

# Exploring World Cultural Geography

By: Caroline Grant

V1.0



## INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to your Continental Academy course “Exploring World Cultural Geography”. It is made up of 8 individual lessons, as listed in the Table of Contents. Each lesson includes practice questions with answers. You will progress through this course one lesson at a time, at your own pace.

First, study the lesson thoroughly. Then, complete the lesson reviews at the end of the lesson and carefully check your answers. Sometimes, those answers will contain information that you will need on the graded lesson assignments. When you are ready, complete the 10-question, multiple choice lesson assignment. At the end of each lesson, you will find notes to help you prepare for the online assignments.

All lesson assignments *are* open-book. Continue working on the lessons at your own pace until you have finished all lesson assignments for this course.

When you have completed and passed all lesson assignments for this course, complete the End of Course Examination.

**If you need help understanding any part of the lesson, practice questions, or this procedure:**

- **Click on the “Send a Message” link on the left side of the home page**
- **Select “Academic Guidance” in the “To” field**
- **Type your question in the field provided**
- **Then, click on the “Send” button**
- **You will receive a response within ONE BUSINESS DAY**

## ***About the Author...***



Caroline Grant earned her Bachelor of Arts [B.A.] degree in Psychology and her Master of Science [M.S.] Degree in Social Studies Education from Florida International University. She is also a certified therapist for dyslexic students. Miss Grant has had considerable experience teaching in public and private high schools. She has taught students of varying abilities ranging from the gifted to the academically challenged. Since 2003, she has been working as an Instructor in English at Broward Community College and as a General Education Instructor in Social Sciences and Humanities at Coastal Educational Institute. Miss Grant resides in Plantation, Florida.

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**Examines the inter-relationships between humans and the environment in the contemporary world from multi-cultural, historical, and regional perspectives. Physical, human, demographic, and natural resource issues are studied.**

- ❖ Student will understand the world in spatial terms
- ❖ Student will understand the uses of geography
- ❖ Student will understand Earth's physical systems
- ❖ Students will understand the characterizations of human systems
- ❖ Student will understand the characteristics of places and regions
- ❖ Student will understand the relationship humans have with their environment
- ❖ Student will understand social, ethical, and human issues
- ❖ Student will understand how technology can help solve problems

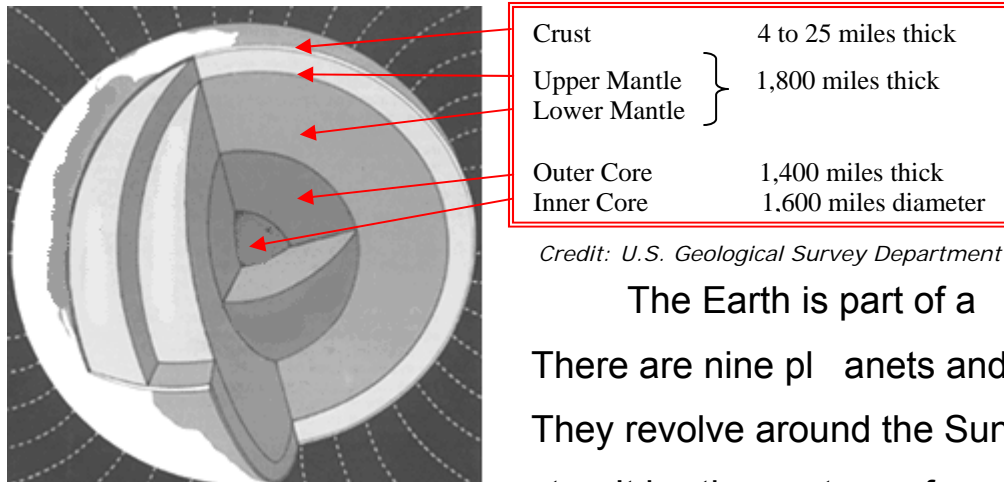
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## LESSON 1:THE EARTH

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH



*Credit: U.S. Geological Survey Department of the Interior/USGS*

The Earth is part of a **solar system**.

There are nine planets and their moons.

They revolve around the Sun. The Sun is a star. It is the center of our solar system.

The Earth rotates once every 24 hours . The Earth takes 365  $\frac{1}{4}$  days to make one orbit around the sun.

Geographers study physical features of the Earth. They study how humans interact with and adapt to the physical environment. Knowledge of the Earth's interior comes from studying earthquakes and volcanoes. The **Crust** is the outer layer of the Earth. The Crust forms the base of the continents and ocean floors. The **Mantle** or middle layer is composed of rock. The mantle contains two sections. It is approximately 1,800 miles deep. The innermost layer of the Earth is the **Core**. The Core is extremely hot and is composed of two areas. The Outer Core is composed of molten liquid metal. The Inner Core is solid metal.

Many of the Earth's physical features formed over the past 100,000 years by movements within the planet. The theory of **plate tectonics** states

the Earth's crust is a foundation of rigid rock plates. The oceans and continents float on these plates. The plates move relative to each other. They move as much as several inches per year. Plates collide or move against faults or cracks in the Earth. Deep ocean trenches or mountains form. Other collisions or openings along the Earth's plates form earthquakes and volcanoes.

### Practice Exercises 1.1

Select the letter of the best answer.

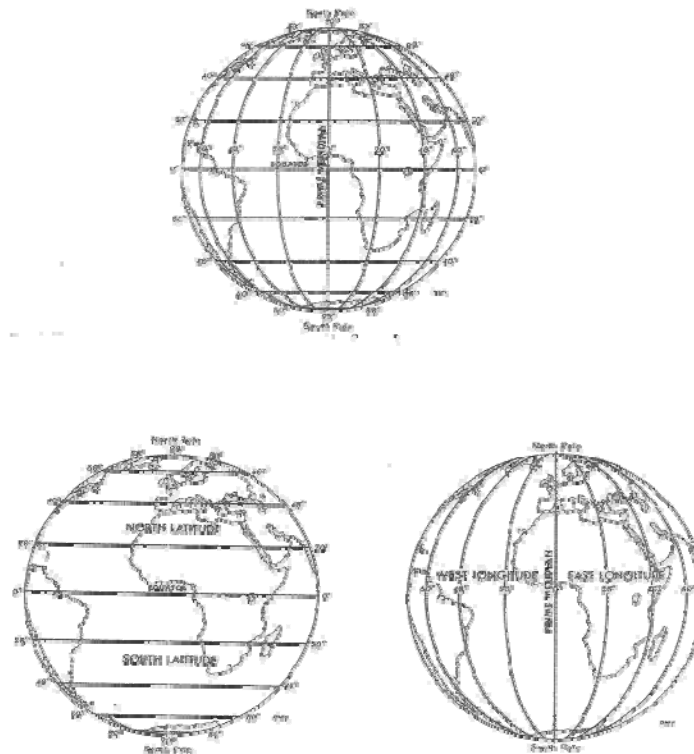
1. The \_\_\_\_\_ theory states the earth's crust is made up of rigid plates of rock continually moving against each other.  
[a] Mantle theory [b] Plate tectonics [c] Meteorological [d] Cosmonaut
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ or middle layer is composed of molten liquid rock and is approximately 1,800 miles deep.  
[a] Mantle [b] Inner Core [c] Outer Core [d] Crust
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ rotates once every 24 hours and it takes 365  $\frac{1}{4}$  days to orbit around the earth.  
[a] Sun [b] Moon [c] Earth [d] Mars



## LOCATION

Geographers study the Earth's regions. They first identify where places are located. **Location** refers to position on the Earth's surface. Every place has its own location. Every place has absolute and relative location. **Absolute location** is a precise, exact spot on the earth. Absolute locations on global grid maps are measured using lines of *latitude* and *longitude*.

### Absolute Location, Lines of Latitude, Longitude, and Prime Meridian



**Grid maps** have a set of imaginary lines circling the globe. They are lines of latitude and longitude. Lines of latitude are *parallels*. These lines *do* not converge. They remain the same distance apart as they circle the

Earth. Parallels circle the globe from east to west. Lines of latitude originate at the *Equator* at 0 degrees latitude. The Equator is the imaginary line around the middle of the earth. Parallel s measure distances north and south of the Equator. Parallels end at the North and South poles at 90 degrees latitude. Places with low latitudes near the equator have hot climates. Parallel s with high latitude measurements near the poles have cold climates. The **Tropics** are two imaginary latitude lines dividing climatic regions above and below the equator. The *Tropic of Cancer* is located 23 ½ degrees North Latitude and the *Tropic of Capricorn* is 23 ½ degrees South Latitude.

### Grid Map: Lines of Latitude and Longitude of the United States



Lines of longitude are *Meridians*. Meridians measure distance east or west of the **Prime Meridian**. The Prime Meridian is 0 degrees Longitude. It passes through Greenwich, England. Lines of Longitude originate at the Prime Meridian. Longitude meridians circle the globe from north to south. They are different from lines of latitude.

They converge and meet at the North and South poles. The numbering system ends at the **International Date Line**. This line is 180 degrees. It is located in the Pacific Ocean.

The absolute location of any place uses coordinates of latitude and longitude. Every city has specific coordinates to mark its location. For example, Los Angeles is 34 degrees N. Latitude, and 118 degrees W. Longitude.

The Equator divides the earth into halves or **Hemispheres**. The hemisphere to the north of the equator is the *Northern Hemisphere*. The hemisphere south of the equator is the *Southern Hemisphere*. The Prime Meridian divides the earth into two hemispheres. These are the *Eastern Hemisphere* and the *Western Hemisphere*.

**Relative location** provides accurate information about a place. This is the location of one place in relation to other places. For example, if you describe the relative location of your home you might refer to the major shopping areas, business centers, churches, lakes, farms, rivers, or mountains in the same locale.

## Practice Exercises 1.2

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. Lines of latitude run \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] north and south [b] east and west  
[c] to the Earth's Core [d] to the Sun
2. Lines of \_\_\_\_\_ run north and south.  
a] Latitude [b] Prime Meridian [c] Longitude [d] Equator
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ are two imaginary lines that divide climatic regions above and below the equator.  
[a] Equator [b] Prime Meridian [c] Absolute location [d] Tropics
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ divides the Earth into Eastern and Western Hemispheres.  
[a] Equator [b] Poles [c] Tropics [d] Prime Meridian
5. Places with \_\_\_\_\_ latitudes near the Equator have hot climates.  
[a] high [b] low [c] medium [d] zero

## STUDYING THE EARTH

Tools geographers use to investigate the surface regions of the earth are globes and maps.

### **Globes**

A globe is a sphere-shaped model of the earth. Globes are maps of the Earth's surface. A globe is a **scale** model of the Earth. Scale models use a smaller unit of measurement to represents a larger unit. Scale models show continents, countries and waterways using proportions, distances, and directions. **Terrestrial** globes show physical features such as mountains and deserts. There are also political maps or globes showing countries and cities.

Globes are extremely accurate in relation to the shapes of water bodies and landmasses. Globes show true compass direction from one point to another. Compass directions are north, south, east or west. Grids form using compass directions. Global lines of latitude and longitude form a grid point where they cross. Locations of all continents, countries, and oceans are more easily found than by using grid points.

## **Maps**

A map is a graphic representation of the Earth's surface drawn to scale on a flat or two-dimensional surface. A map is a scale model of the real world. Maps are reference sources. They help us find routes to places. They help us find locations relative to familiar towns, highways, or landmarks. Maps are valuable instructional tools. They show the distribution of physical features, human activities, and migration.

Maps provide pictorial information about places. Maps show directions by using **compass** points. Maps have **titles** explaining their focus. **Symbols** represent special features such as bodies of water and boundaries of states and countries. Some symbols used are pictures, lines, colors and marks. On a political map, a star often defines a state's capital. **Keys** explain the meanings of symbols. **Scales** refer to the ratio between the actual size of an area on the Earth's surface and its size on the map. Keys represent distances on the map. For example, two inches on the distance scale may represent a distance of two hundred miles on Earth. Fractions may be used. Grids on maps help people find exact locations of places. Grid lines have letters or numbers. The lines run right to left. Grid lines also run from top to bottom. Maps are easier to transport than globes.

## Types of Maps

1. **World Maps:** Illustrate the continents, islands, oceans, rivers and seas of the world.
2. **Political Maps:** Outline borders between states or countries and may show trade relationships between countries
3. **Topographical Maps:** Show natural, physical land features such as mountains, plains and deserts, as well as man made features of the Earth's land surface.
4. **Population Maps:** Illustrate the way people distribute throughout the world.
5. **Demographic Maps:** Show the distribution of segments of a population in certain areas.
6. **Weather Maps:** Show forecasted weather as well as the climate of a specific region.
7. **Special Purpose Maps:** Used as road maps or to illustrate such features as land use, natural resources and types of transportation.

### **Topographical Map of Mexico**



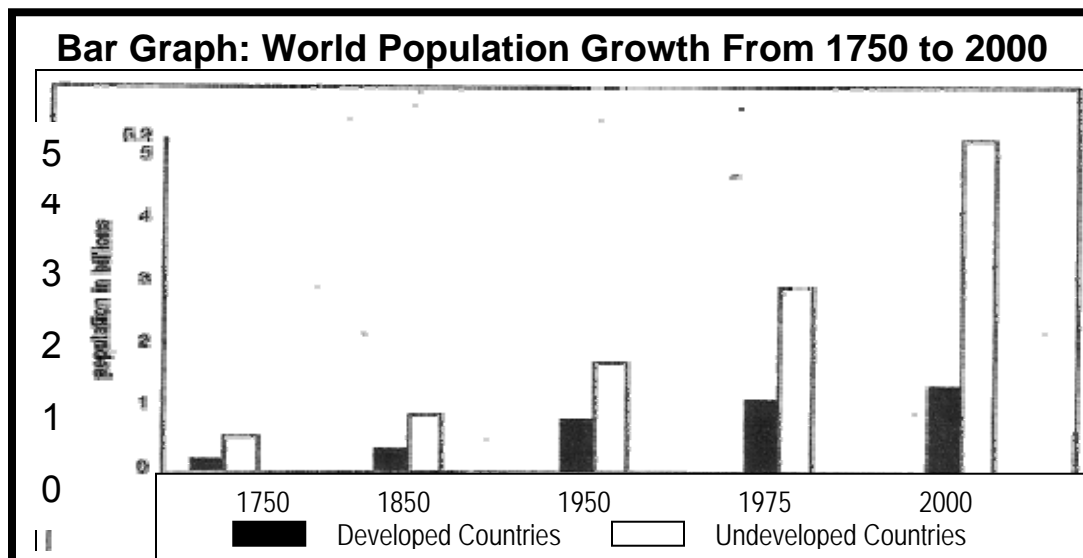
## Tables and Charts

Tables used in geography list facts related to any topic such as countries, imported products, minerals, and population.

Charts are similar to tables. They list facts. Charts can show more than one set of facts in different columns or rows. Charts can have illustrations or symbols. Charts record and compare information for study or research.

One type of chart showing specific periods of time and important events and developments is a **timeline**. Another type of chart is the **flow chart**. Flow charts show how things are processed, related, or organized.

