This activity encourages students to recognize the effect of East Asia on their daily life. Ask students to list products and companies from East Asia. Note how many products and companies the class found. Then discuss the following questions:

- Why are so many products and companies from East Asia?
- How do you think companies in East Asia treat their employees?
- Do you think that U.S. products are popular in East Asia?
- Are East Asian products better than U.S. products?
- Why are East Asian products popular in the United States?

Encourage students to consider the following points:

- If you were president of a major company based in East Asia, would you use child labor if it would be profitable? Would you adhere to the same laws that regulate the length of the work day in the United States? Explain your positions.
- Should ethics play a part in business?

Have students present their responses to the class or discuss them in groups.
Dear Geography Teacher:

The region of East Asia, dominated by China, will capture an even greater share of the world’s attention in the next decade, and not just because of its population and culture. China has passed what former president Lyndon B. Johnson’s economic advisor, Walt Rastow, called the “take-off” point, and has been in a ten-year period of “sustained” economic growth. The Chinese economy has exploded, fueled by low labor costs and rapidly expanding technology. Shanghai’s central business district changes daily with the new construction of office and apartment towers.

This economic explosion, however, has not proceeded without the growing pains of uncontrolled and expansive change. The Chinese have gobbled all of their considerable energy resources and have reached out to Africa and Southwest Asia for oil and gas, often competing with U.S. companies. Coal is the energy source of choice in China, but burning it creates a cloud of grit and dust that shades the air and, no doubt, will contribute to health issues among the Chinese, to say nothing of contributing mightily to global warming. In fact, China is beginning to rival the United States in the contribution of greenhouse gases.

On a train trip through southern China, I was amazed equally by the growth apparent through construction projects, and the seemingly callous disregard for the environment. As China matures, stewardship of the natural environment will have to become a top priority.

A final comment about explosive economic growth in China may be useful in your classrooms. I recently visited with Professor Deren Li from Wuhan University. He painted a rather gloomy picture of public education in China. Only a very few students pass through high school and get accepted to universities. Lower grades typically are poorly supported with technology, equipment, and learning materials. So China is experiencing big growth, accompanied by big problems—a region we must study and learn more about.

Richard L. Bochen
Senior Author
What Makes East Asia a Region?
The three chapters in this unit introduce students to a cultural region that covers much of the eastern part of Asia. The countries in this region share the following characteristics:

- A rugged landscape with common physical features
- A densely distributed population
- Cultural identities rooted in ancient civilizations
- Growing economies and thriving trade and manufacturing centers
- Diverse economic and political systems

Activity: Launching the Unit

Why Study East Asia? Ask: What challenges do you think East Asians face? (Shortages in housing and human services due to expanding economies and increased urbanization. Differing political ideologies cause disagreements between countries. Industrial progress and reliance on fossil fuels cause environmental pollution and deplete natural resources. Loss of traditional values and practices due to participation in the global economy.) Inform students of these challenges and have them list ideas for possible solutions. Have them refer back to their lists after they complete the unit and discuss why their ideas would or would not work.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

This online resource provides lesson plans, atlas updates, cartographic activities with interactive maps, an online map store, and geographic links.
Why It Matters

East Asia and the United States are important trading partners. Many American companies manufacture goods in East Asia, and East Asia exports a variety of its own products to the United States. When you go shopping, notice the many items, ranging from cars and computers to clothing and furniture, that have been produced in East Asia or that are made of products exported from the region.

Visual Literacy For centuries, nearly impassable mountains, vast deserts, and expanses of ocean often isolated East Asia from the rest of the world, resulting in relatively homogeneous and highly refined cultures in the region. While China greatly influenced the cultures of Japan and Korea, each country went on to develop its own traditional art forms, including ceramics, painting, calligraphy, and music. In North Korea and South Korea, drums are a traditional symbol of the countryside, where farmers celebrate the harvest with music and dance.
Focus

These features and activities may be used as an introduction to the unit or as teaching tools throughout the course of the unit.

What Makes This a Region?

Visual Literacy Have students look closely at the shelter in Photo 1. Ask: What does this photo tell you about the people who live in these homes? (They live simply; they have no electricity, heat or plumbing; they are exposed to the weather.) Why do they move their homes to new locations? (They raise livestock, and need to move to find fresh grasslands for their herds.)

PLAINS AND PLATEAUS The Gobi, found in Mongolia and China, is a vast desert covering much of a lowland plain in the interior of the region. Nomads who live there use homes made of animal skins and blankets stretched on a wooden frame that can be taken apart and easily moved to a new location.

MOUNTAINS Climbers head toward Japan's Mount Asahi Dake, on the northern island of Hokkaido. Many of Japan's mountains, like this one, are volcanic in origin.

