

CHAPTER
27

China, Mongolia, and Taiwan

The People's Republic of China is the world's most populous country. The Chinese are experiencing great change as they develop a market economy. In this chapter you will learn about China, landlocked Mongolia, and the island of Taiwan.

Lion statue, Forbidden City, Beijing, China

Nihao! (How are you?) My name is Lu Hua, and I am 16. I live outside of Shanghai with my parents and my younger brother. My ancestors lived in our village already hundreds of years ago. My father is a clerk in a car factory. My mother works for a chemical factory. Behind our house is a kitchen and sheds for storing food, straw, and coal for cooking and heating.

I am in my last year at Jin Shan County High School. I am studying calculus, physics, chemistry, biology, Chinese, history, geography, and English. We also have a required class in communist philosophy and government. I am hoping to go to a university. In China only one or two out of a hundred kids can go to university.

After school, I help my family take care of the crops and animals. We have some small plots of land scattered around within a 15-minute walk of our house. We grow rice, wheat, and most of our own vegetables, like bok choy, which you would call Chinese cabbage. We also raise chickens and ducks. If I am not needed in the fields, I play basketball until it gets dark. I'm not on the school basketball team, but sometimes I play point guard for them. The best time of the week is Saturday night when my friends and I do whatever we want. Sometimes we go to a movie, or just talk. We also practice martial arts. Sunday morning I stay home with my family.

Man using cormorants to catch fish, China



Section
1

Natural Environments

HOLT
Geography's Impact
Video Program

Watch the video to understand the impact of the Three Gorges Dam.

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are the major landforms and rivers in China, Mongolia, and Taiwan?
2. Which climate types are found in the region?
3. What are China's main natural resources?

DEFINE

- paddy
- intensive agriculture
- double cropping
- aquaculture

Locate, continued

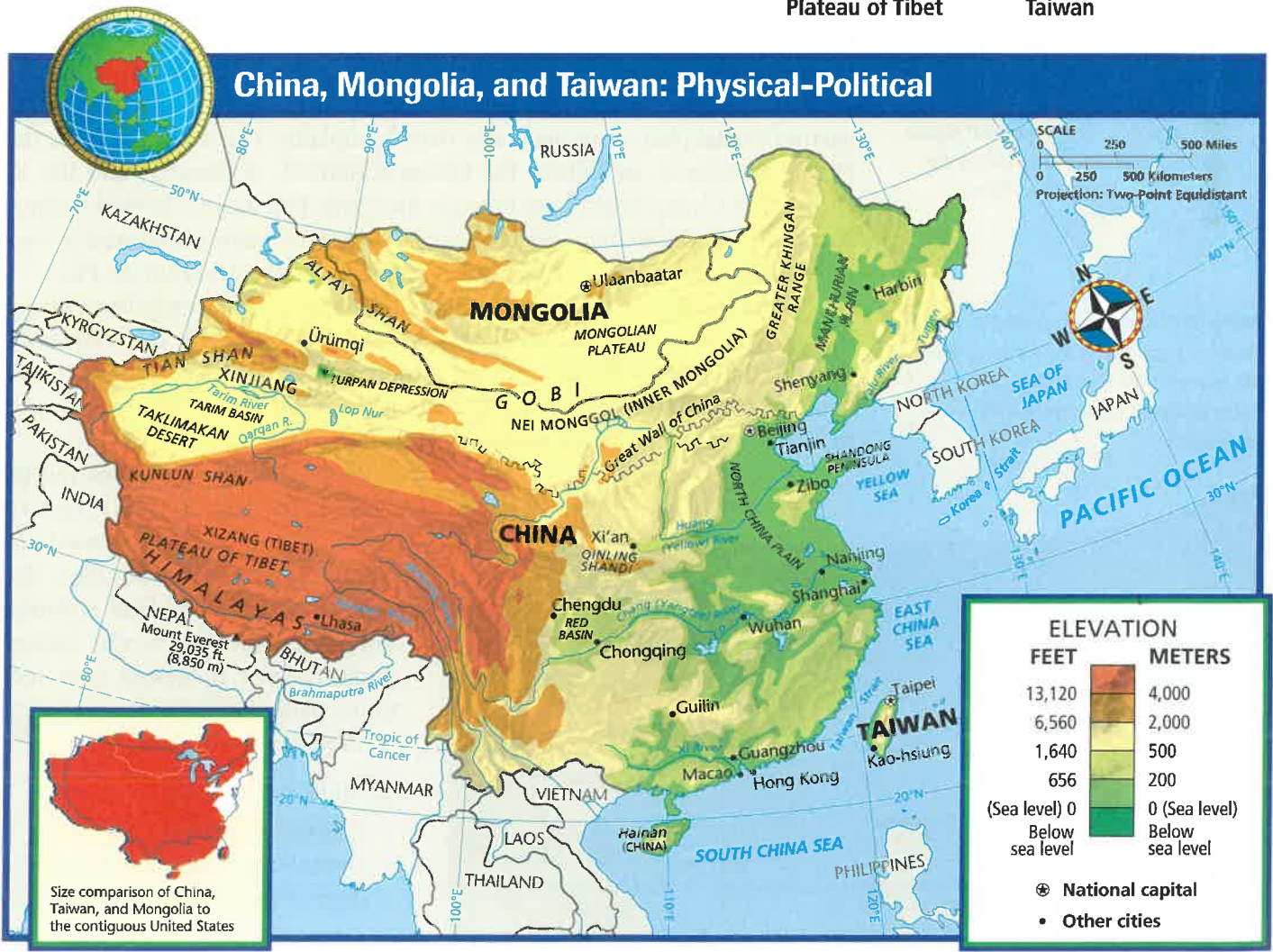
- Tarim Basin
- Turpan Depression
- Huang (Yellow) River
- Chang (Yangtze) River
- Xi River
- Red (Sichuan) Basin
- North China Plain
- Manchurian Plain
- Mongolian Plateau
- Gobi
- Taiwan

Reading Strategy

TAKING NOTES Taking notes while you read will help you understand and remember the information in this section. Your notes will be useful for reviewing the material. Before you read, write the main ideas (the headings) down the left side of a sheet of paper. As you read this section, write beside the main ideas the supporting details you learn about the natural environments of China, Mongolia, and Taiwan. Include key terms and their definitions.

LOCATE

- Himalayas
- Kunlun Shan
- Tian Shan
- Altay Shan
- Greater Khingan Range
- Plateau of Tibet





GO TO: go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: SW3 CH27

FOR: Web sites about China, Mongolia, and Taiwan



Built-up silt deposits on the bottom of the Huang River are so thick that in some areas the riverbed is more than 30 feet (10 m) above the surrounding plain. Levees keep the river from flooding more than 9,000 square miles (23,310 sq km) of the North China Plain.

Nearly all of Mongolia is covered by desert or grassland. As this picture shows, the two are often found side by side. Overgrazing has led to the desert's expansion.

Landforms and Rivers

In area, China is the world's third-largest country after Russia and Canada. China is slightly larger than the United States. From east to west, China and the 48 contiguous U.S. states cover about the same distance. However, from north to south, China extends farther in each direction. (See the size comparison on the chapter map.) China's natural environments include some of the world's driest deserts, highest mountains, and longest rivers.

Mountains cover more than 40 percent of China's land area. The Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range, are located along the southwestern border with Nepal and Bhutan. Mount Everest, the world's highest summit at 29,035 feet (8,850 m), is on the China-Nepal border. To the north are several other major mountain ranges. These include the Kunlun Shan (KOOON-LOON SHAHN), Tian Shan, and Altay (al-TY) Shan. In the far northeast is the Greater Khingan (KING-AHN) Range. Much of southeastern China has a rugged terrain of low mountains and steep-sided river valleys.