## Graphs

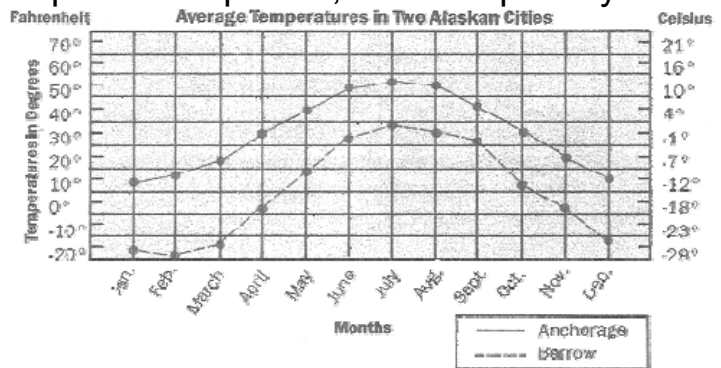




Graphs are drawings or pictures used to present facts or groups of facts. Bar graphs show facts related to quantities or amounts. A bar graph shows the relationship between parts and wholes. A bar graph has one scale of measurement placed along the right or left side of the graph so it runs from the bottom to the top and another running along the horizontal.

**Line graphs** use lines to show relationships such as trends or patterns. Line graphs show the rate of increase or decrease. Line graphs measure average temperature, precipitation of places, and the quantity of things in relation to years or dates.

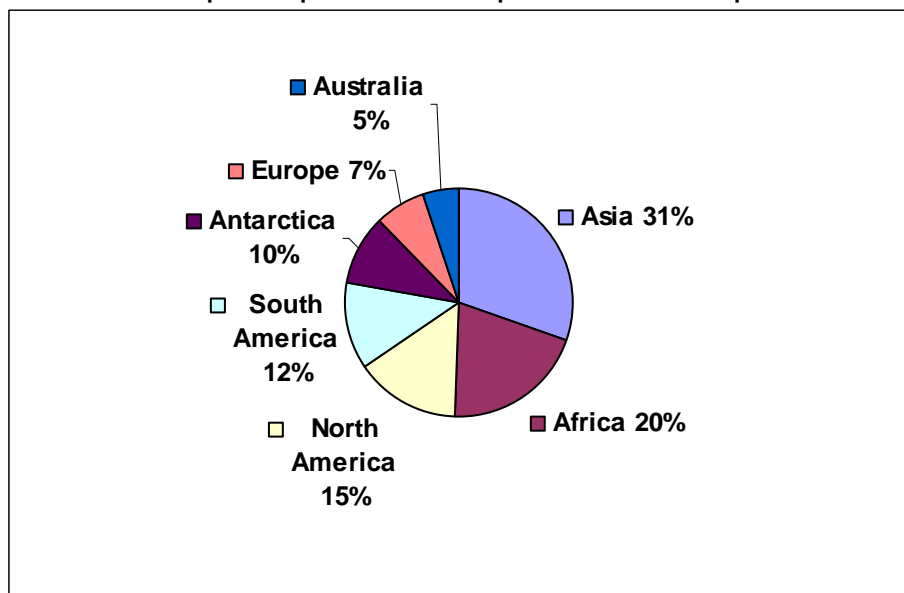
### Line Graph: The Average Temperatures in the Cities of Anchorage and Barrow, Alaska



Circular graphs are **pie graphs**. Circular graphs show how individual parts are related to the whole. The circle represents 100% or the whole.

### Pie Graph: Percentage of Land Occupied by the Continents of the World

The segments of the pie represent the parts that comprise the whole.



### Practice Exercises 1.3

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ represents the ratio between the actual size of an area on the earth's surface and the area on the map.  
[a] Keys            [b] Scale            [c] Symbols            [d] Grids
2. \_\_\_\_\_ graphs show the relationship between parts and wholes.  
[a] Bar            [b] Line            [c] Pie            [d] Scale
3. \_\_\_\_\_ maps show state capitals.  
[a] Demographic [b] Weather            [c] Political            [d] Resource

## LESSON 1

### PRACTICE EXERCISE ANSWERS

1.1	1.2	1.3
1. B	1. B	1. B
2. A	2. C	2. C
3. C	3. D	3. C
4.	D	
5.	B	



## **LESSON 1 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ The Mantle has the thickest layer of the Earth's structure.
- ❖ Earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains, and trenches come from collisions of plates in the Earth's crust, the separation of the ocean floors, and rock movements in the Earth's Mantle.
- ❖ The relative location of a place is the location of one place in relation to another.
- ❖ Pie charts demonstrate the relationship between parts and the whole.
- ❖ Geographers draw maps to scale because they cannot be as large as the area they are representing.
- ❖ 1 inch = 1,000 miles would be an appropriate scale for a large region.
- ❖ Information about a place based on its relationship to other places is unrelated to the concept of absolute location.
- ❖ According to the Grid Map of the U.S. near the beginning of this lesson, Memphis and New Orleans are located closest to 90 degrees West Longitude.
- ❖ Minneapolis is located at 45 degrees North Latitude.
- ❖ The five elements of a good map to gather and interpret data are title, scale, direction points, symbols, and keys.



## **LESSON 2: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

### **LANDFORMS OF THE EARTH**

An important geographic theme is **place**. Place describes a location's natural and cultural features. All places on earth have distinct features. These unique features make places unique. When you visit a place, you may refer to its physical features. You may describe its snow-capped mountains, sandy beaches, tall palm trees or crystal-clear lakes. From a cultural perspective, you can describe a place by referring to its cuisine, language, or architecture of its buildings.

The largest landmasses on earth are **continents**. They make up one quarter of the earth's surface. Continents have various natural or physical features. These features range from landforms like mountains to water forms like rivers. The polar regions of the Arctic and Antarctic are uninhabitable since the terrain is frozen. However, the rest of the continents, with the exception of a few places, are well populated.

#### **The Earth's Continents and The Percentage of Their Landmass**

Asia	30.1 %
Africa	20.2 %
North America	16.2 %
South America	11.9 %
Antarctica	9.3 %
Europe	6.6 %
Australia and Oceania	5.7 %

**Mountains** formed by massive movements of the Earth's Crust. The oldest mountains on Earth are hundreds of millions of years old. The "young" ones are tens of millions of years old. The older mountains usually have lower elevations. Older mountains wore down for millions of years by rain, wind, ice, and other forces of **erosion**. The United States has old mountains (in the Eastern regions) called the Appalachians. Younger, higher ones in the west are the Rocky Mountains. Mountains are landforms elevated over 1,000 feet. They usually have steep rocky inclines on all sides. They have rounded or pointed tops. There are mountains throughout the world. Mountains stand alone or form a mountain system. A large string of mountains is a mountain chain or range.

### **Important Mountain Ranges of the World and Where They Are Found**

The Rocky Mountains	United States
The Andes Mountains	South America
The Alpine Mountains	Europe
The Himalaya Mountains	Asia
The Atlas Mountains	Africa

Mountains play a significant role in human and cultural development. They contain a wide range of mineral resources. People have learned to extract and use these minerals. The lowland areas between the mountains are **valleys**. Valleys contain fertile soil. This soil washed down from the slopes of the mountains. Humans use valleys to farm or raise animals. Mountains often act as boundaries between countries, cultural groups, and different climatic regions.

**Hills** are land elevations less than 1,000 feet high. Hills have sloping sides and rounded or flat tops. Hills may be found in ranges just like mountains. When hills are close to mountains, they are foothills. Humans often use hills and mountains the same way.

**Plains** are large areas of flat or gently rolling land. They generally have few mountains or hills. Plains have layers of fertile soil. Plains usually contain streams and lakes. They are perfect for farming throughout the world. They have large numbers of human settlements. One of the largest and most successful farmlands is the Central Plains or Great Prairies of the Central United States.

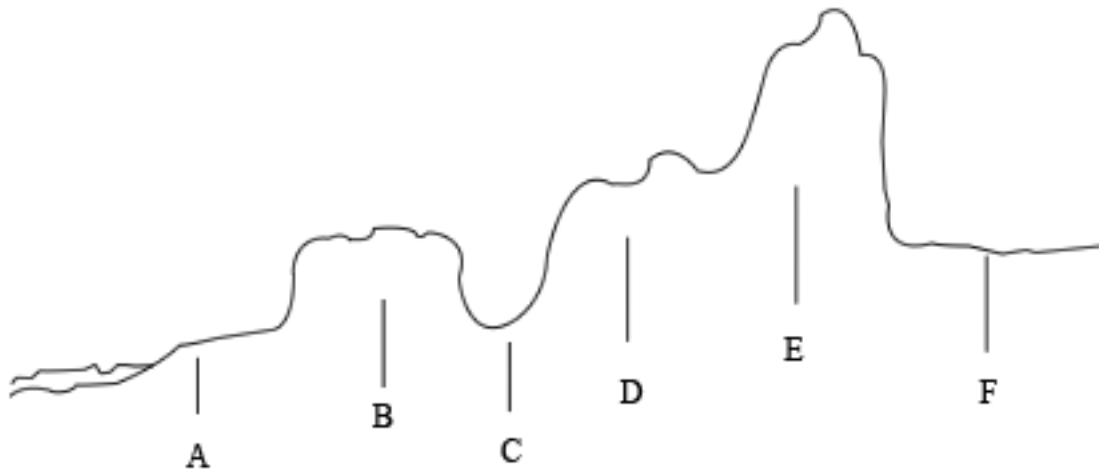
A **plateau** is an area of land higher than the land surrounding it. The top of a plateau is flat like a table. Plateaus usually stretch for hundreds of miles without any significant change in altitude. Plateaus have thinner soil layers than mountains. They are drier and cooler than plains. A major plateau is the Deccan Plateau in India. Plateaus rich in mineral deposits become centers of industry. An example is the city of Denver in the United States.

A **basin** is an area of land drained by a river system. A basin is lower than the land area surrounding it. The Amazon Basin in South America is a basin.

A **peninsula** is an area of land almost surrounded by water. An example is the Malay Peninsula in Malaysia.

A **desert** is a dry, barren land area. Deserts receive a small amount of rainfall. Deserts have little animal or plant life that can survive. Deserts, like the Sahara Desert in North Africa, are usually very hot.

### Major Landforms of the World



- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| A. Coastal Region | B. Plateau |
| C. Valley         | D. Hill    |
| E. Mountain       | F. Plain   |

### Practice Exercises 2.1

Select the letter of the best answer.

- Mountains form due to movements in the Earth's \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] Oceans                      [b] Crust                      [c] Core                      [d] Equator
- In \_\_\_\_\_, the land is so dry that it is impossible for any plant life to exist for any length of time.



[a]. hills

[b] plains

[c] oceans

[d] deserts

3. \_\_\_\_\_ resources reside in mountains.

[a] Mineral

[b] Salt water

[c] Farming

[d] No

4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is an area of land almost surrounded by water.

[a] river

[b] plain

[c] hill [d]

peninsula

## WATER FORMS OF THE EARTH

The largest bodies of salt water on the earth are **oceans**. The main oceans are the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic. Oceans cover 72 percent of the earth's surface. The deepest parts of the oceans are **trenches**. Trenches are located near continents. **Currents** of water move in different directions throughout oceans. Ocean currents carry cold water to the tropical regions and warm water to Polar Regions. Ocean currents have a profound effect on the world's weather. Warm Gulf Stream currents affect the Eastern coast of the United States, northwestern Europe, and the British Isles. These regions generally have mild climates because of the Gulf Stream.

Ocean currents contribute to the world's food supply. Some of the largest and richest fishing grounds are located where warm and cold waters meet. Another resource found below the oceans' floor is petroleum.

A **sea** is a large body of salt water. Land partly or completely surrounds seas. Many seas are smaller parts of oceans. The name of a

sea may be related to people who live near it. For example, the names of the South China Sea and the Arabian Sea relate to countries that surround them and the people who live nearby. The North Sea lies to the north of Western Europe.

A **lake** is a body of water surrounded by land. Lakes range in size from small to immense. Two of the largest lakes in the world are Lake Superior in the United States and Lake Victoria in East Africa. Lakes usually contain fresh water. However, if there is no outlet, the water usually becomes salty. This happened with Great Salt Lake in Utah.

A **bay** is an inlet from an ocean, lake or sea that curves inward into the main land coastal region. An example is the Bay of Bengal between India and Myanmar.

A **gulf** is larger than a bay. It is a large body of water almost surrounded by land. Gulfs occur where large curving sections of an ocean wash over the surrounding coastlines. Two significant examples are the Gulf of Mexico and the Persian Gulf.

A **strait** is a narrow and short body of water connecting two larger bodies of water to each other. The Straits of Gibraltar connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.

**Rivers** are large streams of water with a source or starting place. The source may be a glacier, lake or spring. One of these overflows and widens to form a river. Rivers play a vital role in human settlement and

development. Rivers are essential transportation in many parts of the world.

Many nations began as small agricultural communities. These communities depended on rivers to provide fertile soil and water for their farms. The advanced civilization of the ancient Egyptians began in the valley of the Nile River. Many present-day countries have settlements built along rivers. In many parts of the world, rivers are used as sources of electric energy. Small rivers that flow into larger ones are **tributaries**.

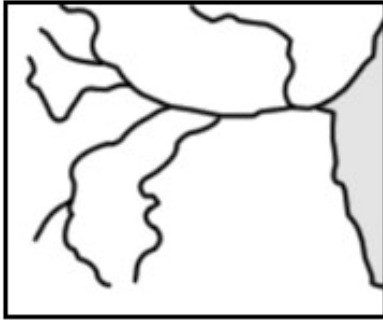
### **Some Major Rivers of the World and Their Location and Length**

Nile	Northeast Africa	4160 miles
Amazon	South America	4000 miles
Huang Ho	China	2903 miles
Congo Africa		2718 miles
Mississippi	United States	2340 miles

A **delta** is a lowland area made up of soil that is rich in minerals. Soil deposits at the mouths of rivers and is very fertile. Most deltas of the world

are important crop-growing areas. A well-known example is the delta of Egypt's Nile River. The Nile Delta is an important cotton-growing area.

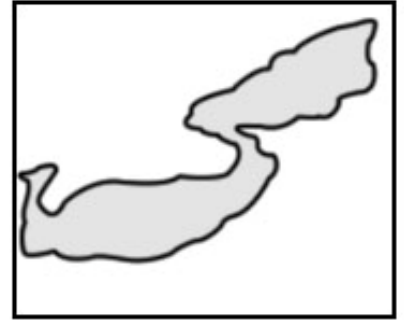
### Major Inland Water Forms



A. River and Tributaries



B. Delta



C. Lake

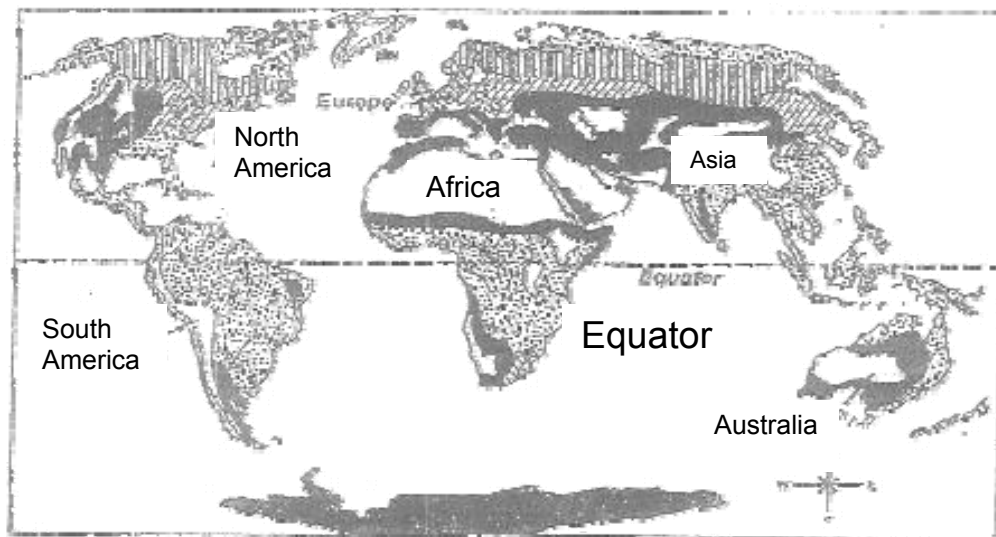
### Practice Exercises 2.2

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. A[n] \_\_\_\_\_'s source can be a glacier, lake, or spring.  
[a] ocean      [b] sea      [c] river's      [d] gulf
2. The deepest parts of the oceans are located near the continents and are \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] rifts      [b] trenches      [c] bays      [d] ideas
3. A fertile land formation formed from river deposits is \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] a valley      [b] a tributary      [c] a delta      [d] a strait
4. Ocean currents have a major effect on \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. the transportation of fertile soil to land regions  
b. the weather systems

- c. the formation of rivers
- d. the movement of undersea petroleum

## WORLD CLIMATE



The **atmosphere** is the blanket of air covering the earth. The atmosphere has layers of gases. It protects humans from the harmful rays of the sun. The atmosphere stretches approximately 600 miles above us. The layers of the atmosphere closest to us are constantly moving. These

layers produce variations in weather like tornadoes, thunderstorms and bright clear days.