LAKES AND RIVERS The Li River flows through eroded peaks in southern China. China alone has tens of thousands of rivers.

Activity: Regions

Making Inferences Have students study the photographs and captions on pages 650 and 651. Ask: As you look at these pictures, what can you infer about the geography and climate of East Asia? (The geography and climate vary across the region.) How might the people of East Asia make their living? (raising livestock; growing crops; fishing; drilling for oil) Have students compose three or more questions about each economic activity. Encourage students to refer to their questions as they study the unit, and to answer them as they read. At the end of the unit, compile students' questions and hold a “knowledge bowl.” Students can compete individually or in teams.
A mechanic works on an oil well in China, a country rich in resources, but without enough energy to drive its fast-growing economy.

**Critical Thinking**

**Comparing and Contrasting**

Have students study the two photos on this page. **Ask:** What do you think the people in the top photo are doing? *(boating and fishing)*

Tell students that the men are fishermen who use trained diving birds called cormorants to do their fishing. Cormorant fishing is a tradition more than 1,300 years old, but is a rapidly vanishing practice. Have students compare this photo to the one below. **Ask:** What are some similarities and some differences in these photos? *(Both are taken in the present, both show people working at a skill, and both use natural resources. The upper photo depicts a tranquil, rural landscape and an ancient skill; the lower photo suggests a modern skill using machinery in an industrialized location.)*

**Drawing Conclusions**

Explain that China is the world’s most populous country and the second-largest consumer of oil. **Ask:** What are the implications for a fast-growing economy largely dependent on oil? *(They might run out of oil, depend more on imported goods, and may need to seek alternative sources of energy.)*

**Did You Know?**

- **China** Flood control and irrigation are important in China. The country has more dams than any other country in the world.
- **North Korea** North Korea has existed in self-imposed isolation for many decades. The country is tightly controlled and influenced by an ideology of “Juche,” which loosely translated means “spirit of self-reliance.”
- **South Korea** October 9 is a national holiday to celebrate Hangul, the Korean writing system. The emperor commissioned a group of scholars to create the alphabet between 1443 and 1447. The teaching of Hangul was banned during the Japanese occupation of Korea in the early twentieth century.
- **Japan** More than 20 percent of the world’s earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater have occurred in Japan. A key reason for this is the country’s location at the junction of four tectonic plates. This perilous setting produces more than 1,000 earthquakes each year. The 1995 earthquake that devastated the city of Kobe measured 7.2 on the Richter scale. The location of the quake’s epicenter—a mere 12 miles (20 km) from a city of 150 million people—was the reason for the massive destruction and loss of life that ensued.
Reading Strategy
Identifying Have students define communism and free market. **Ask:** What is the main difference between the two systems? (Communist countries have more government control. A free market system is based on unrestricted competition.)

Skill Practice
Reading a Time Line Have students study the time line. Point out that East Asia’s history includes war and military occupation. **Ask:** Where on the time line do you see evidence of these tensions? (building the Great Wall; the Opium Wars; the Korean War; North Korea possessing nuclear capabilities)

**Background: People and Culture**

**Tourism** Many East Asian countries are opening their doors to the tourism industry as the region continues to play a greater role in the global economy. However, local officials worry about the effects tourism will have on national treasures. The walled city of Pingyao in China attracts 6 million visitors each year. To make way for tourist improvements, the government relocated many of the city’s residents, some of whom had lived there for generations. Many people believe that the changes that were made compromised the town’s authenticity.

The South Korean government is now promoting “medical tourism,” by attracting foreign patients to take advantage of innovative medical technologies. Mass weddings have also been held in the Olympic Stadium in an effort to attract Chinese tourists.
Background: Historical Perspectives

Confucianism  The ethical and moral system based on the 2000-year-old teachings of the Chinese scholar and statesman Kongfuzi (Confucius) continues to influence East Asians. The Confucian system stresses virtuous conduct and responsibility. Key among the virtues are kindness, propriety, intelligence, and faithfulness. Confucianism emphasizes the concept of duty, especially within families, between friends, and between leaders and subordinates. The system places great importance on avoiding shame or embarrassment, which makes respect for age, rank, and family common in East Asian cultures.
Reading Strategy

Reading a Map  Have students study the map on this page. Ask:
Where is the highest mountain peak in the easternmost part of East Asia? (Mount Fuji in Japan)
How does that compare to western East Asia? (The highest western peak is Mount Everest, which is more than 16,640 feet (5072 m) higher than Mount Fuji.)

Critical Thinking

Drawing Conclusions  Ask:
Which East Asian countries have ocean coastlines? (all of them except Mongolia)
What effects do coastlines have on natural resources, climate, and international trade? (increased trade; large seafood resources; tropical storm systems)

For additional practice on this skill, see the Skills Handbook.

