new technology such as robots to fill in for the lack of workers. Most Japanese people now live in cities. As a result of the slow economy, more women have taken jobs to help their families.

Most people in Japan belong to the same ethnic group. There are few immigrants. More than 80 percent of people practice a combination of Buddhism and Shinto, a religion that developed in Japan. Recently, Japan has borrowed from the culture of many countries. Cultural imports such as baseball and soccer have been popular in Japan for years. Japan has influenced the popular culture of many countries through cultural exports such as sushi, video games, anime, and martial arts.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- dictator: leader with complete control over government
- shortage: not enough as needed
Review Questions

Lesson 1: Geography of China and Its Neighbors

1. Identify Patterns  What two climate patterns dominate in this region? Draw a table with four squares to show how these patterns intersect.

2. Identify Patterns  What population patterns dominate in the countries of this region?

Lesson 2: History of China and Its Neighbors

3. Identify Main Idea and Details  What is the main idea of the third paragraph of the Lesson Summary? What is one detail from the paragraph that supports this main idea?

4. Describe the end of dynastic rule in China.

Lesson 3: China and Its Neighbors Today

5. Compare and Contrast  How are the governments of China, Taiwan, and Mongolia similar or dissimilar?

6. What is one way that China has been successful? Use evidence from the Lesson Summary to support your point.

Lesson 4: Geography of Japan and the Koreas

7. What geographical problems does this region face?
Review Questions (continued)

8. How has geography shaped population patterns in this region?


Lesson 5: History of Japan and the Koreas

9. Both Japan and Korea chose to limit contact with outsiders at certain times during their histories. How did their geography help them to do that?


10. Identify Central Issues  How were North and South Korea divided?


Lesson 6: Japan and the Koreas Today

11. Why is South Korea’s government considered a limited government?


12. Why is North Korea’s government considered an unlimited government?


Focus Question: What are the challenges of diversity?

We live in a diverse world. People from different cultures and backgrounds are coming together through migration and communication. One important challenge of the world today is to understand how to overcome differences. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the following pages, think about some challenges of diversity. Use the graphic organizer to record why people might have trouble accepting diversity, and record an example from Southeast Asia.

### Challenges of Diversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Diversity</th>
<th>Religious</th>
<th>Political</th>
<th>Economic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Challenge</strong></td>
<td>When people do not share the same religion, they may have trouble accepting one another’s faith.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Example in Southeast Asia</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conflicts occurred in Thailand between different groups due to wealth inequality.</td>
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</table>
Southeast Asia is made up of 11 nations. The region has two parts: a mainland and an island area of **archipelagoes**. Mainland Southeast Asia is a **peninsula** with many rivers. Many of the islands are part of the Ring of Fire, a string of active volcanoes that encircles the Pacific Ocean. This region suffers from earthquakes and **tsunamis**. Southeast Asia has many rainforests due to its hot temperatures and abundant rain.

Geography has shaped where people settled. Mountains separate Southeast Asia from the rest of mainland Asia. The mountain and island landscape means only a small amount of land is good for farming. The first civilizations emerged in fertile river valleys. The rich soils of the mainland deltas and the volcanic islands attracted large farming populations. Mountain slopes have been sculpted with terraces. Much of the region is planted with tea and rice. Lumber is also major source of income. Population is unevenly distributed throughout the region. On the mainland, most people live on coastal plains, while on some islands there are no people at all. Many of the region’s cities are challenged by overcrowding and pollution.

Historically, Southeast Asia is culturally and religiously diverse. There are large Chinese populations throughout the region. Buddhism spread to the region from China, as well as from India. Today, much of Southeast Asia is Muslim. The Minangkabau, the main ethnic group in West Sumatra, are a good example of cultural blending. They have absorbed many different influences, such as Chinese, Indian, and Western customs and beliefs. Today, they are among the wealthiest and most powerful groups in Indonesia.

**Lesson Vocabulary**

- **archipelago**: group of islands
- **peninsula**: area of land almost completely surrounded by water but connected to the mainland
- **tsunami**: tidal wave
More than 2000 years ago, civilizations grew in the river valleys of mainland Southeast Asia. The region’s position on international trade routes brought cultural contact with India and China. On the mainland, a civilization rose in what is now Cambodia. This civilization developed into the Khmer empire, which grew rich by exporting surplus rice. In the 1280s, Mongols invaded, but they were defeated.

By the 1400s, new regional powers emerged that were based on maritime trade. Islam came to the region through Muslim merchants. Then, in 1511, the Portuguese conquered the port city of Malacca. Other Western powers also took advantage of the region’s resources. In the late 1800s, almost every part of Southeast Asia was controlled by a Western nation. During the early 1900s, Japan took control of the region. When Japan lost World War II, Western powers tried to regain control, but they failed. The countries of Southeast Asia had all won their independence by 1957.