Between the high mountain ranges of western China are large plateaus and basins. The Plateau of Tibet lies between the Himalayas and the Kunlun Shan. With an average elevation of about 16,000 feet (4,880 m), it is the world's highest plateau. To the north, between the Kunlun and Tian Shan, lies a lower area called the Tarim (DAH-REEM) Basin. The Turpan (toohr-PAHN) Depression, located in the northeastern part of the basin, is the lowest point in China. The Turpan Depression lies 426 feet (130 m) below sea level.

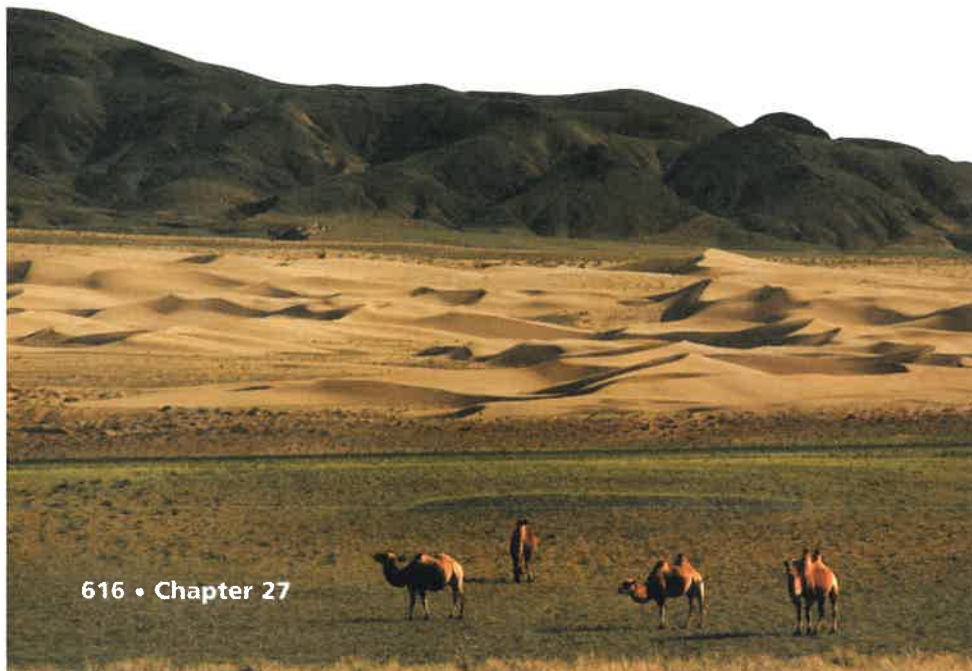
The plains and river valleys of eastern China are the most densely populated areas of the country. Most of the flattest land is located along either the narrow coastal plain or in the major river floodplains. The major rivers are the Huang (HWAHNG), or Yellow; the Chang (CHAHNG), or Yangtze; and the Xi (SHEE). The Chang River flows through the fertile Red Basin. The Red Basin is also known as the Sichuan (SEE-CHWAHN) Basin. Two major plains areas are located in eastern China—the North China Plain and the Manchurian Plain.

To the north of China lies landlocked Mongolia. The Mongolian Plateau makes up much of the country's area. This plateau ranges in elevation from 3,000 to 5,000 feet (915 to 1,525 m). A desert called the Gobi (GOH-bee) extends from north-central China into Mongolia. *Gobi* means "waterless place" in Mongolian. Much of the Gobi is bare rock or gravel.

Southeast of China lies the island of Taiwan (TY-WAHN). Eastern Taiwan has high, steep mountains that rise from the Pacific coast. The western part of the island is flatter, sloping gently toward the Taiwan Strait. Taiwan is located near tectonic plate boundaries, so severe earthquakes threaten the island.

✓ READING CHECK:

Places and Regions About how much of China is covered by mountains? Where is the lowest point in China?



Climates, Plants, and Animals

The Asian monsoon system influences climates throughout most of China. (See the unit climate and precipitation maps.) Dry winter winds blow from the Asian interior toward the coast. In northern China these winds can be bitterly cold and dusty. Warm humid air from the ocean brings rain and sometimes typhoons during the summer. In general, the eastern third of the country receives the most rain. Rainfall in China tends to decrease to the north and west.

Southeastern China and Taiwan have a mild humid subtropical climate. Much of northeastern China has a humid continental climate. This area has warm humid summers and cold drier winters.

Dry highland climates dominate western China. The Plateau of Tibet has very cold and dry conditions. The high mountains surrounding the plateau have some of the severest weather conditions in the world. The sandy Taklimakan (tah-kluh-muh-KAHN) Desert occupies most of the Tarim Basin in northwestern China. The surrounding mountains create a rain shadow. These mountains block moist ocean air from bringing rain to the desolate basin. North-central China and Mongolia have semiarid and arid climates with the driest areas in the Gobi. Mongolia experiences extreme temperatures. Among the reasons for these extremes are the country's high elevation and its location in the Asian interior at high latitudes. Winter temperatures may drop to -50°F (-46°C), and severe blizzards occasionally hit the country. High temperatures during the dry summers set the stage for raging brush fires.

Because China is so large and has such diverse landforms and climates, the country has a huge number of plant and animal species. In fact, nearly all the major types of Northern Hemisphere plants grow in China. The main exceptions to this are polar tundra plants. China's plant life can be divided into two major regions—that of the dry northwest and the humid southeast. The dry conditions of the northwest produce large areas of steppe grasslands and scattered plants that are resistant to drought. China's humid regions include mangrove swamps along the South China Sea and tropical rain forests on the island of Hainan. China's forests include about 2,500 species of trees.

China's animal life is equally diverse, particularly in the isolated mountains and valleys of Tibet and Sichuan. Wildlife ranges from wild horses and bears to camels and wolves. Some animals that have become extinct in the rest of the world still survive in China. These include the giant panda, Chinese alligator, and Chinese paddlefish, which can grow up to 21 feet (6 m) in length. Many animals are abundant, such as antelope, pheasants, and carp.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Physical Systems* What factors influence Mongolia's extreme climate conditions?



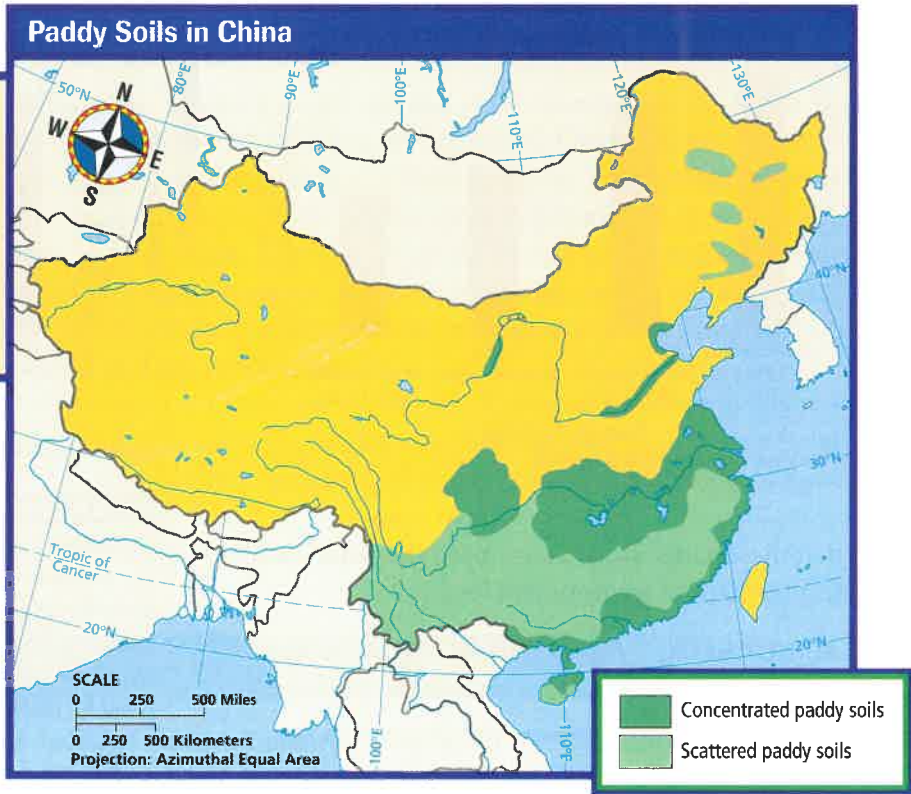
The color of Buddhist monastery ruins blends in with the dry soil and bare rock of Tibet. The river in the background gets its water from Himalayan snow and ice.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