Skill Practice

Visual Literacy  Have students use the elevation scale on the map.
Ask: Which country has both the highest and lowest elevations in East Asia? (China; the Plateau of Tibet is 15,000 feet (4600 m) above sea level; the Turpan Depression is 426 feet (130 m) below sea level)

Background: Land and Climate

Paleontology  The Gobi is a favorite destination for paleontologists seeking fossils from the Late Cretaceous Period. Since 1920, when scientists from the American Museum of Natural History first located dinosaur remains in the Gobi, the area has become known as one of the world’s richest fossil beds. The fossils have been well preserved by the collapse of sand dunes that encapsulated the remains of animals and plants under layers of sediment. Over millions of years, the sand became red sandstone and the bones became fossilized. Although the sandstone is easy to find on the sparse landscape of the Gobi, its inhospitable weather makes uncovering the fossils a difficult task.
Bringing Life and Sorrow

East Asia stretches from the interior of the continent, where it borders Central Asia and South Asia, to the western shores of the Pacific Ocean. As you study the maps and graphics on these pages, look for the geographical features that make the region unique. Then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. How would you describe the overall look of the land?
2. What two major rivers drain large areas of China? How would the more northern of these rivers benefit farmers?
3. The Huang He is sometimes called “China’s Sorrow.” Why does that name make sense? What steps have the Chinese taken to try to limit the sorrow the river can cause?

Did You Know?

- **China** The Chang Jiang flood of 1931 caused an estimated 145,000 deaths by drowning and more than 3 million deaths from disease and starvation.
- **Japan** The Japanese consume one-ninth of the world’s seafood catch. As a result, their coastal waters are in danger of being overfished.
- **North Korea** The Kumgang Mountains, or the Diamond Mountains, are a popular tourist area on the eastern coast of North Korea. They are known for their thousands of intricate rock formations.
- **South Korea** The Liancourt Rocks are a series of small volcanic islands and reefs located in the Sea of Japan. Both South Korea and Japan claim ownership of the islands.
- **Taiwan** There are more than 100 hot mineral springs on the island, which makes it a popular site for spas and resorts.
Skill Practice

Reading a Map  Have students study the map on this page. Ask: What Chinese cities are located along the Chang Jiang? (Chongqing, Wuhan, Nanjing, Shanghai)

Critical Thinking

Drawing Conclusions  Have students study the Country Profiles. Ask: How do cell phones and phone lines (landlines) in East Asia compare? (More East Asians have cell phones than traditional landline phones.) Why might this be? (The topography makes it difficult to install landlines; East Asia dominates the consumer electronics market.)

For additional practice on this skill, see the Skills Handbook.

Background: Current Issues

Easing Tensions  Tension among East Asian countries has waxed and waned since the 1990s, when North Korea announced the development of a nuclear weapons program. The country continues to isolate itself from neighboring countries China and South Korea. Japan and North Korea have unresolved issues that predate World War II: North Korea wants reparations from Japan for its occupation of Korea from 1910–1945; Japan demands the return of Japanese citizens who were abducted in the 1970s and 1980s. In 2003, representatives of six countries—China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia, and the United States—convened several times in an effort to establish peace and stability in the region. The talks continue to this day.
Regional Giant

China is the largest country in East Asia and once controlled large parts of the region. As you study the maps and chart on these pages, look for similarities and differences among the region’s countries. Then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Which areas that are now separate countries were once controlled by China? What could explain why Japan is an exception?
2. Look at the country profiles. How do North Korea and South Korea compare?

Comparing Lands: East Asia is about one and a half times the size of the contiguous United States.

Activity: Using the Country Profiles

Making Connections Have students study the Country Profiles and state the country with the highest and lowest figure in each category. Ask: What can you conclude from this information? (Japan is the highest in most categories; Mongolia and North Korea are the lowest. Students may tie GDP to wealth and access to goods and services.) What geographic features may contribute to this disparity? (Mongolia is remote and has a rugged landscape; North Korea is less urbanized; Japan has easy access to international waterways.)

Divide students into six groups and assign an East Asian country to each group. Have each group use reference resources to determine their country’s leading economic sectors, imports, exports, and trading partners. Have each group create a chart that shows the relationship between geographical features and economic activities. Groups should present their charts to the class.

Answers

1. Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan; proximity and the possibility that an island is more difficult to travel to, conquer, and maintain control over
2. South Korea has a larger population, greater population density, a higher life expectancy, and a higher GDP; North Korea is less urban, more literate, and requires an additional year of compulsory education.

Critical Thinking

drawing Conclusions Have students review the Country Profiles charts. Ask: Which country has the lowest life expectancy? (North Korea) Which country has the highest life expectancy? (Japan) What factors might contribute to this difference? (North Korea is less urban; there may be less access to services such as health care; Japan is a wealthier country.)

