

Geography:

Locations you are responsible for knowing:

Africa • Sahara, • Sahel, • savanna, • tropical rain forest, • Congo River, • Niger River, • Nile River, • Lake Tanganyika, • Lake Victoria, • Atlas Mountains • Kalahari Desert. • Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), • Egypt, • Kenya, • Nigeria, • South Africa • Sudan	Middle East (Southwest Asia) • Euphrates River • Jordan River • Tigris River • Suez Canal • Persian Gulf • Strait of Hormuz • Arabian Sea • Red Sea • Gaza Strip. • Afghanistan • Iran • Iraq • Israel • Saudi Arabia • Turkey	South and East Asia • Ganges River, • Huang He (Yellow River), • Indus River, Mekong River, • Yangtze (Chang Jiang) River, • Bay of Bengal, • Indian Ocean, • Sea of Japan, • South China Sea, • Yellow Sea, • Gobi Desert , • Taklimakan Desert, • Himalayan Mountains • Korean Peninsula. • China • India • Indonesia • Japan • North Korea • South Korea • Vietnam
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Environmental Problems in Africa:

- Africa:
 - Has a lack of safe drinking water as a result of natural waste not industrial waste.
 - North Africa has limited access to water which has effected their economic growth.
 - Deforestation is a major problem in Africa and causes poor soil quality.
 - Soil as a result of Deforestation is not useable for agriculture.
 - Desertification is another major problem in Africa as a result of mismanagement of the land- overgrazing etc.
 - 1/3 of Africa is now desert
 - Desertification leads to death and lack of food. (famine)
- Southwest Asia:
 - Southwest Asia has a lack of water.
 - Major environmental problems are the unequal distribution of the water. For example, Turkey built a dam on the Euphrates which did not allow Iraq or Syria to receive any water
 - Water and who gets access to the water is a major problem in Southwest Asia.
 - Water in Southwest Asia is also usually polluted with oil and other pollutants.
 - OPEC- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Controls the price and supply of oil.
- East Asia
 - Yangtze River in China is polluted by industrial waste from factories etc.
 - Ganges River in India, which is the holy river for the Hindus, is also extremely polluted with industrial waste, but also has sewage and ashes of cremated bodies of the dead found in it as a result of religious ceremonies.
 - Flooding is another major problem along the Yangtze River and the Ganges River which results in the death of many each year as well as destruction of crops needed for food.
 - Air Pollution is a major problem in Asia because of the industry. It has become so severe, that people are dying and it has been named the Asian Brown Cloud. (Remember the Olympic banning of cars)

Geographic Basics to understand:

- People live where there is water!
- Water= Food= people
- People must live in climates where they can have natural resources, food etc. Therefore if a desert or mountain is in a country, the population density will be low.
- In Southwest Asia, people live where the oil or water is located!
- In Africa, most people live in the Savanna.
- The Sahel in Africa is the area in Africa which is becoming a desert as a result of desertification.
- Literacy Rate- the rate of people in a country that can read
- Standard of Living- how well a society lives (quality of life)
- If you have a high literacy rate, than you have a high standard of living. If you have a low literacy rate, you have a low standard of living.

Culture and Ethnicity:

Ethnic Group- a group which shares common characteristics such as language, physical features, customs, and traditions.

Religious Group- A group which shares a common belief system but are not necessarily in the same ethnic group.

o Africa Ethnic Groups and their religions:

- o Arab- in Africa, most Arabs are Islamic, but can also be Christian or practice traditional religions.
- o Ashanti- Practice Traditional religions- golden stool, sun gods etc. They mix both supernatural beliefs with spiritual beliefs.
- o Bantu- practice traditional religion, but are primarily focused on ancestor worship
- o Swahili- Islam is the main religion practiced, but they also have some traditional practices.

o Middle East (Southwest Asia)

- o Arabs- most Arabs living in Southwest Asia are Islamic. Some, however, can also be Christian.
- o Persians- LIVE IN CURRENT DAY IRAN. Religion is primarily Shia Islam, but you can also see some Zoroastrianism.
- o Kurds- main religion is Sunni Islam. Some practice Zoroastrianism and Christianity.