*Fewer than 1,000 giant pandas remain in China's bamboo forests, which provide the animals' main source of food. Zoos have worked to increase this number, but pandas do not breed easily in captivity. **How might the panda's limited diet have led to its decreased population?***



INTERPRETING THE MAP Chinese farmers have used paddy soils to grow rice for centuries. Over time, this rice farming has changed the chemical and physical properties of the paddies. How could the distribution of paddy soils in China be used to divide the country into regions?



cocoons are unwound for the fiber. China produces more raw silk than any other country.

Population growth and the expansion of agriculture and industries are placing a strain on China's water resources. Droughts and mismanagement have resulted in water shortages across much of the country. Many geographers are concerned that China's water resources will not meet growing demands.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* What factor has helped make China the world's leading producer of many farm products?



Section 1 Review

go.hrw.com **Homework Practice Online**
Keyword: SW3 HP27

Define paddy, intensive agriculture, double cropping, aquaculture

Working with Sketch Maps On a map of China, Mongolia, and Taiwan that you draw or that your teacher provides, label the Himalayas, Kunlun Shan, Tian Shan, Altay Shan, Greater Khingan Range, Plateau of Tibet, Tarim Basin, Turpan Depression, Huang (Yellow) River, Chang (Yangtze) River, Xi River, Red (Sichuan) Basin, North China Plain, Manchurian Plain, Mongolian Plateau, Gobi, and Taiwan. Which plateau is the world's highest?

Reading for the Main Idea

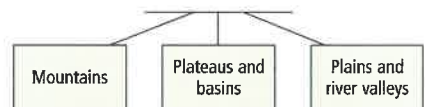
- Physical Systems** How do mountain barriers influence the climate of northwestern China?
- Physical Systems** How has erosion in northern China created a distinctive landscape along the Huang River?
- Environment and Society** How has the use of coal affected China's environment?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Recall what you learned about tectonic forces in Chapter 4. How do you think tectonic forces have helped shape the landforms of southwestern China?

Organizing What You Know

- Copy the chart below. Use it to describe the natural environments of the region's mountains, plateaus and basins, and plains and river valleys.



Section 2

History and Culture

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are some important events in the region's early history?
2. What major political events have affected the region's modern history?
3. What are some features of Chinese culture?

Reading Strategy

VISUALIZING INFORMATION Look at the photographs and other visuals in this section. What information does each one give you about the region? Write your answers on a sheet of paper. As you read the section, write main ideas and supporting details that connect the text to the visuals. Include key terms and their definitions.

Early History

The Chinese have the longest known continuous history of any culture. As early as 6000 B.C. people began farming along the Chang River. In the 3000s B.C. an organized society lived in small farming villages along the Huang River. Evidence of the first dynasty, the Shang, comes from there also. During the Shang period (1700s to 1100s B.C.), the water buffalo was tamed and irrigation systems were dug. Bronze casting reached a remarkable level. Grand tombs, shell money, a fairly accurate calendar, chopsticks, and musical instruments are other Shang-era achievements.

During the 200s B.C. China's first emperor conquered much of eastern China. He ordered the connection of ancient walls as protection against invaders from the north. This would become the Great Wall. The Qin (CHIN), or Ch'in, was the first Chinese imperial dynasty. The term *China* comes from the Qin dynasty. During the Han dynasty (202 B.C.–A.D. 220), China's military power grew stronger, and Chinese culture spread into southern China. Cities grew rapidly, and Chinese art and architecture flourished. Today the Chinese call themselves the Han after this great era.

After the decline of the Han dynasty, several warlords divided and ruled China. Unity was not restored until about A.D. 618. During the later T'ang and Sung dynasties, Chinese culture thrived. China was the most advanced country in the world during these dynasties.

Mongol invaders led by Genghis Khan overthrew the Sung dynasty in the 1200s and ruled all of China by 1279. The Chinese eventually rebelled and regained control of China. Chinese culture again advanced rapidly. However, China's rulers forbade foreign trade and limited outside influences.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* Why did China's first emperor order the connection of ancient walls?

IDENTIFY

Taoism
Confucianism

DEFINE

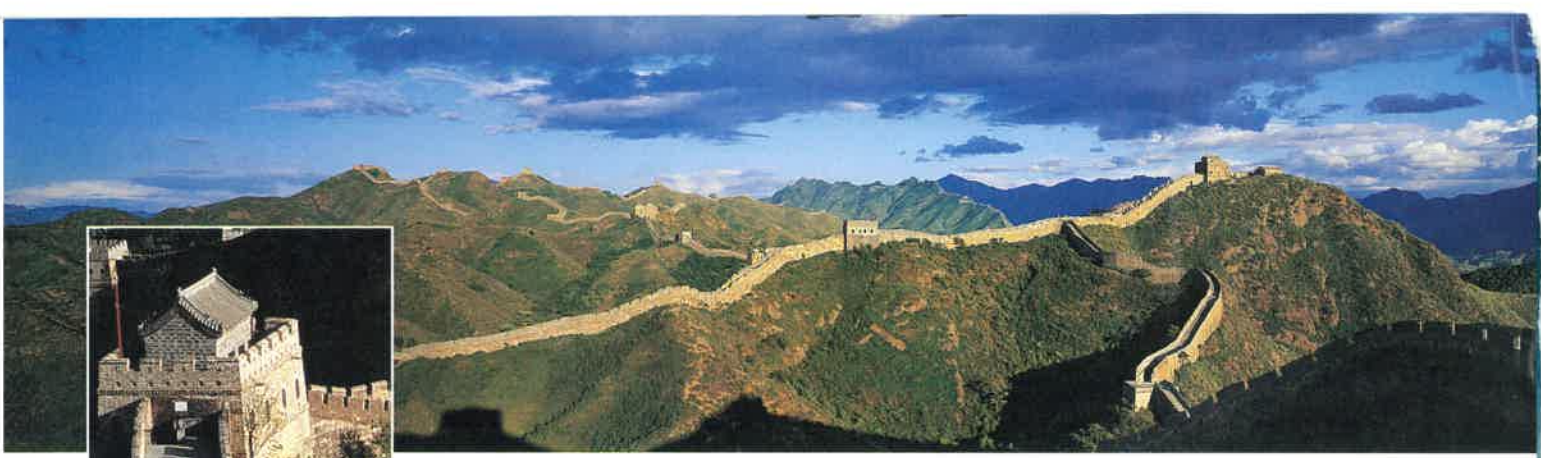
puppet government
communes
pictograms
calligraphy

LOCATE

Great Wall
Macao
Hong Kong
Beijing



Cheng, also known as Shih Huang Ti, the first emperor of China, died in the late 200s B.C. He was buried near the modern city of Xi'an in a tomb that remains unexcavated. Near the tomb stand more than 6,000 warriors and horses made of clay. Each of the statues is unique. The site was discovered in 1974.