**Weather** refers to the daily condition of the atmosphere.

**Precipitation** and **temperature** are two ways to measure weather.

Precipitation is all the water falling to earth in the form of rain, snow, hail or sleet. Temperature refers to the degree of heat or coldness of an area based on a measurement scale. The factors that influence temperature are:

- latitude
- altitude
- ocean currents
- distance from the sea, winds
- time of day
- the amount of impurities and dust in the air.

**Climate** is the typical or average weather in a particular region over a long time. Climates vary worldwide.

**Hot tropical climates** occur in the tropics in the *low latitudes* close to or on the equator. **Tropical** climates have wet and dry seasons or are wet and hot all through the year. In these regions, especially those around the equator, vegetation is usually dense. The trees are large. They form wide canopies. Parts of Central Africa and South America have large tropical rainforests. Another low latitude climate is the **savanna** or grassland region. This climate is usually located to the north and south of rainforests. Savanna climates have a dry winter season and a wet summer season.

**Dry climates** are in low latitudes north and south of grassland regions. These areas have several very hot deserts. These deserts receive less than 10 inches of rainfall per year. They also have sandy soils. In deserts, the temperatures vary greatly between day and night. At night, temperatures can become very cold and may drop as much as 50 degrees. The Sahara Desert in North Africa and the Arabian Desert in the Middle East are good examples.

Another middle latitude climate is the **continental steppe**. Steppes are in the interiors of large continents in regions far away from the oceans. The soils in steppes are rich. The natural vegetation in steppes is short grasses. Winters are cold and summers are hot in steppes. Most rainfall occurs in the spring and summer. The continental steppe features farming and livestock grazing. Most of the world's wheat grows in steppes. Regions with this type of climate are the Central Plains or Great Prairies in the United States, the Pampas in Argentina, and the steppes in Asia.

**Continental deserts** are areas right beside the continental steppe regions. Continental deserts are dry. They receive less than 10 inches of rainfall per year. Irrigation technology allows farming of these areas. Continental deserts exist in the southwest United States, the Gobi Desert of Asia, and in the small deserts of Africa, Peru and Chile.

In the middle latitudes of the world, there are variations in climate. The **Mediterranean climate** exists on the western coasts of countries between 30 and 40 degrees latitude north and south of the equator.

Mediterranean climates have mild rainy winters and hot dry summers.

Mediterranean climates have a long growing season. Many crops grow in this climate including grain and fruit. This type of climate exists in regions around the Mediterranean Sea, California, South Africa and Central Chile.

**Humid-subtropical climates** exist in places to the north and south of the tropical latitudes. These areas have mild winters and hot, humid summers with rainfall throughout the year. They also have rich soils. Humid-subtropical climates exist along the southeastern coast of Australia and in the United States, South America, Japan and the mainland region of China. These areas are very conducive to agricultural development. They have many growing seasons because of their fertile soils. A wide variety of crops grows in these regions. They include grains, cotton, rice, tobacco and vegetables.

**Marine climates** are mild with rainy winters and summers. Marine climates have very little seasonal change. The lands in this climate have mixed forest vegetation. These lands surround themselves with water. Marine climates are in New Zealand, Western Europe, the British Isles, the Northwest of the United States and the Pacific regions of Canada.

**Humid-continental climates** are located in the middle of large land areas in the mid latitudes. This climate has winds passing over the land bringing abundant rainfall. Humid continental climates have mixed forests and varied types of soils and vegetation. Some of the largest and best farmlands in the world exist in this climatic zone. The Humid-continental



climate exists in the Central and Northern United States, Southern Canada, the Central region of the Soviet Union and Northern China.

**Cold or Polar climates** are located at high latitudes near the poles. Winters are long and severe. Few people can live in these regions. In these **sub-arctic climates**, temperatures rise for at least three months to above 50 degrees. The summers are short, the winters are long, and the snowfall is very heavy. The main type of vegetation is termed *taiga*. Taiga includes coniferous forests. Taiga exists in the in northern regions of Eurasia and America.

In the **sub-polar or tundra climate**, the average temperature remains below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. These regions have great variations between day and night throughout the year. During the summer, daylight lasts 24 hours. In winter, night lasts for 24 hours. The ground remains frozen most of the year. The vegetation consists only of herbaceous plants, mosses and ferns. These climates exist at the extreme southern portion of South America, northern Canada and northern Asia.

**Ice cap or glacial climates** are the coldest. Places with this type of climate have an ice covering even in the summer months. There is little precipitation throughout the year. The Arctic and Antarctic regions are ice cap or glacial climates.

**Vertical climates** come from high mountain altitudes. Temperature is warmer in lowland areas than in areas that have higher altitudes. In highland areas and mountains, air pressure and temperature decrease with

altitude while the amount of precipitation increases. The air in high mountain regions is dust-free and therefore cannot absorb much heat. As a result, the higher the altitude, the cooler the climate becomes.

The distance from the sea influences climate. The sun's heat is absorbed and released at a slower rate by water than by land. In the temperate winter latitudes, the sea air and surrounding coastal regions are warmer than it is further inland. Ocean currents also raise or lower the temperature of land surfaces.

In temperate latitudes, prevailing winds from the land lower winter temperatures and raise summer temperatures. Winds from the sea raise winter temperatures and lower summer temperatures. The main wind systems influencing the world's climates are the northeast and southeast trade winds, the westerly winds and the polar winds.

### **Practice Exercises 2.3**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. Precipitation and temperature measure \_\_\_\_\_.

- [a] atmosphere    [b] climate    [c] ice caps    [d] weather

2. The best farmlands exist in \_\_\_\_\_ climates.

- [a] Tundra    [b] Vertical    [c] Humid continental    [d] Polar

3. The Southeastern United States has a \_\_\_\_\_ climate.

- [a] Mediterranean    [b] Humid-subtropical    [c] Marine    [d] Tundra

## LESSON 2

### PRACTICE EXERCISE ANSWERS

<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
1. B	1. D	1. D
2. D	2. B	2. C
3. A	3. C	3. B
4. D	4. B	

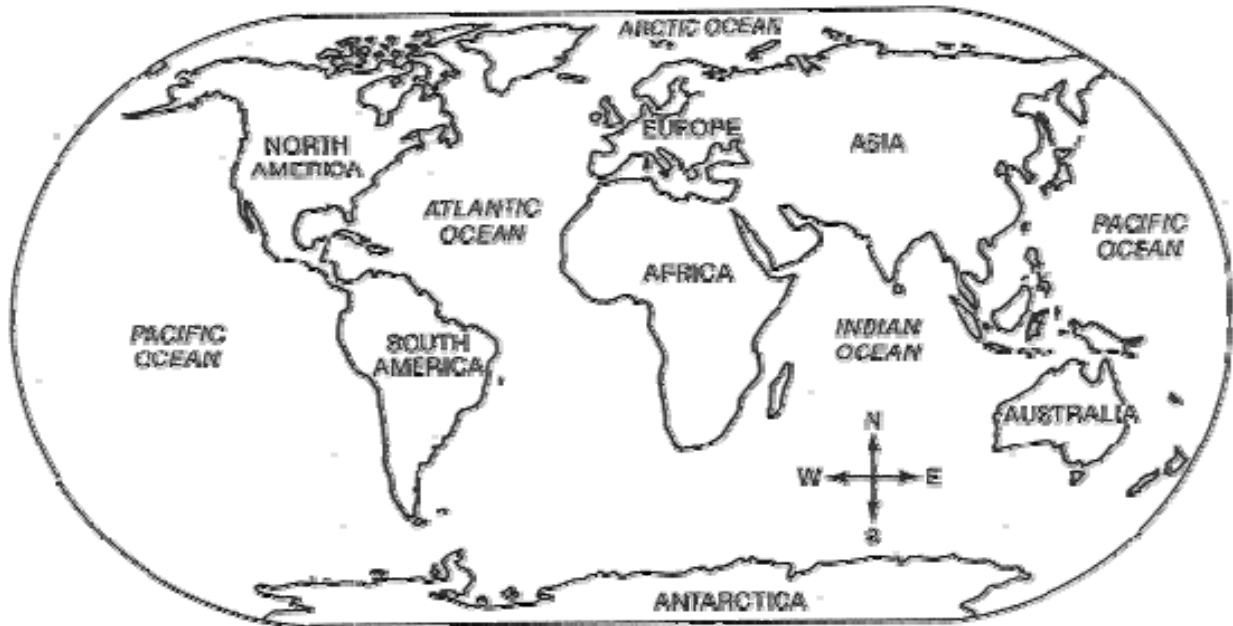


## **LESSON 2 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ The deepest parts of the oceans, located near the continents, are trenches.
- ❖ A fertile land formation formed from river deposits is a delta.
- ❖ Ocean currents have a major effect on the weather system.
- ❖ Mineral resources can be found in mountains.
- ❖ The lowest amount of rainfall occurs in Northern and Southern Africa.
- ❖ A quarter of the Earth's surface is covered by the continents.
- ❖ Deserts are the land regions least conducive to human settlement.
- ❖ Erosion is the force that transformed the Appalachian Mountains into lower mountain ranges and hills.
- ❖ Division of the world's climatic regions on grid maps are the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- ❖ A basin is an area of land drained by a river system

### **LESSON 3: HUMAN GEOGRAPHY I**

#### **The Continents and Oceans of the World**



#### **The Hemispheres and Tropics of the World**



## CULTURE

**Culture** refers to the values, beliefs, customs, behaviors, social institutions and skills learned and practiced within a society. A part of culture is **material culture**. Material culture includes physical objects created by humans. Material objects, such as clothing, cars and artifacts, give meaning to life.

**Cultural geography** deals with the relationship between people and their physical environment. It examines the ways people use the land. It also deals with how its characteristics affect their lives. For example, people who live on inland fertile plains have a cultural tradition related to farming and raising animals. Weather patterns of the region influence these traditions. People who live near the sea or rivers have a cultural tradition directly affected by their lifestyle. Many people earn their living by fishing, building boats or trading in products or goods related to the sea.

Cultural geographers also study **ethnicity**. **Ethnicity** is the study of cultural features in **ethnic groups** handed down from one generation to another. They also examine the composition and distribution of these groups throughout the world. The term **race** is used interchangeably with ethnicity. However, a race is an identifiably distinct group of people who have similar inherited biological characteristics. Some of these distinguishing characteristics include facial features, hair texture and skin pigmentation.

**Racial Groups of the World**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. African                             | 6. Indigenous American |
| 2. Asian                               | 7. Melanesian          |
| 3. Australian (aboriginal inhabitants) | 8. Polynesian          |
| 4. Caucasian                           |                        |
| 5. Indian (South Asian)                |                        |

A **society** is a population that has the same culture and political authority and occupies the same territory.

**Technology** is the way humans apply scientific or mechanical knowledge to manipulate the environment for practical purposes.

**Practice Exercises 3.1**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is an inherited biological classification.  
[a] Culture [b] Technology [c] Society [d] Race
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of cultural features of specific groups handed down from one generation to the next.  
[a] Society [b] Ethnicity [c] Technology [d] Cultural geography
3. \_\_\_\_\_ manipulates the environment for practical, mechanical purposes.  
[a] Ethnicity [b] Race [c] Material Culture [d] Technology

## EUROPE



**Location:** The continent of Europe is located in the Northern Hemisphere. It is 4,053,309 square miles in area. It is north of the continent of Africa and west of Asia. The continent of Europe occupies the western portion of the landmass of Eurasia. The Arctic Ocean borders Europe to the north. The Mediterranean Sea borders Europe to the south. The Atlantic Ocean is its border to the west. The Ural Mountains borders Europe in the east. Europe



divides into Northern, Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western regions. During the last fifty years, the greatest political and cultural divisions have split Eastern and Western Europe.

**Climate:** Warm ocean currents of the Atlantic affect Western Europe. It has a mild, temperate climate. The countries of Northern Europe have short summers and long, cold winters. The climate is mid-continental in Eastern Europe. Winters are cold and summers are hot. In the Southern regions, the climate is Mediterranean with hot summers and mild winters.

**Landforms:** Europe has many peninsulas. Water surrounds most of the region. The Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and the North, Baltic and Mediterranean Seas are the largest surrounding water forms. There are abundant coastlines and navigable rivers. Some of the most important rivers are the Rhine, Rhone and Danube. Land topography is divided into four regions: the Alpine mountains (which are the most spectacular mountains in Europe) in the south, the Central Uplands, the Western Uplands and the North European Lowland. The Ural Mountains is a natural boundary. They separate Russia into two distinct cultural regions. Western Russia is European. Eastern Russia is Asian.

**Languages:** Languages spoken in Europe are extremely diverse. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, English is the primary language. In France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium, the main languages are the Romance languages. Romance languages derive from Latin. In Germany, Austria and the Netherlands, Germanic languages are dominant. In Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia and Bulgaria,

people speak Slavic languages. Some other European languages include Hungarian, Albanian and Finnish.

**Religion:** Many different religions exist in Europe. The main one is Christianity. In Spain, Italy, Portugal and southern Germany, Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion. In northern Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden the Protestant form of Christianity dominates. The Eastern Orthodox Church is the main religion of Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and the other countries of Eastern Europe. Many other religions exist according to the diversity of the population.

**Economy:** Europe has many natural resources. These include forests, minerals, farmlands, rivers and seas. Western Europe in particular has become economically strong due to its abundant resources. Large forests remain in many high mountain areas and in Scandinavia. Many people especially in Finland and Sweden engage in the lumbering industry. These countries are major exporters of timber.

The European region has many large deposits of coal and iron ore. These resources are in Sweden, Britain, France and Germany. There are deposits of oil and natural gas in the North Sea and other parts of the continent. Oil, natural gas and large amounts of coal and copper remain in Eastern Europe. Mining is a major industry throughout Europe. In Western Europe, these resources have facilitated the growth of the large manufacturing industries producing chemicals, steel, machinery, transportation vessels, textiles, electrical products and other commodities. There is also waterpower from Europe's many rivers.

In Europe, good farming land is limited. Farms are usually small. The development of farming cooperatives helped European farmers to increase production and benefit financially. They pool their resources and share all costs and profits. Technological and scientific interventions enhanced the productivity of the land. In Holland, dikes keep the waters of the Atlantic from flooding the surrounding regions and removing the fertile soils. Fertilizers increase productivity. Western Europe grows large amounts of food. The main crops are wheat, oats, potatoes and vegetables. Wine is big business. In Eastern Europe, there are fertile plains. The main crops produced and exported are grains like wheat, barley and oats. The European region is a great producer of dairy products. Many European farmers raise beef cattle, sheep, and chickens. All of these products sell on a large scale. They are exported to other parts of the world.