Religion:

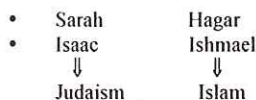
Africa Religion:

- o Three major religions include Christianity, Islam, and Traditional Religions (Ancestor Worship and belief in Supernatural powers).
- o Often traditional beliefs (Animism) are combined with Christianity.
- o Most of North Africa is Islamic because of its close ties with Southwest Asia.

Southwest Asia:

- o Three Main Religions are practiced. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
- o All 3 are MONOTHEISTIC- belief in one God
- o All believe that Abraham is their father.

Abraham (Patriarch)



Christianity

Savior- Jesus (was a Jew)
Holy Worship Place- Church

Major Symbol- Cross

Islam

God- Allah (Arabic name for God)
Messenger or Prophet- Muhammad (Also do not believe Jesus is the savior)
Holy Place of Worship- Mosque
Sacred text- Koran

Islam has TWO SECTS : Sunni vs. Shia When Muhammad died, they began to argue over who should succeed him

Sunni believe any one showing good merit can lead the mosque, while the Shia believe it must be in the direct line of Muhammad's family.

Judaism

Savior- "The Messiah" – they believe Jesus is a prophet, not their savior.

Holy Book- Torah

Holy Place of Worship- Synagogue

Major Symbol- Star of David

Holy Site- Wailing Wall in Israel/Temple Mount (base of original temple built by Solomon).

Jerusalem

EAST ASIAN RELIGIONS: Three major religions are Buddhism, Hinduism, and Shinto. Also has a PHILOSOPHY involving Confucianism

Buddhism

- Religion was founded by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) India
- Basic beliefs are that people should try to follow the Middle Way or Path.
- Has FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS- Life is full of suffering; We suffer because we desire. We must realize our desires, and must stop desiring to achieve happiness.
- In order to stop desiring, one must meditate and follow the Eightfold Path (CMEWASTU – Concentration, Mindfulness, Work, Action, Speech, Thought, and Understanding)
- Major symbol is the Lotus Flower and Wheel of Reincarnation.
- Believe that you can be reborn again into a new life (Reincarnation)
- Heaven is called Nirvana (What you imagine it to be)
- Place of worship is the Monastery or temple. Can also have individual meditation rooms in their homes and other places.

Hinduism

- Started in India
- Polytheistic- Have over 300,000 gods.
- Main gods include Brahma, Shiva, and Vishnu.
- Place of worship- Temples and Shrines.
- Believe in Reincarnation. Ultimately, you are held responsible for your actions in life.
- Was once based on a CASTE SYSTEM or class system
 - Priests
 - Military
 - Skilled Workers
 - Servants
- Untouchables- outcasts of India who are considered unclean.
- Basic Beliefs- Karma- your personal interactions with the world
 - Dharma- the interactions of the world around you
 - Samsara- reincarnation
- If you mess up your Karma, you mess up the Dharma and they send you to Samsara.
- If you don't mess up your Karma, you don't mess up the Dharma and they send you to Moksha
- Major symbols include the Lotus flower and the Cow (Their sacred animal).

Shinto

- Originated in Japan and includes emperor worship
- Everything in the world has a spirit including water, trees, etc.
- You should become one with the spirits (kami) and meditate.

Philosophy of Confucius

- Beliefs founded by a man named Confucius, which was an attempt to restructure the Chinese government from being corrupt.
- Order in society is reinforced through relationships between superiors and subordinates.
- Stresses doing right and values education.
- Think fortune cookie sayings.

Government:

Types of Power Distribution:

Unitary- power is held by one central authority (most countries in Asia are Unitary).

Confederation- a group of states or countries agree VOLUNTARILY to form a government because they share common values (think the Confederacy in the United States, European Union, United Nations, OPEC?)

Federal- power is divided between one centralized government and many individual state or local governments.

Citizen Participation:

Autocratic- people are not allowed a vote. One person makes all decisions.

Oligarchy- power is held by a small group of people. Limited citizen participation.

Democratic- a government in which people have power either directly or indirectly (electoral college) to vote and have a choice.

Two types of democracies:

Parliamentary- leader is prime minister who is chosen by the LEGISLATURE, which is usually chosen by the people.

Presidential- leader is the president who works independently from the legislature and is selected by the people.