The Great Wall was not built as a single project but evolved over many centuries. The modern appearance of the wall dates to the Ming dynasty (1368–1644).

Modern History

For centuries China had contact with the outside world mostly through overland trade routes. The best-known route was the Silk Road. It extended from China through Central Asia to the Black Sea. It was not until the early 1500s, however, that European influences reached China by sea. The first to arrive were the Portuguese, who set up a trading colony at Macao (muh-KOW) in 1557. Over time, Macao became a major trading port. Other European powers followed the Portuguese. Chinese leaders, confident that their society was superior, largely ignored these visitors and their ideas.

China had considered foreign trade as tribute to the Chinese emperor. However, the Europeans rejected the tribute system. They wanted to dominate trade in China. The Chinese were unprepared to deal with these aggressive foreign demands. Over the course of the 1800s, China lost several wars and failed to keep out the European powers, Japan, and the United States. For example, in 1842 China lost Hong Kong to the British. In 1895 Japan captured Taiwan.

Rebels under the leadership of Sun Yat-sen (SOOHN YAHT-SUHN) overthrew the last Chinese dynasty and in 1912 formed the Republic of China. After Sun Yat-sen's death, Chiang Kai-shek (jee-AHNG KY-SHEK) became China's leader. He was a member of China's Nationalist Party. To establish a strong central government, he set out to defeat the warlords who controlled parts of China. Chiang Kai-shek also faced opposition from the Chinese Communist Party.

Taking advantage of a weak and divided China, Japan took over Manchuria in the early 1930s. Manchuria is a resource-rich region in northeastern China. Japan set up a **puppet government**—a government controlled by outside forces—in the region. Then, in 1937, Japan invaded eastern China. The Japanese controlled much of eastern China until the end of World War II.

After Japan's defeat in 1945, the Nationalists and the Communists fought for control of China. The Communists won and set up the People's Republic of China (PRC) under Mao Zedong (MOWD ZUH-DOOHNG) in 1949. The Nationalists retreated to the island of Taiwan and set up a rival government. They called Taiwan the Republic of China, the name it still bears.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How did the British come to control Hong Kong?



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Sun Yat-sen poses with his wife, Soong Ch'ing-ling. How does this picture suggest that Sun wanted China to move away from some traditional ways of life?

China Under Mao The Communists' first challenge was to feed China's people. In the past, farmers and their families worked their own fields. However, the plots were divided among various heirs when landowners died. Over time, individual plots became smaller and smaller. The Communist leaders believed that larger, government-controlled farms could be worked more

efficiently. They seized all private land and organized farmers and farmland into large, jointly run collective farms. The Communists forcibly relocated families that had owned the land. These families lost their personal property and individual freedoms.

Communism also changed China's traditional family structure. In the past the oldest male had been the dominant family member. Under communism, women had equal status and worked in the fields along with the men. Later the government tried to slow the growth of its huge population by limiting families to one child. Despite opposition, the government still enforces this one-child policy in towns and cities.

The government also controlled the economy, setting fixed goals for agricultural and industrial production. For example, to improve China's economy, Mao launched the Great Leap Forward in 1958. The purpose of this program was to speed up industrialization. However, the program actually delayed the country's economic progress. The government organized workers to build backyard blast furnaces to make steel. Work groups built dams and dikes. The government also organized collective farms into larger **communes**. These agricultural communities organized farming and planned local public services.

Mao's program was a disaster. Poor planning and other problems led to the creation of large inefficient industries. In addition, an overemphasis on industry hurt agriculture and led to a famine that caused millions of deaths. The program was an environmental disaster as well. Forests were cut down to make charcoal to burn in the blast furnaces. No attempts at reforestation were made. The result was massive soil erosion.

The Cultural Revolution (1966–76) also delayed China's economic development and brought chaos to the country. During this period, Mao's followers tried to rid China of people they considered his enemies and critics. Anyone with an education was suspect, particularly intellectuals and scientists. Schools and universities were closed. Many old people and scholars were attacked, sent off to work in the countryside, or even killed.

A New China After Mao's death in 1976, Deng Xiaoping (DUHNG SHOW-PING) came to power. Deng realized that the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution had been mistakes. He pushed new policies to modernize China's agriculture, industry, and technology. He also worked to move the country toward a market economy. Agricultural production increased quickly. China's leaders continued Deng's market reforms after his death.

Today many farmers grow and sell their own crops and build their own homes. They do not own the land but lease it from the local government for long terms. Agricultural productivity has increased, and China is self-sufficient in food. A greater variety of fruits, vegetables, and meats has improved the diet of many Chinese. In addition, millions of town village enterprises (TVEs) produce textiles and other export goods. Industry has attracted investment from Chinese in



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

In the 1930s Mao Zedong and other Communists walked some 6,000 miles (9,650 km) across China, fighting Nationalist forces along the way. This event, known as the Long March, is shown in the painting above. The Long March inspired many young people to join the Communist Party. How are Mao and his followers portrayed in this painting?

Teenagers take in the sights on Wang Fu Jing Street, one of Beijing's main shopping districts.



Scholars have studied how the Chinese written language reflects the country's geography. Here, you can see that mountain peaks are suggested in the character for mountain. Similarly, the character for tree resembles the trunk and bare limbs of a tree. Many characters first recorded 3,000 years ago are still in use.



Confucius, or K'ung Ch'iu as he is known in Chinese, is revered for his teachings and the sayings recorded by his disciples.



Singapore and Taiwan. However, about half of China's industrial workers still work in inefficient state-owned industries.

Although China remains a poor country by Western standards, daily life has improved for many people. For example, more consumer goods such as televisions and refrigerators are now available. Nevertheless, challenges remain. One of the most serious is the worsening pollution of China's air and water. In fact, of the 10 cities with the worst air pollution in the world, 9 are in China. Also, the government still has considerable control over the lives of the Chinese people. While the government seems to be in favor of increasing economic freedoms, it does not want political reforms. The government continues to defend actions it took in 1989 to end pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing (BAY-JING), China's capital. Army troops and tanks crushed peaceful protests, killing or injuring hundreds of people in Tiananmen Square.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* How has China's command economy changed since the death of Mao?

Culture

Today China has nearly 1.3 billion people, more than four times the population of the United States. The vast majority of the country's people are Han Chinese. The Han speak many Chinese dialects, but Mandarin is the official language. About 70 percent of the country's people speak it. Written Chinese uses symbols called characters. Some of these characters are **pictograms**, or simple pictures of the ideas they represent. (See the illustration.) In all, Chinese writing uses more than 50,000 characters. As you can imagine, learning to read and write Mandarin is a lengthy process. **Calligraphy**—artistic handwriting or lettering—developed along with the writing system. Japanese and Korean calligraphy evolved from Chinese styles.

Buddhism and **Taoism** are the major religions in China. Taoism originated in China in the 500s B.C. Its followers believe there is a natural order to the universe, called the Tao (DOW). A basic idea of Taoism is to live a simple life in harmony with nature. Many Chinese also follow the philosophy of

Confucianism. Confucianism is based on the teachings of Confucius (551–479 B.C.), a Chinese philosopher. It is more a code of ethics than an organized religion. The Confucian code centers around family loyalty, duty, and education. Confucianism also spread to other Asian countries, particularly Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.