Another geographic feature contributing to the economic prosperity of Europe is the many rivers. These rivers facilitate the development of trade and industry. These rivers made it possible for goods to be transported to and from inland cities and seaports.

**Government:** Western European countries have democratic governments. Representatives of the people make the laws. This system is the parliamentary form of government. In this administration, there are two law-making bodies consisting of a lower and upper house. One house in the legislature has most of the power. The leaders of the government are the prime minister and his cabinet.

Most countries of Eastern Europe made great strides in political development since they gained independence from the Soviet Union. People of the region faced many political and social problems. Ethnic hostilities and economic difficulties remain. There are many western-style democratic governments practicing free-market capitalism. Many of the countries in the region became member states of the European Union. However, the nations of Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova affiliate with Russia. They do not want to become a part of the Western democratic process.

**Society:** Europe is highly developed and prosperous because of its natural assets. The population is approximately 728,110,000. Most Europeans (seven out of ten) live in or near large cities. The standard of living is high especially in Western Europe. That region has a 99% literacy rate. For centuries, trade has played a major role in the rise of many great cities in Western Europe including London, Paris and Rome. These cities grew along rivers and in close proximity to ports. That provided easy access to local and foreign trade. In the eighteenth century, England's abundant water, iron and coal resources led to the **Industrial Revolution**. This revolution changed the way modern man worked and lived. Its ideas spread to Europe and North America. It had a major influence on the rest of the world.

## Practice Exercises 3.2

Select the letter of the best answer.

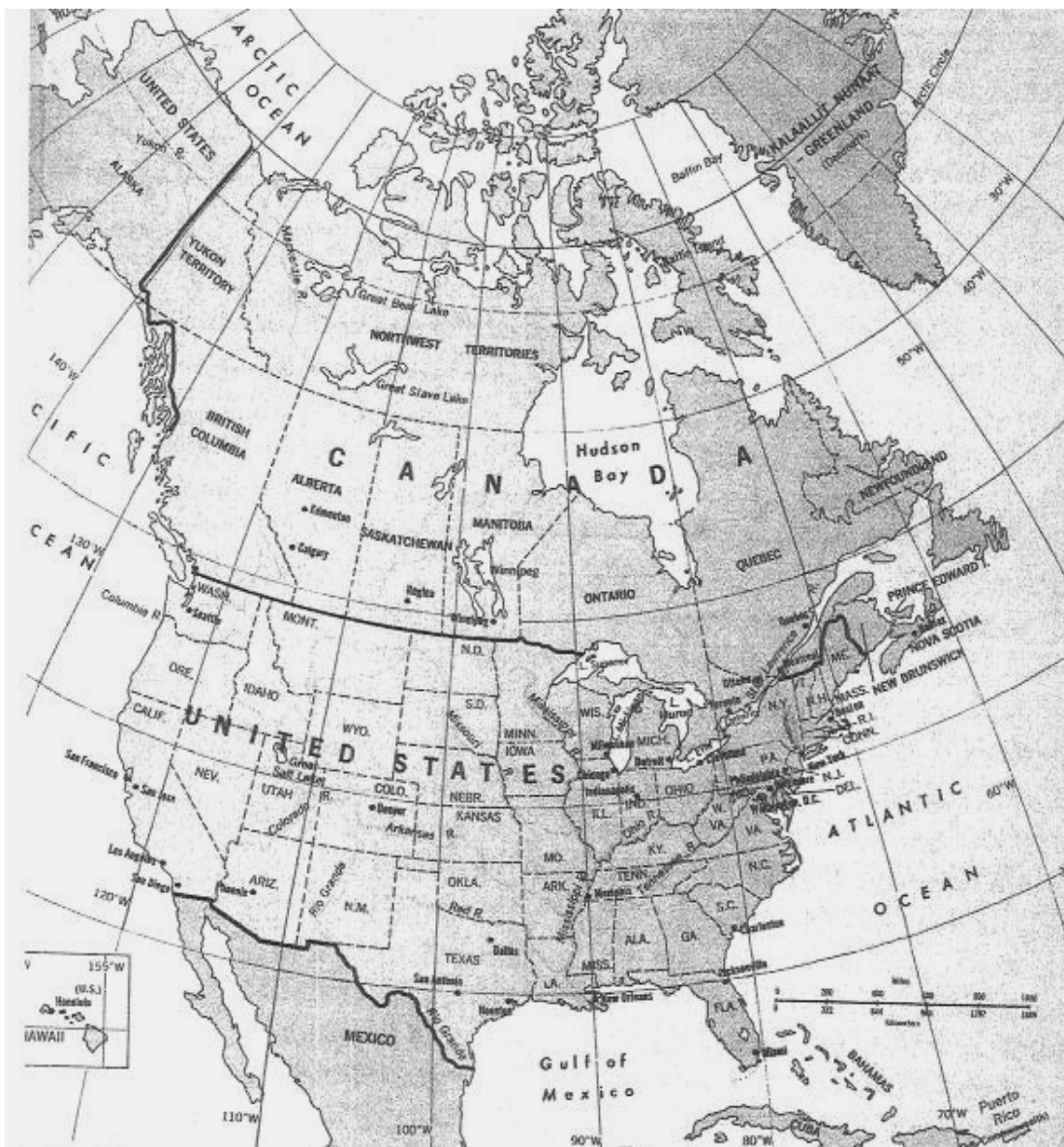
1. People from Poland, Croatia and Bulgaria make up the \_\_\_\_\_ linguistic group.  
[a] Romance            [b] Germanic            [c] Slavic            [d] Asiatic
2. An important industry in Scandinavia is \_\_\_\_\_ because of the large amounts of forests found in this region.  
[a] oil            [b] wine            [c] lumber            [d] farming
3. The dominant religion of Eastern Europe is \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] Protestantism            [b] Eastern Orthodox  
[c] Roman Catholicism            [d] Buddhism
4. In the parliamentary form of government, the leader of the government is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] cabinet            [b] premier            [c] prime minister            [d] president

## NORTH AMERICA

**Location:** North America is the third largest continent and is located in the Northern and Western Hemispheres. It lies north of the continent of South America. The continent is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Arctic Ocean to the north. It extends

from the Arctic Ocean in the north to South America. North America consists of more than 17 million square miles of land.

The northern region of North America consists mainly of Canada and the United States. The island of Greenland in the north is considered a part of the region. The southern region includes Mexico, the countries of Central America, and the islands of the Caribbean.



**Climate:** The climate of North America is varied. The Arctic regions to the north of Canada remain very cold all year round. The only precipitation is snow. In the central regions, including Canada and the United States, most places have temperate climates with warm summers and cold winters. In Central America, the coastal climates are tropical with hot temperatures and heavy rainfall all year round. The plateau and highland regions are cooler with temperate climates.

**Landforms:** There is a great variety of landforms in North America. There are many high mountain ranges such as Mount McKinley in Alaska and the Rocky Mountains in the west of Canada and the United States. The low mountain ranges of the Appalachians run along the eastern coast. The Sierra Madre ranges are located along the eastern coast of Mexico. In the central region running from the southern United States to Canada are the fertile Central Plains. There are many rivers in the United States and Canada. The Mississippi River and its tributaries, including the Ohio and Missouri Rivers, drain a large area of the continent. The largest freshwater lake in the world, Lake Superior, is one of the many lakes in the north-central area of North America. Many plateaus and basins as well as various types of forests stand in the western parts of North and Central America.

**Language:** The main languages spoken in North America are English, French and Spanish. In the United States and Canada, English is the main language. In eastern Canada French is the language of many people. In Central America, Spanish is the dominant language and there are Native Indian languages. English, French, Spanish, Dutch, Creole, and mixed dialects are used in the Caribbean.

**Religion:** In the United States and Canada, the primary religions are Protestant, Roman Catholicism and a variety of other faiths. In Central America, the majority of the people are Roman Catholic. Other religions reflect the diversity of the population. These include Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

**Economy:** North America produces more consumer goods than any other continent. The United States and Canada have two of the strongest industrialized economies in the world. Both countries have abundant natural resources. These resources are water systems, fishing grounds, farmlands, forests and minerals. Thus, there is a high level of industrialization.

There are many manufacturing and trading centers in or around major cities. Many of these cities are near rivers or lakes. In Canada, the greatest industrial region is along the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. These watercourses provide vital electricity as well as transportation for goods from the inland region to the Atlantic ports. The surrounding lowlands facilitate the building of railroads and roadways. Transportation of goods to other parts of the world is therefore easier.

Twenty-five of the largest cities in the United States are located in this industrial region. Some of the great industrial cities are New York, Pittsburgh, and Chicago. Some of the main manufacturing industries are food processing, aircraft and automobile production, publishing and garment manufacturing. The waterpower projects on the St. Lawrence and



Columbia rivers provide electricity for the homes and factories in nearby regions. A large number of dairy and fruit farms are located around the Great Lakes and neighboring cities. Chicago is one of the largest meat-producing centers in the region. Pittsburgh is the largest iron and steel center in this area.

The fishing industry is a large export earner. It has developed along most of the eastern and western coastal regions of the United States and Canada.

The United States has the highest agricultural production in the world. The Central Plains or Prairies are the largest agricultural belt in the country. This area is very productive due to the fertile nature of the land. Many crops are grown. The chief ones are corn and wheat. Wheat farms extend from Kansas to Canada. The vast grassland plains are for sheep and livestock farming. Farmers from other states ship their cattle to cornfields. There they feed. The result is a large and flourishing meat industry. This industry contributes to the settlement and growth of many cities including Chicago. The majority of the beef and pork for domestic consumption and export comes from the Midwest.

In the Southern states, the warm climate and irrigated land are perfect for many crops such as sugarcane, grain, cotton, rice, and fruits. Manufacturing, especially of electrical products, has developed considerably along the Mississippi River. The river is used for transportation of goods. New Orleans on the south coast is a valuable port for export and for receiving imports from Latin America. In the west, there

are many farms in the fertile valleys of California. A wide variety of dairy products, crops, and fruits grow here. There is also sheep farming.

In both the United States and Canada, about one-third of the land is forest. Forestry plays a major role in providing lumber for building, making plastics, and providing pulp for paper making industries.

Both the United States and Canada have vast deposits of coal, oil, and natural gas. In the United States, coal reserves remain in the Appalachian mountain regions in the east, Central Plains, and mountain regions of the west. Coal provides the fuel to heat homes and the energy to run machinery in industries. The Midwest is one of the nation's most industrialized regions. Iron deposits remain around Lake Superior. This is a major source for the iron and steel mills in the region.

Other minerals produced in the United States are copper, lead and gold. Canada and the United States are also the world's leading manufacturers of aluminum.

Oil is the largest energy resource in the United States. The U.S. provides one-fifth of the world's oil supply. In Canada, oil and natural gas abounds in the Rocky Mountains, British Columbia, and the coastal regions. In the United States, the largest oil and natural gas fields are in Alaska, Texas, and Wyoming. There are many oil refineries, in Texas and Louisiana as well as offshore. Natural gas supplies heating and fuel for homes.

In Mexico, oil and natural gas on the Gulf Coast are the main sources of export income. Mexico is also the world's largest producer of silver. Other important minerals are gold and zinc. Exports include fruits and vegetables. In Central America, the main industries are textiles, tobacco, furniture and food. The leading products and the largest exports are coffee and bananas.

**Government:** The United States is a democratic federal republic. The Constitution directs the government. An elected president leads the government. Canada is a parliamentary democracy and the head of government is the prime minister. In Mexico and Central America, in spite of political instabilities, the governments operate under the political principles of democracy with elected presidents.

**Society:** In the United States and Canada, there is a high standard of living. Most people live in the cities or near large urban centers. All cities have many modern facilities and highly developed educational and health services. The majority of the people who live in rural areas enjoy the same services and conveniences as those in urban areas.

The population of North America is approximately 477,418,000. There is great cultural and ethnic diversity in North America. In the United States, 75% of the population is of European, Middle Eastern and Latin American origin. People of African descent make up 12% of the population, followed by those of Asian descent who make up 3.5%. The native inhabitants are the Native American Indians who now make up only 1% of the population. When the Europeans migrated to the region the Native

Indians lost their lands and their numbers declined drastically. Presently, they live in different areas of the United States and Canada. In Canada, over 45% of the people are of British descent. About 30% are of French descent and about 2% are Native American. The rest of the population are immigrants from Southeast Asia, Germany, Scandinavia, the Caribbean and West Africa.

The population of Central America is over 160,000,000. Most of the people of Mexico and Central America are a mixture of the original Native Indians and the Spanish explorers and settlers who conquered the area in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The others are pure Spanish or pure Indian. Although there are many cities, the majority of the people in Central America live in rural areas. Most people in Central America are poor. Very few people own their own land and those who do are subsistence farmers. An exception is Mexico where the majority of the people live in cities and towns. Mexico City is one of the largest cities in the world and is the center of the country's cultural life and industry. It is also one of the most densely populated cities in the world.

### **Practice Exercises 3.3**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ provides one-fifth of the world's petroleum.

- [a] United States      [b] Venezuela      [c] Mexico      [d] Nigeria

2. Most Canadians are of \_\_\_\_\_ descent.

[a] French [b] British [c] Cajun [d] Dutch

3. Which of the following is not true?

- a. The main language in Mexico and Central America is Spanish
- b. The majority of people in Central America live in cities
- c. The governments in Mexico and Central America are democratic
- d. Most people in Central America are poor

## SOUTH AMERICA



**Location:** South America is the world's fourth largest continent. It has an area of 6,880,700 square miles. Most of South America is in the Southern Hemisphere. In the west, it connects to Central America by the Isthmus of Panama. The Equator runs through the northern regions of the continent and the southernmost tip extends into the Antarctic Ocean.

The Caribbean Sea surrounds it to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Antarctic Ocean to the south.

**Climate:** The climate in South America ranges from tropical to temperate. A large part of the continent is near the equator. Much of the continent lies within the tropical rainforest climate. This climate includes heavy rainfall and warm temperatures. Areas to the north and south of this region have tropical savanna climates. Other areas outside the tropical zone are very arid and have temperate climates. In the south, climates vary from hot and dry to cool and damp. In many parts of South America, climates can vary significantly within short distances. Elevation rather than location is the main reason for climate variations. Parts of Peru, Columbia, and Ecuador are located near the Equator and remain cold. The reason is these places are high in the Andes Mountains.

**Landforms:** South America has many geographical features. One of the most prominent features is the gigantic Amazon River Basin. The basin contains the Amazon River (the world's largest river) and its tributaries that number over a thousand. Two other great river systems in South America are the Orinoco and the Plata. Another distinctive feature is the Andes, the second highest mountain range in the world. It extends southward along the entire western side of the continent. There are also many highland and plateau regions. In the northwest, the Atacama Desert occupies a large area. In the eastern and western regions, there are extensive grassland plains. The plains in the east are *Llanos* and the ones in the west are *Pampas*.

**Languages:** Spanish is the main language spoken in the majority of South American countries. Portuguese is the national language of Brazil. Other languages are English, French, and Dutch, as well as indigenous languages.

**Religion:** More than 80% of the population is Roman Catholic. There are smaller numbers of Protestants, Hindus, Jews and followers of indigenous religions.

**Economy:** South America has many resources distributed unevenly throughout the continent. Argentina and Brazil are the most industrialized countries. The main mineral resources found in South America are copper, tin, oil and iron ore. Throughout the continent, mining is a major source of employment.

