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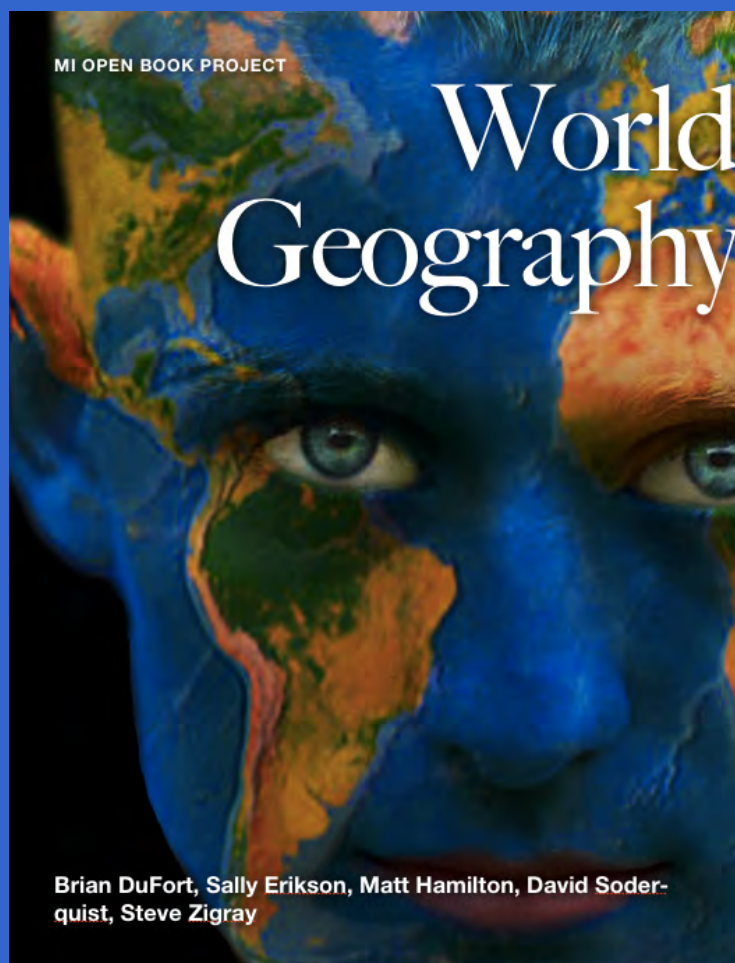
World Geography

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World Geography



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This is version 1.4.4 of this resource, released in August 2018.

Information on the latest version and updates are available on the project homepage: <http://textbooks.wmisd.org/dashboard.html>



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Brian is originally from Midland, MI and is a graduate of Northern Michigan University. He has spent his entire teaching career at Odyssey Middle/High School, an alternative education program in the Shepherd Public School system. In 2001, his environmental studies class was one of seven programs from the United States and Canada to be chosen as a winner of the Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award. Brian is also the Northern Conference director of the Michigan Alternative Ath-

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Sally has taught grades 3-6, as well as special education. She has served as a district literacy leader for many years and participated in the Galileo Leadership Academy in 2001-03. She is proud to be a teacher.

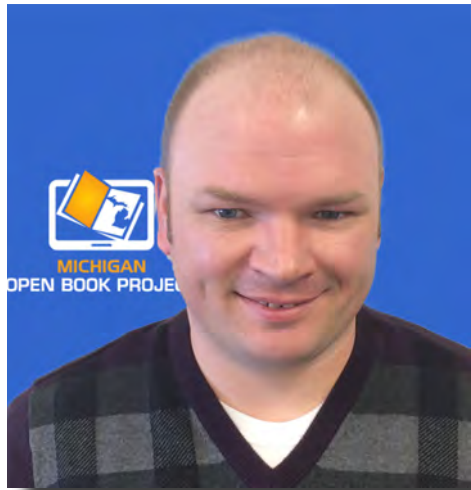


Matt Hamilton

East Jordan Public Schools

East Jordan Middle School

Matt grew up in Cadillac, MI. He holds a bachelor and masters degree from Michigan State University. He currently teaches middle school History and Geography. Matt started and advises a club at his school called the Shoe Club to inspire his students to Dream Big. His wife and two daughters enjoy traveling and spending time in the outdoors.



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Three Rivers Public Schools

Three Rivers Middle School

For the Past 11 years David has taught 6-8 grade Social Studies for Three Rivers Middle School. He serves as Department Head, School Improvement Member and Social Studies Rep for his area. Over the past few years he has completed his Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and become a state recognized Instructional Coach.

Steve Zigray

Concord Community Schools

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Steve Zigray is a 6th grade teacher. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University and a Masters Degree in K-12 Administration from Eastern Michigan University. Honors Steve has been awarded are the 2001 Junior Achievement Educator of the Year and he was nominated for Jackson Magazine's, Educator of the year in 2014. He has also coached high school and middle school sports, worked on various school improvement committees, wrote the 6th grade Common Assessment tests for Jackson County ISD and is an active member in the community as well as the PTO. He lives in southeast Jackson County with his beautiful wife and three fantastic daughters.



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Themes In Action -East and South East Asia

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society connected?
2. How do the five themes of geography help geographers study the world?

Location



QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society connected?
2. How do the five themes of geography help geographers study the world?