China has some 55 minority groups. Most members of these groups live along China's borders and in the western part of the country. Some of the largest minority groups in the north and northwest are the Mongols, Tibetans, Uighurs (WEE-goohrz), Kazakhs, and Kyrgyz. Ethnic groups in the southeast include the Yao, Zhuang, and Miao.

China's minority groups have distinct cultures and follow different religions. For example, Tibetans and Mongols are Buddhist, while the Uighurs, Kazakhs, and Kyrgyz are Muslim. Several million Han Chinese in the north are also Muslim. China's Communist government discourages religious practice. Nonetheless, it has recognized the religious freedom for some groups, such as the country's Muslims. However, this has not been the case with some other religious groups,



These monks are students of the Tibetan form of Buddhism called Gelukpa, or the Yellow Hat sect. Before the Chinese conquest of the region, some 25 percent of Tibetan Buddhists belonged to religious orders.

including some Christian groups and, particularly, China's Tibetan Buddhists. The government has repressed Tibetan culture and religion to prevent any movement toward Tibetan independence.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Places and Regions** What is China's official and most common language?

Settlement and Traditions About two thirds of China's huge population lives in the eastern half of the country. The coast and major river valleys are densely populated. Most of the population in the east is concentrated in two areas. These are the North China Plain and the lower and upper basins of the Chang River. Other densely settled areas include the Xi and Zhu (JOO) River basins in southeastern China.

Today China is experiencing rapid migration from rural to urban areas. As a result, many cities are expanding rapidly. An estimated 85 million rural migrants live in China's cities. Many of these people are women from China's interior provinces who travel to work in factories along the coast. The money they send back home not only helps their families survive, but also earns respect for the women.

China's many artistic traditions include architecture, literature, music, painting, and pottery. Artists developed a style of landscape painting featuring towering mountains, clouds, and trees. Many Chinese landscapes include descriptive text written in calligraphy. Poetry flowered during the T'ang dynasty. The Chinese have long been innovators in pottery. They developed porcelain more than a thousand years ago. Traders around the world have long desired Chinese porcelain for its fine quality and beauty. Traditional Chinese architecture features wooden buildings on stone foundations. Large tiled roofs curve upward at the corners. These artistic traditions have influenced cultures throughout Asia.

Rice, noodles, and bread are basic Chinese foods. Tofu (soybean curd) and a wide range of vegetables, such as cabbage, are also common. Pork, poultry, and duck are popular, as are fish and other seafoods. Chinese cooking varies from region to region. Food from Sichuan is spicy with chilies, while northern China is famous for roasted duck. Tea is the most popular drink. Chinese food has diffused widely. For example, Chinese restaurants can be found in cities around the world.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** What distinctive Chinese cultural patterns have spread to other parts of the world?

Connecting to

THE ARTS

Chinese Jade

Jade is a hard, tough gemstone. It occurs naturally in many colors, but the most valuable jade is usually a brilliant emerald green. Since ancient times, the Chinese have valued jade much like Westerners have valued gold. In Chinese culture jade symbolizes ideas such as purity and indestructibility. Chinese artisans have long carved jade into jewelry, vases, weapons, and other objects. These objects are prized around the world for their beauty, strength, polished surface, and intricate details.

Drawing Inferences and Conclusions Why do you think jade symbolizes purity and indestructibility in Chinese culture?



Geography for Life

China's Karst Towers

Known for its massive karst towers, the area around Guilin (GWEE-LIN), China, has one of the most dramatic landscapes on Earth. The word *karst* refers to a limestone landscape with many caves, underground streams, and steep hills or mountains. There are karst landscapes all over the world, but few are as dramatic as the region near the Chinese city of Guilin.

The erosion of limestone by moving water creates karst landscapes. This process is particularly common in tropical areas with heavy precipitation and dense vegetation. Plants release mild acids and carbon dioxide that are absorbed and carried by water. The chemicals and gases in the water then slowly dissolve and carry away rock, sculpting hills and other features. When karst hills reach mountainous size—as they do in Guilin—they are referred to as tower karst.

China's karst towers have inspired the Chinese imagination for more than 1,000 years. According to a Chinese saying, Guilin's scenery is the "first under heaven." A Chinese scholar during the Sung dynasty (A.D. 960–1279) wrote, "I often sent pictures of the hills of Guilin which I painted to friends back home, but few believed what they saw." Many Chinese landscape paintings feature Guilin's karst towers covered with pine trees and shrouded in mist. In recent years the towers have attracted a growing number of tourists.



Karst towers covered with vegetation loom over the Li River, as farmers and their water buffalo cross rice paddies near Guilin.

Applying What You Know

- Summarizing** What physical processes have created the distinctive karst towers near Guilin?
- Comparing** How do you think the karst towers compare to physical features that have inspired photographers, writers, and artists in the United States?



Review

Identify Taoism, Confucianism

Define puppet government, communes, pictograms, calligraphy

Working with Sketch Maps

On the map you created in Section 1, label China, Mongolia, the Great Wall, Macao, Hong Kong, and Beijing. What European powers once controlled Macao and Hong Kong?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** After which dynasty is China's main ethnic group named?
- The Uses of Geography** To where did China's Nationalists flee after they were defeated by the Communists in 1949?
- Places and Regions** How do China's religions make it a distinctive region? How does the government treat religion?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing** Why do you suppose China's Communist government has allowed more economic reform and freedom but continues to limit political rights and freedom?



Organizing What You Know

- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to describe China under the leadership of Mao Zedong and China after Mao. In the center space, note features that remained the same.



Section 3

The Region Today

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are China's major regions?
2. What is Mongolia like today?
3. What is Taiwan's relationship with China?

Reading Strategy

READING ORGANIZER Before you read, write the names of China's four main regions, Mongolia, and Taiwan down the left hand side of a piece of paper. Leave space between each name. As you read the section, write the main ideas and supporting details about each region or country next to the appropriate name. Include key terms and their definitions.

IDENTIFY

Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

DEFINE

martial law

LOCATE

Shanghai
Nanjing
Wuhan

Locate, continued

Chongqing
Guangzhou
Shenyang
Tibet (Xizang)
Xinjiang
Lhasa
Ürümqi
Ulaanbaatar
Taipei
Kao-hsiung

China

Today one out of five of the world's people lives in China. China is a huge country in both population and area. To study it more easily, we will look at China's four major geographic regions.

Southern China Southern China is bordered by the Qinling (CHIN-LING) Shandi range in the north and the Plateau of Tibet in the west. The East China and South China Seas lie off the eastern coast. Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar (Burma) are located to the south.

Southern China is the country's most productive region economically. A large percentage of China's population lives there. Despite continuous cultivation for more than 4,000 years, the soil of southern China is still fertile. Alluvial deposits left by flooding rivers and careful farming renew the soils. The region is often called China's rice bowl.

The Chang Delta is a particularly important rice-growing area. Farmers there are able to grow two rice crops a year, plus a vegetable crop. Upstream

Farmers use traditional methods to work terraced vegetable gardens near Guangzhou. China is the world's leading producer of rice, ducks, hogs, chickens, and eggs, and a major producer of fish, tea, and wheat. Products you may not associate with China factor into its agricultural success. The country grows more than 20 percent of the world's corn, cotton, and peanuts, and more than 15 percent of its potatoes. It is the world's leading grower of apples.



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Hong Kong (shown at right) and Macao are classified as special administrative regions of China. They enjoy a high degree of autonomy in all areas except foreign policy and defense. Both have maintained capitalist economies. **How may different points of view have influenced the relationship between China and these territories?**

from the delta, the Chang River valley is the country's major cotton-growing area. Some farmers there use double cropping to grow cotton and a food crop. Cotton is the main raw material for China's textile industry.