Africa:

Sudan- has president who is really a dictator. Republic in name. (autocracy, federal)

Kenya- Republic. Has president (oligarchy- one party controls the government, unitary)

South Africa- republic has a president elected by the legislature (parliamentary democracy, unitary)

Southwest Asia:

Israel- republic. Is a parliamentary democracy. Has a prime minister elected by the Knesset, the legislature. (democratic and unitary)

Saudi Arabia- Hereditary monarchy. Power is in the hands of the King. People do not vote. (unitary, autocratic)

Iran- Islamic Republic- power is shared between the Ayatollah (religious leader who is in control of military and security) and the President. President is elected by the people, but must pass a test on Islamic principles to take power. (Federal and Oligarchy)

East Asia:

China- communist with a one-party system (unitary and oligarchy)

Japan- Constitutional monarchy- has a prime minister and Emperor (parliamentary democracy and unitary)

India- Parliamentary democracy - Has a prime minister and president. (Federal and Democratic) **IS THE LARGEST DEMOCRACY ON EARTH!**

ECONOMICS

Types of Economies:

Market- producers and consumers make economic decisions with no control from government (no true market economies exist on Earth)

Mixed- people and governments share decisions in the economy- THIS IS THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF ECONOMY

Command- government makes all economic decisions. People have no say (there are no true command economies on Earth)

Traditional- economic decisions based on customs and habit.

Types of resources:

Factors of Production

Natural Resources- land, water, wood, oil, minerals etc.

Human Capital- the labor or people in your country who are the workforce; the skills and knowledge the workers use to produce

Capital Resources- items used to make money or make a business more efficient, factories, technology (Think about the importance of Saudi Arabia making sure their oil drilling equipment is up to date).

Entrepreneurship- business owner; one who takes an economic risk for the potential of gaining the reward

Specialization- encourages trade and is usually a positive move for most countries. It is a better choice for a country to focus on what they can make more efficiently and import what they cannot. Example: Japan uses all of its resources to make technological equipment and import their food because of a lack of natural resources.

Trade Barriers:

- Tariffs- taxes on goods or services, (think taxes on Hondas and Toyotas in Japan- are placed on cars to protect American domestic production of cars)
- Quotas- the amount of a good allowed in a country
- Embargos- stopping trade with a country, which is usually politically motivated (Cuba and the U.S.)
- Trade Barriers hurt the CONSUMER and usually help protect the sale of products within country borders.
- GDP- Gross Domestic Product- total of all goods and services produced in a year within a single country.
- Several factors affect the GDP of a country including investment in human and capital resources.
- A country must invest in the education and health of its citizens (human resource) so that they will be skilled and thus be more efficient. If the education level of a country is low, their GDP will also be low (Think Afghanistan and most African countries)
- A country must also invest in capital resources so that they are efficient, if capital improvement is not accomplished GDP usually suffers.
- Entrepreneurs- people who take the risk to start a new business. THEY BRING ECONOMIC GROWTH INTO A COUNTRY!!!!
- Voluntary Trade: no trade barriers, promotes free trade

Southwest Asia:

- Most Economies are based on oil.
- If a country has oil, their GDP is high, if not it is usually low.
- Israel has no oil, but makes up for it by investing in technology. Has a mixed economy.
- Saudi Arabia is based on oil and has a mixed economy. It makes large investments into its capital resources involving oil production.
- Iran is also has oil based economy. Is considered a mixed economy.

Africa:

- Access to Education has hurt many women in Kenya and Sudan. Women are seen as homemakers.
- Countries such as South Africa, Nigeria, and Sudan that have access to oil, diamonds, platinum and gold resulting in high GDP's.
- Nigeria is a mixed economy, but would be considered closer to a command than market because of the government corruption involving the oil trade.
- South Africa is a mixed economy but leans more toward a market economy than command because of its free market enterprises.
- HIV, AIDS, and FAMINE have greatly hurt the ability of many African countries to maintain strong economic growth. Improper medical treatment and knowledge of the disease has caused a rapid growth in the disease.
- Government corruption of resources is also a key factor why African economies cannot grow.

East Asia:

- China- a mixed economy that is still closer to command but is attempting to become a mixed economy.
- India- a mixed economy with a large technology and large agricultural base. Would be more of a market system than command.
- Japan- almost a pure market system- has little governmental control or decision making by the government.
- North Korea- considered almost a pure command system. People make few decisions.
- COUNTRIES NEED A SYSTEM OF CURRENCY EXCHANGE TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL TRADE POSSIBLE.