For additional practice on this skill, see the Skills Handbook.
People, People Everywhere

East Asia is one of the most densely populated regions of the world. As you study the maps and graphics on these pages, look for patterns of settlement. Then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What connections can be drawn between the population density map and the human impact map? What effects does one have upon the other?
2. Is it fair to say that this is a region of huge cities? Why or why not?
3. If Tokyo is representative of the other large cities in the region, how have they changed over time? Why would transportation networks be important to a city experiencing these changes?

Background: People and Culture

Cell Phone Culture  The growth of cell phone technologies has made Internet access affordable and readily available throughout East Asia. Internet usage in China grew by nearly 500 percent between 2000 and 2007 due to the country’s expanding economy. South Korean cell phone manufacturers continue to integrate the most modern technologies. Cell phones have become an important part of Japanese culture. Most phones offer text messaging, music, e-mail, Internet access, and global positioning systems. After banning cell phones in 2004, the North Korean government allowed cell phone service to resume in 2008.
Critical Thinking Drawing Conclusions  Make sure students understand the word pristine. Ask: What landforms might remain pristine? Why? (mountains, deserts; It is usually harder to develop those types of areas.)  

For additional practice on this skill, see the Skills Handbook.

Identifying Central Issues Tell students that parts of East Asia are currently experiencing rapid urbanization. Ask: What environmental issues might arise as a result of urbanization? (more pollution; more waste; more cars)  

Background: Controlling Pollution

Cleaning Up In the late 1960s, smog in the Japanese town of Kitakyushu was so bad that soot rained down on clean laundry that hung from clotheslines. The women of this booming industrial town began a “We Want Our Blue Sky Back” campaign and pressured the local governments to enact industrial pollution regulations. Today the sky is blue over Kitakyushu and symbolizes hope. Environmentalists invoke the memory of the successful campaign as they lobby for pollution control initiatives in East Asia. According to the World Health Organization, air pollution in Asia is responsible for 530,000 deaths each year. China, Japan, and South Korea meet annually to discuss joint initiatives. In 2002 China created a “Green GDP” measure, which calculates the cost of repairing environmental damage caused by industrial pollution.
### Key to Ability Levels

- **BL**: Below Level
- **OL**: On Level
- **AL**: Above Level
- **ELL**: English Language Learners

### Key to Teaching Resources

- Print Material
- CD-ROM or DVD
- Transparency

## Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BL</th>
<th>OL</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>ELL</th>
</tr>
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</table>

## Resources

### FOCUS

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<tr>
<th>BL</th>
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<th>AL</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daily Focus Skills Transparencies</td>
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</tr>
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### TEACH

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<th>AL</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guided Reading Activity, URB*</td>
<td>p. 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vocabulary Activity, URB*</td>
<td>p. 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reinforcing Skills Activity, URB</td>
<td>p. 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OL</td>
<td>Enrichment Activity, URB</td>
<td>p. 19</td>
<td></td>
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<td>GeoLab Activity, URB</td>
<td>p. 5</td>
<td></td>
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✓ Chapter- or unit-based activities applicable to all sections in this chapter.

*Also available in Spanish
**Teacher Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Chapter Opener</th>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>Section 2</th>
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<tbody>
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**ASSESS**

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<tr>
<th>Levels</th>
<th>Section Quizzes and Chapter Tests</th>
<th>p. 321</th>
<th>p. 322</th>
<th>p. 323</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>Authentic Assessment With Rubrics</td>
<td>p. 56</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>ExamView Assessment Suite</td>
<td>26-1</td>
<td>26-2</td>
<td>Ch. 26</td>
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**CLOSE**

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<tr>
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<th>p. 15</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>Dinah Zike’s Reading and Study Guide Foldables</td>
<td>p. 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>Graphic Organizer Transparencies, Strategies, and Activities</td>
<td>pp. 67–68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓ Chapter- or unit-based activities applicable to all sections in this chapter.

*Also available in Spanish
Chapter 26
Integrating Technology

Using Section Audio

Teach With Technology

What is Section Audio?
Section Audio is a recording of each section of the textbook and helps students learn the content.

How can Section Audio help my students?
Section Audio allows students to:
• read and listen simultaneously to improve content comprehension
• practice reading skills
• review important concepts for struggling readers
• improve listening comprehension

Visit glencoe.com to access the Media Library, and enter a QuickPass™ code to go to Section Audio Recordings.

Geography Online
Visit glencoe.com and enter QuickPass™ code WGC2630C26T for Chapter 26 resources.