The Chang Delta is also China's most populated and industrialized area. The country's largest city, Shanghai, is located there. Shanghai has some 13 million people. It is a huge industrial center and a major sea and river port. New skyscrapers are rising as the city rapidly spreads outward into farming areas. (See *Cities & Settlements: Shanghai*.) Two big industrial cities, Nanjing and Wuhan (WOO-HAHN), lie upriver. Industrialization there has been based on local iron ore and coal deposits. The city of Chongqing, farther inland along the Chang River, lies in the Red (Sichuan) Basin. That area has productive farms, coal, and minerals.

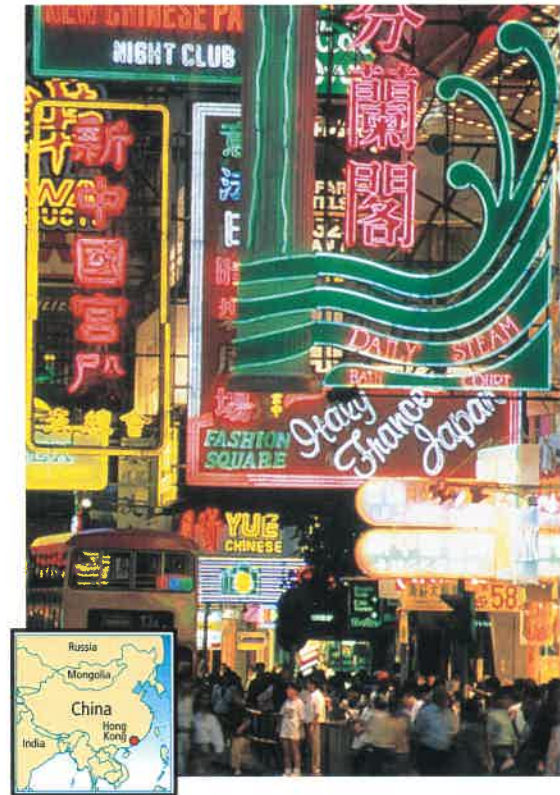
Farther south, at the mouth of the Xi River, is the famous trading center of Guangzhou (GWAHNG-JOH), once known as Canton. Guangzhou is the largest city south of Shanghai and has also attracted industrial and commercial development. Located on the coast south of Guangzhou is the former British colony of Hong Kong. Hong Kong's territory is about a third the size of Rhode Island. However, Hong Kong has about 7 million people, making it one of the world's most crowded places. Today it is China's major seaport and its banking and international trade center. It has a variety of industries, including textiles, shipbuilding, and manufacturing. Britain returned Hong Kong to China in 1997, and the Chinese government has granted the former colony a special status. This status includes local autonomy and the continuation of a capitalist economy.

Along the coast of southern China are **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**. These zones are designed to attract foreign companies and investment to the country. The SEZs close to Hong Kong have seen rapid economic growth. Areas that were rice fields a few years ago now bustle with factories, high-rise buildings, and new freeways. Foreign goods and money circulate freely in these seaports.

✓ READING CHECK: **Places and Regions**

What has aided the growth of southern China's cities?

Northern China Northern China lies north of the city of Nanjing and the Qinling Shandi range. This region includes the Huang River valley and the fertile North



Tiananmen Square, in the center of Beijing, is one of the largest public squares in the world. At the north end of the square stand the gates to the Forbidden City (inset). The square has been the scene of both communist and anticommunist demonstrations.



China Plain. Chinese culture first developed in this area. It is a very densely populated region.

The Huang River begins in the Plateau of Tibet and flows across northern China to the Yellow Sea. It has changed course and flooded surrounding areas many times. Because so many people have died in floods along the Huang River, it has been called "China's sorrow." Dams along the river store water for irrigation and generating hydroelectricity.

Beijing is China's second-largest city, its cultural center, and its capital. In fact, *Beijing* means "northern capital." The city's history goes back about 2,700 years. The ancient walled part of Beijing is divided into two sections, the Outer City and Inner City. Within the Inner City lies the Imperial City, from which China's emperors once ruled. Within the Imperial City is the Forbidden City, an immense palace complex where the emperors lived. Beijing grew beyond its original walls and spread out across the plains. Today it is a modern city with industry, subways, department stores, hotels, and wide streets.

Northeastern China Northeastern China includes three provinces once known as Manchuria. Oil, coal, iron ore, and other mineral resources are plentiful there. The oil fields have helped make China nearly self-sufficient in energy. The region also contains some of China's remaining forest resources. Important industries include iron and steel, chemicals, paper, textiles, and food processing. Shenyang is the region's largest city.

West of the Greater Khingan Range lies Nei Monggol, or Inner Mongolia. Mongols originally populated this area. Today the Han Chinese far outnumber the Mongols. Nomadic herding is common in this dry region at the edge of the Gobi. Irrigation allows some farming.

Western China Two large autonomous regions make up most of western China, Xizang (SHEE-DZAHNG) and Xinjiang (SHIN-JYAHNG). The land is generally too dry, high, and cold to support a large population. Most people there are either herders or irrigation farmers. These regions have some local government and retain their own culture and languages. Both areas were originally populated by people who were not Han Chinese. However, the number of Han Chinese colonists is rising.



The Forbidden City contains some 800 buildings, which in turn have about 9,000 rooms. Yet the Great Hall of the People, built by the Communist government, has more floor space—6,060,000 square feet (563,000 sq m)—than all the Forbidden City's palaces put together.

The Potala Palace in Lhasa, Xizang (Tibet), is the traditional residence of the Dalai Lama and the seat of Tibet's government. It has more than 1,000 rooms. The current Dalai Lama, the fourteenth of the line, has been in exile since 1959, when the Tibetans unsuccessfully rebelled against the Chinese. Since that time he has led a peaceful campaign for Tibetan independence.



Xizang is the official Chinese name for the region of Tibet. The Chinese have occupied Tibet, once an independent kingdom, since 1950. Tibet is one of the highest and most barren regions on Earth. In fact, some people call it “the roof of the world.” Most Tibetans practice a form of Buddhism called Lamaism. The huge Buddhist palace of the Dalai Lama (DAH-ly LAH-muh) towers above Lhasa (LAH-suh), Tibet’s capital. The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of most Tibetans. In 1959 the Dalai Lama fled to India after an unsuccessful revolt against Chinese control. Tibetans have watched economic development draw many Han Chinese immigrants to the region. In fact, Tibetans fear that they will become an oppressed minority in their own land. Some hope that Tibet will one day again be independent.

North of Tibet, Xinjiang is populated mostly by Muslim Turkic people, particularly the Uighurs and Kazakhs. This dry region has coal, iron ore, copper, and oil. Ürümqi (ooh-ROOHM-CHEE) is the capital city and a manufacturing center. Some Muslims there have sought independence for the region.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Places and Regions** What religion do most Tibetans practice?

Mongolia

Mongolia is more than twice as big as Texas but has a population of less than 2.7 million. In fact, Mongolia is the least densely populated country in the world, and livestock outnumber people many times over. A large part of the population herd livestock to earn a living.

Mongolia’s natural resources include coal, copper, and oil. Farming is limited, and the country faces food shortages. Water is also in short supply. The capital and only large city is Ulaanbaatar (oo-lahn-BAH-tawr). It has become more modern in recent years as the number of cars, cellular phones, and restaurants has increased. Industrial production includes processed foods, clothing and footwear, paper, and other products.