Over a quarter of the world's copper reserves are in northern Chile. Tin lies buried all along the length of the Andes Mountains and in Bolivia. Most of South America's oil reserves are in Venezuela. Eighty percent of Venezuela's export earnings come from petroleum. Iron ore mining is big business in Peru and Brazil.

Only a small percentage of South America's land resources are used for agriculture. Many regions have high mountains, jungle, tropical rainforests and deserts. In the lowlands of Venezuela, rice is the major crop. A number of crops grow in the highland regions. The main crop is coffee. Coffee grows in Brazil and Columbia usually for export. The grassland plains of Brazil, Columbia, and Argentina rear cattle. The



grasslands of the *Pampas* are the mainstay of Argentina's economy. Corn and wheat grows on a large scale there. Livestock farming in this region made Argentina one of the world's largest exporters of beef and hides. It has also led to the development of other related industries such as food processing and meatpacking. Most products from Latin America go to Europe, the United States, and Japan.

**Government:** In South America, most countries have republican governments led by presidents. Some countries with this type of government are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador. Republican governments have many different political parties and regional divisions. Some countries such as Columbia have had much political instability even with this type of system.

**Society:** From a linguistic, historical, and cultural perspective, South America links to Central America and the Caribbean islands. As a result, these areas are **Latin America**.

In South America, there are people of Native American Indian, European, African, and Asian ancestry. There are many who are of mixed heritage. Throughout South America, Native American Indians were the first inhabitants. They lived as nomadic hunters. They became farmers about 8000-2000 B.C. Most of these people are in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and the Amazon Valley. The White population is descended from the first settlers who came from Spain, Portugal, Holland, France and the United Kingdom. The Black population is mainly in Brazil and the Guianas. The largest number of East Indians is found in Guyana and Suriname.

The total population of South America is approximately 341,626,000. Half of the population in South America lives in Brazil. Many people live in the rural areas. A large percentage have moved to the cities for better opportunities. Many cities are densely populated. Poor people live in shantytowns. Some cities that have developed this way are Rio de Janeiro, Lima, and Bogotá. In the rural areas, people live in village communities. They are farmers with small plots of land or owners of small businesses.

A strong sense of community cooperation and family life is important. In many areas, educational standards are low. Health standards in villages and cities are inadequate. One of the main problems is lack of clean water.

However, countries like Chile, Uruguay and Argentina enjoy a higher standard of living than many other countries in South America. Argentina in particular has a high adult literacy rate, as school attendance is compulsory. Health care is very good. Buenos Aires features modern facilities and well developed communication systems.

### **Practice Exercises 3.4**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. In South America, most countries have republican governments led by \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] presidents                      [b] prime ministers                      [c] Kaisers [d] kings

2. The largest river basin is \_\_\_\_\_.
- [a] Orinoco      [b] Pampas      [c] La Plata      [d] Amazon
3. The main legal crop of the South American highlands is \_\_\_\_\_.
- [a] Coca      [b] Coffee      [c] Rice      [d] Beans

### LESSON 3

#### Practice Exercise Answers

3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4
1. D	1. C	1. A	1. A
2. B	2. C	2. B	2. D
3. D	3. B	3. A	3. B
	4. C		



### **LESSON 3 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ Ethnicity is the study of cultural features of specific groups handed down from one generation to the next.
- ❖ Most Europeans live in or near large cities.
- ❖ The Slavic ethnic group includes Poland, Croatia, and Bulgaria.
- ❖ Lumbering is an important industry in Scandinavia.
- ❖ Eastern Orthodox is the dominant religion of Eastern Europe.
- ❖ The prime minister is the leader in the parliamentary form of government.
- ❖ The U. S. provides one-fifth of the world's petroleum.
- ❖ The U. S. and Canada are similar in that forestry is a major industry.
- ❖ The majority of people in Central America do not live in cities.
- ❖ Many farms throughout South America are found in lowland regions.

## LESSON 4: HUMAN GEOGRAPHY II

### ASIA



**Location:** Asia is located in the Eastern Hemisphere and is the largest continent in the world. It is 16,838,365 square miles in area. Asia is east of Europe and Africa. Asia is northwest of Australia. Asia borders on the west the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, in the north the Arctic Ocean, in the south the Indian Ocean, and in the east the Pacific Ocean. The cultural regions of Asia divide into the subcontinent of India, the countries of Northern and Eastern Asia, and the countries of Southeast Asia.

**Climate:** The climate of Asia is variable due to the great size of the continent. In the northern regions, winters are long and cold and the Polar Regions are very dry. Southwest and Central Asia feature mostly dry

deserts. These deserts have long hot summers with little rain. Eastern Asia has a more temperate climate with hot summers and cold winters.

Southeast Asia has a hot climate all year round.

**Landforms:** Asia has many mountains, deserts, plateaus and rivers. The world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas, is found in Asia. The highest peak on earth is Mount Everest in Nepal, which is 29,028 feet. Other important mountain ranges are the Tien Shan, Hindu Kush and Zagros. The largest desert is the Gobi desert located in northern Asia and Mongolia. There are many plateaus in Asia. The most famous are the Deccan Plateau in India and Anatolia in Turkey. Some of the world's longest rivers are in Asia. The Indus, Hwang Ho, Tigris and Euphrates contributed to the growth and development of early civilizations. These rivers are still essential for survival of cultures in this region.

**Languages:** There are many different racial and national groups in Asia. Racial groups include European, Indian and Asian. There are many language families. In the north, most people speak Russian. Arabic is the most common language in the southwest, and in the south Hindi is the predominant language. The people in the central regions speak Chinese. In the east and southeast, people speak many languages and dialects.

**Religion:** All the world's major religions are in Asia. In the southwestern regions, the main religions are Judaism and Islam. Hinduism is widely practiced in South Asia. There are many Muslims in India. The majority of the population is Hindu. Hinduism is predominant in India even after 4000 years. The religion has survived in spite of political and social changes. In

Southeast Asia, Buddhism, an ancient religion, is still widely practiced. In the north, most people follow either Islam or Christianity. The Islamic faith spread significantly throughout Asia over the last six centuries. Islam is strong in the northern, central and eastern regions. In the East, Southeast, and Central Asia, Buddhism are practiced. In Eastern Asia, Confucianism, Shintoism, and Taoism are the main religions practiced.

**Economy:** Because the population of Asia is so large, most of the resources are for growing crops rather than animal rearing. In general, Asians eat less meat than Americans and Europeans. Animals such as cows provide milk. Their dung makes fertilizer. In Southwest and Central Asia, there are many nomadic herders. The most common foods grown are grain products, fruits and olives. In the eastern regions, the main crop is rice. Other crops grown for export are tea, coffee, sugarcane and tobacco. Wheat, fruits, vegetables, and meat are for domestic consumption and export.

China and other parts of Asia have used **terraced cultivation** to maximize the amount of arable land available for farming. This process reduces soil erosion and water loss. This method entails constructing flat areas on the sides of hills or mountains to create more agricultural land. As a result, it is possible to grow more crops on these highland slopes.

Russia also has vast areas of farmlands and many mineral resources like oil, natural gas, iron, coal and other minerals. The local population uses these resources. Much of it goes to export. The cost of exploitation has been high. During the communist era, the country had large farming

cooperatives to increase food production. Now it is moving toward a free market economy. Japan is one of the world's wealthiest and most industrialized nations. It has many industries producing items like automobiles, electronic appliances, and computers. Russia exports many of these products.

**Government:** Asia has experienced many political and cultural transitions. Since the decline of the influence of communism in Russia and China, the governments in these countries have adopted democratic policies. Some of the old influences remain. Since 1945, many Asian countries, including India and Pakistan, have gained independence. These countries endured religious, cultural and political conflicts in establishing their national governments. The governments in other regions of Southeast Asia and Japan have pursued pro-Western policies.

**Society:** Over half of the world's population lives in Asia. The total population is approximately 3,669,732,000. China has a population of over 1 billion and India has over one-half billion. Current projections show that unless India takes the issue of family planning seriously, it will surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2050.

A large portion of Asia's physical environment consists of deserts and mountains, most of the people are crowded into the lowland plains and fertile river valleys. As a result, there are some areas where the population densities are high. For example, in Japan there are about 848 people per square mile. Most people in Asia are small farmers and practice intensive subsistence farming on small, scattered plots.



Many parts of Asia have become highly urbanized. The cities of Beijing in China, Tokyo in Japan and Seoul in South Korea have populations of almost 10 million each. In many areas, the standards of education, housing and health are low. Families are usually large based on the culture of the region. In China, the size of families has now been limited by government policy.

**Practice Exercises 4.1**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. The wealthiest country in Asia is \_\_\_\_\_ .

- [a] South Korea      [b] Russia      [c] China      [d] Japan

2. Most people in Asia are \_\_\_\_\_ .

- [a] miners      [b] farmers      [c] fishermen      [d] industrial workers

3. By 2050, the most populated country of the world will likely be:

- [a] China      [b] India      [c] Russia      [d] Japan

## AFRICA



**Location:** Africa is located in the Eastern Hemisphere. Two-thirds of the continent is in the Northern Hemisphere. A third of it is in the Southern Hemisphere. Africa is approximately 11,712,434 square miles in area. It is south of Europe and southwest of Asia. It is the second largest continent after Asia. It divides into two regions: North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Climate:** Much of the climate in sub-Saharan Africa is either of the savanna or rainforest type. Its temperature ranges from warm to hot. In some parts of Africa, there are extreme differences between daytime and nighttime temperatures especially in the desert regions. In these areas, temperatures are extremely hot in the day but are very cold at night. The heaviest rainfall occurs in Central Africa, but varies greatly throughout the rest of the continent. In Northern and Southern Africa, rainfall is limited.

**Landforms:** Most of Africa's landmass is at a high elevation with a few mountain ranges. The continent is a gigantic plateau covered with deserts, rainforests and grasslands. Deserts cover approximately two-fifths of Africa. The largest desert in the world, the Sahara, is in North Africa. In the south, the principal deserts are the Kalahari and the Namib. Rainforests make up one-fifth of the continent and the largest one is the Congo rainforest in Central Africa. The grasslands are between the tropical rainforests and the deserts. The major mountain ranges are the Atlas Mountains in the northwest and the mountains of East Africa where Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest peak. In Africa, there are many large rivers and lakes. The Nile River, the longest in the world, the Congo, and Zambezi are three major river systems. Giant waterfalls are on these rivers. Among them is Victoria Falls, located on the Zambezi River. This waterfall is the largest in the world. Another distinctive feature is the Great Rift Valley system running from north to south for hundreds of miles in the eastern part of the continent.

**Languages:** Africa contains over 2,000 ethnic groups. It is the third most populated region in the world. There are more than 800 languages in

Africa. The most culturally widespread languages are Arabic, European languages, Bantu, and Berber. Africans living in the Sub-Saharan regions speak one or more of the native African languages. Most of these languages fall into the Niger-Kordofanian category, which includes Akan, Ibo and Yoruba. The other main language families are Bantu, Dinka, Swahili, and Masai.

**Religion:** Throughout the continent of Africa hundreds of religions are based on local traditions and ethnic groups. The fundamental similarities between all of them are belief in many gods and ancestor worship. The next most popular religions are Christianity and Islam. Christianity exists throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. In some areas, native Africans combined Christian and traditional beliefs. Islam is the main religion practiced in North Africa

**Economy:** Africa has many natural resources. One valuable resource, land, was destroyed by traditional farming practices like the “slash and burn” method. Farmers clear away the forest by burning the vegetation. In parts of northwest Africa known as the Sahel, this practice has caused **desertification**. This means areas that had trees and grasslands are now deserts. This has led to famine and the death of many people. Others migrated to other regions.

Most people live in rural areas and farm. The climate of Africa does not support large-scale farming. Most farmers continually change the location of their farms to preserve the fertility of the soil. The main crops produced are corn, yams, rice, palm oil, fruits and vegetables. In some areas, there is

plantation farming for local market and export. Some of these crops are coffee, tea, timber and rubber.

The most important industry in Africa is mining. The richest areas in mineral wealth are in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Three of the world's most important minerals uranium, gold and diamonds come from South African mines. The wealth of the city of Johannesburg comes from mining profits. Oil deposits remain in different regions like Nigeria, Angola and the Congo. Iron ore comes from mines in South Africa, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

In spite of these abundant resources, the people of Africa have not significantly benefited economically until recently. The importance of mining changed the lives of many Africans. They often leave their homes and farms to work hundreds of miles away with mining companies. This gives them the opportunity to work for wages and to move into cities. However, until recently most of the mines were foreign run. Foreigners took profits back to Europe and America. They provided the skilled labor from the home country. African leaders do not have enough financial resources to develop their natural resources. Almost all African countries depend on foreign aid to help them exploit and develop their resources.

**Government:** After World War II, most African countries achieved independence from European colonial powers. Since then, many political leaders have become dictators. Most leaders have not encouraged the democratic process or protected citizens' civil rights. Many African

countries have been engaged in civil conflicts exacerbated by ethnic and cultural differences. Since 2000, there has been more political stability.

**Society:** Africa's population is approximately 800,810,000. Africa is the third most populated region in the world with many different racial and ethnic groups. Africa divides into two regions. They are environmentally and culturally different. North Africa is largely a desert. Most people have African-Arab ancestry. Sub-Saharan Africa refers to the regions of Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The majority of people are native Africans. Other racial variations include a small number of Asians, Arabs, Whites, and people of mixed heritage. The Black African ethnic groups are identified by their own cultural characteristics, traditions, and customs.

Most people live in traditional rural village communities. However, urban growth is rapidly increasing the number of people in cities, suburbs and towns. The main reason for rapid urbanization is the large amount of unemployment in rural areas. In many parts of Africa, there is much poverty and the standards of education and health are low. The spread of the AIDS epidemic has become a major concern especially in Nigeria and South Africa.

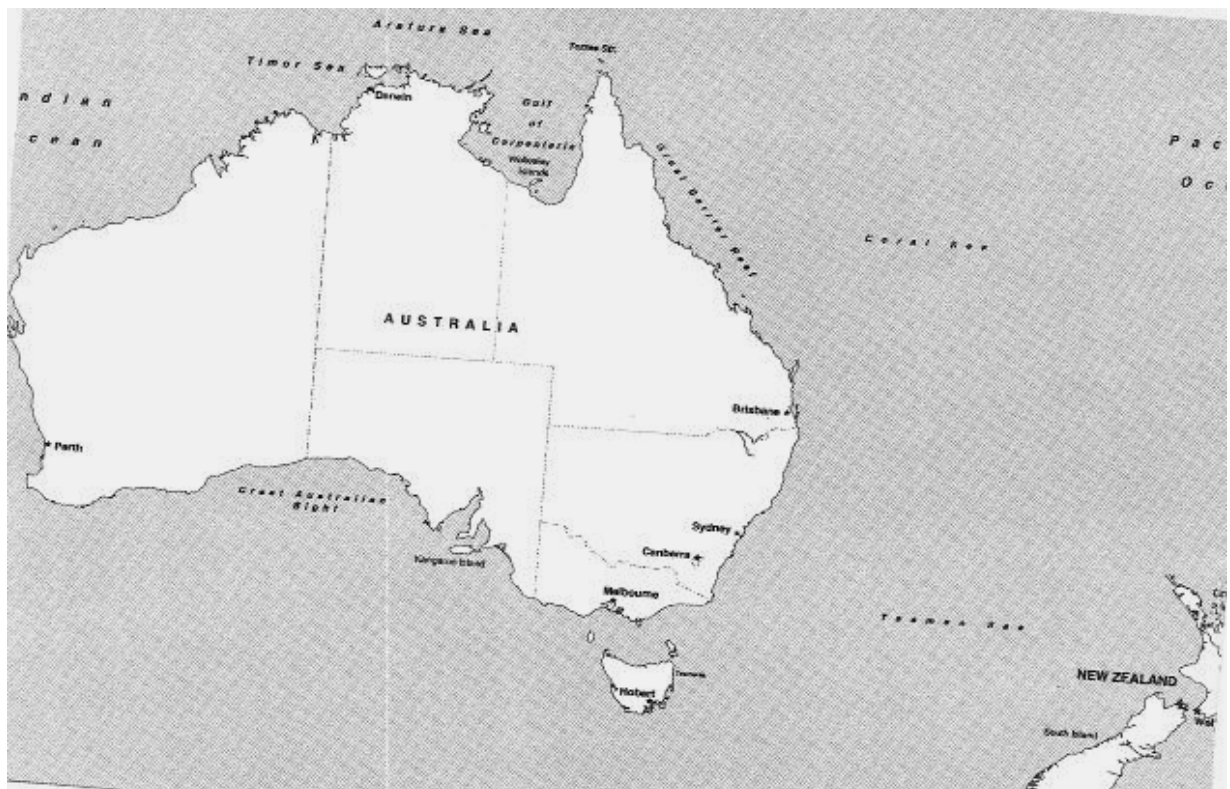
Village houses are simple. Environment and culture influence home design. The people of some rural communities are nomadic herders. A small percentage of the population lives as hunters and gatherers. They live in ways considered primitive by modern standards. They wear little clothing and hunt animals with bows and arrows.