In 1954, Vietnam won independence from France. However, in the aftermath, the country split into warring communist North Vietnam and noncommunist South Vietnam. After United States intervention failed to hold back the communists, Vietnam was united under communist rule. During the war, Cambodia had been dragged into the conflict as well. Millions of Cambodians were brutally killed by the communist government of the Khmer Rouge. Today, communist nations in Southeast Asia remain some of the poorest in the world. However, countries with market economies such as Indonesia and Malaysia are prospering.

Lesson Vocabulary

surplus extra
maritime having to do with navigation or shipping on the sea
communist following communism, the political and economic system in which government owns all property and makes all economic decisions
prosper to be successful
As in the past, global trade routes today **converge** in the region of Southeast Asia. Interacting with people from different nations had a direct effect on cultures in the region. Today on mainland Southeast Asia, Buddhism is the main religion. Islam is the leading religion in most of the island nations. Indonesia, for example, has the world’s largest Muslim population. There are also large Hindu and Christian populations living in Southeast Asia. The presence of so many cultures in the region has led to much cultural blending and increased religious tolerance.

Governments in this region also reflect diversity. There are republics such as Singapore and the Philippines. There are constitutional monarchies such as Malaysia and Cambodia. Laos and Vietnam are communist nations ruled by **oligarchies**. Until recently, a committee of military leaders called a **military junta** ruled Myanmar. Today Myanmar is moving toward democracy and economic freedom. There is also some political unrest in the region. In the Philippines, the government is fighting an Islamic **insurgency**. In Thailand the government was brought down in 2008, and a new leader was elected in 2011. Many of the uprisings are due to differences in wealth between cultural groups.

Some parts of Southeast Asia are crowded. Overpopulation is draining resources and damaging the environment. Trees are being cut down at an alarming rate to meet demands for wood products. As a result, **vital** tropical forests are disappearing. While some nations are overcrowded, others are struggling with low population growth. These nations are encouraging their citizens to have more children.

*(Continues on the next page.)*

**Lesson Vocabulary**

**converge** come together

**oligarchy** means “rule by few” and is a form of government in which a small group of people have complete control with no input from the rest of the population

**military junta** committee of military leaders

**insurgency** rebellion

**vital** important, crucial
Southeast Asia has some of the richest and some of the poorest countries in the world. Singapore is rich from exporting electronics and information technology. Brunei has grown rich through oil and natural gas exports. In contrast, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos remain poor due to their lack of a stable government. All Southeast Asian countries have the potential for economic growth. The international trade group ASEAN is working to promote growth and social progress. The organization has reduced regional tariffs and has created a free-trade area. The Strait of Malacca is still a major shipping lane. Even though the region faces challenges, Southeast Asia is well prepared for the future due to its cultural diversity and role in international trade.
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

Lesson 1: Geography of Southeast Asia
1. Where did the first civilizations emerge in this region, and why?

2. Summarize Where do most people live in Southeast Asia?

Lesson 2: History of Southeast Asia
3. How did resources help determine the dominant groups in Southeast Asia throughout its history?

4. Identify Central Issues How has conflict affected the economies of Southeast Asia?

Lesson 3: Southeast Asia Today
5. Make Generalizations What religions are practiced in this region and where? How has religious diversity influenced the culture of the region?

6. In what ways does ASEAN try to help Southeast Asia?
Focus Question: What makes a nation?

Suppose you are going to start a new nation. What are the essential things that it would need? Record your ideas on the concept web below. While reading the Lesson Summaries on the pages that follow, think about how the nations of this region have implemented the ideas you wrote down.
Lesson Summary

Australia lies at the southwest edge of the Pacific Ocean. It is the largest country in the Pacific region. Because of its large size, it is considered a continent. Central and western Australia are covered by desert, while eastern Australia has low mountains, valleys, and fertile plains. A prominent Australian feature is the Great Barrier Reef, off the northeast coast. The subregion Melanesia lies just north and east of Australia. To the north of Melanesia is Micronesia, a subregion made up of 2,000 small islands. Polynesia is the largest subregion in the area. It stretches from New Zealand all the way to Hawaii.

Cold ocean currents bring dry air to Western Australia and create deserts there. Warm ocean currents to the northeast of Australia enable coral reefs to grow there. Many of Australia’s famous landforms were created by water and wind erosion over long periods of time. The Pacific region has many volcanoes and small islands due to movement of Earth’s tectonic plates. Australia and the Pacific islands are geographically isolated, and as a result, they have many plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

Australia has temperate climates in the southeast and southwest, and heavy rains and monsoon winds in the north. Central Australia has a very dry climate. New Zealand has a mild and wet maritime climate and is cooler than Australia. Most other Pacific islands have tropical wet climates. Some small islands lack enough fresh water for drinking. Wildfires are common in the dry areas of Australia.