Mongolia held its first free elections in 1990. Before then, the country had been under the influence of the Soviet Union. The Communist government had suppressed the practice of Tibetan Buddhism, Mongolia’s main religion. Mongolia has recently opened its economy to foreign aid and investment. However, its isolated and landlocked location limits Mongolia’s economic opportunities. The growth of a market economy may mean a better future for the country.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Places and Regions** How have Mongolia’s political and economic characteristics changed since 1990?

Left: In centuries past, Mongol warriors like the ones shown were known as superb horsemen and fighters. Right: Some Mongolians maintain their ancestors’ way of life, following their herds and living in moveable homes called gers.



Taiwan

Taiwan is one of Asia's richest and most industrialized countries. It exports computers, scientific instruments, and sports equipment. Taiwan's major trading partners are the United States, Japan, and China. The per capita GDP of Taiwan is nearly five times that of China. (See the unit Fast Facts table.) Taipei (TY-PAY) is Taiwan's largest city, financial center, and capital. On the south end of the island is Kao-hsiung (KOW-SHYOOHNG), the country's second-largest city. The southern city is a center of heavy industry and the main seaport.

Some 2 million Chinese Nationalists who escaped from mainland China after the Communists took over in 1949 settled in Taiwan. The Chinese Nationalist Party controlled Taiwan under **martial law**, or military rule, for 38 years. Only recently have democratic rights been expanded.

China's Communist government claims that Taiwan is really a province of China. On the other hand, Taiwan's government claims to be the legitimate government of China. This disagreement has caused tension throughout the region. It is possible that Taiwan and China may one day be reunited under one government. The two countries already have economic links. For example, the Taiwanese do invest in China's industrializing coastal regions. This increasing economic interdependence is, in some ways, drawing the two countries closer together. However, wide political and economic differences remain. In addition, some Taiwanese political parties oppose reuniting with China.

READING CHECK: *Places and Regions* How does Taiwan's per capita GDP compare to China's?



Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, is a bustling city of more than 2 million people. Between 1947 and 1967, the city more than quadrupled in size. High-rise buildings have replaced many more traditional structures.

Section 3

Review

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Keyword: SW3 HP27

Identify Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

Define martial law

Working with Sketch Maps

On the map you created in Section 2, label Shanghai, Nanjing, Wuhan, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Shenyang, Tibet (Xizang), Xinjiang, Lhasa, Ürümqi, Ulaanbaatar, Taipei, and Kao-hsiung. Which city is the largest in China?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Places and Regions** What is the most common economic activity in Mongolia? What are two problems facing the country?
- Places and Regions** What economic ties does Taiwan have with mainland China?

Critical Thinking

- Making Generalizations** In what ways could you describe Tibet as both a formal region and a perceptual region?
- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** How do you think Taiwan's physical geography has allowed it to remain free of Communist control from mainland China?

Organizing What You Know

- Copy the chart below. Use it to describe the major political, economic, social, and cultural features that characterize China's four main regions, Mongolia, and Taiwan.

Region/Country	Characteristics
Southern China	
Northern China	
Northeastern China	
Western China	
Mongolia	
Taiwan	

CITIES & SETTLEMENTS

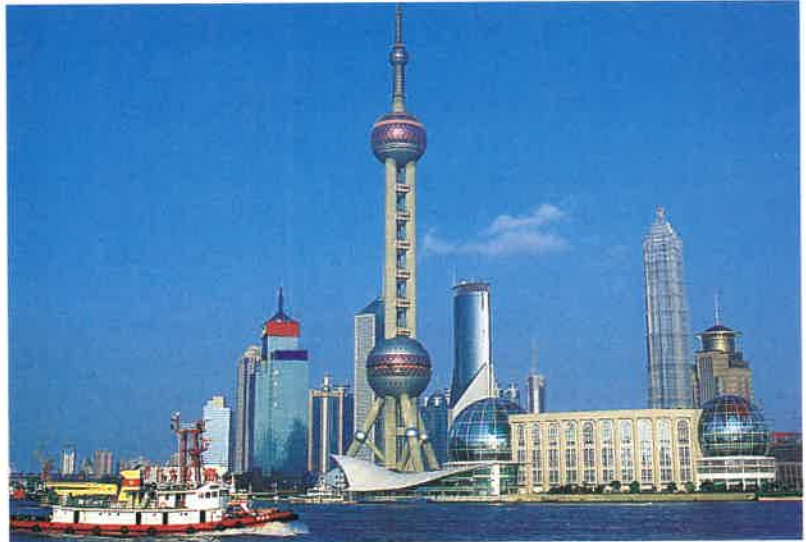
Shanghai

Places and Regions Located where the Huangpu River flows into the Chang River delta, Shanghai is China's busiest port and largest city. Shanghai began as a quiet fishing village and grew to be a busy agricultural center. For a while it was the playground for Europeans in China. Today Shanghai is changing once again. The city is leading China's efforts to reform its communist economy. In the process the people of Shanghai are living through some of the most exciting times their city has ever seen.

History Repeats Itself

Shanghai remained isolated for some 500 years until commercial agriculture developed in the region about A.D. 1000. Cotton production was the basis of Shanghai's economy until the 1840s, when China lost a war with Great Britain. Outside powers then forced China to open Shanghai to foreign development. Zones of the city came under the control of American, British, French, and Japanese companies. Each zone took on the culture of the country that controlled it. For example, the French zone became famous for its cafés and lively nightlife. As a result, in the 1920s and 1930s some people called Shanghai the Paris of the East. The city's international era ended in 1949. Communist forces took control of China that year and drove out all foreigners. For the next 40 years, Shanghai remained closed to outsiders.

Today many of the places that remind residents of their city's foreign past are disappearing in a frenzy of new construction. At the same time, new overseas influences have appeared. China's Communist government has reopened Shanghai to foreign businesses and investment. In the early 1990s the government created the Pudong Development Zone. This zone lies across the Huangpu River on the city's eastern edge.



Shanghai has been called the Pearl of the Orient. The Pearl of the Orient TV Tower contains 11 spheres of varying sizes, representing pearls. The tower houses exhibition space, a hotel, an observation deck, restaurants, and shops.

On what was recently farmland, a “mini-city” called the Pudong New Area has arisen. Within its 200 square miles are high-rise apartment houses, a financial district, and an industrial park. The government has also squeezed in an international airport.

Chinese leaders are using Pudong's high-tech facilities, tax breaks, and skilled workforce to lure foreign companies to Shanghai. More than 1,000 such companies began operations there in the 1990s. They include major corporations from Britain, Germany, Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

The Chinese completed construction of the country's tallest building, the 88-story Jin Mao Tower, in Pudong in 1999. The other notable feature on Pudong's skyline is the Pearl of the Orient TV Tower. The 1,535-foot (468 m) structure has been described as looking like a rocket ship poised for takeoff. The image seems to match the city's rise. By 1997 Pudong already had a GDP larger than that of many small countries. Its economy was growing at the rate of 15 percent per year.



Shanghai

INTERPRETING THE MAP How does the Pudong New Area compare in size to Shanghai City, west of the Huangpu River? How might the Pudong New Area's location aid its development?



Open for Business

Back across the Huangpu River, the old city is also booming. In the process, entire neighborhoods are disappearing. Builders are leveling old British and French buildings from Shanghai's earlier period to make way for huge skyscrapers. In fact, more than 1,500 high-rise apartments and office buildings have been built in the city since 1990.

New elevated freeways also criss-cross the growing urban area. Much of this work has been done by the rural Chinese who flood Shanghai in search of jobs.