You can easily launch a wide range of digital products from your computer’s desktop with the McGraw-Hill widget.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Parent</th>
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<td>• Section Spotlight Videos</td>
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<td>• Study-to-Go</td>
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<td>• Chapter Overviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Self-Check Quizzes</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>• ePuzzles and Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In-Motion Animations</td>
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<td>• Glencoe Graphing Tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Web Activity Lesson Plans</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
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<td>●</td>
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Timed Readings Plus in Social Studies helps students increase their reading rate and fluency while maintaining comprehension. The 400-word passages are similar to those found on state and national assessments.

Reading in the Content Area: Social Studies concentrates on six essential reading skills that help students better comprehend what they read. The book includes 75 high-interest nonfiction passages written at increasing levels of difficulty.

Reading Social Studies includes strategic reading instruction and vocabulary support in Social Studies content for both ELLs and native speakers of English.

Content Vocabulary Workout (Grades 6-8) accelerates reading comprehension through focused vocabulary development. Social Studies content vocabulary comes from the glossaries of Glencoe’s Middle School Social Studies texts.

The following videotape programs are available from Glencoe as supplements to Chapter 26:
- Marco Polo: Journey to the East (ISBN 1-56-501668-8)

To order, call Glencoe at 1-800-334-7344. To find classroom resources to accompany many of these videos, check the following pages:
- A&E Television: www.aetv.com
- The History Channel: www.historychannel.com

Use this database to search more than 30,000 titles to create a customized reading list for your students.
- Reading lists can be organized by students’ reading level, author, genre, theme, or area of interest.
- The database provides Degrees of Reading Power™ (DRP) and Lexile™ readability scores for all selections.
- A brief summary of each selection is included.

Leveled reading suggestions for this chapter:
For students at a Grade 7 reading level:
- Camels: Ships of the Desert, by Eulalia Garcia

For students at a Grade 8 reading level:
- Ferdinand Magellan and the Discovery of the World Ocean, by Rebecca Stefoff

For students at a Grade 9 reading level:
- South Korea: A Story of an Economically Developing Country, by Sung-Hoon Jung

For students at a Grade 10 reading level:
Chinese farmers use terraced fields to grow crops such as rice. Certain processes, patterns, and functions help determine where people settle. East Asia is a region of contrasts—from towering mountains in the west to fertile plains in the east, from subarctic forests in the north to tropical rain forests in the south. A study of the physical geography of East Asia will explain how these patterns and processes have affected human settlement in the region.

**Focus**

**More About the Photo**

**Visual Literacy** Tell students that China’s intricate irrigation system of terraced farmland produces enough rice to feed more than two billion people worldwide. Farmers have carefully carved rice paddies into the hillside over a period of one thousand years.

**Teach**

As you begin teaching this chapter, read the Big Idea out loud to students. Explain that the Big Idea is a broad, or high-level, concept that will help them understand what they are about to learn. Use the Essential Question for each section to help students focus on the Big Idea.

**Essential Questions**

**Section 1: The Land**

How has East Asia’s location on the Ring of Fire affected the region’s physical and human systems?

**Section 2: Climate and Vegetation**

What factors influence climate in East Asia?

**Section 1**

**The Land**

**Essential Question** How has East Asia’s location on the Ring of Fire affected the region’s physical and human systems? (Tectonic activities such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes have created islands and mountains. These activities help determine where people in the region live.) Point out that in Section 1 students will learn how tectonic plate movement and other factors affect the East Asian landscape.
**Preventing the Region**

If you have not already done so, engage students in the Regional Atlas and Country Profiles activities to help them become familiar with the general content of the region.

**Dinah Zike’s Foldables**

**Purpose** This Foldable will help students track and review key vocabulary terms and understand their meaning. The completed Foldable will help them prepare for assessment.

**Geography ONLINE**

Visit [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com) and enter code WGC2630C26T for Chapter26 resources.

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**Section 2**

**Climate and Vegetation**

**Essential Question** What factors influence climate in East Asia? (Latitude and physical features such as mountains, highlands, and coastal areas; monsoons; ocean currents such as the warm Japan Current and the cold Kuril Current)

Point out that in Section 2 students will read about the climate regions and seasonal weather patterns in East Asia. OL
Rich in mineral resources, East Asia is home to some of the world’s spectacular landforms, including the Himalaya—the world’s highest mountains—and Mount Fuji, a powerful landmark on Japan’s horizon that is recognized around the world.

Voices Around the World

“Climbing Fuji isn’t the snap many people think. Yet every year, during the July–August climbing season, some 400,000 mostly enthusiastic tenderfoots (20,000 on a good day) scramble for the summit of Japan’s mighty beacon. . . . It’s hard to overstate Fuji’s magnetic pull. Its solitary cone rises from the Fossa Magna, a tectonic hinge that bisects Japan’s boomerang-shaped main island, Honshu. With its flattened top, Fuji-san, as the Japanese call it, resembles a giant mound of powder (flour in winter, graphite in summer) sifted onto a cookie sheet, and on a clear day can be seen from Tokyo, 70 miles away.”

