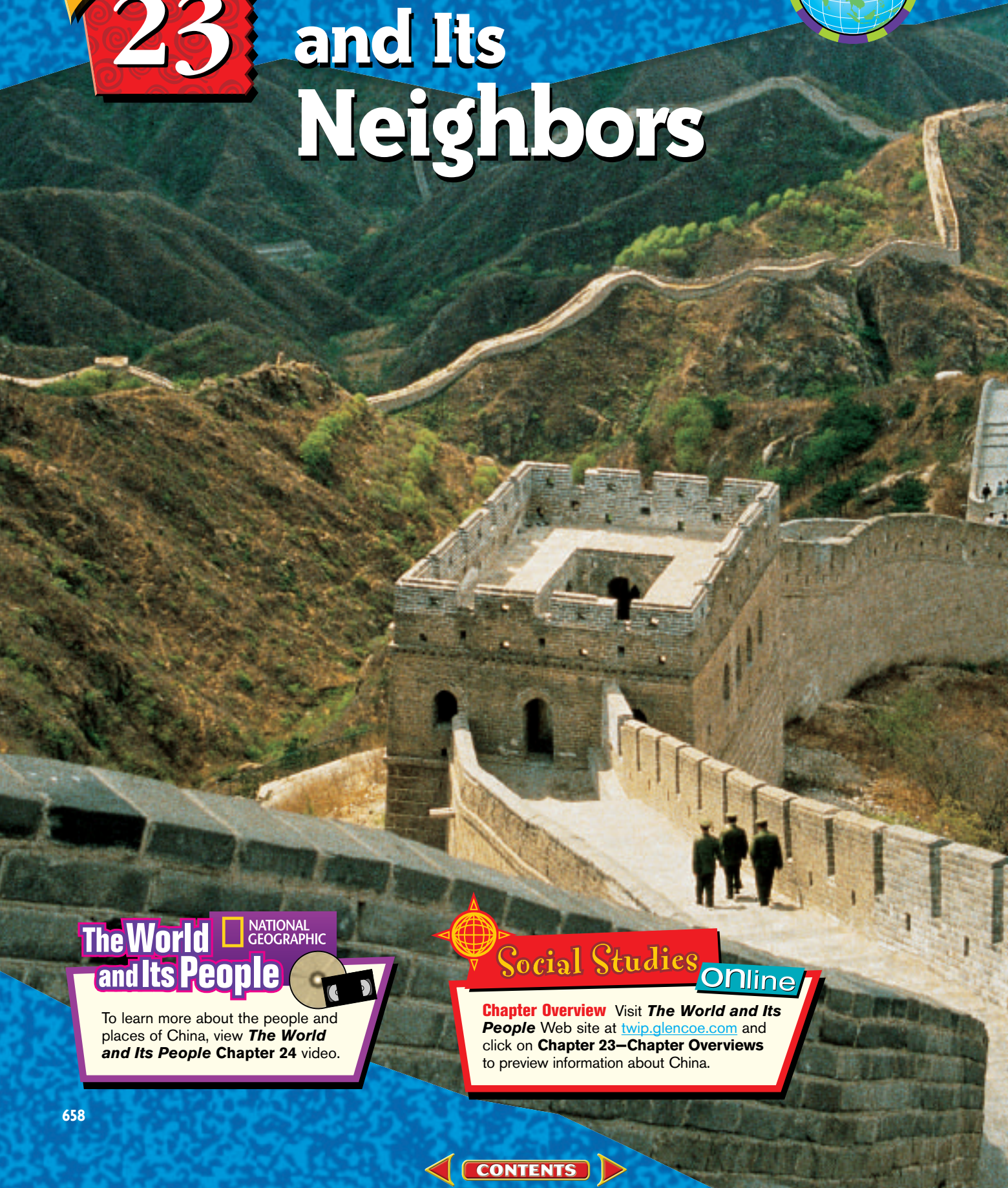


Chapter  
**23**

# China and Its Neighbors



**The World  
and Its People**

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC



To learn more about the people and places of China, view ***The World and Its People*** Chapter 24 video.



**Social Studies** Online

**Chapter Overview** Visit ***The World and Its People*** Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 23—Chapter Overviews** to preview information about China.

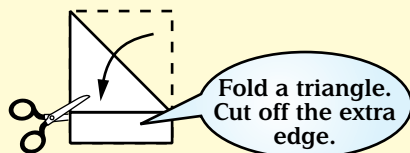


# FOLDABLES™

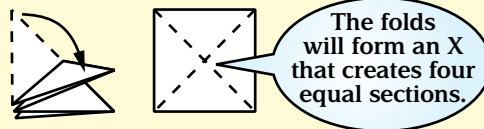
## Study Organizer

**Identifying Main Ideas** Make this foldable to help you identify key facts about the people and places of China and its neighbors.

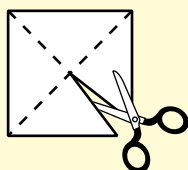
**Step 1** Fold the paper from the top right corner down so the edges line up. Cut off the leftover piece.



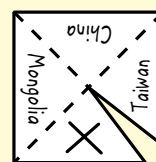
**Step 2** Fold the triangle in half. Unfold.



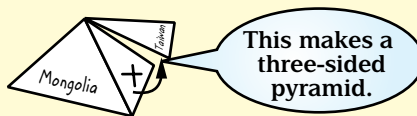
**Step 3** Cut up one fold line and stop at the middle. This forms two triangular flaps.



**Step 4** Draw an X on one tab and label the other three the following: Mongolia; China; Taiwan.



**Step 5** Fold the X flap under the other flap and glue together.



**Reading and Writing** As you read the chapter, write main ideas inside the foldable under each appropriate pyramid wall.

## Why It Matters

### Opening Doors

Built to keep out foreigners, the Great Wall of China is the country's best-known structure. For centuries, China has worked to protect its culture from outside influences. Recently, however, the need to develop its economy has motivated China to begin opening its doors to trade with other countries. In addition, Beijing—the capital of China—was chosen in 2001 to host the 2008 Summer Olympics.

◀ Part of the Great Wall of China

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

China—the third-largest country in the world—has very diverse landforms. China's rapidly growing economy has changed in recent years.

### Terms to Know

- dike
- fault
- communist state
- consumer goods

### Reading Strategy

Create a diagram like this one. Then list two facts under each heading in the outer ovals.



## Section 1

# China's Land and New Economy



## Exploring our World

Giant pandas look cute and cuddly, but actually they are somewhat hot-tempered.

You would be hot-tempered as well, if your habitat were dwindling in size.

Fewer than 1,000 pandas live in the wild, and about 140 live in zoos.

The wild pandas make their home on the eastern edge of the Plateau of Tibet. They eat mainly bamboo stems and leaves.



**C**hina (officially called the People's Republic of China) lies in the central part of eastern Asia. It is the third-largest country in area, after Russia and Canada. China is just slightly larger than the United States.

## China's Landscape

The map on the next page shows the many landforms that are within China's vast area. Rugged mountains cover about one-third of the country. Find the **Himalaya**, **Kunlun Shan**, **Tian Shan**, and **Altay Mountains** on the map.

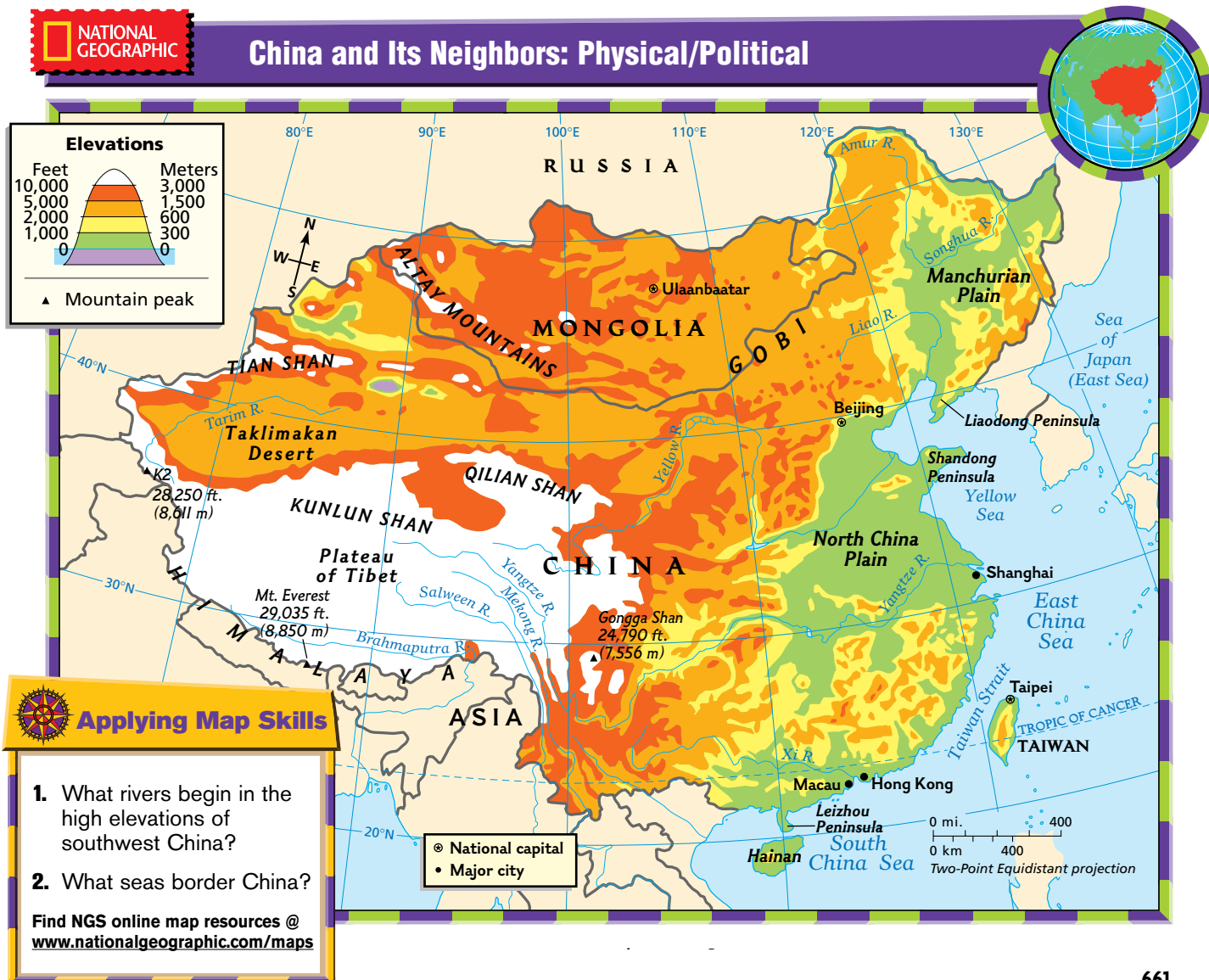
Also located in China is the world's largest plateau. This high, flat land, commonly called the "Roof of the World," is really the **Plateau of Tibet**. Its height averages about 14,800 feet (4,500 m) above sea level. Scattered shrubs and grasses cover the plateau's harsh landscape. Pandas, golden monkeys, and other rare animals roam the thick forests found at the eastern end of this plateau.