## Practice Exercises 4.2

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. Africa's most lucrative business is:  
[a] Herding [b] Dairy [c] Mining [d] Government consulting
2. The majority of the people in North Africa are \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] Jews [b] Christians [c] Muslims [d] Christians
3. The largest topographical feature in Africa is \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] plateau [b] desert [c] lowland [d] rainforest

## AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND





**Location:** Australia is an island continent because it is the only country in the world to occupy an entire continent by itself. It is located in the Southern Hemisphere. It is south of Asia and east of Africa. It is approximately 3 million square miles in area. To the southeast of Australia are the two islands of New Zealand.

**Climate:** Australia has a varied climate. In the northern region, the climate is of the savanna type. In the eastern region, the climate is mild with plenty of rainfall. In the west, there is less rainfall because the region is drier and similar to steppe climate. In the south, the climate is the Mediterranean type. New Zealand has a marine climate with mild summers and winters. It has abundant rainfall all year round.

**Landforms:** The continent of Australia has a narrow coastal plain. In the inland area, there are the highlands called the Great Dividing Range. In the west, there are great central plains. These plains are the *Outback*. Australia does not have great river systems. In many regions, lack of water is a serious problem. The largest river is the Murray-Darling. This river rises in the eastern highlands. New Zealand has much lush, green vegetation and there are no deserts. There are many waterfalls, mountains, hills, and lowland regions.

**Language:** The main language spoken in Australia and New Zealand is English. The Aborigines in Australia and the Maoris in New Zealand also speak their indigenous languages.

**Religion:** In Australia, the main religious denominations are Anglican, Roman Catholic, and mixed Christian faiths. In New Zealand, Protestant religions are predominant. A small percentage of the population is Roman Catholic.

**Economy:** Much of the land in Australia is too dry for farming. Nevertheless, Australia is one of the world's largest food exporters. On the western plains, wheat grows on a large scale for local consumption and export. The extensive grasslands, which are too dry for wheat farming, graze sheep. The export of wool is the nation's number one industry. The natural environment of the Outback plains makes extensive sheep farming possible. Arable areas of land remain along the coastal regions. Coastal lands graze dairy cattle and produce fruits, sugar cane, and other crops. In New Zealand, the lowlands and hills are conducive to raising dairy cattle and sheep. Dairy products and wool are the chief exports.

Australia has mineral wealth. It produces bauxite, coal, gold and uranium. It also has sources of oil and natural gas. It has a flourishing export trade in foodstuffs and raw materials to Europe, North America and Japan.

**Government:** Both Australia and New Zealand have the democratic form of government modeled after the parliamentary system in the United Kingdom. The head of the government is the prime minister.

**Society:** Australia and New Zealand have small populations. Australia's current population is approximately 18,784,000 and New Zealand's is

3,625,000. In Australia, the majority of the population is people mostly from the United Kingdom. However, during the last 25 years people from Indochina, Europe and North America have migrated there. The native inhabitants, the Aborigines, make up more than 1% of the total population. White settlers forced them off their lands. They were compelled to live in reservations. Many retain their cultural traditions and a large percentage of them live in the cities. They adapted to a modern lifestyle. In New Zealand, the native Maoris make up 15% of the population and have the same rights as White settlers who are the descendants of Irish immigrants. The Maoris play an important role in the social and political development of the islands.

In Australia and New Zealand, 85% of the people live in cities where there is a high standard of living. Educational and health standards are also very high. In Australia, about 15% of the population lives in the Outback regions, mostly on ranches and plantations.

### **Practice Exercises 4.3**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. A problem for farmers in Australia and New Zealand is the lack of available \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] fertilizer      [b] soil      [c] water      [d] DDT
2. Australia's most productive industry is:  
[a] wool      [b] wheat      [c] bauxite      [d] dairy

3. Australia and New Zealand are similar in all of the following ways except:

- [a] The main language is English
- [b] The size of the native populations is the same
- [c] The government is parliamentary
- [d] Sheep farming is a major industry

4. New Zealand's natives are called:

- [a] Mulattos
- [b] Irish
- [c] Mestizos
- [d] Maoris

## LESSON 4

### PRACTICE EXERCISE ANSWERS

4.1	4.2	4.3
1. D	1. C	1. C
2. B	2. C	2. A
3. B	3. A	3. B
		4. D



### **LESSON 4 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ Akan, Ibo, and Yoruba are all languages spoken in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ The majority of the people in North Africa are Muslims.
- ❖ The savanna and rainforest are the largest topographical features in Africa.
- ❖ Australia and New Zealand are not similar in the size of their native population.
- ❖ Japan is the wealthiest country in Asian.
- ❖ Great Britain has many mineral resources such as oil, iron and coal.
- ❖ Animal farming is not a major industry in Asia countries.
- ❖ Islam has spread rapidly in Asia as a major religion.
- ❖ Highly urbanized cities are a common characteristic of China, South Korea, and Japan.
- ❖ The rapid desertification of the Sahel, the underutilization of natural resources, and the erosion of land due to mining activities are changes in the physical environment of Africa that have significantly affected the lives of many Africans.



## **LESSON 5: POPULATION GEOGRAPHY**

### **DEMOGRAPHY AND SETTLEMENT**

The scientific study of population is **demography**. Demographers study the distribution of people. Demography studies settlement patterns and the growth and decline of populations. Demography examines gender, age, occupation, fertility and health.

The world's population is concentrated in five major regions. The largest clusters of people are in Western Europe, Eastern North America, East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Settlement patterns in these regions have two distinct similarities. The first is two-thirds of the world's population lives near oceans or rivers. The second is population clusters occupy low-lying areas with temperate climates and fertile soils.

From a global perspective, modern human population has a number of distinct geographical features. Eighty percent of the world's population lives in the less developed countries of the world. These less-developed countries are in Asia (excluding Japan), Africa, Latin America, the island nations of the Pacific, and the Caribbean. One third of the world's population is in China and India. The fastest growing populations are in the less developed countries of the world. For example, Brazil contains more than a half of the total population of South America. People are living longer in most parts of the world. During the past 50 years, the global life expectancy has risen from 45 to 65 years.

## Practice Exercises 5.1

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. The majority of the world's population lives in the \_\_\_\_\_ developed countries of the world.

- [a] more [b] less [c] moderately [d] over

2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the world's population live near oceans or rivers.

- [a] One quarter [b] One third [c] One half [d] Two thirds

3. \_\_\_\_\_ study population growth and distribution.

- [a] Lexicographers [b] Stenographers  
[c] Philosophers [d] Demographers

4. \_\_\_\_\_ developed countries have the fastest growing populations.

- [a] Highly [b] More [c] Less [d] Over

## REGIONS OF THE WORLD WITH LARGE POPULATIONS

### Asia

One fourth of the world's population is in East Asia. The world's third largest country is China. China has the world's largest population. Most of the population clusters in and around the many fertile river valleys. Most of these valleys are in the inland regions like the Yangtze and Huang Ho



valleys. Three-fourths of the population live in the rural areas and work as farmers. The major cities also have millions of inhabitants. In Japan and Korea, More than one-third of the people live in the urban metropolitan areas of Tokyo, Osaka, and Seoul. They work predominantly in industrial or service jobs.

The second largest concentration of people in the world is in South Asia. This region includes India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, and Bangladesh. India contains more than three-fourths of the population of South Asia. India is the world's second most populous country. The largest concentrations of the population are located on the plains of the Ganges and Indus rivers and along the coastlines of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. In this region, only one fourth of the population lives in urban areas. Most people live in rural areas and are farmers.

Southeast Asia has approximately one-half billion people. This region is the world's fourth largest population cluster. This region encompasses the islands between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. These islands include Indonesia, Borneo, New Guinea, the Philippines and Sumatra. As in other parts of Asia, the largest populations are concentrated along the fertile river valleys and deltas. The main occupation for most people in rural areas is farming.

## **Europe**

The populations of Western Europe, Eastern Europe and the European regions of Russia form the world's third largest population cluster. Europe has one-eighth of the world's total population. In contrast to the settlement patterns in Asia, most Europeans live in cities. Fewer than 20% of Europeans are farmers. The reason relates to the effects of the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution began in Europe in the eighteenth century. The development of steam power led to the growth of factories. Factories mass-produced goods on a large scale. Based on this industrial phenomenon, many people left the rural areas to find jobs in the cities where factories were located. Presently, the highest concentrations of population in Europe are near the coalfields of Germany, England and Belgium. These areas are historically the major sources of industrial energy.

## **North America**

In the Western Hemisphere, the largest population concentrations are in the Northeastern United States and Southeastern Canada. This cluster extends from Boston on the Atlantic coast, westward along the Great Lakes to the city of Chicago. Approximately 2% of the world's total population lives in this area. Like Europeans, most Americans live in urban areas. Less than 5% of Europeans are farmers.

### The World's Most Populous Countries

<u>Country</u>	<u>Population</u>
China	1,255,100,000
India	935,700,000
The United States	281,400,000
Indonesia	197,600,000
Brazil	165,800,000

### Practice Exercises 5.2

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. In the Western Hemisphere the largest population concentration is in:  
[a] Southeast South America                      [b] Southwest North America  
[c] Northeast United States and Canada   [d] Northwest United States
2. \_\_\_\_\_ has the world's largest population cluster.  
[a] Europe   [b] North America   [c] Southeast Asia   [d] East Asia

3. What factor(s) contribute(s) to the development of human settlements?  
[a] Deltas [b] Mineral resources [c] River valleys [d] All of the above

## **REGIONS OF THE WORLD WITH SMALL POPULATIONS**

### **Dry Environments**

Environmental factors determine human settlement patterns and population distribution. In areas of the world where the physical environment is too dry for farming human settlement is widely dispersed. The Sahara in North Africa demonstrates such dispersal. Many desert dwellers are nomads. Desert regions lack sufficient water for humans to grow crops. Those who live in these regions survive by raising animals. Camels and other animals adapted to the climate.

Desert inhabitants modify their environments to grow crops. By building irrigation systems, people bring water from wells or springs to dry areas. This has led to the growth of farming and settlement in areas like the desert regions of Libya in North Africa. A number of the earth's major resources such as oil are found in deserts and play a role in settlement patterns. In the Middle East, the continued demand for oil led to the growth of settlements on or near the Arabian Desert where this resource is.

## **Wet Environments**

Land areas receiving very high levels of precipitation are inhospitable for human settlement. The tropical rainforest regions in the interiors of South America, Southeast Asia, and Central Africa have rainfall averages of 50 inches per year. In these regions, the combination of heat and rain undermines the fertility of the soil. These factors deplete vital nutrients. This hinders the development of agriculture. People in these regions generally live in one area until the soils become infertile and then they move to another area.

## **Highland Environments**

Most of the highest mountain regions in the world are sparsely populated. Human settlement is difficult because the mountains are usually steep and snow covered. In Switzerland, for example, approximately half of the country's terrain is more than 3,300 feet high but only 5% of the country's total population lives there.

People in many parts of Latin America and Africa prefer to live in highland regions where the temperatures are cooler and precipitation is less than in lowland areas. Mexico City is one of the world's most populated cities and is located at 7,360 feet above sea level.

## **Cold Environments**

The coldest regions of the world are the North and South Poles. Most of the land in these areas has an ice covering all the time. Polar Regions are not suitable for raising animals. Very few animals can survive the extreme cold. The Poles are unsuitable for agricultural development. Consequently, very few humans live in these areas.

### **Least Populous Countries**

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Population</u></b>
Vatican City	1000
Tuvalu	9000
Nauru	10,000
Palau	16,200
San Marino	24,000

### Practice Exercises 5.3

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. The inhabitants of \_\_\_\_\_ regions are mostly nomads who are able to survive by raising animals that can adapt to the harsh climate.  
[a] hills                      [b] plateaus                      [c] deserts                      [d] city
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ In \_\_\_\_\_ regions of the world, settlement is limited because the heavy rainfall undermines the fertility of the soil and hinders the development of agriculture.  
[a] cold                      [b] highland    [c] tropical rainforest    [d] savanna

## POPULATION GROWTH

### Patterns of Population Growth

**Population density** refers to the number and distribution of people occupying an area of land per square mile at a given time.

The size and the density of a region's population are unrelated to the level of its economic development. The Netherlands is one of the world's wealthiest countries. It has a population density of 1,120 persons per square mile. Mali is one of the poorest nations. It has a population density of only 21 persons per square mile.

An extremely large population does not necessarily indicate a high density per square mile. Still, China has a population of over one billion and a population density of 327 persons per square mile.

### **Rate of Population Increase**

Population increase occurs more rapidly in places where there are more births than deaths. Geographers measure population change and increase in the following ways:

#### **1. The Birth Rate/Fertility Rate**

This measures the number of births in a society. It is the annual number of births per thousand women in a population. In underdeveloped countries, birth rates are higher than in industrialized or developed countries.

#### **2. The Death Rate/ Mortality Rate**

This is the annual number of deaths per thousand members of a population. In underdeveloped countries, the death rates are higher than in industrialized countries. The death rate links to life expectancy. Life expectancy is the number of years an average newborn will live on average. From a worldwide perspective, life expectancy has increased throughout most parts of the world. This is especially true in developed countries. The current worldwide life expectancy is approximately 65 years.



### **3. The Migration Rate**

Migration rate is the annual difference between the number of people per thousand entering a region (immigrants) and the number leaving (emigrants).

### **4. The Growth Rate**

Growth is the number of people added and the number of people subtracted from a population. In industrialized countries, growth rates are generally under 1%. In less developed regions, the rates are above 2%.

### **5. The Demographic Transition Theory**

This theory states that there is a tendency for birth rates to drop and population to stabilize when a society has reached a certain level of technological and economic development. This is evident in the low population growth of North America, Japan and Europe.

## **Practice Exercises 5.4**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the number of people added and subtracted from a population.

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| [a] Density                | [b] Population growth |
| [c] Demographic transition | [d] Migration         |

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ theory states with technological advancement birth rates usually drop and the population becomes stabilized.