HISTORY

Africa:

- Africa has great trading empires based on gold, salt, and ivory.
- Europeans decided they would civilize and Christianize the Africans as well as obtain all of Africa's raw materials. Thus, European Imperial powers colonized Africa.
- The first just acquired gold and salt, but then realized people were more valuable than gold, thus many Africans were enslaved and forced into the Triangular Trade.
- After imperialism, Europeans decided to colonize Africa (live in Africa and take over the governance of Africa)
- As a result, Africa was divided into regions without any thought of the ethnic groups or religious groups within Africa.
- After WWI, many African nations began to have Nationalist feelings (Love for your country) and wanted Independence.
- Most African countries gained their independence in the 1960s-1980's.
- After independence and because of the way in which the Europeans divided Africa, many conflicts broke out. (Examples include Darfur, Congo, Rwanda)
- Thus Africa began to have many civil wars as a result of EUROPEAN PARTITIONING (dividing up Africa)
- In South Africa, the white Dutch settlers formed APARTHEID laws which segregated blacks from whites in South Africa. This was based on the belief that the black Africans were inferior to the whites.
- Black Africans formed a group known as the AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, to fight for their freedoms.
- The leader of this group was NELSON MANDELA.
- Mandela was arrested and sentenced to life in prison.
- After spending 27 years in prison, he was released in 1990 by F.W. de KLERK (the white South African president)
- Apartheid ended and Mandela WAS ELECTED THE FIRST BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT
- Pan Africanism- the belief that all black people across the world should UNITE TO BRING PEACE TO AFRICA.
- This belief led to the creation of the AFRICAN UNION, which is a combination much like the European Union to UNITE AFRICA

East Asia:

- **WWII:**
 - Japan was defeated in World War II by the use of atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, dropped by President Harry S. Truman.
 - Japan was completely destroyed economically and had no government.
 - AS A RESULT, THE UNITED STATES HELPED ESTABLISH THE CONSTITUTION OF JAPAN AND SET UP A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT.
 - THE UNITED STATES ALSO PROVIDED MONEY TO SUPPORT THE REBUILDING OF JAPAN
 - THE U.S. DID THIS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT JAPAN TO BECOME COMMUNIST.
- **Korea:**
 - After WWII, KOREA WAS TAKEN FROM JAPAN.
 - KOREA was divided at the 38th parallel.
 - THE NORTH WAS COMMUNIST AND THE SOUTH WAS ESTABLISHED AS A REPUBLIC
 - THE NORTH INVADED THE SOUTH STARTING THE KOREAN WAR.
 - THE WAR NEVER ENDED, THEY ONLY SIGNED A PEACE TREATY. KOREA IS STILL DIVIDED AT THE 38th PARALLEL. *Demilitarized*
 - THE UNITED STATES BECAME INVOLVED BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THAT IF ONE COUNTRY FELL TO COMMUNISM, THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD FALL. (DOMINO THEORY)
- **Vietnam**
 - Was IMPERIALIZED by the French.
 - A nationalist movement led by HO CHI MINH and his COMMUNIST PARTY defeated the French at the BATTLE OF DIENBIENPHU
 - Soon, the Communist Party, led by Ho Chi Minh took over NORTH VIETNAM and THE SOUTH WAS ESTABLISHED AS A REPUBLIC AND LED BY DIEM.
 - IT WAS DIVIDED ALONG THE 17th PARALLEL.
 - HO CHI MINH INVADED THE SOUTH CAUSING THE VIETNAM WAR.
 - ONCE AGAIN THE U.S. BECAME INVOLVED IN THE WAR BECAUSE OF THE DOMINO THEORY.
 - WHEN THE U.S. withdrew, SOUTH VIETNAM FELL TO NORTH VIETNAM AND THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS NOW UNITED UNDER A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT.
- **China**
 - After WWII, two parties were trying to control China.
 - One party, called the NATIONALIST PARTY was led by SUN YAT SEN and eventually CHIANG KEI SHEK, the COMMUNIST PARTY, was led by MAO ZEDONG.
 - After the LONG MARCH, MAO DEFEATS THE NATIONALISTS AND TAKES OVER CHINA UNDER A COMMUNIST REGIME,
 - He starts many programs to IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF CHINA
 - GREAT LEAP FORWARD- MAO CREATES COLLECTIVE FARMS STATING CHINA WILL MAKE MORE FOOD THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD AND IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMY. THE PROGRAM FAILED AND 60 MILLION CHINESE DIED OF STARVATION.