Population density varies across the region. Most Australians live in coastal cities, and most of New Zealand’s people live on North Island. Australia is rich in natural resources, and wool production and farming are important to New Zealand. The peoples of the Pacific islands generally live in small villages, mostly on the high islands where there is fertile soil and many natural resources.

Lesson Vocabulary

**prominent** standing out, important

**coral reef** a formation of rock-like material made up of the skeletons of tiny marine creatures

**tectonic plate** theory that explains how huge blocks of Earth’s crust called “plates” move
The region is home to many diverse peoples. The original inhabitants of Australia are known as Aborigines. They lived mainly in the southeast. On the isolated islands of the Pacific, many different cultures developed. Early Polynesians were skilled sailors who could navigate across the open ocean. The Maori are the original inhabitants of New Zealand and the Cook Islands.

In the late 1700s, James Cook claimed Australia and New Zealand for Great Britain. British settlement began, and the British forced the Aborigines from their land. The British also practiced assimilation. As a result, Aborigines were forced to adopt British customs. When gold was discovered in Australia in 1851, the British population soared. In the 1800s, the British defeated the Maori in New Zealand. By the early 1900s, the United States, France, Great Britain, and Japan controlled most of the Pacific islands. Australia and New Zealand gained their independence peacefully in the early 1900s. Many Pacific islands gained independence in the second half of the 1900s. Even so, some Pacific islands are still colonies under foreign control.

Lesson Vocabulary

isolated  apart or alone; not easily accessed
assimilation  process by which one group takes on the cultural traits of another
The population of the region is diverse today. Most Australians and New Zealanders speak English and have British ancestors. New Zealand has a larger population of indigenous people than Australia. Both countries have made efforts to correct past mistreatment of their Aboriginal peoples. Australians and New Zealanders are healthy and well educated, and have a high quality of life. Most Pacific islanders are indigenous, but they have adopted many aspects of European culture as a result of colonization. For example, most Pacific islanders today are Christians.

Australia and New Zealand are both parliamentary democracies. Citizens have rights and responsibilities similar to those of U.S. citizens. Most Pacific islands have democratic governments, but a few of these countries have suffered from political corruption.

Australia and New Zealand have highly developed market economies and have found success due to their educated citizens. Many of the Pacific islands rely on fishing, and are working together to develop stronger economies. Climate change is a problem in this region. With warmer temperatures, glaciers are melting and sea levels are rising. Higher sea levels affect the many low-lying islands in the region.

Lesson Vocabulary

indigenous  people native to the region
parliamentary democracy  a democracy in which an elected parliament chooses the government
corruption  use of power for personal gain
climate change  long-term, significant change to a region’s average weather
Lesson Summary

Antarctica has a thick ice sheet that covers 98 percent of the continent. Glaciers form in the continent’s valleys and move as rivers of ice toward the coast. When they reach the sea, they break off into icebergs.

Transantarctic Mountains divide the continent into two regions, East and West. The Antarctic Peninsula extends north toward South America. Antarctica does not get much precipitation, and its harsh climate makes it difficult for any vegetation to grow. Animals that live in Antarctica spend most of their time in the ocean.

In the early 1900s, Europeans began exploring the continent. By the 1940s, many countries had sent explorers to Antarctica leading to conflicts over the land. In 1959, the Antarctic Treaty was signed, which preserves the continent for only peaceful and scientific uses. Scientists study past climates by examining layers of ice on Antarctica.

Lesson Vocabulary

ice sheet a large mass of compressed ice

 glacier slow-moving bodies of ice

 iceberg large floating masses of ice

 vegetation plant life
Answer the questions below using the information in the Lesson Summaries on the previous pages.

**Lesson 1: Geography of Australia and the Pacific**

1. How has location affected the development of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands?

2. How have resources affected the development of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Island?

**Lesson 2: History of Australia and the Pacific**

3. How was the removal of Aboriginal children from their families an example of forced assimilation?

4. Does the history of colonization explain the formation of present-day nations in this region? Why?

**Lesson 3: Australia and the Pacific Today**

5. Compare and Contrast Describe the economies of Australia and the countries of the Pacific.

6. Why is climate change a particular concern for Australia and the Pacific?
Lesson 4: Antarctica

7. **Summarize** Describe Antarctica’s physical geography.

8. What is the Antarctic Treaty? Why is it important?