In addition to very high elevations, western China has some extremely low areas. The Turpan Depression, east of the Tian Shan, lies about 505 feet (154 m) *below* sea level. It is partly filled with salt lakes. It also is the hottest area of China. Daytime temperatures can reach as high as 122°F (50°C).

In northwestern China, mountain ranges circle desert areas. One of these areas is the **Taklimakan Desert**—an isolated region with very high temperatures. Sandstorms here can last for days and create huge, drifting sand dunes. Farther east lies another desert, the **Gobi**. About twice the size of Texas, the Gobi has rocks and stones instead of sand.

The map below shows that eastern China has plains along the Yellow, East China, and South China Seas. About 90 percent of China's people live on these fertile plains. Rich in minerals, eastern China is the site of the largest urban manufacturing areas, including **Beijing** and **Shanghai**. In hilly areas, farmers grow crops on terraced fields. Northern China holds many natural resources as well. China is a world leader in mining coal and iron ore. Tourists visit southeastern China to see its scenic waterfalls and steep gorges.





**Social Studies Online**

**Web Activity** Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 23—Student Web Activities** to learn more about China's rivers.

**Rivers** Three of China's major waterways—the **Yangtze** (YANG•SEE), **Yellow**, and **Xi** (SHEE) **Rivers**—flow through the plains and southern highlands. They serve as important transportation routes and also as a source of soil. How? For centuries, these rivers have flooded their banks in the spring. The floodwaters have deposited rich soil to form flat river basins that can be farmed. China's most productive farmland is found in valleys formed by these major rivers.

Despite their benefits, the rivers of China have also brought much suffering. The Chinese call the Yellow River “China’s sorrow.” In the past, its flooding cost hundreds of thousands of lives and caused much damage. Floods in July and August 1998 killed at least 3,000 and caused an estimated \$20 billion in damage. To help control floods, the Chinese have built dams and **dikes**, or high banks of soil, along the rivers. Turn to page 665 to learn more about the Three Gorges Dam, a project that is underway on the Yangtze River.

**An Unsteady Land** In addition to floods, people in eastern China face another danger—earthquakes. Their part of the country stretches along the Ring of Fire, a name that describes Pacific coastal areas with volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Eastern China lies along a **fault**, or crack in the earth’s crust. As a result, earthquakes in this region are common—and can be very violent. Because so many people live in eastern China, these earthquakes can be disastrous.

 **Reading Check** What problem does China have with its large rivers?



## Leading Rice-Producing Countries



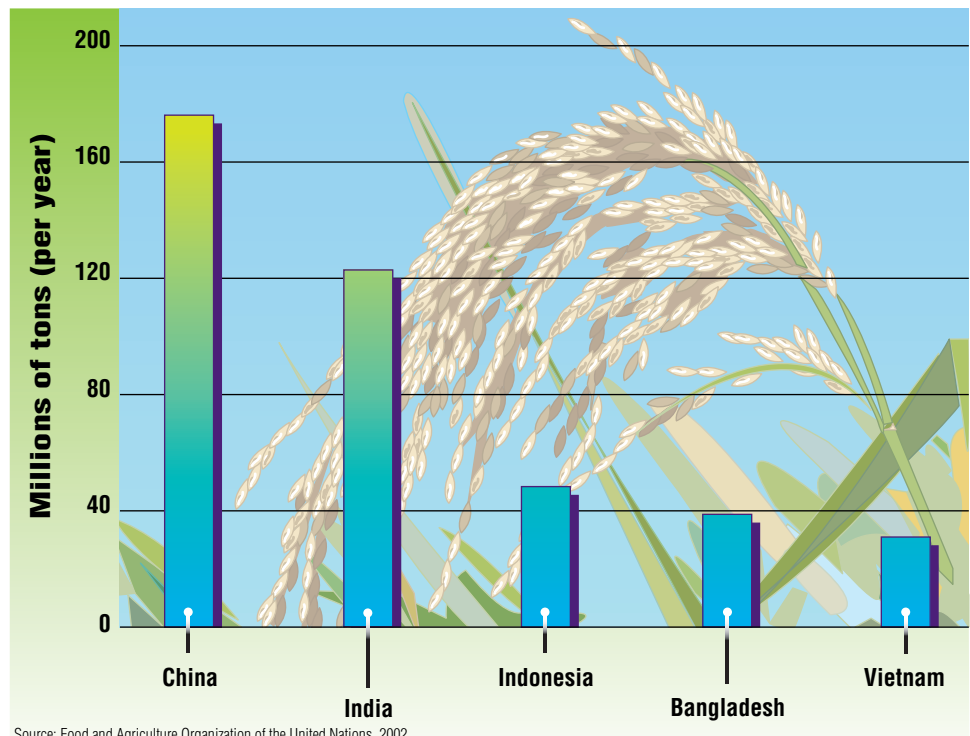
### Analyzing the Graph

The most important food crop in Asia is rice.

**Economics** How many millions of tons of rice does China produce in a year?



Visit [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 23—Textbook Updates**.





## A New Economy

Since 1949, China has been a **communist state** in which the government has strong control over the economy and society as a whole. This means that government officials—not individuals or businesses—decide what crops to grow, what products to make, and what prices to charge. China discovered that the communist system created many problems. China fell behind other countries in technology, and manufactured goods were of poor quality.

In recent years, China's leaders have begun many changes to make the economy stronger. Without completely giving up communism, the government has allowed many features of a free enterprise system to take hold. Under this system, the government allows individuals to choose what jobs they want and where to start their own businesses. Workers can keep the profits they make. Farmers can grow and sell what they wish.

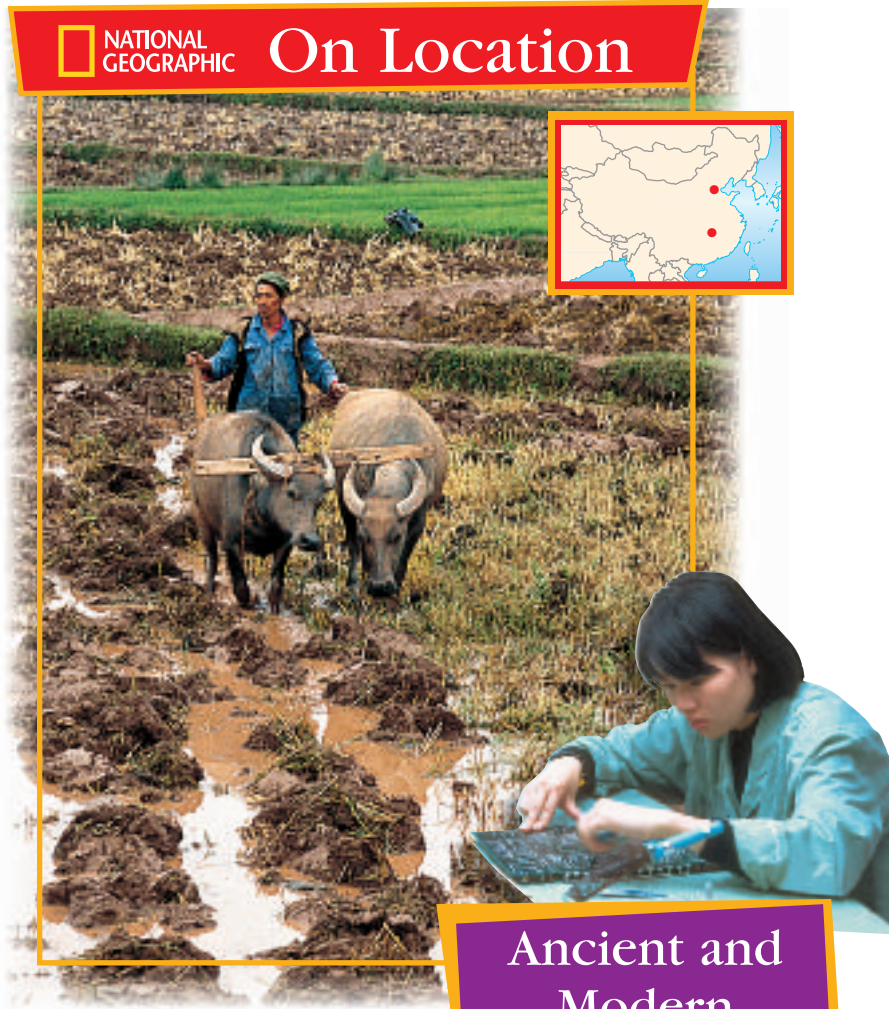
As a result of these and other changes, China's economy has boomed. Factories produce textiles, chemicals, electronic equipment, airplanes, ships, and machinery. Many of the items you own were probably made in China. Farm output has also risen rapidly. Because of mountains and deserts, only 10 percent of China's land is able to be farmed. Yet China is now a world leader in producing various agricultural products, including rice, tea, wheat, and potatoes.