Movement

How do we move from place to place?
How do ideas move from place to place?
How do products move from place to place?



Regions

What region do we live in?
What are a region's characteristics?
What type of region is it?
What makes a region?



Human/Environment Interaction

How have we adapted to or changed our landscape?



Location

Where are we?
Where is a place?



Place

What kind of place is it?
What is it like there?



In the first six chapters of this book you studied a theme of geography and how it related to the region under study. In the last two chapters of this book you studied multiple themes and how they related to the regions. In this final chapter of the book you will put all five themes into practice by studying the most populous of the continents - Asia.

More specifically, you will study the themes in practice in East Asia, which includes large countries in terms of land mass and population such as China and Mongolia, as well as smaller nations such as North and South Korea and Japan.



image source: <http://www.iu.edu/~iaunrc/sites/default/files/lat-long%20map.jpg>

Where is it?

Take a look at the map above. Two prominent Asian countries are circled in blue. Using your knowledge of latitude and longitude, describe where China and Mongolia are.



Image source: <http://delgadogeography.weebly.com/bulletin/east-asia-physical-and-political-map>

China and Mongolia are only two countries in Asia however, depicted in the map above are three more. Using your knowledge of latitude and longitude, describe where Japan and the Koreas are located.



Image source: http://www.theodora.com/maps/new3/eurasia_color.gif

Now think beyond longitude and latitude. Using the map above as well as the previous ones, describe where China, Mongolia, Japan, and the Koreas are. Are you taking into account the bodies of water that you can see on the map? What about physical features such as mountains?

The map above is at a larger scale than the previous. It showcases the region under study in terms of several other areas that you have already spent some time learning about. Africa is clearly labeled on the map, but above the blue circle is Russia. What lies to the west? Describe East Asia's location using the map above.

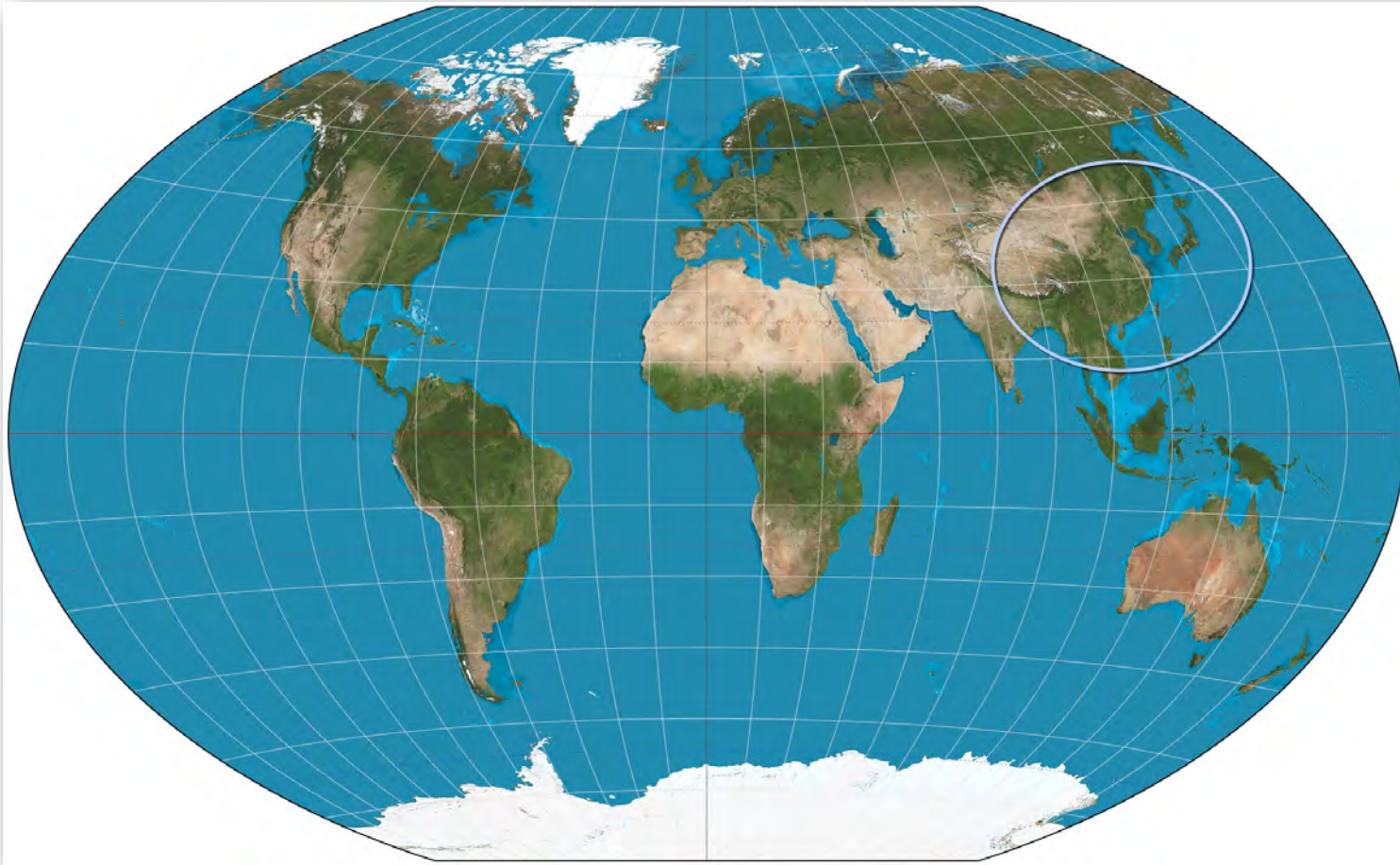


Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/91/Winkel_tripel_projection_SW.jpg

Finally, If you view the region in terms of its location on a world map, what do you notice about its relative size, its relationship to other regions you have studied this year, and its similarities in terms of latitude and longitude to other regions?