[a] density [b] demographic transition [c] dependency [d] migration

3. Which of the following is unrelated to population studies of developed countries?

[a] Low growth rate

[b] High death rate

[c] Low birth rate

[d] High population density

## LESSON 5

### PRACTICE EXERCISE ANSWERS

5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4
1. B	1. C	1. C	1. B
2. D	2. D	2. C	2. B
3. D	3. D	3.	B
4. C			



### **LESSON 5 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ Demographers study population growth and distribution.
- ❖ The Demographic Transition theory states as societies become technologically advanced birth rates usually drop and the population becomes stabilized.
- ❖ Low birth rate is unrelated to population studies of developed countries.
- ❖ Mineral resources, river valleys, and deltas are factors that contribute to the development of human settlements.
- ❖ The South Pole is the region that has the lowest population.
- ❖ Plains as a landform would most likely have the largest populations.
- ❖ Fertile soil is the most suitable advantage for the development of human settlements.
- ❖ The scientific study of population growth and decline worldwide is demography.
- ❖ Most of the world's population is in the less developed countries of the world.
- ❖ Population studies have concluded that the largest concentration of people live near oceans or rivers, occupy regions that have fertile soil, and live in the less developed countries of the world.



## **LESSON 6: HUMAN IMPACT ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **SOIL EROSION**

The Earth contains valuable natural resources. They have sustained life forms. They have significantly influenced the ways humans live. A number of these resources renew thru the natural cycle of life. However, due to the activities of man, many natural resources are now non-renewable.

#### **Soil**

Soil is the layer formed by the breakdown of rocks on the surface of the Earth's crust. In some areas, this layer is many feet thick. In other places, it is only a few inches in depth. Most of the world's soil is **inorganic** matter. This is crumbled rock. The remaining portion is **organic** matter. Inorganic matter is from the decay of living organisms or their products. The organic part is *humus*. The most fertile soils in the world contain large amounts of humus. Fertile soils also contain many nutrients. Soil is a valuable renewable resource. However, new soil forms slowly. It can take decades or centuries for new layers of soil to form thru natural forces.

Farmers have destroyed and altered the soil by cultural practices or and/or technological development. **Soil erosion** is the break down or deterioration of the soil. Erosion comes from the removal of the natural vegetation, whether forests, plants, or grass. The loss of vegetation

weakens the soil because the roots of plants bind soil particles together. Plants also protect the soil from rain and wind.

### **Regional Studies**

Horticultural farmers in the Amazon Rainforest of Brazil traditionally for used a subsistence strategy to plant food. They used “slash and burn” technology or shifting cultivation. These farmers work on small plots of land with hoes and digging sticks. To plant, they clear away areas of land by cutting down and burning vegetation. They then use the vegetation as fertilizer for the soil. This process weakens the soil. Farmers then raise crops for two or three years until the weakened soil erodes and becomes nutritionally exhausted. They then move away and repeat the same process in other locations.

The savanna regions of Africa, Thailand, and India employ shifting cultivation. Soil depletion is also caused by the cultivating the same type of crop on the same land year after year. Most plants make demands on particular mineral compounds in the soil. Ultimately, the soil will deteriorate and erosion occurs.

Overgrazing erodes soil. In Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, many subsistence farmers who are pastoral nomads depend on animals for survival rather than on crops. These people are nomads because they usually occupy an area of land with food and water for a short time and then move away when they have depleted the resources. The land in these regions is usually arid or semi-arid with sporadic areas of grassland and

vegetation. The Masai of East Africa and the Bedouins of North Africa are examples of nomadic groups. Their animals graze on the land until there is no more grass. The soil eroded. The nomads leave the area.

Traditionally, these nomads raise mostly sheep and goats. They do not slaughter them for food but raise them to provide milk and skins for clothing and tents. To nomads the quality and size of their herds is an important measure of prestige and power. Their herds are a source of security when it is not possible to survive in their environment.

### **Practice Exercises 6.1**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ method uses vegetation for fertilizer.  
[a] horticulture [b] agriculture [c] slash and burn [d] scorched earth
  
2. Planting the same crops depletes essential minerals and nutrients in the soil resulting in \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] precipitation [b] water table [c] ecology [d] erosion
  
3. The removal of vegetation weakens the soil because \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] plants produce humus  
[b] plants provide nutrients for the soil  
[c] the roots of plants bind soil particles together  
[d] plants provide inorganic material for new layers of soil to form

## **DEFORESTATION**

The world's vegetation is a renewable resource. There are limits to the extent these resources can be renewed. Soil erosion has reduced the number of areas where plants can be replanted. The gradual destruction of the world's forests is a recurring problem.

Another issue affecting the physical environment of the world is the rapid rate of deforestation. Deforestation is the result of cultural and technological factors. Even though forests are renewable resources, it will take many years to renew them if destroyed by man. The plant life and forests of the world remove harmful carbon dioxide from the air and produce oxygen. Oxygen is vital for sustaining life on earth.

### **Regional Studies**

Economic policies of governments, levels of technology, and demands of society accelerated forest destruction. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Brazil subsidized projects to remove large areas of forests. They converted forests into cattle ranches, farms, and industrial sites. The continued demands for food, housing, jobs and land increased these activities especially in areas where there are large populations and poverty.

In Asia, almost half of the national forests have disappeared. In Brazil, the destruction of the rainforest has caused huge gaps in the forest areas and the loss of hundreds of plant and animal species. In Western



Africa, the continued removal of forests for timber has led to gradual desertification of many areas.

The impact of technology plays a role in global deforestation. In the United States, the development of the country began with early settlers cutting down trees to build houses and settlements. Over the last two centuries, the United States has become an advanced, industrial nation. A large part of this has been due to the exploitation of national forests. The forests have provided jobs, materials for the logging industries, energy for factories, and mines. Forests constructed roads and buildings and provided manufactured goods including wooden items and paper products. Only 5% of the country's original forests now remain.

## **Practice Exercises 6.2**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. Continued deforestation results in the decrease of \_\_\_\_\_.  
[a] carbon dioxide      [b] oxygen   [c] hydrogen      [d] mercury
  
2. Which of the following is/are the result(s) of deforestation?  
[a] Desertification                      [b] Loss of plant and animal species  
[c] Industrialization                      [d] All of the above

## **WATER RESOURCES**

Water is a renewable resource. It is recycled in nature through the earth's natural cycle. However, in many parts of the world like the desert regions of Africa it is a scarce resource.

Throughout the world the development of technology, especially in the industrialized nations, has contaminated or altered the world's natural watercourses. The consequences of this are the spread of waterborne diseases such as dysentery, cholera, typhoid and elimination of much of the world's aquatic life. The main sources of water pollution are as follows:

### **Industries**

Industries such as chemical, steel, paper products and food processing are the major water polluters. Industrial accidents that occurred in the past such as petroleum spills from ocean tankers have contaminated large bodies of water. In addition, food-processing plants wash chemicals and pesticides into inland rivers and streams.

### **Sewage Systems**

In developed countries, wastewater from homes moves from sewers to municipal treatment plants. Water treatment plants remove pollutants. Treated wastewater funnels into nearby rivers or lakes. In many developing countries, this type of technology is not available. In many countries, sewer systems are rare. Sewage falls untreated directly into rivers. Drinking

water comes from the same rivers. If this water is not treated, it becomes toxic. Toxic water spreads deadly waterborne diseases and eliminates aquatic life.

### **Agricultural Systems**

Pesticides and fertilizers increase the agricultural productivity of fields. These chemicals fall into rivers thru irrigation systems, precipitation, or underground water.

### **Hydroelectric Water Power**

Water has been a source of transportation and power from ancient times. Since the Industrial Revolution, waterpower has generated electricity called **hydroelectric power**.

To create this system, the physical environment has been altered using advanced technological methods. Dams have been the main method used. Dams are barriers built across rivers or streams to confine or contain the flow of water.

The purpose is to channel or divert the water for human consumption, flood control, irrigation, or hydroelectric generation. One of the most famous dams is Hoover Dam in the United States that holds back the waters of the Colorado River. One of the world's largest hydroelectric projects is located at Churchill Falls in Newfoundland, Canada.

Problems have also resulted from the construction of dams. The construction of dams has flooded lands formerly useful, caused erosion, and changed the natural ecosystem. The recent construction of a dam on the Euphrates River has caused political and cultural conflict between Syria and Iraq. Too much river water diverted. The water content became saltier.

### Practice Exercises 6.3

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ power is water converted into electricity.  
[a] Silicone      [b] Neurological    [c] Hydro-electric      [d] Nuclear
2. The construction of \_\_\_\_\_ has caused erosion and changed the natural ecosystem.  
[a] beaches      [b] dams    [c] windmills    [d] nature preserves
3. \_\_\_\_\_ alters watercourses.  
[a] Building dams      [b] Adding chemical wastes  
[c] Untreated sewage      [d] None of the above

### FOSSIL FUELS AND AIR POLLUTION

Earth's energy resources like coal, petroleum and natural gas are limited. They regenerated so slowly they are non-renewable. When the present reserves fail, human beings will have to find or create new

alternatives to survive. These valuable resources are **fossil fuels**. It took thousands of years for them to form in the earth from organic matter. Presently, the United States uses more energy from fossil fuels than any other country. America consumes 25% of the world's total energy supplies.

In the twentieth century, coal generated electric power. Coal makes coke for steel production in industrial countries. In other parts of the world like Poland and China, coal is for heating homes.

Petroleum is also known as crude oil. It is made of carbon and hydrogen. Natural gas comes from petroleum reserves. Petroleum and its by-products provide fuel for all types of transportation systems and vehicles. It also provides chemicals and material for road building.

The mining and extraction of substances caused damage to the land surface and underground. The removal of trees and other vegetation causes soil erosion. Underground mining can pollute ground water flowing into streams.

One environmental hazard that has caused a lot of concern is **acid rain**. This is rain polluted with sulphuric acid. Acid rain is sulphur dioxide from coal burnt in power plants and factories.

Another environmental concern is the **Ozone Layer**. This is layer of gas above the Earth's surface. It protects living organisms from harmful rays of the sun. Scientific research indicates this layer is wearing away by

extensive use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) such as pesticides, *Freon*, the coolant in air conditioners and refrigerators, and aerosol sprays.

Another environmental issue affecting the world's societies is **global warming**. The Earth's temperatures are gradually rising, and may ultimately have a devastating effect on humanity. Global warming is from an increasing amount of methane gases and carbon dioxide. These gases are products of industrialization. These gases form a barrier trapping heat from the sun's rays on the Earth. This barrier creates a **Greenhouse Effect**.

#### Practice Exercises 6.4

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the layer of gas above the Earth's surface that protects living organisms from the harmful rays of the sun.
 

[a] Greenhouse Effect	[b] Ozone Layer
[c] Water Table	[d] Nitrogen Cycle
  
2. Which of the following is/are non-renewable fossil fuel(s)?
 

[a] Natural gas	[b] Oil	[c] Coal	[d] All of the above
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### LESSON 6

#### PRACTICE EXERCISE ANSWER KEY

6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4
1. C	1. B	1. C	1. B
2. D	2. D	2. B	2. D
3. C	3.	A	



## **LESSON 6 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ The ozone layer of gas above the earth's surface protects living organisms from the harmful rays of the sun.
- ❖ Coal, oil, and natural gas are non-renewable fossil fuels.
- ❖ The removal of vegetation weakens the soil because the roots of plants bind soil particles together.
- ❖ Loss of plant and animal species, desertification, and industrialization are the results of deforestation.
- ❖ The building of dams is how the natural watercourse is altered.
- ❖ The Clean Air Act helped local governments in the U.S. to reduce air pollution.
- ❖ Tree re-planting is the only activity that has not contributed to the disappearance of the world's forests.
- ❖ The construction of the Hoover Dam is an example of the way technology altered the natural course of the Colorado River.
- ❖ Less water is contaminated by pesticides in developing countries than in developed countries.
- ❖ The destruction of the Ozone layer, the gradual global warming, and acid rain are all major environmental problems caused by increased use of fossil fuels.





## **LESSON 7**

### **CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

#### **LAND AND FOREST RESOURCES**

##### **Land**

More food is required with increases in population. Terrace cultivation conserves and protects the soil from erosion. It increases food production. The slopes of mountains and hills form into wide, step shaped horizontal ridges. Crops grow in these ridges. Terrace farming is widely practiced in many regions of the world, especially in China. It is necessary in China since it has the world's largest population. These additional fields increase the land available for cultivation. A large percentage of the country's rice grows this way. During the growing season, rice terraces are flooded and the water passes from one terrace to the next, providing water for the crops without causing soil erosion.

Another method of soil preservation is crop rotation. This is common in China, Russia, and the United States. It is the practice of rotating fields by planting different crops each year to avoid soil exhaustion and mineral depletion. A field producing wheat one year produces soybeans the following year.

Mixed crop and livestock farming integrate crops and animals on the same farms. This is a method of soil preservation. Some crops serve as feed for the animals. Animal manure keeps the soil fertile. There is fertile

land available for farming and more animal products such as pork, beef, milk, chicken and eggs to satisfy the demands of the population. This method is very common in the farming belt of the Midwestern states of America.

## **Forests**

In the Amazon region and the United States where large forests disappeared, young tree planting ensures forests remain. Tree farming is common in many parts of the world.

### **Practice Exercises 7.1**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. Population increases require:

- [a] more food      [b] less food      [c] no food      [d] less water

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is one way to save forests.

- [a] Cutting down trees      [b] Re-planting young trees  
[c] Depleting the soil      [d] Increasing pollution

3. Changing the kind of crop grown to save soil is:

- [a] Terrace cultivation      [b] Manure  
[c] Livestock husbandry      [d] Crop rotation

4. \_\_\_\_\_ increases farming land by cutting horizontal ridges on the slopes of hillsides, on which crops are grown.

[a] Crop Rotation [b] Erosion [c] Terrace cultivation [d] Replanting

5. \_\_\_\_\_ uses terrace cultivation to increase crop yields.

[a] The Central Plains of the United States [b] Nevada

[c] China [d] Florida

## **WATER AND AIR PRESERVATION**

### **Water**

Governments in the developed world attempt to conserve their water sources and prevent contamination. In the 1960's, the British government began a massive cleanup of the Thames River. New regulations modernized sewage systems and prohibited dumping of industrial waste into water. In 1972, the United States government passed the Clean Water Act. This act helped local governments and states fund programs to remove toxic waste from rivers and lakes. Since then, a number of developed nations adopted similar policies to protect their water sources.

## Air

In 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the United States formed. It greatly reduced the amount of sulphur dioxide produced by power plants. The Clean Air Act of 1970 helped local governments and states reduce pollution in the air caused by factory and automobile fumes. Congress provided the needed funds.

Scientific research found new, safe energy alternatives. Wind and solar energy (energy from the sun) are prime examples. In Israel, Japan and the United States, solar energy heats water. More developed countries research electric vehicles as a way to save energy and alleviate the dependency on fuel-driven vehicles. They will also eliminate the amount of harmful emissions in the atmosphere. However, studies from market researchers and motor vehicle companies show most consumers are reluctant to own electric vehicles even though they could reduce pollution. These vehicles would be very expensive and require frequent re-charging.

Efforts to protect the Ozone Layer and reduce the high amount of chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere are underway. In recent decades, the United States, Canada, and western European nations signed a number of international agreements and organized movements to cease using CFCs by 2000, and to persuade developing countries to do so by 2010.

## Practice Exercises 7.2

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. The first attempts in Europe to protect water resources began in the \_\_\_\_\_.