—Tracy Dahlby, “Fuji: Japan’s Sacred Summit,” National Geographic, August 2002
Landforms

**MAIN Idea** Tectonic plate movements along the Ring of Fire leave East Asia vulnerable to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and ocean flooding.

**GEOGRAPHY AND YOU** What geographic factors cause natural hazards where you live? Read to learn about the geographic factors that influence natural hazards in East Asia.

The People’s Republic of China makes up about 80 percent of the land area of East Asia. Mongolia, China’s northern neighbor, occupies about 13 percent of the land. The rest of East Asia includes the countries of Japan, Taiwan, North Korea, and South Korea.

**The Ring of Fire**

An arc of islands east of China marks the meeting place of the Pacific, Philippine, and Eurasian tectonic plates. These islands are part of the Ring of Fire, a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions bordering the Pacific Ocean. Volcanic activity formed most of these mountainous islands, including Japan and Taiwan. Japan has about 50 active volcanoes and numerous hot springs, all formed by volcanic activity. Sitting atop the Ring of Fire is Japan’s tallest mountain—Mount Fuji. Formed by layer upon layer of lava and ash, Mount Fuji has not erupted in nearly 300 years, but scientists believe it could erupt again.

More than 1,000 small earthquakes shake Japan every year. Major quakes occur less often, but may cause major damage and loss of life. When an undersea earthquake generates a tsunami (soo•NAY•mee) — a huge wave that gets higher and higher as it approaches the coast — many lives may be lost. Because earthquakes and tsunamis are difficult to predict, people along the Ring of Fire rely on special building methods and emergency preparedness to help reduce casualties.

Answers
1. It lies near a plate boundary.
2. 14

Creating An Outdoor Traveler’s Guide to East Asia

**Step 1: Create a Chart** Students will gather information about the physical features of East Asia and organize it on a chart.

**Directions** On the board draw a chart with the following headings: **Mountain Ranges, Plains, Plateaus, Basins, Deserts, Peninsulas, Islands, Rivers, and Seas.**

**Essential Question** What physical features of East Asia would travelers to the region want to know about?

**Putting It Together** Ask students to brainstorm a list of physical features, and put them under the proper headings in the chart. Then pair students up. Have each student pair add the proper names of several physical features (such as the South China Sea). Tell students that they should leave room to add details about each feature as they study the chapter.

(Chapter Project continues on page 668.)
Peninsulas, Islands, and Seas

The physical map on page 654 shows that many peninsulas and islands dot the coast of East Asia. The Korean Peninsula juts southeast from China’s Northeast Plain, separating the Sea of Japan (East Sea) from the Yellow Sea. The peninsula, home to North Korea and South Korea, consists mainly of mountains surrounded by coastal plains.

Tectonic activity is responsible for the creation of many of the region’s islands and seas. For example, the process of subduction created the Sea of Japan millions of years ago. Tectonic activity also helped create other bodies of water, including the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea.

Four large, mountainous islands and thousands of smaller ones form the archipelago (ahr•kuh•PEH•luh•GO), or island chain, of Japan. Most of these islands were created by volcanic activity over millions of years. Honshu is the central and largest island, with Hokkaido to the north and Kyushu and Shikoku to the south. Most of Japan’s major cities are located on the island of Honshu. Surrounding Japan are the Sea of Okhotsk on the north, the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea on the west, and the Philippine Sea on the south. To the east and southeast is the Pacific Ocean.

Mountains, Highlands, and Lowlands

Numerous mountain ranges fan out from an area of high peaks and deep valleys called the Pamirs in western China. The ranges that begin in this remote interior region include the Kunlun Shan and Tian Shan. (Shan is Chinese for “mountains.”) Farther north, the Altay Shan form a natural barrier between Mongolia and China.

To the south and west, the world’s highest mountains, the Himalaya, separate China from South Asia. They include Mount Everest, the world’s tallest peak at 29,028 feet (8,848 m), which spans the border between China and Nepal.

The Kunlun Shan bends to become the Qinling (CHIHN•LIHNG) Shan, crossing central China from west to east. To the east, the lower Changbai Shan of Manchuria extend into the Korean Peninsula, to become the Northern Mountains.

Coastal plains surround the mountain interiors of Japan and Taiwan. Mount Fuji, at 12,388 feet (3,776 m), is a dramatic, cone-shaped volcano rising above the plains of Japan’s island of Honshu. Also called Fujiyama, Mount Fuji is an important spiritual symbol to Japan’s people.