Write a brief paragraph describing where East Asia is located.

You may use any of the notes you have taken regarding location in this region so far.



QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society connected?
2. How do the five themes of geography help geographers study the world?

When studying this region it is difficult to call attention to one defining characteristic. To answer the geographic question of “What is it like there?” you need to focus in on certain countries to get an answer. This is a region that has a little bit of almost everything.

China for example borders the region identified earlier as South Asia with the Himalayan mountains. You may recall that the Himalayas contain the world's highest peak - Mount Everest. Travel north from South Asia into China through the Himalayas and you'll reach what is sometimes referred to as the “roof of the world”, the Plateau of Tibet. With an elevation over 13,000 feet, this is the world's highest plateau.

If you move further north and east you'll end up with another answer to the question of “What is it like there?” The Gobi Desert occupies much of Mongolia. It is over 1,000 miles long and is the fifth largest desert in the world.

Think back to the chapter on Northern Africa. What is it like in the Sahara Desert?



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/?title=Gobi_Desert#/media/File:Gobi_desert_map.png

If you have studied the Sahara desert you might be surprised to learn that not all deserts share the same characteristics. The Gobi is a very cold desert. Because it is a higher elevation, as well as much farther north of the Equator than the Sahara, the temperatures are much lower. Sometimes the differences in temperature within a 24 hour period of time can be as much as 63 degrees!



Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_China_Plain#/media/File:ChinaGeography.png

Travel further east and you'll hit the North China Plain. Due in part to how close several important water supplies are, including the Huang He (Yellow river) and the Chang Jiang (Yangtze river) much of China's population is located in this region.

Given what you have already studied about where civilizations tend to arise, make a prediction: Where do you believe most of the population concentration is in this area?

Moving further east into the East China Sea you'll travel across it and reach the Korean Peninsula and the islands that make up Japan. Mountains cover almost 75% of the Japanese islands. The climate in the northern part of Japan and much of the Korean is similar. Generally the summers are cool and the winters very cold. Further south however the winters are milder and the summer hot.

Much of the Korean peninsula is also made up of mountains. The Korean also have large plains found along the western coast. There are more rivers in Korea than in Japan.

While discussing the location of the region you might be able to say: "It is north of the Equator" and "Above the Tropic of Cancer", what it's really like there depends on many of the physical characteristics discussed already.

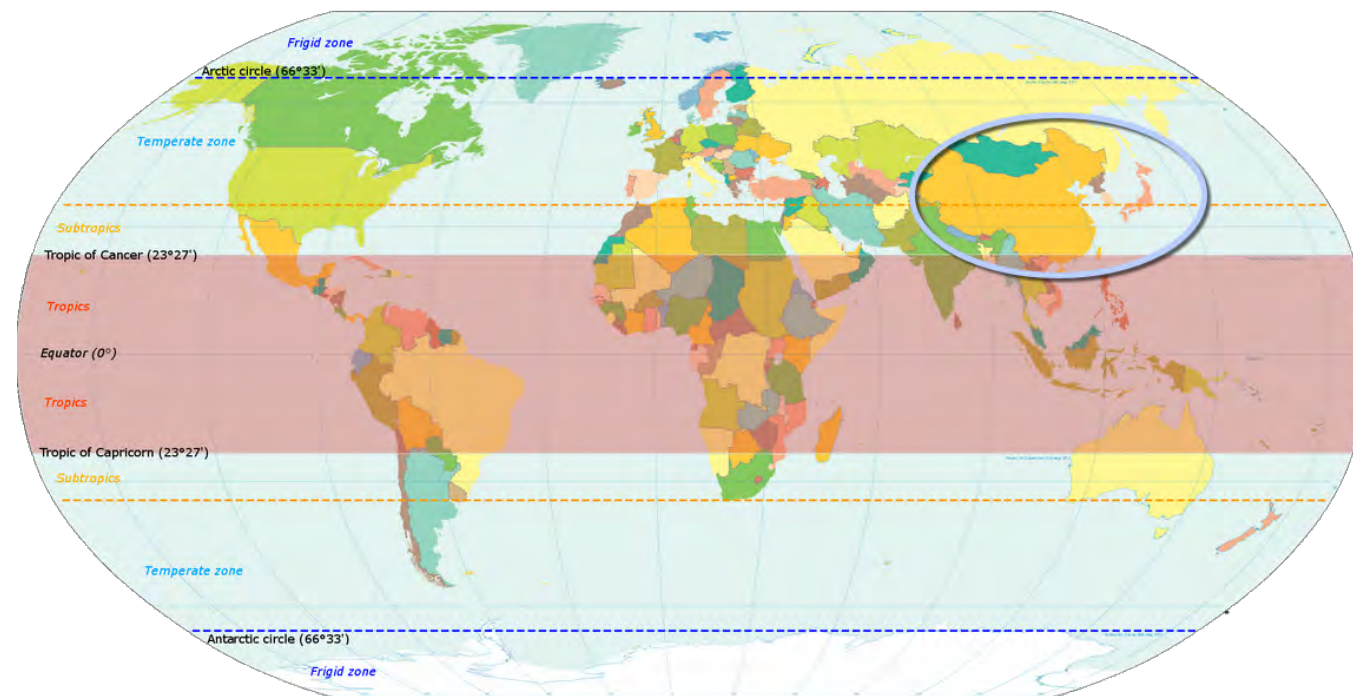


Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/World_map_indicating_tropics_and_subtropics.png