**Foreign Trade** Eager to learn about new business methods, China has asked other countries to invest in, or put money into, Chinese businesses. Many companies in China are now jointly owned by Chinese and foreign businesspeople. Foreign companies expect two benefits from investing in China. First, they can pay Chinese workers less than they pay workers in their own countries. Second, companies in China have hundreds of millions of possible customers for their goods.

**Results of Growth** Because of economic growth, more of China's people are able to get jobs in manufacturing and service industries. Wages have increased, and more goods are available to buy. Some Chinese now enjoy a higher standard of living. They can afford **consumer goods**, or products people buy for themselves, such as

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## On Location



### Ancient and Modern

In China's rural areas, ancient farming methods are still used (above left). However, in industrialized cities, high technology is being developed (above).

**Government** How has the government affected the economy in China?



# Exploring Economics

## Labor Costs

There's a good chance your clothes and shoes were manufactured in China. Some American companies can manufacture their products at much lower costs in China because the wages paid to workers there are low by U.S. standards. These companies pay more and offer better working conditions than Chinese employers. Still, some Americans are concerned about exploiting Chinese workers to make higher profits for U.S. companies.

televisions, cars, and motorcycles. Not everyone has adjusted well to the new economy, however. Many Chinese find that prices have risen faster than their incomes. Some Chinese have become very rich, while others remain poor.

China's economic growth has also harmed the environment. Many factories dump poisonous chemicals into rivers. Others burn coal, which gives off smoke that pollutes the air. This pollution leads to lung disease, which is the number one cause of death in China.

**Hong Kong and Macau** The cities of **Hong Kong** and **Macau** (muh•KOW) are an important part of the economic changes taking place in China. Both of these cities were once controlled by European countries—Hong Kong by the United Kingdom, and Macau by Portugal. China regained control of Hong Kong in 1997 and of Macau in 1999. Both are centers of manufacturing, trade, and finance. Chinese leaders hope that the successful businesses in these cities will help spur economic growth in the rest of the country.

At the same time, foreign companies that are considering investing in these cities must ask themselves whether China will stand by its “one country, two systems” pledge. The pledge refers to China's promise to allow Western freedoms and capitalism to exist side by side with Chinese communism. The **Time Reports: Focus on World Issues** on pages 671–677 takes a look at the economies and political freedoms of China and other countries in East Asia.

 **Reading Check** To what does “one country, two systems” refer?

## Section 1

## Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** dike, fault, communist state, consumer goods.

### Recalling Facts

2. **Place** Name China's two large deserts.
3. **Region** What two very important functions do China's rivers perform?
4. **Economics** What has caused China's economy to boom?

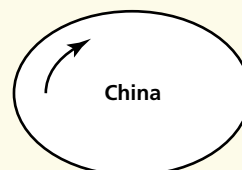
### Critical Thinking

5. **Summarizing Information** How are China's rivers both a blessing and a disaster?
6. **Making Comparisons** How is a communist economic system different from a free enterprise system?

7. **Analyzing Information** What benefits does China receive from foreign investments?

### Graphic Organizer

8. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. In the proper places on the oval, fill in the physical features you would encounter if you traveled completely around China.



## Applying Social Studies Skills

9. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the map on page 661. What is the capital of China?



# Making Connections

ART

SCIENCE

CULTURE

TECHNOLOGY

## The Three Gorges Dam

Since 1919, Chinese officials have dreamed of building a dam across the Yangtze, the third-longest river in the world. Curving through the heart of China, the river provides an important highway for moving people and products from town to town. Yet the Yangtze is unpredictable. For thousands of years, floods have harmed the millions of people who live along its banks. Now construction is under way to build the dam.

### The Dam

In 1994 the Chinese government began a 17-year-long project to build the Three Gorges Dam. It will eventually be 1.5 miles (2.4 km) wide and more than 600 feet (183 m) high. The dam is being built about halfway between the cities of Chongqing and Wuhan. (See the map on page 668.) The dam will benefit China in several ways. First, it will control water flow and stop floods. Second, its system of locks will allow large ships to travel inland. This will reduce trade and transportation costs for the millions of people who live inland. Third, the dam will create electricity using turbines, or water-driven engines.

### Controversy

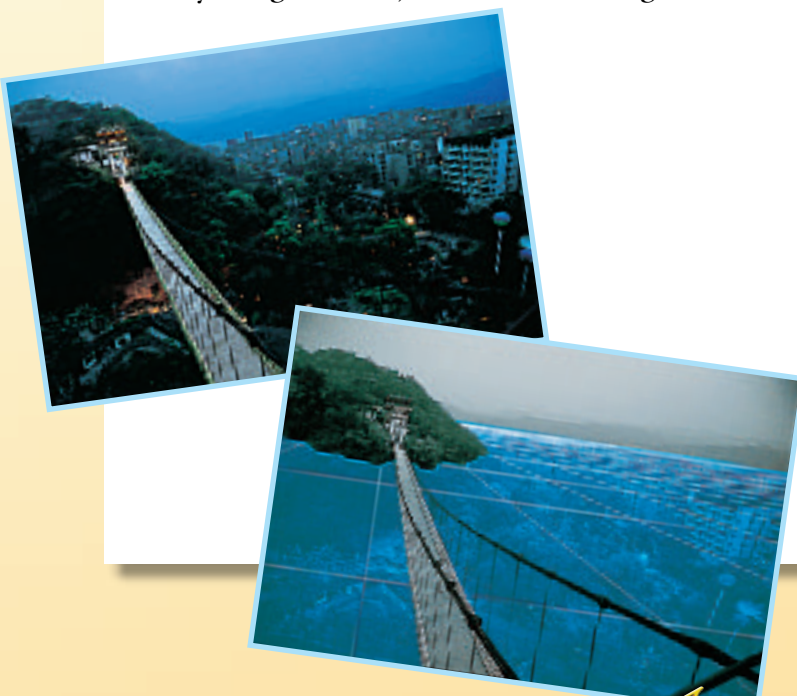
Even with all the proposed benefits, many people within China and elsewhere have questioned the wisdom of building the dam. When completed, the dam will create a deep reservoir nearly 400 miles (644 km) long. This reservoir will flood more than 100 towns and force nearly 1.2 million people to move. Many of these people must leave the farms that their families have worked for centuries. Historians point out that the reservoir will also wash away more than 1,000 important historical sites, including the homeland of the first people to settle the region about 4,000 years ago.

Environmentalists caution that the dam may create pollution and health risks. Industrial sites, once they lie underwater, may leak hazardous chemicals. Sewage from communities surrounding the dam could flow directly into the reservoir and into the Yangtze River. In the past, this problem was less serious because the fast-moving waters of the Yangtze carried waste quickly out to sea.

## Making the Connection

1. How have the unpredictable waters of the Yangtze River affected the Chinese?
2. Create a physical map of China showing the major rivers. Mark where the Three Gorges Dam is being built.
3. **Interpreting Points of View** List three reasons in support of constructing the Three Gorges Dam and three reasons against it.

◀ This is the city of Fengdu today (top) and as it will look when the dam and reservoir are completed (bottom).



CONTENTS



## Guide to Reading

## Main Idea

The arts and ideas of ancient times still influence China today.

## Terms to Know

- dynasty
- human rights
- exile
- calligraphy
- pagoda

## Reading Strategy

Create a chart like this one. Then list two key facts in the right column for each item in the left column.

China	
History	
Government	
Urban and Rural Life	
Arts	

# Dynasties to Communism



## Exploring our World

How do you celebrate the coming of a new year? This costumed figure lives in Tibet. He is a Buddhist monk, or holy man, performing an important ritual celebrating the Tibetan New Year. The mask and colorful robes show that he plays a special role in rituals designed to defeat the forces of evil.



China's population of 1.29 billion is about one-fifth of the world's people. About 92 percent of these people belong to the ethnic group called Han Chinese. They have a distinctive culture. The remaining 8 percent belong to 55 other ethnic groups. Most of these groups, such as the Tibetans, live in the western part of China. They have struggled to protect their traditions from Han Chinese influences.

## China's History

China's civilization is more than 4,000 years old. For many centuries until the early 1900s, rulers known as emperors or empresses governed China. Many lived in the Imperial Palace, located in the heart of **Beijing**, China's capital. A **dynasty**, or line of rulers from a single family, would hold power until it was overthrown. Then a new leader would start a new dynasty. Under the dynasties, China built a highly developed culture and conquered neighboring lands.

As their civilization developed, the Chinese tried to keep out foreign invaders. In many ways, this was easy. On most of China's borders, natural barriers such as seas, mountains, and deserts already provided protection. Still, invaders threatened from the north. To defend this area, the Chinese began building the Great Wall of China about 2,200 years ago. Over the centuries, the wall was continually rebuilt and lengthened. In time, it snaked more than 4,000 miles (6,437 km) from the Yellow Sea in the east to the deserts of the west. It still stands today.