- ANGERED BY HIS FAILURE HE BLAMES WESTERN IDEAS AND STARTS WHAT BECOME KNOWN AS THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, where all things western are no longer allowed into the country.
- After the death of MAO, a new leader takes over named DENG XIAOPING.
- STUDENTS DEMAND DEMOCRACY AT A PLACE KNOWN AS TIANANMEN SQUARE AND ARE ATTACKED BY THE GOVERNMENT. This becomes known as the TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE.

India

- India was colonized by the BRITISH.
- Many Indians did not have civil rights or freedom in India.
- Often Britain used the resources in India such as cotton and the sold them back to the Indians
- As a result, a NATIONALIST movement began and was led by MOHANDAS GANDHI.
- He said that all Indians should BOYCOTT BRITISH GOODS.
- Eventually through his NON_VIOLENT PEACEFUL PROTEST, (CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE), INDIA GAINED ITS INDEPENDENCE

Southwest Asia:

- Southwest Asia was controlled by a large empire known as the OTTOMAN EMPIRE.
- The Empire grew too large and eventually was defeated after WWI because they sided with the GERMANS.
- After their defeat, THE LAND THAT WAS THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE WAS DIVIDED BY EUROPEAN POWERS WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION FOR THE HISTORICAL PROBLEMS IN THE REGION.
- THIS LED TO MUCH REGIONAL CONFLICT ESPECIALLY AMONG THE ARABS AND JEWISH PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WHO BELIEVED IT WAS THEIR HOME.
- DURING WWII, 6 MILLION JEWS WERE MURDERED BY THE NAZI'S in an event known as THE HOLOCAUST.
- During this time, many Jews fled to Israel because they held a BELIEF IN A JEWISH HOMELAND CALLED ZIONISM.
- BECAUSE OF THEIR ZIONIST BELIEFS, A NEW FEELING KNOWN AS ANTI-SEMITISM OR HATRED FOR JEWS BEGAN
- In 1948, the STATE OF ISRAEL WAS DECLARED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND GIVEN TO THE JEWS.
- ARABS WERE GIVEN A SMALL AREA OF LAND IN ISRAEL, but THEY WERE UNHAPPY and formed the PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.
- EVENTUALLY, THE PLO attacks ISRAEL in 1967, BUT ISRAEL DEFEATS THE ARABS AND TAKES EVEN MORE OF ISRAEL FROM THEM.
- MANY CONFLICTS ARE STILL GOING ON BETWEEN THESE TWO GROUPS.

CURRENT CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

PERSIAN GULF WAR

- After SADDAM HUSSEIN'S DEFEAT IN THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, HE ACCUSES KUWAIT OF STEALING HIS OIL AND INVADES KUWAIT.
- THE UNITED NATIONS ASKED SADDAM TO WITHDRAW, but HE REFUSED.
- THE UNITED STATES INVADES AND DRIVES SADDAM BACK TO SOUTH IRAQ. WE DID NOT WANT HIM TO AFFECT OUR OIL IMPORTS.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM- (CURRENT DAY IRAQ conflict)

- AFTER PERSIAN GULF WAR, WE TOLD SADDAM TO GET RID OF HIS CHEMICAL WEAPONS.
- WE SUSPECTED HE HAS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AGAIN, SO WE INVADE IRAQ.
- EVENTUALLY SADDAM IS CAPTURED, TRIED, and HUNG.
- WE HAVE STILL NOT FOUND ANY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, ALTHOUGH THE U.S. SUPPLIED WEAPONS TO IRAQ DURING THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR.
- WE ARE NOW KEEPING PEACE BETWEEN THE SUNNI AND SHIA MUSLIMS WHO DO NOT GET ALONG.

INVASION of AFGHANISTAN

- OSAMA BIN LADEN and the AL-QAEDA attacked the UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11th.
- WE INVADED AFGHANISTAN TO DEFEAT THE TERRORISTS.
- WE DEFEATED THE TALIBAN IN AFGHANISTAN, BUT ARE STILL LOOKING FOR OSAMA BIN LADEN.