Activity: Take one of the countries discussed in this section and use CIA Factbook to try and answer the question "What is it like there?" Discuss your answer with a classmate.

What is it Like There?

As you may have guessed, to answer the question "What is it like there?" depends entirely on where you go in the region.

Regions

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society connected?
2. How do the five themes of geography help geographers study the world?

What is a region's characteristics? You have already learned that it is sometimes difficult to classify a region as a region. All classifications are labels which mean different things depending on your perspective. Typically the world has been classified in a "Eurocentric" way.

It is even more difficult to classify Asia as a region on its own due to the physical and human diversity of the region. Russia is part of Northern Asia, but the sheer size of that country also places it in Eastern Europe. India is part of Southern Asia. That region can be partially categorized by the mountain ranges that run through it.

The Asian continent cannot be easily labeled by climate, or physical characteristics. It contains both the highest and lowest points in the world. Depending on the location, the land could range from rugged and inhospitable to fertile and suitable for farming.

It is also difficult to label the region based on human characteristics. The region contains multiple forms of government, multiple religious practices, and many distinctly different cultural characteristics. Over time many of these have blended (particularly religion and certain cultural characteristics which you'll learn more about in a later section) but the people living in Asia are all distinctly different from one another.



Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Eurasian_mass.jpg

Using the map above, where would you mark the division between Europe and Asia? Explain why.

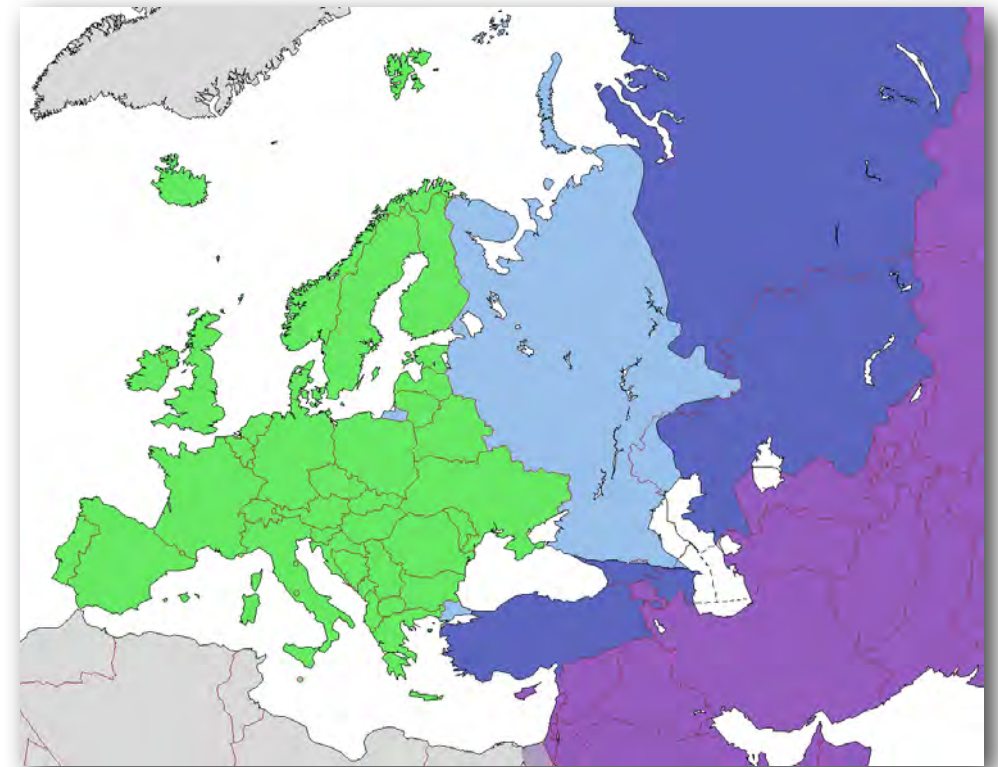


Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boundaries_between_continents#/media/File:Europe_Asia_transcontinental.png

It is generally considered that there is an imaginary border between Europe and Asia which separates one continent into two. This line runs along the Ural mountains. To the south of the Urals, it generally follows major river and mountain ranges, though even this division is difficult to make.

Once you finally have Asia sectioned off, look once again at some of the regional divisions you have already studied in this book.

Explain why it can be difficult to label a region.