**Beliefs and Inventions** Chinese thinkers believed that learning was a key to good behavior. About 500 B.C., a thinker named Kongfuzi (KOONG•FOO•DZUH), or Confucius, taught that people should be polite, honest, brave, and wise. Children were to obey their parents, and every person was to respect the elderly and obey the country's rulers. Kongfuzi's teachings shaped China's government and society until the early 1900s.

During Kongfuzi's time, another thinker named Laozi (LOW•DZUH) arose. His teachings, called Daoism (DOW•IH•zuhm), stated that people should live simply and in harmony with nature. While Kongfuzi's ideas appealed to government leaders, Laozi's beliefs attracted artists and writers.

Buddhism came to China from Central Asia about A.D. 100. This religion taught that meditation, wisdom, and morality could help people find relief from life's problems. Over time, the Chinese mixed Buddhism, Daoism, and the ideas of Kongfuzi. This mixed spiritual heritage still influences many Chinese people today.

The early Chinese were inventors as well as thinkers. Did you know that they were using paper and ink before people in other parts of the world? Other Chinese inventions include silk, the magnetic compass, printed books, gunpowder, and fireworks. For hundreds of years, China was the most advanced civilization in the world.

**Communist China** Foreign influences increasingly entered China during the 1700s and 1800s. Europeans especially wanted to get fine Chinese goods such as silk, tea, and pottery. The United Kingdom and other countries used military power to force China to trade.

In 1911 a Chinese uprising under the Western-educated Dr. Sun Yat-sen overthrew the last emperor. China became a republic, or a country governed by elected leaders. Disorder followed until the Nationalist political party took over. The Communist Party gained power as well. After World War II, the Nationalists and the Communists fought for control of China. General Chiang Kai-shek (jee•AHNG KY•SHEHK) led the Nationalists. Mao Zedong (MOW DZUH•DOONG) led the Communists.

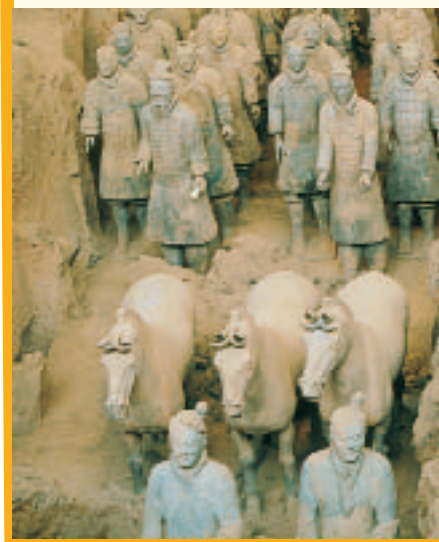
In 1949 the Communists won and set up the People's Republic of China under Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai (JOH ehn•LY). The Nationalists fled to the offshore island of Taiwan. There they set up a rival government.

✓ **Reading Check** Why was the Great Wall of China built?

## Believe It! or Not!

### Clay Warriors

One of the most fascinating archaeological finds in China was the clay army buried to guard the tomb of China's first emperor. The huge vault, covering 20 square miles (52 sq. km), was discovered in 1974. The clay warriors stand in four separate underground pits. In pit one are 6,000 life-size figures in military formation. Pit two contains 1,400 chariots and men. The third pit has an elite command force, and the fourth pit is empty, possibly abandoned before the work was completed. Each of the nearly 7,500 foot soldiers, horsemen, archers, and chariot riders were individually crafted more than 2,200 years ago.





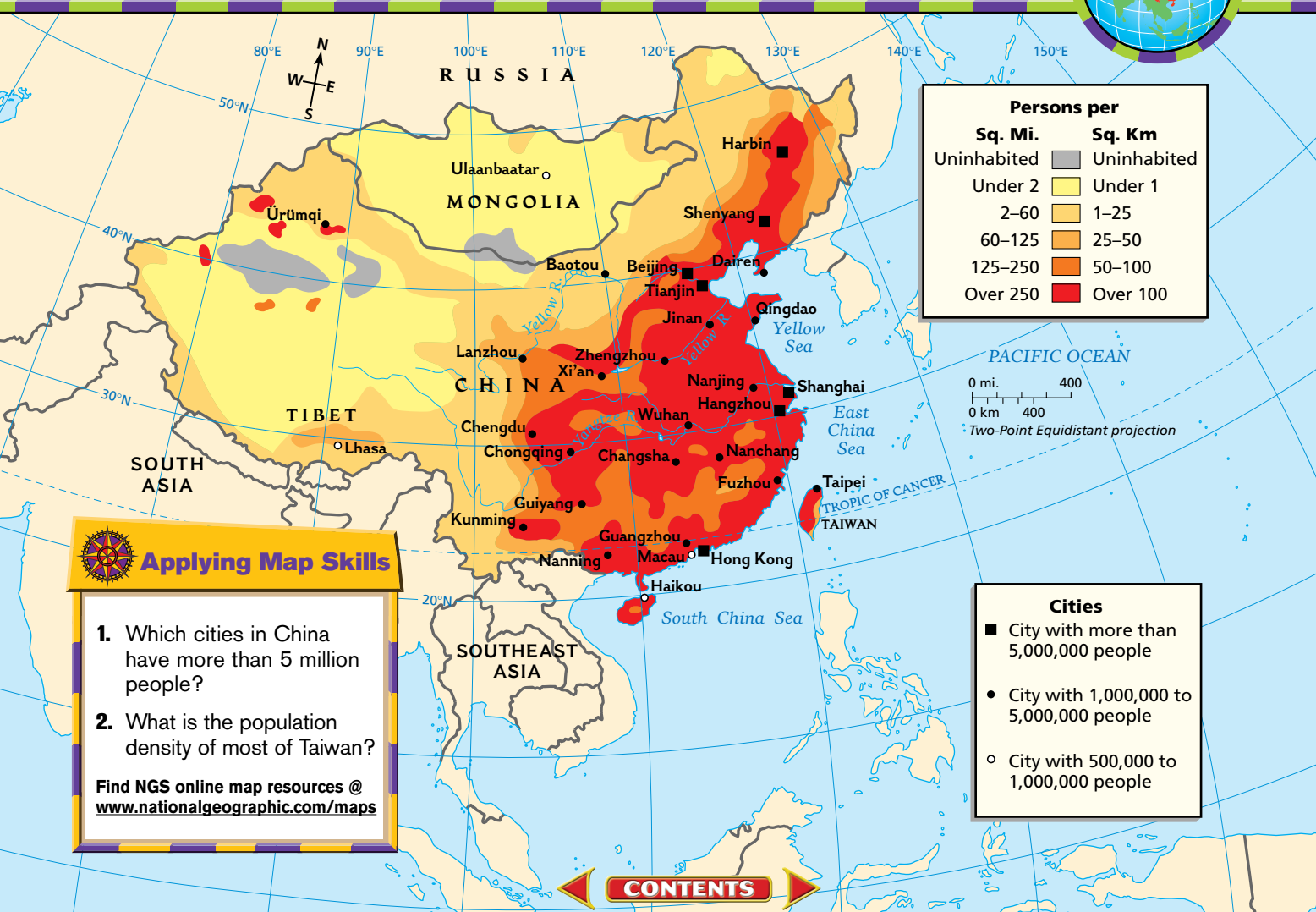
# China's Government and Society

After 1949 the Communists completely changed the mainland of China. All land and factories were taken over by the government. Farmers were organized onto large government farms, and women joined the industrial workforce. Dams and improved agricultural methods brought some economic benefits. Yet many government plans went wrong, and individual freedoms were lost. Many people were killed because they opposed communism.

After Mao Zedong died in 1976, a new Communist leader, Deng Xiaoping (DUHNG SYOW•PING), decided to take a new direction. He wanted to make China a more open country. One way to do this was to give people more economic freedom. The government kept tight control over all political activities, however. It continued to deny individual freedoms and acted harshly against any Chinese who criticized its actions. In 1989 about 100,000 students and workers gathered in Beijing's Tiananmen (TEE•EHN•AHN•MEHN) Square. The students and workers called for democracy and demanded political reforms in China. The government answered by sending tanks and troops. These government forces killed or injured thousands of protesters and arrested thousands more.



## China and Its Neighbors: Population Density



Countries around the world have protested the Chinese government's continued harsh treatment of people who criticize it. They say that Chinese leaders have no respect for **human rights**. These are the basic freedoms and rights, such as freedom of speech, that all people should enjoy. Because of China's actions, some people say that other countries should not trade with China.

China's leaders have also been criticized for their actions in Tibet. Tibet was once a separate Buddhist kingdom. China took control of the area in 1950 and crushed a rebellion there about nine years later. The Tibetan people have demanded independence since then. The Dalai Lama (DAH•ly LAH•muh), the Buddhist leader of Tibet, now lives in exile in India. Someone in **exile** is unable to live in his or her own country because of political beliefs. The Dalai Lama travels around the world trying to win support for his people.

**Rural Life** About 63 percent of China's people live in rural areas. The map on page 668 shows that most Chinese are crowded into the fertile river valleys of eastern China. Families work hard in their fields. They often use hand tools because mechanical equipment is too expensive.

Village life has improved in recent years. Most rural families now live in three- or four-room houses. They have enough food and some modern appliances. Many villages have community centers. People gather there to watch movies and play table tennis and basketball.

**Urban Life** More than 503 million Chinese people live in cities. China's cities are growing rapidly as people leave farms hoping to find better-paying jobs. Living conditions in the cities are crowded, but most homes and apartments have heat, electricity, and running water. Many people now earn enough money to buy extra clothes and televisions. They also have more leisure time to attend concerts or Chinese operas, walk in parks, or visit zoos.