- [a] 1940s                      [b] 1950s                      [c] 1960s[                      d] 1970s

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Act has helped local governments in the United States to reduce air pollution.

- [a] Pollution      [b] EPA                      [c] Clean Air      [d] Ozone

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ limits sulphur dioxide production by American factories.

- [a] Department of Defense  
[b] Department of the Interior  
[c] Environmental Protection Agency  
[d] Department of State

4. \_\_\_\_\_energy can heat water for homes.

- [a] Solar                      [b] Nuclear                      [c] Hydrogen                      [d] Copper

5. How do most people feel about electric powered cars?

- [a] Too expensive                      [b] Need too much recharging  
[c] None of the above                      [d] A and B

**LESSON 7**  
**PRACTICE EXERCISE ANSWERS**

**7.1**

- |      |    |
|------|----|
| 1. A | 1. |
| 2. B | 2. |
| 3. D | 3. |
| 4. C | 4. |
| 5. C | 5. |

**7.2**

- |   |
|---|
| C |
| C |
| C |
| A |
| D |



## **LESSON 7 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ Terrace farming is highly beneficial to the people of China because it conserves soil and increases the amount of land available for agriculture.
- ❖ The main way crop rotation prevents soil erosion is it prevents the mineral depletion of the soil.
- ❖ Current research studies on using alternative forms of energy to replace fossil fuels indicate most people prefer driving fuel-driven vehicles even though they produce harmful emissions instead of buying electric vehicles.
- ❖ Crop rotation is a practice in Russia, the U. S., and in China.
- ❖ Heavy deforestation has occurred in the U.S. and in the Amazon.
- ❖ The Clean Water Act is the legislation that tried to clean American waters from toxic pollution.
- ❖ Congress provides funds to clean the air.
- ❖ Israel, the U. S., and Japan use solar energy to heat homes.
- ❖ Chlorofluorocarbons is the chemical composition that harms the protective Ozone layer.





## **LESSON 8: GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE**

### **DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

In developed or industrialized regions, technological development means organized government systems, large corporate businesses, complex economies, social class systems, formal education, high standards of living, and urbanized cities. In developed regions, there is occupational diversity. The Industrial Revolution's development began in the United Kingdom around 1750.

The Industrial Revolution meant the methods of producing goods changed from manual labor to complex machines. Factories produced large quantities of goods at low prices. The vast supply of natural resources like coal and iron fueled factories. England's navigable canals and rivers provided waterpower and transportation for raw materials as well as finished goods from factories. Machine technology improved. The *steam engine* applied steam power to all types of industry and transportation systems. The invention of the *steamboat* increased the speed people and goods moved across water. The Industrial Revolution spread to the rest of Europe and the United States. It caused the countries of the world to become more interdependent because more goods were produced, which resulted in more international trading in different products. By the end of the nineteenth century, the United States replaced England as the world's leading industrial nation.

In developing nations, many people are unaffected by the Industrial Revolution. These countries contain most of the world's people. Many of these countries, especially in Africa and Asia, became independent nations after World War II. Before the war, they were colonies of European countries. Colonialism brought more jobs, goods, money, technologies and ideas to native populations. At the same time, the disadvantage of this was that the indigenous people were not in control of their own social, economic and political development. Since independence, there remains strong economic interdependence between developing nations and the countries that dominated them.

One of the characteristics of developing nations is they are not able to make full use of their natural resources. This is evident in parts of Central America and Africa. This fact limits their economic wealth. Many developing countries cannot manufacture goods on a large scale even though they may have the resources and raw materials for production, because they cannot afford the technology. As a result, many of them import large amounts of manufactured products from industrialized countries. Generally, imports exceed exports and this leads to an imbalance of trade. The national economy does not benefit.

Many countries in the developing world supply food crops and raw materials to the developed countries. The people in these countries cannot afford to buy the food their countries export to the developed world. This situation is common in many regions especially in Africa and Latin America.

In Mexico, strawberries and tomatoes grow on a large scale in the northern regions. However, many people cannot afford to buy these valuable foods. Most of them end up as exports to the United States.

The industrialized countries of the world depend on the natural resources from developing countries to provide raw materials for their industries. Bauxite is a mineral found mostly in the tropics. Jamaica, Suriname and Ghana mine the bauxite. These countries do not have the technological and financial resources to manufacture by-products from it. Bauxite moves as export to the United States and Canada to become aluminum and manufactured aluminum products. The same countries that produced this resource then have to import these products from the United States and Canada for their own domestic use.

The developing countries in turn depend on the developed world for financial, economic, medical and technological assistance as well as managerial and educational training.

An indicator of a country's economic development is its **Gross National Product (GNP)**. This is the total value of goods and services produced by the residents of a country during a specified period, usually a year.

### **Characteristics of Developing Countries**

1. A high rate of population growth.
2. A lower life expectancy.
3. A lower rate of urban development.
4. A lower literacy rate.
5. A limited industrial sector, and
6. A low GNP and an economy heavily linked to agricultural activities.

### **Characteristics of Developed Countries**

1. A low rate of population growth.
2. A higher life expectancy.
3. A high rate of urban development,
4. A high literacy rate.
5. A large industrial and service sector, and
6. A high GNP, and economic growth based on extensive production and resource consumption.

### **Practice Exercises 8.1**

**Select the letter of the best answer.**

1. One of the characteristics of \_\_\_\_\_ nations is they are not able to make full use of their natural resources.  
[a] developed      [b] developing      [c] transition      [d] capitalist

2. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the total value of products produced by a nation state.  
[a] Gross Net Product [b] Per Capita Income  
[c] Standard of Living [d] Gross National Product
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the period during which the methods of producing goods changed from manual labor to using complex machines using steam power.  
[a] Enlightenment [b] Industrial Revolution  
[c] Agricultural Revolution [d] Paleolithic Age
4. A characteristic of \_\_\_\_\_ nations of the world is the standard of living is higher.  
[a] developed [b] developing [c] transitional [d] communist
5. All of the following statements about developing nations are true except:  
[a] They have complex economies  
[b] They have limited amounts of food crops  
[c] They were colonies of developed nations  
[d] They have a limited industrial sector

## GLOBALIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY

### Globalization

Language, race, ethnicity and indigenous traditions are bridges in the modern world. Connecting the people of the world is **globalization**.

**Economic globalization** is goods, services, capital, technology and labor

moving freely around the world. Multinational corporations, lowered trade barriers, modern technology and telecommunications are all parts of the globalization process.

**Cultural globalization** refers to cultural preferences becoming universal. Presently, in many parts of the world, in spite of local cultural traditions, most people desire to drive automobiles, own houses, and have television sets. Survival of local culture may suffer by interaction with new customs. The Wearing jeans, drinking Coca-Cola, and eating McDonald's hamburgers are now a regular part of everyday life in places like Japan and Russia. The spread of beliefs, values, and practices from one region to another is **cultural diffusion**.

Religion and language reflect cultural globalization and a changing world. Historically, religion spread throughout the world by the work of missionaries. An example is the spread of Roman Catholicism in Central and South America by Spanish missionaries who first settled in these regions in the sixteenth century. Presently, most people in Latin America are Roman Catholic. Many indigenous people have abandoned their traditional religions in favor of Christianity or Islam. In some cases, both traditions remain. Many Africans and a growing number of Asians adopted religions different from their traditional beliefs.

English is now the universal language. People speak English on the international level. Television and the media have contributed to the diffusion of languages. Many people in English-speaking countries now have the opportunity to learn about other cultures by watching programs in

other languages. In the United States, there are many Spanish programs on cable television. In the United Kingdom, there are television programs in Welsh.

### **MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS**

Christianity	2 billion adherents
Islam	1.3 billion adherents
Hinduism	900 million adherents
Buddhism	350 million adherents
Confucianism/Taoism	225 million adherents
Judaism	14 million adherents

### **Technology**

Recent technological inventions alleviate environmental and social problems. For many years, the United States has experimented with and developed atomic (nuclear) energy as an alternative to non-renewable fossil fuels. A small number of the nation's industries use this energy form. The advantage of nuclear energy is large amounts of energy are released from small amounts of material. This could provide much energy for a very long time. However, the negative effects such as pollution and radioactive

waste have prevented its use on a large scale. This has discouraged scientists to research alternative possibilities for the safety of humanity. The use of solar energy is growing in popularity because it does not damage the environment. It may be used on a large scale in the future.

A major problem facing the world since World War II has been the rapid rate of population growth. During the last forty years, in many parts of the developing world the population has been growing faster than the availability of agricultural land. During the 1970s and 1980s, there were many scientific advances in agricultural technology to increase crop yields. This was the **Green Revolution**. Scientific research produced hybrid, high-yield seeds, organic fertilizers and technologically advanced irrigation systems.

A significant problem of this advanced technology is it is expensive. The developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, which would benefit the most from this technology, do not have the money to pay for it. In addition, many people are subsistence farmers and do not have the land space for large-scale mechanization.

The advantage of this technology was evident during the 1970's when used in India. The country's wheat production more than doubled in five years. Since that time, scientists have continued to create higher-yield, hybrid seeds. The Green Revolution has been responsible for preventing starvation or a food crisis in many regions. However, the processes of genetically altering crops have also caused much controversy as to the natural or organic quality of the foods.



## Practice Exercises 8.2

Select the letter of the best answer.

1. The term \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the way goods, services and capital move freely around the world.  
[a] Globalization [b] Cultural diffusion [c] Green Revolution [d] Exports
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ creates high yield crop hybrids.  
[a] White Revolution [b] Green Revolution  
[c] Yellow Revolution [d] United Nations Security Council
3. A significant problem related to the Green Revolution is that its advanced technology is too expensive for \_\_\_\_\_ countries.  
[a] developed [b] developing [c] transitional [d] capitalist
4. The most universal language in the world today is:  
[a] Spanish [b] German [c] English [d] Dutch
5. Which of the following is unrelated to the developments of the Green Revolution?  
[a] Increased land acreage [b] Hybrid seeds  
[c] Advanced irrigation systems [d] Fertilizers
6. Which of the following has not made a significant contribution to the globalization of culture?  
[a] Religion [b] Telecommunications [c] Local tradition [d] Language

## LESSON 8

### PRACTICE EXERCISE ANSWERS

#### 8.1

1. B

2. D

3. B

4. A

5. A

#### 8.2

1. A

2. B

3. B

4. C

5. D

6. C



## **LESSON 8 THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ Increased crop acreage is unrelated to the development of the Green Revolution.
- ❖ An element of globalization, when cultural characteristics spread from one region to another, is called cultural diffusion.
- ❖ Limiting free interaction among various ethnic groups is not true about globalization.
- ❖ Irrigation projects, organic fertilizers, and seed hybridization methods all are technological improvements that have alleviated the problem of world hunger through the Green Revolution.
- ❖ In spite of the fact that nuclear power produces large amounts of energy, it has not been utilized as an alternative to fossil fuels. It produces radioactive waste and pollution.
- ❖ Developing nations do not have complex economies.
- ❖ English is the universal language of the world today.
- ❖ Local tradition has not made a significant contribution to the globalization of culture.
- ❖ The underutilization of natural resources does not characterize developed countries.



## **END OF COURSE REVIEW**

- ❖ The largest freshwater lake in the world is Lake Superior.
- ❖ South America's largest oil reserves are found in Venezuela.
- ❖ Most workers in South America farm small plots of lands.
- ❖ The chief products from the Pampas are beef, cattle and wheat.
- ❖ Special purpose maps show key crops of states and economic relationships between countries.
- ❖ Africa and Asia are the two continents combined that contain 50% of the world's land mass.
- ❖ The main topographical feature of Mexico along the northwestern coastal region is the Sierra Madre Occidental Mountains.
- ❖ In the year 2000, the world's population was more than five times the population of 1750.
- ❖ The largest water forms on earth are oceans.
- ❖ Ocean currents carry cold water to tropical regions.
- ❖ Rivers can be sources of electrical energy, provide fertile soil for farming, and can be sources of transportation throughout the world.
- ❖ The following is a description of weather: "Today, the temperature will be in the low 70s with a 40% chance of rain."
- ❖ Climate influences the types of agricultural crops that can be grown in specific regions, determine soil types, and can influence the amount of water a region receives.
- ❖ Humid sub-tropics, marine, and Mediterranean are all types of mild climate.
- ❖ Desert regions have hot days and cool night temperatures.

- ❖ Western Europe became a leading industrial region because it has large areas of forests, numerous rivers that are excellent transport systems, and has vast deposits of oil, gas, coal, and iron ore.
- ❖ Culture is the features of a society's way of life.
- ❖ The indirect results of building dikes in Holland is that the waters of the Atlantic Ocean no longer flood inland regions, fertile soil is preserved, and Holland is able to produce large quantities of food.
- ❖ The Ural Mountains is a cultural boundary between Europe and Asia.
- ❖ The diversity of the population is unrelated to the development of cities in Europe.
- ❖ The geographic features that have had the greatest agriculture advantages for the development of settlements in their regions are the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in the Middle East.
- ❖ Southern Africa produces the continent's greatest economic wealth.
- ❖ Ancestor worship in most regions of sub-Saharan Africa has had a relationship between native cultural practice and geographic region.
- ❖ Corn and yams are main food crops of the people of Africa.
- ❖ Political conflict between Africans did not occur because of the establishment of independent nations.
- ❖ Australia and New Zealand are similar in their type of government.
- ❖ Australia has been able to develop industries in spite of a dry climate and lack of water because they have a large supply of mineral resources. They have been able to use dry grasslands for sheep farming, and plant crops that are suited to soil in dry regions.
- ❖ The Aborigines have not always had the same civil and political rights as Europeans.

- ❖ The U. S. and Mexico both have large deposits and exports of oil and natural gas.
- ❖ The Mississippi River facilitated the transportation of goods and the growth of manufacturing industries in the Southern states.
- ❖ The Sierra Madre Mountains are not shared by the U.S. and Canada.
- ❖ The Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River have contributed to the growth and development of food processing plants and meat production in Chicago.
- ❖ Oil, Coal, and natural gas are major natural resources found in the U.S.
- ❖ Democratic governments are common to the U.S. and Central American governments.
- ❖ The dominant cultural feature reflected in the racial groups of South America is that the dominant language spoken in most countries is Spanish.
- ❖ The physical environment has affected economic development in South America because of oil reserves, copper reserves, export earnings, soil in the highlands conducive to coffee growing, and the grasslands of the Pampas facilitating cattle rearing resulting in exporting beef, hides, and in developing meat-packing industry and export.
- ❖ Not all South American countries have low standards of education.
- ❖ The Amazon River system is the largest in the world.
- ❖ Irrigation systems have been able to encourage settlement and population growth in dry environments.
- ❖ The fact that animals cannot survive in the tropical rainforests of South America and the desert regions of the Sahara, has limited the growth of settlements.
- ❖ India has the largest population cluster within a continent.

- ❖ Life expectancy has increased only in developed countries.
- ❖ Canada, compared to Brazil, Nigeria, and Afghanistan, has a lower birth rate.
- ❖ The larger the number of people living in a certain area, the higher the population density.
- ❖ Overgrazing causes soil erosion and topsoil loss.
- ❖ Slash and burn agriculture is practiced in tropical forest regions.
- ❖ Nomadic communities are similar worldwide in that they live in arid or semi-arid regions, remain in one region until their animals have exhausted the grazing ground, and depend on animals for their survival.
- ❖ The use of natural resources most relates to the standard of living in developed and developing countries.
- ❖ During the colonial era, the main interest that Europeans had in Africa and Asia was raw materials, waterways, and farmlands.
- ❖ Natives of New Zealand are Maoris.

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