Image source: http://www.indiandefencereview.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/South_Asian_Region.jpg

On this map you studied the region labeled “West Asia” in the chapter on North Africa and the Middle East. Northern Asia and Central Asia was addressed in the Europe and Russia chapter. Southeast Asia was covered in Oceania. East Asia as depicted on this map utilizes both mountain ranges and physical country borders to finally receive a label “East Asia”

How else might you regionally label East Asia?

Human/Environment Interactions

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society connected?
2. How do the five themes of geography help geographers study the world?

In several other chapters you have already explored the theme of Human/Environment interaction. The question geographers ask in studying this theme is “How do we adapt to and change the environment?” All across the globe humans have modified and changed the environment to make things suitable for people to live. The people living in Eastern Asia are no different.

In this section you will learn about how people live in the Gobi Desert regions of China and Mongolia. You will also learn about the Three Gorges Dam and some of the environmental risks and benefits that this massive project has created.

The Gobi Desert - From Deforestation to Reforestation



Image source: Shutterstock, Murosvur

Over one thousand years ago, small collections of walls were fortified to create the “Great Wall of China” which served to protect the country from outside invaders. This same idea is now being utilized to protect the natural resources of the country to halt the spread of the desert and eventually reclaim the land that has been lost to the desert.

Every year the Gobi Desert expands, and this expansion threatens farmland in China and Mongolia. This has far-reaching effects far beyond these two countries. The main cause of this problem is similar to problems found in other large desert regions in the world, including the Sahara. Overgrazing, deforestation, and farming practices all contribute to the spread of this desert.

The problem doesn’t just affect China. The spread of the Gobi Desert and the deforestation of the country has led to what is known as “Yellow Dust Storms” as far away as the Korean Peninsula. The storms are occurring with increasing frequency, carrying dust and toxic inhalable substances from mainland China and Mongolia up the Korean Peninsula. These storms can also last several days.

Because of this the storms have a negative effect on both the personal health and well being of Korean citizens, as well as the economic health of the country. Learn more about the Yellow Dust Storms in the widget on this page.

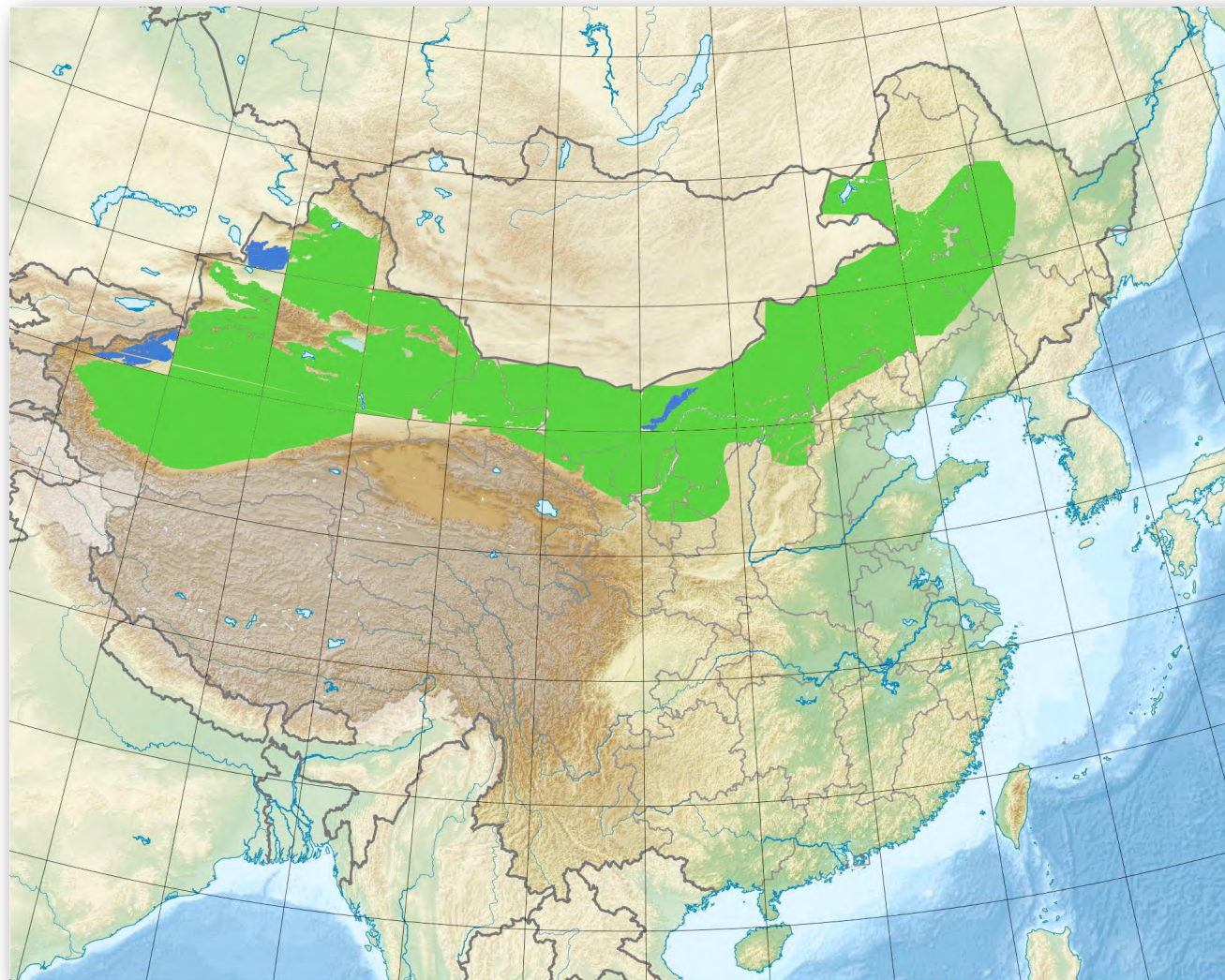
Interactive 9.1 Yellow Dust Storms



Learn more about the Yellow Dust Storms in this video from CNN

Question for consideration: Is finding a solution to this issue a global concern? Why or why not?