 **Reading Check** Why have people in other countries criticized China's government?

## China's Culture

China is famous for its traditional arts. Chinese craft workers make bronze bowls, jade jewelry, decorated silk, glazed pottery, and fine porcelain. The Chinese are also known for their painting, sculpture, and architecture.



## Urban Life

Hundreds of thousands of people use bicycles—not cars—to get around Beijing and other cities.

**Place** About how many people live in China's cities?





▲ Bronze vessel from the Shang dynasty



▲ Porcelain bowl from the Ming dynasty

The Chinese love of nature has influenced painting and poetry. Chinese artists paint on long panels of paper or silk. Artwork often shows scenes of mountains, rivers, and forests. Artists attempt to portray the harmony between people and nature.

Many Chinese paintings include a poem written in **calligraphy**, which is the art of beautiful writing. Chinese writing is different from the print you are reading right now. It uses characters that represent words or ideas instead of letters that represent sounds. There are more than 50,000 Chinese characters, but the average person recognizes only about 4,000 to 5,000.

The Chinese developed bronze casting and the first porcelain centuries ago. Porcelain is made from coal dust and fine, white clay. Painted porcelain vases from early China are considered to be priceless today.

Most buildings in China's cities are modern. Yet traditional buildings still stand. Some have large, tiled roofs with edges that curve gracefully upward. Others are Buddhist temples with many-storied towers called **pagodas**. These buildings hold large statues of the Buddha.

**Foods** Cooking differs greatly from region to region in China. In coastal areas, people enjoy fish, crab, and shrimp dishes. Central China is famous for its spicy dishes made with hot peppers. A typical Chinese meal includes vegetables with bits of meat or seafood, soup, and rice or noodles. Often the meat and vegetables are cooked quickly in a small amount of oil over very high heat. This method—called stir-frying—allows the vegetables to stay crunchy.

✓ **Reading Check** Where would you find statues of Buddha in China?



## Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** dynasty, human rights, exile, calligraphy, pagoda.

### Recalling Facts

2. **History** Name two thinkers who influenced life in China.
3. **History** Who led the Nationalists after World War II? Who led the Communists after World War II? Who won control of China?
4. **Culture** What scenes are commonly found in Chinese paintings?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Making Predictions** How might the teachings of Kongfuzi prevent rebellions in China?

6. **Summarizing Information** Why did Europeans want to force China to trade with them?

### Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a time line like this one. Then list at least five dates and their events in China's history.

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### Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the population density map on page 668. How does the population density in western China differ from eastern China?

# TIME REPORTS

FOCUS ON  
WORLD  
ISSUES



## East Asia: Report Card on Democracy

Who's Free, Who Isn't?



**A South Korean  
Running for Office**

GLADE MICHAEL/CORBIS SYGMA



**A Chinese Soldier  
Unable to Vote**

RENE BURRI/MAGNUM PHOTOS





North Koreans at Pyongyang, their nation's capital.  
North Korean generals dedicate a new statue.

## Escape From Horror

**K**ang Kil-Ok made a terrifying journey in 1997. In the dead of night, she fled from North Korea to China over the frozen Tumen River. North Korean border guards shot at her and missed. "Somehow," Kang said later, "we made it to the other side."

In recent years more than 300,000 brave North Koreans have escaped to China. These people felt they had no choice. North Korea is one of the world's most brutal dictatorships. Its citizens have very few rights. The nation's Communist government assigns citizens jobs and places to live. It tells those who run farms and factories what and how much

to produce. It jails and even executes people who refuse to follow orders. The result is a nation whose people must face many hardships. There are shortages of just about everything: fuel, fertilizer, electricity, food, and medicine.

During the 1990s, a severe food shortage left as many as two million North Koreans dead. The United States and other nations sent millions of dollars of food aid into the country. The government, however, distributed most of it to North Korea's 1.2 million soldiers and the families of top officials.

Kang left North Korea after her mother died. Kang's brother had already gone to China. When he disappeared, police beat their mother to get her to tell them where he went. "My mother's knees were so badly bruised, she couldn't even stand up," Kang said. "They kicked her with boots and whacked her with sticks. It made me realize I had to leave North Korea, too." Her mother died three months later.

Most of those who flee North Korea have a common goal. They hope to stay in China long enough to find a way to South Korea, one of Asia's most modern, democratic nations.

### North Korea's Freedom House Score:

Not Free. *Political Rights:* 7.  
*Civil Liberties:* 7. 

## Who's Free, Who's Not in East Asia



### Making Comparisons

How many countries are there in East Asia? How many are not free? Which country borders China? Is it free or not free?

A busy street in Beijing,  
China's capital

Shanghai, China, is home  
to many new businesses.

Chinese shoppers in a  
Shanghai department store

# China: A Nation on the Move

**I**n China, Kang lived in constant fear. The Chinese send **escapees** they capture back to North Korea. Those sent home are tossed into jail, tortured, and sometimes executed.

Like North Korea, China is not a free country. Citizens can't vote to choose

their leaders. They have few basic rights. Communist Party leaders make all the important decisions. Thousands of people are in jail today simply because they dared to criticize the government.

In one important way, China is freer than North Korea. It lets people run their own businesses. For 30 years, the government ran all the nation's enterprises, from farms to restaurants. But the farms barely produced enough to feed the nation of 1.3 billion people. China's factories at that time produced poorly-made goods.

During the late 1970s, the government let its citizens own businesses and farm their own plots of land. The chance to earn good pay in private business has given the Chinese a reason to work harder. Today only the United States produces more goods and services than China.

After four years in China, Kang found out that her brother was in South Korea. He sent her the money to pay people to smuggle her out of China. In June 2001, she landed at the airport outside Seoul, South Korea's capital.

**China's Freedom House Score:** Not Free.  
*Political Rights:* 7. *Civil Liberties:* 6. ■

## What Is a Democracy?

A **democracy** is a government in which the final authority rests with the nation's people. Voters elect representatives who carry out the people's wishes.

Democracies are not all the same. All grant their people **political rights**. They hold free elections and allow political parties to compete for votes. Stronger democracies also protect the **civil liberties**, or freedoms, of every citizen.

The U.S. government is the second type. An organization called Freedom House gives it top grades for its defense of liberty and political rights. Freedom House is a private, not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. It has promoted democratic values around the world since the 1940s.

Every year Freedom House decides how well the world's nations are defending the rights and freedoms of their citizens. Then it gives each nation two grades: one for political rights, one for civil liberties. The scores range from 1 (best) to 7 (worst). You will find the 2003 scores for East Asian nations at the end of each article in this report.

## EXPLORING THE ISSUE

- 1. Cause and Effect** Why did Kang leave North Korea?
- 2. Making Inferences** China has 1.3 billion citizens. How might this have helped Kang stay there for four years?



# South Korea: The Feel of Freedom

**F**or Kang, South Korea seemed like another planet. Only eleven nations produce more goods and services than South Korea. One of those nations is China, whose population is 27 times larger than South Korea's.

eligible voters take part. In the United States, that figure is closer to 50 percent.

Getting used to a society that allows so much competition is hard for North Koreans. "We are so used to living with what we are given," said Byung, who

escaped from North Korea with his wife, mother, and two small sons. Byung won't reveal his last name. He is afraid that the North Korean government will punish those of his relatives who remain behind. "We don't understand that it is up to us to find and hold a job. The biggest surprise is that everyone is free here to say what they want."

Kang agrees. "I know what freedom feels like here," she said.

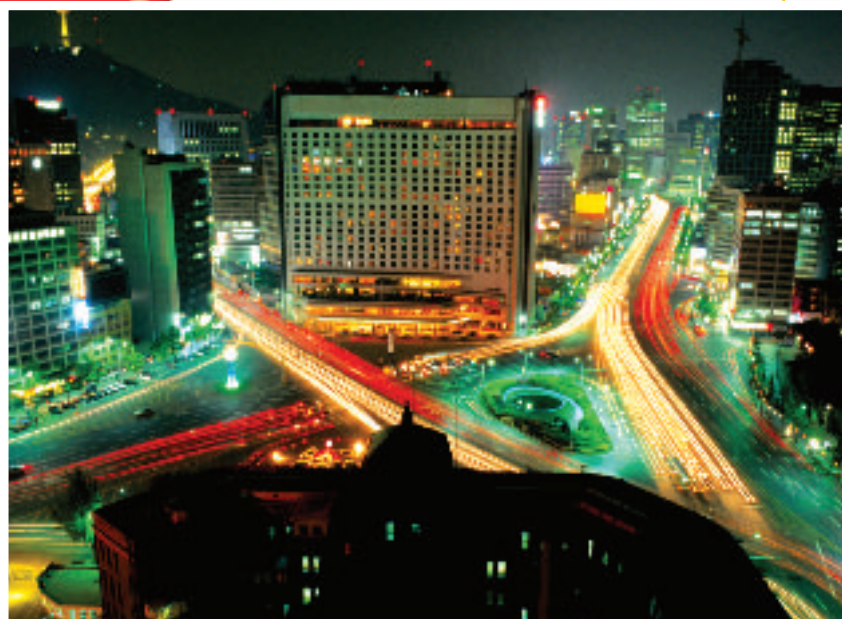
South Korea isn't a perfect democracy, though. Its officials sometimes accept money in exchange for making decisions that benefit individuals or busi-

nesses. The government often arrests people suspected of being Communists. But overall, South Korea is one of Asia's strongest democracies.

### South Korea's Freedom House Score:

Free. *Political Rights*: 1.

*Civil Liberties*: 2. ■



PHOTODISC/PUNCHSTOCK

▲ **Seoul, South Korea's capital, pulses with life. It is an exciting symbol of the nation's success.**

On average, each South Korean produces 20 times more than each North Korean. South Korea boasts the largest automobile factory in the world. The same factory builds trains that cruise at 180 miles an hour (300 km/h). Seoul is a dazzling mix of skyscrapers and neon—signs of the nation's success.