The Plateau of Tibet, or Plateau of Xizang (SHEE•ZAHNG), in China’s southwest corner, is East Asia’s highest plateau region. Its average elevation is about 15,000 feet (4,600 m). Other rugged highlands stretch north and eastward at lower elevations. In the far north, the Mongolian Plateau’s extensive highlands are mostly grassy pasture. The region’s only extensive lowland areas are China’s Northeast Plain and North China Plain.

Broad expanses of wasteland, including the deserts and salt marshes of the Tarim Basin, lie between the Kunlun Shan and Tian Shan. West of the Tarim Basin is the dry, sandy Taklimakan. To the northeast is another desert, the Gobi, whose frequent dust storms make life difficult in southern Mongolia and north-central China. Less than three inches of rain fall annually there.

Geography ONLINE

Objectives and answers to the Student Web Activity can be found at glencoe.com under the Web Activity Lesson Plan for this program.

READING Check

Answer: volcanic activity

Differentiated Instruction Strategies

BL Ask students to gather data for two land use categories, such as industrial and agricultural.

AL Ask students to gather data on the economic value of goods or services associated with each land use sector.

ELL Ask students to review terms related to land use, such as rural, urban, industrial, agricultural, residential, and others.

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Water Systems

MAIN Idea Landforms and physical processes have shaped East Asia's rivers, which provide transportation, water, and rich mineral deposits for fertile soils.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU Can you name some of the major river systems in the United States? Read to learn what East Asia's river systems provide for the region and its people.

East Asia’s rivers serve densely populated urban centers as transport routes. They provide hydroelectric power for energy, and the fertile soil in their basins is used for farming.

China’s Rivers

China’s major rivers begin in the Plateau of Tibet and flow eastward to the Pacific Ocean. The Huang He (HWAHNG HUH), or Yellow River, is northern China’s major river system. This river is called “yellow” because it carries tons of fine, yellowish-brown topsoil called loess (LEHS), eroded from the western regions by wind and water. When deposited, the rich soil—along with water from the river—makes the North China Plain a major wheat and soybean farming area. Also called “China’s sorrow,” the Huang He often floods its banks, killing hundreds of thousands of people.

Central China’s Chang Jiang (CHAHNG JYAHNG), or Yangtze River, is Asia’s longest river at 3,965 miles (6,380 km). It flows through spectacular gorges and broad plains and empties into the ocean near Shanghai. The Chang Jiang, a major transport route, provides water for a large agricultural area where more than half of China’s rice and other grains are grown. Many hope that construction of the Three Gorges Dam, a hydroelectric dam on the Chang Jiang, will put an end to flooding along the lower portions of the river. The dam will also make more water available for irrigation and provide hydroelectric power for China’s growing population and economy.

The Xi (SHEE), also called the West River, is southern China’s most important river system. Near the ports of Guangzhou (GWAHNG•JOH) and Macau (muh•KOW), the soil deposits of the Xi form a huge, fertile delta, one of China’s fastest-developing areas.

The world’s longest artificial waterway, China’s Grand Canal, was begun in the 400s B.C. Over the centuries, the canal has been expanded and rebuilt. Today, the Grand Canal moves people and goods along a 1,085-mile (1,746-km) course from Beijing to Hangzhou (HAHNG•JOH).

Rivers in Japan and Korea

In contrast to China’s long rivers, the rivers of Japan and Korea are short and swift. They flow through mountainous terrain, often forming spectacular waterfalls. During the wet season, they provide hydroelectric power. The courses of many of Japan’s rivers—such as the Shinano and Tone Rivers—have been altered for irrigation and to regulate water flow. Korea’s chief rivers flow from inland mountains westward toward the Yellow Sea. The Han River flows through South Korea’s capital, Seoul. In North Korea, the Yalu (or Amnok) River flows west, forming the border with China.

Activity: Technology Connection

Predicting Consequences Remind students that the Three Gorges Dam was built to end flooding on the Chang Jiang. Ask: How else might the dam affect the people who live near the river? (Answers will vary but may include: irrigation might open more farmland; other areas may lose water; increased transportation may cause pollution.) Divide the class into three groups. Have one group investigate the history of the dam’s construction. The other two groups should discuss the pros and cons of the project, respectively. Students should consult the Internet to find at least three newspaper articles to use in their research. Have them write what they have learned on index cards. Regroup as a class, and arrange the findings on a poster board under the headings Construction History, Pros, and Cons. Ask: How does the information you have found compare with your original predictions? (Answers will vary.)

Writing Support

Descriptive Writing Ask: How do rivers change land over time? (They create landforms such as gorges and deltas. They flood lands and wash away soil.) Tell students to imagine they are in a boat sailing on China’s Huang He. Ask them to write a paragraph describing what they see.

Reading Strategy

Organizing Have students name the major rivers in East Asia, and write them on the board. Ask students to write the characteristics of each river next to its name.