The proposed solution is called the Three-North Shelter belt Program or the Green Great Wall of China, widely believed to be the largest ecological project in history. Trees are being planted - more than 9 million acres of forest, to help stop the desert from spreading further. The term for this is known as **Reforestation**. This will not turn back the desert overnight, but is part of a long term strategy to help cut off the effects of the expanding desert



over time. The government of China is calling the project a success, though critics worry that without the ability to bring water to all of these trees it might not be a viable long term fix.

Even though the project will not stop the desert's expansion, or the yellow dust storms in the Koreas by the time you wake up tomorrow, China has reported that the project has improved the vegetation in the Green Wall region. In the future, this sustainable project could lead to the increase in available farmland and serve as a place for the large population of China to expand. The Green Wall, if successful, may also be able to help other regions of the world, particularly North Africa, in combating similar problems.

Three Gorges Dam

As the economy and population of nations grow one of the problems they face is how the country is powered. You've already learned about how the Green Wall of China has helped stem the problem of desertification, but another large scale project undertaken by the government has helped with the problem of providing energy for the country. In December of 1994 construction began on one of the largest scale dam projects in the world. In the hopes of harnessing the power of hydroelectric energy, energy created from the movement of water,

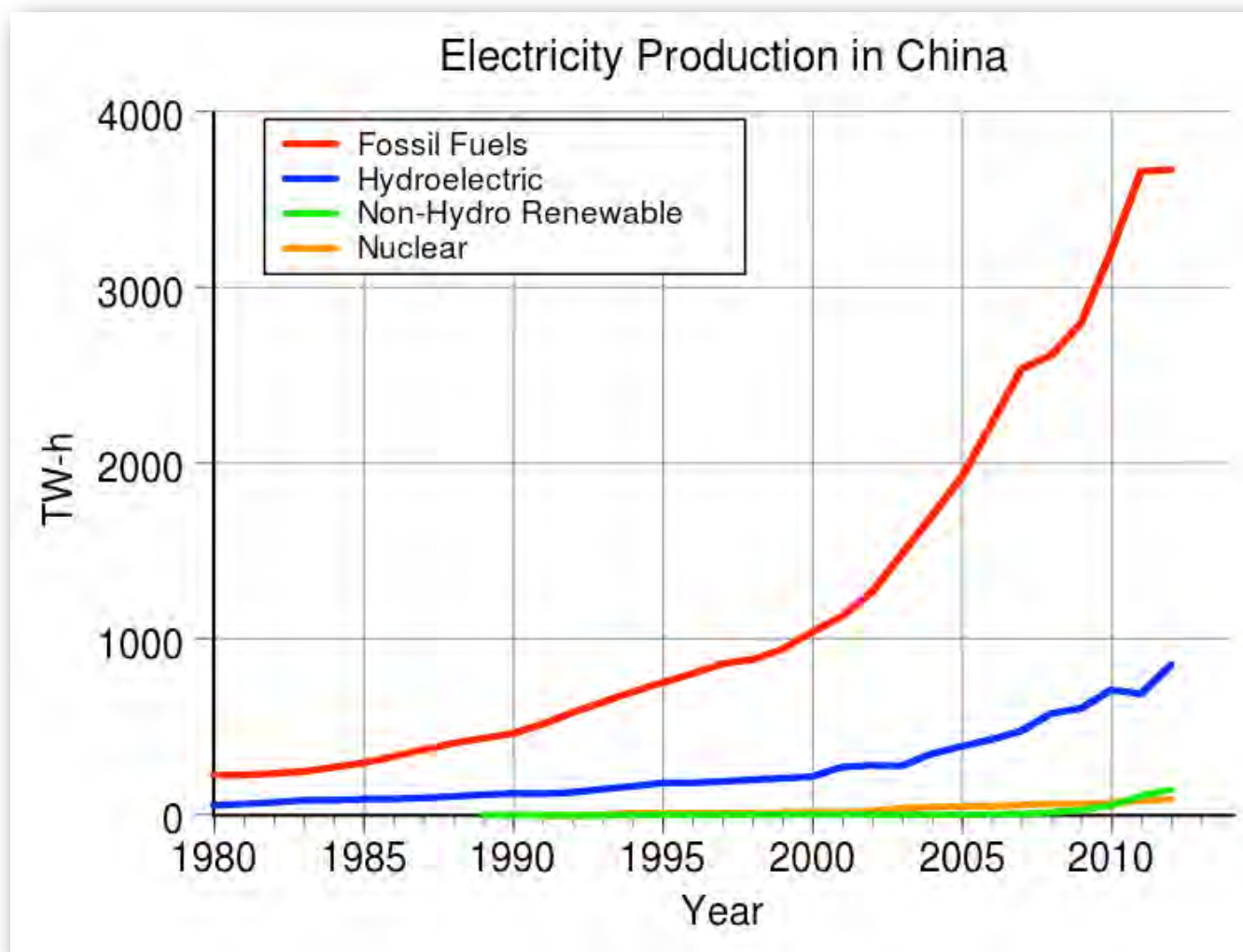
the Three Gorges Dam was envisioned and created. Brought online in 2006 and finally completed in 2014, the dam has helped solve energy and transportation problems. Critics of the project worry that the environmental impact of the dam could offset the benefits.