Politically, South Korea is far different from North Korea and China. Its five major political parties and several smaller ones battle for votes in fair elections. About 70 percent of the nation's

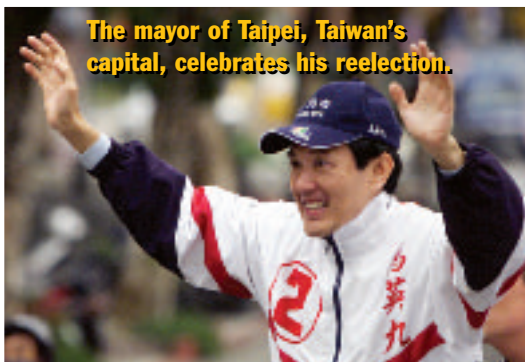
## EXPLORING THE ISSUE

- 1. Explaining** How is South Korea different from North Korea and China politically?
- 2. Analyzing** What does Kang mean when she says she knows what freedom feels like?

## Taiwan: Young Tiger

**T**aiwan is an island province of China. Its citizens like to view it as a separate country, however, because it has been on its own since 1949. Politically, Taiwan boasts four major parties and many smaller ones. Citizens vote for their leaders in open elections. Some politicians have been arrested for “buying” votes.

Like South Korea, Taiwan is called an “Asian Tiger” because of its powerful economy. Private businesses drive the economy. Money earned from exports and imports fuels it.



The mayor of Taipei, Taiwan's capital, celebrates his reelection.

SIMON KWANG/REUTERS/NEWS.COM

Independent courts protect the rights of the Taiwanese. However, women and minorities often face discrimination on the job. Journalists must be careful about what they say. Many observers are impressed that the Taiwanese enjoy so many freedoms. This is because Taiwan didn't hold its first free presidential election until 1996.

### Taiwan's Freedom House Score:

Free. *Political Rights:* 2. *Civil Liberties:* 2. ■

## Japan: Shining Democracy

**J**apan is one of the world's greatest success stories. Its economy is the world's third strongest, after those of the United States and China.



Business people like these keep Japan's economy strong.

PHOTODISC/PUNCHSTOCK

Japan's experiment with democracy began in 1947, soon after its defeat in World War II. At the time, Japan's emperor held most of the power. In 1947 a new **constitution** transferred that power to the people. The emperor became a **figurehead**, a ceremonial leader without much power.

As in Taiwan, women and minority group members often feel like second-class citizens. But Japan's courts do all they can to protect citizens' rights.

### Japan's Freedom House Score: Free.

*Political Rights:* 1. *Civil Liberties:* 2. ■

## EXPLORING THE ISSUE

- 1. Evaluating Information** How can you tell that Taiwan and Japan are ruled by law?
- 2. Analyzing Information** What makes Taiwan's and Japan's democracies alike?



# Promoting Democracy: What Can One Person Do?

**A**ccording to Freedom House, there are more democracies today than at any time in history. Still, more than 2 billion people don't live in democratic nations. They are denied the right to vote and to enjoy the sort of freedoms that Americans take for granted.

This is an issue that concerns people everywhere. In 2002 representatives of more than 100 democracies met in Seoul, South Korea. They discussed ways to spread democracy. One solution they came up with had to do with schools. They agreed to try to persuade developing nations to teach **civics**, or courses about democracy.

This approach has been successful before. After World War II, schools in Germany and Japan, the two defeated powers, began to teach civics courses. Today those two nations enjoy the many benefits of freedom.

What can you do to help promote civics courses abroad? You can write to your representative in Congress. Explain why you think the U.S. government should help other nations develop such courses. Send the letter to your local newspaper, too.

Another way you can help spread democracy is to work with groups such as Amnesty International. Dozens of such groups are trying to make democracy catch on throughout the world. When they discover a government

**In prosperous East Asia, cell phones are everywhere.**



LELAND BOBBE/CORBIS

abusing its citizens' rights, these groups say so. Amnesty International gets its thousands of supporters to write letters to the government's top leader. One letter won't change the world. But thousands of them remind leaders who act irresponsibly that the world is watching. To see how such campaigns work, go to Amnesty International's Web page, [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org). Click on "Act Now!"

"What you do may seem terribly insignificant," Mohandas Gandhi said, "but it is terribly important that you do it anyway." Gandhi knew what he was talking about. He led the campaign that won India its independence in 1947. ■

## EXPLORING THE ISSUE

- 1. Finding the Main Idea** Come up with a title that will tell readers what this article is about.
- 2. Compare and Contrast** This article suggests two ways to spread democracy. How are they alike? How are they different?

## REVIEW AND ASSESS

### UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUE

#### 1. Defining Key Terms

Write the definitions for the following terms: *democracy, political rights, civil liberties, escapee, constitution, figurehead, civics.*



**2. Writing to Inform** Imagine you are a North Korean and have just escaped to China. Write a letter to a friend and explain why you left North Korea.

#### 3. Writing to Persuade

In a brief essay, explain what the Chinese people would gain if their country were a democracy.

### INTERNET RESEARCH ACTIVITY

**4.** The Internet is changing politics throughout Asia. In South Korea, online newspapers like *OhmyNews* can sway elections. *OhmyNews* posts hundreds of

stories every day. Ordinary citizens write most of them. Go to [www.ohmynews.com](http://www.ohmynews.com). Click around and study the pictures. What do the pictures suggest about the subjects South Koreans seem most interested in? Make a list and compare it with those of your classmates.

**5.** In China, millions of people have access to the Internet. China's courts have jailed people who use the Internet to criticize the government. Type in the key words "China" and "Internet" on an Internet search engine to find out why China's government both likes and fears the Internet. Write a short essay with your answers.



### BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

**6. Visit your school or local library** to learn more about

CHRIS STEELE PERKINS/MAGNUM PHOTOS



▲ In Tokyo, teens like to wear "street clothes."

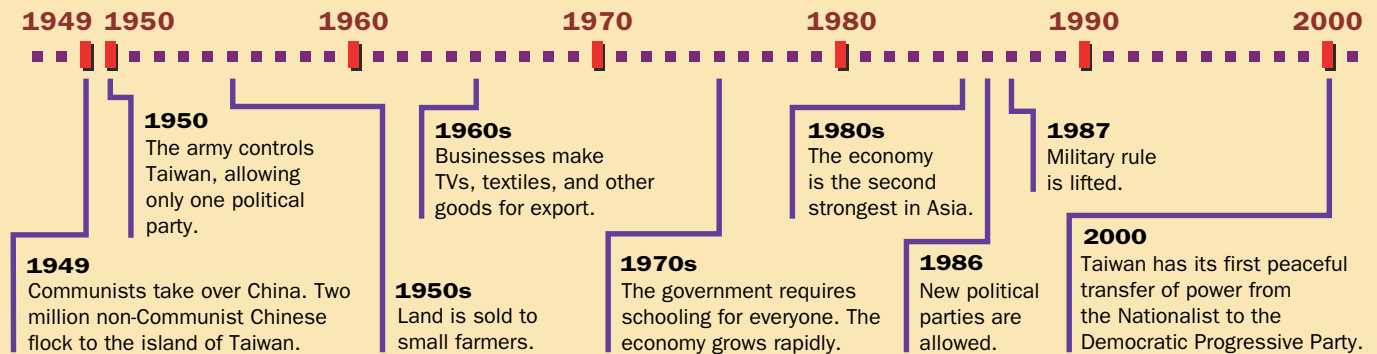
democracy in East Asia. Working in three groups, learn what it was like to live in Taiwan, South Korea, or Japan before these lands became democratic. Discuss your findings with your classmates.

**7. Research a former Communist nation** in Europe. What problems did that nation face while reinventing itself as a democracy? Write your findings in a short report.



## Taiwan: From Dictatorship to Democracy

How one "Asian Tiger" went from military rule to free elections



### BUILDING TIME LINE SKILLS

**1. Analyzing Data** How many years does this time line cover? What major changes took place during that time?

**2. Making Inferences** Which came first in Taiwan, economic growth or democracy? Why wasn't it the other way around?

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WORLD ISSUES GO TO  
[www.timeclassroom.com/glencoe](http://www.timeclassroom.com/glencoe)



## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

Taiwan and Mongolia have been influenced by Chinese ways and traditions.

### Terms to Know

- high-technology industry
- steppe
- nomad
- empire
- yurt

### Reading Strategy

Create a diagram like this one. Then write statements that are true of each country under their headings in the outer ovals. Where the ovals overlap, write statements that are true of both countries.

Taiwan

Mongolia

## Section 3

# China's Neighbors



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## Exploring our World

In the remote, harsh land of western Mongolia, a centuries-old tradition continues. Hunters train eagles to bring their kill back to the human hunter. The people say that female eagles make the best hunters. Because they weigh more than males, they can capture larger prey. Like all eagles, they have superb vision—eight times better than a human's.



**T**aiwan is an island close to China's mainland, and Mongolia borders China on the north. Throughout their histories, Taiwan and Mongolia have had close ties to their larger neighbor.

### Taiwan

About 100 miles (161 km) off the southeastern coast of China lies the island country of **Taiwan**. It is slightly smaller than the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts put together. Through Taiwan's center runs a ridge of steep, forested mountains. On the east, the mountains descend to a rocky coastline. On the west, they fall away to a narrow, fertile plain. This flat area is home to the majority of the island's people. Like southeastern China, Taiwan has mild winters and hot, rainy summers.