These migrants make up almost 25 percent of the city's nearly 14 million people. They are only temporary residents, however. China's government is loosening its control of the country's economy, but it continues to keep tight control over the movement of China's citizens. One must get a permit to stay in Shanghai for longer than three days. For a two-year permit, a newcomer has to prove that he or she has a job and a place to live. Jobs are easy to find, but housing is in short supply. Nearly three fourths of the city's people live in downtown areas, which are particularly crowded. As a result, staying in Shanghai beyond two years is hard. A person must buy a house or apartment, be sponsored by an employer, or marry a resident. None of these alternatives is likely for most rural migrants. They tend to be poorly paid, poorly educated, and looked down upon by the city's permanent residents. This situation deepens the economic and social divisions that the boom has opened in the city.

Despite these problems, Shanghai's boom has radically changed daily life. Shanghai's residents can

now enjoy French perfume and Swiss chocolates. They shop in Japanese department stores and luxury shops from New York's Fifth Avenue. Japanese cafés compete with American fast food and Tex-Mex restaurants. Huge German supermarkets provide groceries for meals at home. After dark, Shanghai now offers a scene that rivals the old days. Among the hot spots is Park 97, a nightclub in an old French mansion. Here, young urban professionals in suits or short skirts eat gourmet food and listen to French rap music. Today, however, the crowd is not European. The customers are nearly all Chinese.

Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** In what ways is history repeating itself in Shanghai?
- 2. Comparing** How do you think life in Shanghai is like life in New York or Paris? What political, economic, and social similarities and differences would you expect to see between the cities? How might environmental change in those cities be similar?

Review the video to answer the closing question:
If you were involved in the decision to build the Three Gorges Dam, would you support it or vote against it? Why?

Building Vocabulary

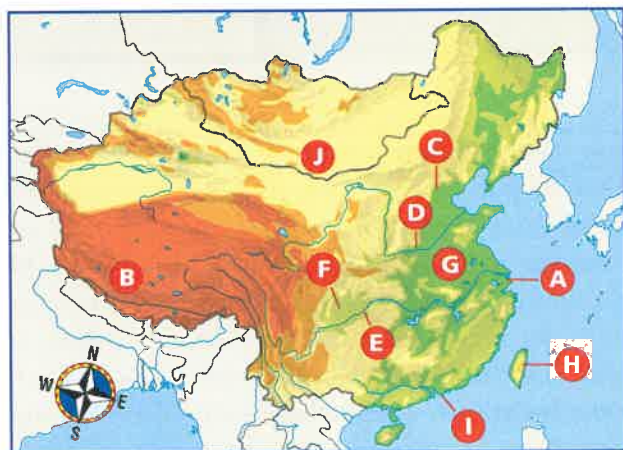
On a separate sheet of paper, explain the following terms by using them correctly in sentences.

paddy	communes	Confucianism
double cropping	pictograms	Special Economic Zones (SEZs)
aquaculture	calligraphy	martial law
puppet government	Taoism	

Locating Key Places

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Plateau of Tibet	North China Plain	Hong Kong
Huang (Yellow) River	Gobi	Beijing
Chang (Yangtze) River	Taiwan	Shanghai
Red (Sichuan) Basin		



Understanding the Main Ideas

Section 1

- Places and Regions** How diverse are China's natural environments? Explain your answer.
- Environment and Society** Why is there a growing concern in China over a lack of water resources?

Section 2

- Human Systems** During which dynasty did distinctive Chinese culture traits such as the use of chopsticks and the early use of money develop?
- Environment and Society** How did Mao's Great Leap Forward cause an environmental disaster?

Section 3

- Places and Regions** Which region of China is known as China's rice bowl?

Thinking Critically

- Identifying Cause and Effect** How does the existence of a certain soil type disrupt lives hundreds of miles away?
- Comparing** Compare population maps for Units 2 and 9. How does the distribution of China's population compare to the distribution of population in the United States?
- Comparing** How do you think the differing points of view held by China's and Taiwan's governments make unification difficult? Why do you suppose the two countries have increased economic ties despite these differing points of view?

Using the Geographer's Tools

- Analyzing Graphs** Review the graphs showing the generating capacity of the world's largest dams and electricity consumption per person. How might the data help explain why building the Three Gorges Dam is important to China's leaders?
- Interpreting Time Lines** Create a time line of major events and eras in China's history, using this chapter and the Unit 9 time line for dates. When did major cultural developments occur? When did China come into conflict with other countries?
- Preparing Maps** Work with a partner to research the Great Wall. Prepare a map showing dates of construction of various sections and their condition of preservation. Add information on sections of the wall recently discovered by remote imaging and why estimates of the wall's length vary so widely.

Writing about Geography

Imagine that you are a researcher for an international magazine reporting on the effects of the Three Gorges Dam. How much power will the dam produce? How will it affect the physical environment? How will the distribution of resources and economic conditions in the region be affected? How will population distribution and patterns of settlement be changed? Summarize the answers to these questions in a benefits-cost balance sheet.

SKILL BUILDING

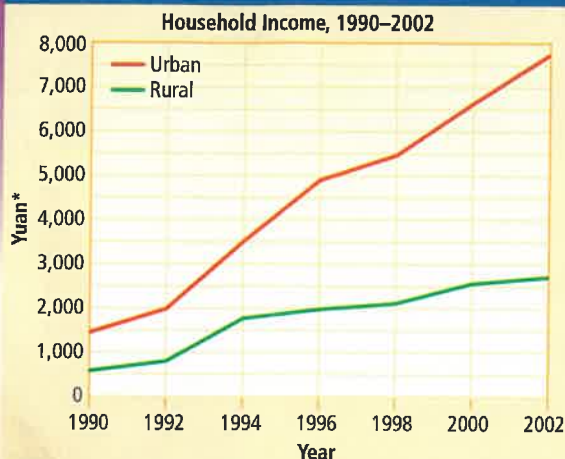


Geography for Life

Using Research Skills

Human Systems Conduct research on an aspect of Chinese culture that has diffused throughout Asia or the world. Examples include acupuncture, paper money, porcelain, or tea. Describe how the item spread beyond China and how its use has changed.

Per Capita Annual Net Income in China



*1 U.S. dollar = approximately 8.3 yuan (2003)

Interpreting Line Graphs

Study the line graph above. Then use the information from the graph to help you answer the questions that follow. Mark your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- The gap between urban and rural income was
 - smallest in 1994.
 - greatest in 1992.
 - greatest in 2002.
 - smallest in 1998.

- How would you describe urban and rural income growth during the period shown on the graph?

Using Language

The following passage contains mistakes in grammar, punctuation, and usage. Read the passage and then answer the following questions. Mark your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

"(1) The Huang River rises on the eastern edge of the Plateau of tibet. (2) It flows eastward through the North China Plain and empties into the Yellow Sea. (3) Meaning "yellow river," the yellowish mud carried by the Huang gives it its name."

- Which sentence contains an error in capitalization?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - all are correct
- Rewrite sentence 3 to correct the dangling modifier.

Alternative Assessment

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY



Learning about Your Local Geography

Group Project: Research

China is home to many endangered plant and animal species. Are there some endangered plants and animals in your state or region? Plan, organize, and complete a group research project about endangered species in your area. Contact your state department of wildlife to find out which plants and animals are considered endangered and where they are found. How many endangered species live in your state or area? What laws have been passed to protect them? What threatens their survival? What is being done to protect them? Is loss of habitat part of the reason they are threatened with extinction?

Internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com
KEYWORD: SW3 GT27

Choose a topic on China, Mongolia, and Taiwan to:

- learn about Chinese art.
- create a brochure on the Great Wall.
- write a report on diplomatic and trade issues between the United States and China.

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