The graph on this page shows historical information in the production of energy in China. Like many countries China relies heavily on fossil fuels to power the country, but hydroelectric energy use is on the rise, partially due to the creation of the Three Gorges Dam. It will take a long time for the blue line on the chart to overtake the red line, but significant progress has been made since the dam became operational in 2006.

The dam project cost \$22.5 billion dollars to complete, and consists of 32 main generators which continue to create power. The cost of the project is expected to be recovered through energy creation by the mid 2020s.

From an economic standpoint the Three Gorges Dam is about more than just energy creation. The dam is intended to increase the shipping capacity on the Yangtze river by allowing travel both upstream and downstream.

All of these benefits have come at more than just a financial cost. 1.3 million people were forced to move away from their homes along the river due to the construction of the dam. Because the dam creates a barrier in the river, many species of



fish will not be able to travel upstream to spawn. It is believed that the population of these species will decrease. The project destroyed many communities forcing the people to relocate.

The reservoir for the dam ended up creating a lake. The water began to erode away the land around and underneath the affected area which resulted in landslides, many of which displaced more people and killed others.

The reservoir also sits on two major fault lines. The strain from a dam built in America in the 1950s and 60s along a similar fault line caused a large number of earthquakes. The filling of the reservoir is widely believed by scientists to be the cause, and while the Three Gorges Dam has, as of 2015, experienced small tremors, people are worried that the occurrence of larger ones are only a matter of time.

Interactive 9.2 Trouble for the 3 Gorges Dam



Watch this video describing some of the problems with the Three Gorges Dam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtgOntg0ofc>

The dam has also resulted in lower water levels in other parts of the country. That has caused large droughts which disrupt farming. Shanghai, the largest city in China is experiencing a shortage of water. Less freshwater flows downstream for them to utilize, and with the river emptying into the ocean, salt water is mixing with the fresh water farther upstream each year.

With both positive and negative consequences already surfacing, it will remain to be seen whether or not the Three Gorges Dam will be viewed as a massive success or failure for the Chinese government.

After reading this section and viewing the video clip, make an argumentative claim either for or against the Three Gorges project. Use evidence to support your claim.

Movement in South East Asia

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society connected?
2. How do the five themes of geography help geographers study the world?

Have you been reading this digital textbook on a device like a Chromebook, an iPad, or a Samsung tablet? If so, chances are the device was either assembled in parts of Asia, or many of the internal components came from there. China, Japan, and South Korea are major producers of automobiles, electronic technologies, and many smaller consumer goods such as clothing and toys. These products are then exported and sold around the world.

Why do you think so many products are made in this region?

Made in China

The United States, as well as many other economic powerhouses in the world, has many corporations which are based in North America, but assemble their products in other countries. If the goal of a business is to make a profit, the reason why so many things are assembled in Asian countries such as China, Korea, and Japan comes down to a company's bottom line - costs. Companies operating in the United States (for example) have restrictions on who can work, how long an

average work day is, and what the minimum amount of pay a worker can receive is.



(Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ae/CE_Made_in_China.jpg)

Factories in Asia are able to produce consumer goods at an extremely fast rate, faster than many factories in America. This comes at a risk to the people who work at these factories however. The workers are paid far less than workers in other

countries, and the conditions at the factories have sometimes caused injuries, high turnover rates among employees, and even in extreme cases - death. China in particular is able to manufacture products like iPads at an enormous rate, but the factory that creates these devices is a good example of many of the problems in the region.

Interactive 9.3 Made in China



Learn more about conditions at the factory that produces iPads by viewing this video from the New York Times.

<http://www.nytimes.com/video/business/100000001313019/made-in-china.html>

Should companies based in the United States “outsource” the creation of their product to another country? Why or why not?

Made in America

Despite many claims that America imports too much from Asia, over 28% of everything produced in America is exported to Asia. Computers and electronics make up 17% of everything we export and send to Asian countries. Equipment for transportation, as well as heavy machinery make up the next

largest chunks of this pie. With so many products moving from Asia to North America, and the reverse also being true, a disruption in production or the supply chain in one region could be devastating to the other.

How are the countries in Asia and the rest of the world interconnected through trade?

Moving People

Japan is considered to be one of the pioneers in moving people over high-speed railways. The Japanese Bullet Train known as the Shinkansen was first envisioned in 1959 and opened to the public in 1964. With much of the land in Japan being covered in mountains and much of the population centered around the coast, travel to certain parts of the country was difficult.

Why might a series of high speed trains be beneficial to a country?