**Taiwan's Economy** Taiwan has one of the world's most prosperous economies. Taiwan's wealth comes largely from high-technology industries, manufacturing, and trade with other countries. **High-technology industries** produce computers and other kinds of

electronic equipment. Workers in Taiwan's factories make many different products, including computers, calculators, radios, televisions, and telephones. You have probably seen goods from Taiwan sold in stores in your community.

Taiwan has a growing economic influence on its Asian neighbors. Many powerful companies based in Taiwan have recently built factories in the People's Republic of China and Thailand. Despite their political differences, Taiwan and mainland China have strengthened their economic ties since the 1990s.

Agriculture also contributes to Taiwan's economy. The island's mountainous landscape limits the amount of land that can be farmed. Still, some farmers have built terraces on mountainsides to grow rice. Other major crops include sugarcane, citrus fruits, sweet potatoes, pineapples, tea, and soybeans. In fact, Taiwan's farmers produce enough food to feed their own people and also enough to export.

**Taiwan's History and People** For centuries, Taiwan was part of China's empire. Then in 1895, Japan took the island after defeating China in war. The Japanese developed the economy of Taiwan but treated the people very harshly. After Japan's loss in World War II, Taiwan was returned to China.

In 1949 the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek arrived in Taiwan from the Chinese mainland. Along with them came more than 1.5 million refugees fleeing Communist rule. Fearing a Communist invasion, the Nationalists kept a large army in the hope of someday retaking the mainland. They also blocked other political groups from sharing in the government.

By the early 1990s, local Taiwanese were allowed more opportunities in government. The one-party system ended, and Taiwan became a democracy. Taiwan is still officially part of China, but many people would like to declare Taiwan independent. China claims Taiwan as its twenty-third province and believes that it should be under China's control. China has threatened to use force against Taiwan if the island declares its independence.

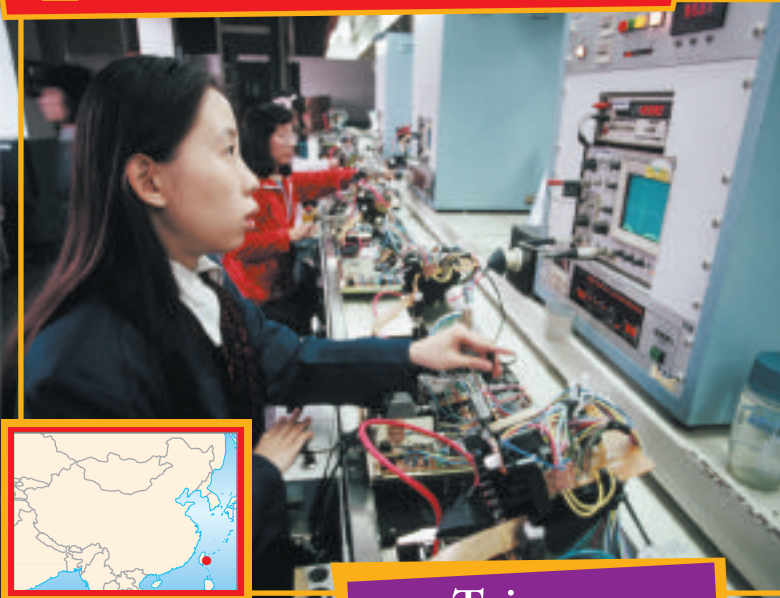
About 75 percent of Taiwan's 22.6 million people live in urban areas. The most populous city—with 2.6 million people—is the capital, **Taipei**. This bustling center of trade and commerce has tall skyscrapers and modern stores. If you stroll through the city, however, you will see Chinese traditions. Buddhist temples, for example, still reflect traditional Chinese architecture.

 **Reading Check** Why is Taiwan's economy one of the world's strongest?



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## On Location



### Taiwan

Many electronic industries have headquarters in Taiwan.

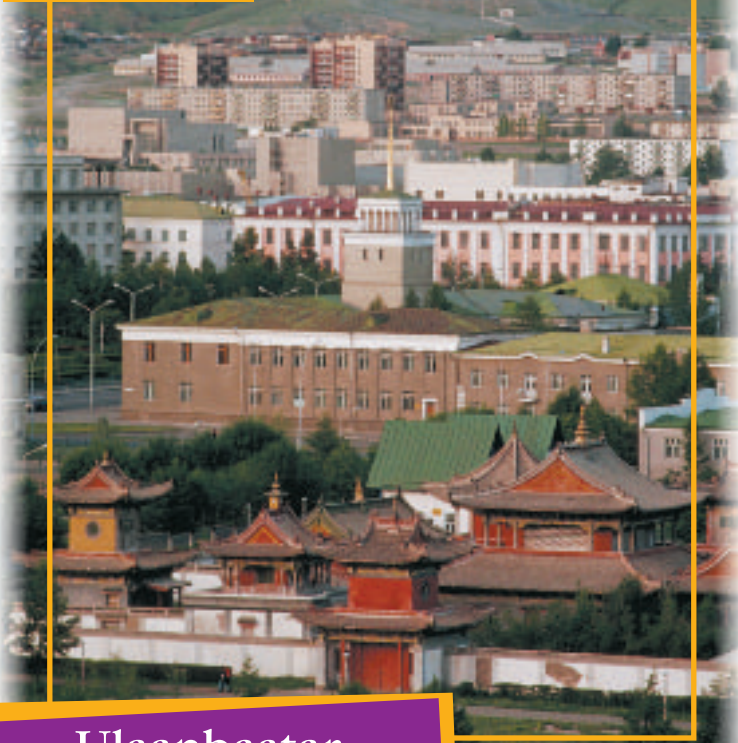
**Place** What kinds of products do high-technology factories in Taiwan produce?





NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## On Location



### Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia began as a Buddhist community in the early 1600s. Today it is a modern cultural and industrial center.

**Place** Why is Mongolia known as the Land of the Blue Sky?

## Mongolia

Landlocked **Mongolia** is a country about the size of Alaska. Rugged mountains and high plateaus rise in the west and central regions. The bleak landscape of the Gobi spreads over the southeast. The rest of the country is covered by **steppes**, which are dry treeless plains often found on the edges of a desert.

Known as the Land of the Blue Sky, Mongolia boasts more than 260 days of sunshine per year. Yet its climate has extremes. Rainfall is scarce, and fierce dust storms sometimes sweep across the landscape. It is very hot in the summer. In the winter, temperatures fall below freezing at night.

For centuries, most of Mongolia's people were **nomads**. Nomads are people who move from place to place with herds of animals. Even today, many Mongolians tend sheep, goats, cattle, or camels on the country's vast steppes. Important industries in Mongolia use products from these animals. Some factories use wool to make textiles and clothing. Others use the hides of cattle to make leather and shoes. Some farmers grow wheat and other grains. Mongolia also has deposits of copper and gold.

**Mongolia's History and People** Mongolia's people are famous for their skills in raising and riding horses. In the past, they also were known as fierce fighters. In the 1200s, many groups of Mongols joined together under one leader, Genghis Khan (JEHNG•guhs KAHN). He led Mongol armies on a series of conquests. The Mongols eventually carved out the largest

land empire in history, ruling 80 percent of Eurasia by A.D. 1300. An **empire** is a collection of different territories under one ruler. The Mongol Empire stretched from China all the way to eastern Europe.

During the 1300s, the Mongol Empire weakened and fell apart. China ruled the area that is now Mongolia from the 1700s to the early 1900s. In 1924 Mongolia gained independence and created a strict Communist government under the guidance of the Soviet Union. The country finally became a democracy in 1990. Since then, the Mongolian economy has moved slowly from government control to a free enterprise system.



## The Race Is On!

Magnai races his older brother across the Mongolian steppes. Magnai learned to ride horses when he was three years old. "You should visit my country. It's a Mongol tradition to welcome all visitors with hot tea, cheese, fresh cream, and candies. Even in the cities, people offer their homes to visitors."



About 85 percent of Mongolia's 2.5 million people are Mongols. They speak the Mongol language. About 60 percent of the people live in urban areas. The largest city is the capital, **Ulaanbaatar** (OO•LAHN•BAH•TAWR). Mongolians in the countryside live on farms. A few still follow the nomadic life of their ancestors. These herder-nomads live in **yurts**, large circle-shaped structures made of animal skins that can be packed up and moved from place to place.

Mongolians still enjoy the sports and foods of their nomadic ancestors. The favorite meal is boiled sheep's meat with rice, washed down with tea. The biggest event of the year is the Naadam Festival, held all over the country in mid-summer. It consists of a number of sporting events, including wrestling, archery, and horse racing.

Since before the days of the Mongol Empire, most people in Mongolia have been Buddhists. Buddhism has long influenced Mongolian art, music, and literature. Traditional music has a wide range of instruments and singing styles. In one style of Mongolian singing, male performers produce harmonic sounds from deep in the throat, releasing several notes at once.

For centuries, Buddhist temples and other holy places dotted the country. Under communism, religious worship was discouraged. Many of these historic buildings were either destroyed or left to decay. Today people are once again able to practice their religion. They have restored or rebuilt many of their holy buildings.

**✓ Reading Check** What religion do most Mongolians practice?

## Section

# 3

## Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** high-technology industry, steppe, nomad, empire, yurt.

### Recalling Facts

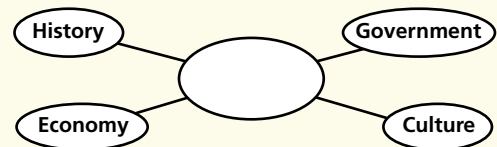
2. **Economics** What kinds of products are made in Taiwan?
3. **Government** Why has Taiwan not claimed independence from China?
4. **History** Which Mongol warrior conquered much of Eurasia by A.D. 1300?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Understanding Cause and Effect** Why did many people flee to Taiwan from China in 1949?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think Communist leaders discouraged religious worship in Mongolia?

### Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Create a diagram like this one. Then write either Taiwan or Mongolia in the center oval. Write at least one fact about the country under the headings in each of the outer ovals.



## Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the map on page 661. What mountains rise in western Mongolia? What desert is found in southern and southeastern Mongolia?



# Critical Thinking Skill

## Distinguishing Fact From Opinion

Distinguishing fact from opinion can help you make reasonable judgments about what others say and write. Facts can be proved by evidence such as records, documents, or historical sources. Opinions are based on people's differing values and beliefs.

### Learning the Skill

The following steps will help you identify facts and opinions:

- Read or listen to the information carefully. Identify the facts. Ask: Can these statements be proved? Where would I find information to prove them?
- If a statement can be proved, it is factual. Check the sources for the facts. Often statistics sound impressive, but they may come from an unreliable source.
- Identify opinions by looking for statements of feelings or beliefs. The statements may contain words like *should*, *would*, *could*, *best*, *greatest*, *all*, *every*, or *always*.



### Practicing the Skill

Read the paragraph below, and then answer the questions that follow.

Anyone who thinks the Internet is not used in China has been asleep at the mouse. China's government-owned factories and political system may seem old-fashioned. When it comes to cyberspace, however, China is moving at Net speed. Internet use is growing explosively. In 1997 only 640,000 Chinese were using the Internet. By 2000, the number had increased to 12.3 million. The Phillips Group estimates that by 2005, the online population should hit 85 million.

1. Identify facts. Can you prove that Chinese Internet use is increasing?
2. Note opinions. What phrases alert you that these are opinions?
3. What is the purpose of this paragraph?

### Applying the Skill

Watch a television commercial. List one fact and one opinion that are stated. Does the fact seem reliable? How can you prove the fact?



Practice key skills with **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 1.**

◀ Chinese students attend an Internet exhibit in Beijing.



## Section 1

## China's Land and New Economy

### Terms to Know

dike  
fault  
communist state  
consumer goods

### Main Idea

**China—the third-largest country in the world—has very diverse landforms. China's rapidly growing economy has changed in recent years.**

- ✓ **Place** Rugged mountains and harsh deserts cover western and northern China.
- ✓ **Culture** About 90 percent of China's people live in the lowlands of eastern China.
- ✓ **Place** China's rivers bring fertile soil along with the danger of flooding to the eastern plains.
- ✓ **Economics** China's leaders have changed the economy to give the people more economic freedom. The economy has grown rapidly as a result.
- ✓ **Economics** Many companies in China are now jointly owned by Chinese and foreign businesspeople. This is because foreign companies can pay workers less than they pay workers in their own countries, and they have millions of possible customers in the Chinese people.

## Section 2

## Dynasties to Communism

### Terms to Know

dynasty  
human rights  
exile  
calligraphy  
pagoda

### Main Idea

**The arts and ideas of ancient times still influence China today.**

- ✓ **History** The ancient teachings of Kongfuzi, Daoism, and Buddhism still influence the people of China.
- ✓ **History** For thousands of years, dynasties of emperors ruled China. Today Communist leaders keep tight control over all areas of political life.
- ✓ **Culture** China is famous for the skill of its craft workers and for its distinctive painting and architecture.

## Section 3

## China's Neighbors

### Terms to Know

high-technology  
industry  
steppe  
nomad  
empire  
yurt

### Main Idea

**Taiwan and Mongolia have been influenced by Chinese ways and traditions.**

- ✓ **Government** Taiwan is an island off southeast China. The government of China does not recognize Taiwan as a separate country.
- ✓ **Economics** Taiwan's prosperous economy has influenced other Asian economies.
- ✓ **Place** Mongolia has rugged terrain and a harsh landscape.
- ✓ **Culture** Some people in Mongolia still follow a traditional nomadic lifestyle, and herding remains an important economic activity.



# Assessment and Activities



## Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

### A.

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. fault                    | 6. communist state |
| 2. dynasty                  | 7. pagoda          |
| 3. exile                    | 8. calligraphy     |
| 4. high-technology industry | 9. human rights    |
| 5. dike                     | 10. yurt           |

### B.

- a building with many-storied towers
- country whose government has strong control over the economy and society
- high bank of soil along a river to prevent flooding
- basic freedoms and rights
- crack in the earth's crust
- the art of beautiful writing
- nomadic tent made of animal skins
- state of being unable to live in one's own country because of political beliefs
- line of rulers from the same family
- industry that produces electronic equipment



## Reviewing the Main Ideas

### Section 1 China's Land and New Economy

- Place** Where do most of China's people live?
- Place** What major rivers flow through the plains and southern highlands of China?
- Human/Environment Interaction** How has the new economy contributed to air pollution in China?
- Economics** Give three reasons why China's economy has boomed.

### Section 2 Dynasties to Communism

- Culture** What are the ideas of Kongfuzi? Of Laozi?
- History** Name three Chinese inventions.
- Government** What kind of government did China have between 1911 and 1949?

### Section 3 China's Neighbors

- Economics** Why is Taiwan's economy important in Asia?
- Place** How does Mongolia's landscape prevent much farming?
- Economics** How are Mongolia's main industries related to herding?



## China & Neighbors

### Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Plateau of Tibet | 6. Beijing           |
| 2. Yellow River     | 7. Mongolia          |
| 3. Yangtze River    | 8. Shanghai          |
| 4. Hong Kong        | 9. Taklimakan Desert |
| 5. Gobi             | 10. Himalaya         |





## Social Studies Online

**Self-Check Quiz** Visit **The World and Its People** Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 23—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the Chapter Test.



### Critical Thinking

- 21. Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think China wanted to be isolated from European countries in the 1700s and 1800s?
- 22. Organizing Information** Create a chart like the one below. Under each heading, write at least two facts about China.

Land	Economy	History	Government	People



### Comparing Regions Activity

- 23. Culture** Research to find information on Chinese art and architecture. Then choose a country in eastern Europe, such as Ukraine, and research its art traditions. How are the art forms similar and different? Include illustrations and photos of what you find.



### Mental Mapping Activity

- 24. Focusing on the Region** Create a simple outline map of China and its neighbors, and then label the following:

- Himalaya
- Yellow River
- Taiwan
- Beijing
- Gobi
- Ulaanbaatar
- Yangtze River
- Hong Kong



### Technology Skills Activity

- 25. Developing a Multimedia Presentation** Using the Internet, research one of the arts of China. You might choose painting, architecture, literature, music, or a craft such as casting bronze or making silk. Create a museum exhibit that presents your findings. Include photographs that show examples of works from different periods in Chinese history.



## Standardized Test Practice

**Directions:** Study the map below, and then answer the questions that follow.



- Where is the Gobi?
  - Near China's Russian border
  - In the southwestern part of China
  - In the Himalaya
  - Along China's border with Mongolia
- Which of the following is a human-made defense?
  - The Great Wall of China
  - The Gobi
  - The Taklimakan
  - The Himalaya

**Test-Taking Tip:** Look for key words that will help you find the correct answer. An example is *human-made* in question 2. In this case, all of the answer choices are *natural* defenses of China except for the correct answer. Look at the map closely, using its title, the key, and the information shown on the map to find the correct answer choice.





Soft and sleek, silk is a valuable textile.

# The Silk Road

Was there really a road made of silk? Well, not exactly. Silk, however, was one of the main products carried along the Silk Road—a system of trade routes that linked ancient China and the empires of the West. When Chinese silk became fashionable in Rome, the precious cloth traveled the Silk Road.

## A Risky Route

The road itself was anything but soft and smooth. Traveling from China, camels laden with silk and other cargo trudged through deserts, including the Taklimakan, a name meaning “go in and you won’t come out.” Sandstorms and intense heat made passage difficult. Farther along the route, the Pamir mountain range thrust an ice- and snow-covered barrier in the way. The road was dangerous as well. Bandits attacked often, stealing valuable goods.

Few traveled the entire 4,000-mile (6,437-km) series of routes. Instead, merchants bought goods in trading posts and oases along the way and sold them at other markets farther along, much as relay runners pass a baton.

## Chinese Secret Agent

Zhang Qian, an agent on a secret mission for Chinese Emperor Wudi, may have started the silk trade. In 139 B.C. invaders swept into China, despite China’s Great Wall. Zhang Qian was sent far into Central Asia to find allies to help fight the invaders. He found no allies. Instead, he brought back strong horses for the military, which he had bought with bolts of silk.

Soon the Chinese were trading silk with the Parthian Empire, which is present-day Iran. It is said that Rome wanted silk after its soldiers spotted silk banners fluttering above Parthian troops. By the A.D. 100s, China and Rome were trading a variety of goods. From the East came such exotic items as silk, spices, and fruits. Rome paid in glass, wool, and ivory, but mostly in gold.

Ideas also traveled the Silk Road. From India, the religion of Buddhism reached China. Christianity and Islam spread eastward as well. Chinese techniques for making paper and explosives traveled west. Western methods of cloth manufacturing and better gun design went to China. The process for making silk, however, traveled nowhere until much later. The Chinese successfully guarded their secret—that silk was made from the strands of a silkworm’s cocoon.

For centuries, goods and ideas traveled between East and West. In the 1300s, however, the Silk Road began to decline as sea routes proved safer than land routes. Nevertheless, even today, parts of the Silk Road are busy with trade—and tourism. In addition to camels, tour buses now travel the caravan routes.

## QUESTIONS

- 1 How is the Silk Road “made of silk”?
- 2 What were some obstacles along the Silk Road?

A man and his camel travel the Silk Road in China. ►



### Silk Road Routes