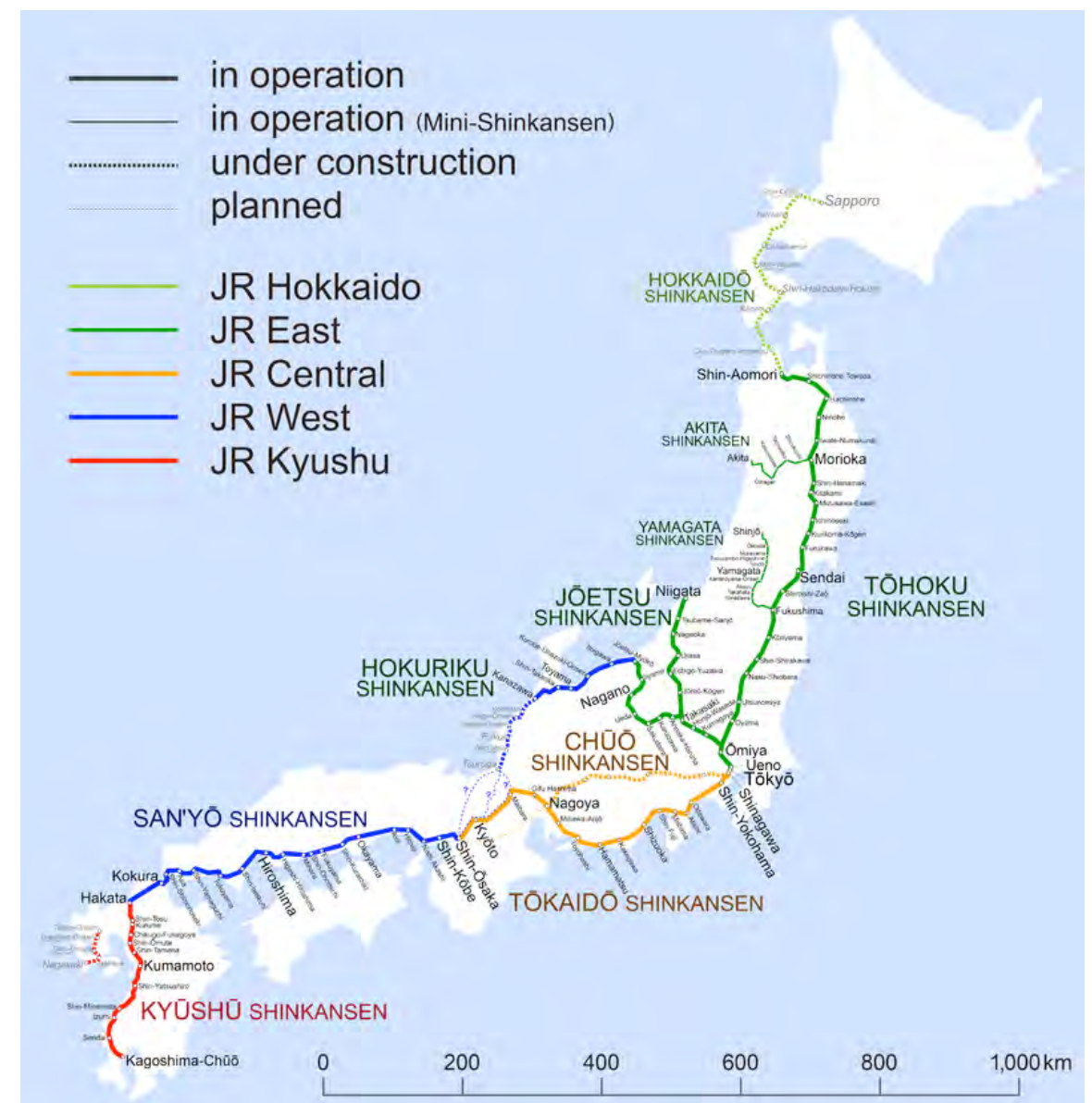


Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-speed_rail_in_Asia#/media/File:Shinkansen_map_201503_en.png

Why might the railways be set up along the routes depicted in this map?

The solution in Japan became a solution eventually copied by China, the Koreas, and other parts of the world. The Shinkansen is a fast train often referred to by locals as the “Bullet Train” due to its speeds and shape. When first opened in the 1960s, the train was able to travel an unprecedented 130 miles per hour.

Improvements to the train now give it the ability to travel almost 300 miles per hour. If a Japanese person wanted to drive from Kyoto to Tokyo, even under the best driving conditions, it would take 6 hours to travel the 284 miles. On the bullet train, that time is cut down to just over an hour.

Many people in Japan live in one city and work in another. It is not uncommon for a Japanese person to live 50 (or more) miles away from the city in which they work. How might a high speed rail system benefit their country? How might developing a high speed rail system in other countries benefit the citizens living there?

South Korea developed their high speed railway system over a long period of time, bringing it operational in 2004. While not as fast as its Japanese counterpart, the KTX high-speed rail has significantly cut down the travel time from place to place in South Korea.

China’s developed beginning in the early 1990s and as of December 2014, have the longest railway network with almost 10,000 miles of track laid across the country. China, as well as Japan and Korea, continue to invest in improving the technology and expanding the service.

The technology behind the Japanese, Chinese, and Korean high speed rails has been studied by other countries and has influenced the development of similar lines in other countries.

Moving people around the world has become faster due to the expansion of technology that had its first commercial successes in Asia.