Caption Answer: The dam will prevent flooding and provide hydroelectric power to the region.

VOCABULARY

loess: eroded topsoil

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU

Can you name some of the major river systems in the United States? Read to learn what East Asia’s river systems provide for the region and its people.
### Natural Resources

**MAIN Idea** Mineral resources are abundant in East Asia, but they are unevenly distributed.

**GEOGRAPHY AND YOU** In what parts of the United States are the most abundant mineral resources located? Read to find out where mineral resources are located in East Asia.

East Asia’s mineral resources are unevenly distributed. China contains the greatest share and widest range of minerals, including iron ore, tin, tungsten, and gold. Large oil deposits lie in the South China Sea and the Taklimakan. Abundant coal deposits are located in northeastern China. Coal is also mined in the Korean Peninsula and in Mongolia. North Korea’s mineral deposits include iron ore and tungsten. South Korea has relatively few minerals, although large deposits of graphite are found there. Taiwan’s mineral reserves are small.

Productive farmlands are also unevenly distributed in East Asia. Southern China’s “rice bowl” yields two harvests per year, making China the world’s leading producer of rice. With about 17 percent of its land suitable for farming, South Korea produces two crops per year in the prime farmland of the coastal south. North Korea has increased the amount of cultivated land through the use of irrigation, fertilizers, and mechanized tools. By contrast, Mongolia can use less than 1 percent of its land for crops. Japan also has very limited farmland and poor soil. About 24 percent of Taiwan’s land is suitable for farming.

Seaweed farming has become a major industry. Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and China have the world’s biggest deep-sea fishing industries.

### Assess

#### Geography ONLINE

**Study Central™** provides summaries, interactive games, and online graphic organizers to help students review content.

### Close

**Summarizing** Ask: Describe the varying physical landscape of East Asia. (fertile plains in the east; tropical rain forests in the south; mountain ranges; volcanic islands)

**Answers**

1. Definitions for the vocabulary terms are found in the section and the Glossary.
2. The process of subduction formed mountainous islands; volcanic eruptions and earthquakes frequently occur near plate boundaries; underwater earthquakes can generate tsunamis which may cause catastrophic flooding.
3. China’s major rivers flow slowly from the west and carry fertile topsoil to the broad plains in the east; major rivers of Japan and Korea flow swiftly through mountainous terrain and carve waterfalls into the landscape; rivers provide irrigation, hydroelectric power, and transportation.
4. Iron ore: China, North Korea; tin: China; tungsten: China, North Korea; gold: China; oil: China; coal: China, Korean Peninsula, Mongolia; graphite: South Korea; mineral resources are unevenly distributed in the region.
5. The movement of tectonic plates.
6. Similar: they were created by tectonic and volcanic activity; different: they lack physical features such as deserts, basins, and grassy highland.
7. North Korea; nearly half of its GDP comes from agriculture.
8. Paragraphs will vary, but students should discuss how fertile soil and periodic flooding influence human activity in the basin.
Climate and Vegetation

In East Asia’s harshest climate regions, people and animals have had to adapt in order to survive. For centuries, Mongolian nomads have weathered one of Earth’s harshest environments. In Hokkaido—considered Japan’s last frontier—people and animals also find ways to survive the winter’s snow and howling winds.

Voices Around the World

“To reach Japan, I flew over the top of the Earth. . . . From 35,000 feet the January landscape was a frozen blank, and I imagined how the razor of winter pushes the wild animals down there to the edge. . . . With peaks over 10,000 feet, and a long archipelago reaching northward to latitudes of 45° N, parts of Japan experience harsh winters, made more so by chill north-westerly winds that sweep across the Sea of Japan from Siberia, picking up abundant moisture along the way. Hokkaido, the northernmost of the nation’s big islands, is among the snowiest places on Earth.”

Climate Regions

**MAIN IDEA** East Asia’s natural vegetation tends to parallel the region’s climate zones, which are influenced by latitude and physical features.

**GEOGRAPHY AND YOU** What kinds of physical features influence the climate where you live? Read to learn about the factors that account for East Asia’s wide variety of climates.

Latitude and physical features—such as mountains, highlands, and coastal areas—shape East Asia’s climates. Each climate region has distinct characteristics and unique vegetation. 

**Midlatitude Climates**

The northeastern portion of East Asia, including the northern parts of the Koreas and Japan, has a cooler, humid continental climate.

Summers are warm, but winters are cold and snowy. In contrast, the southeastern portion of East Asia, including Taiwan and parts of China, South Korea, and Japan, has a humid subtropical climate. Summers are hot with heavy rains.

Needle-leaved and broad-leaved evergreens and broad-leaved deciduous trees grow in the humid continental climate regions. Deciduous trees and broad-leaved evergreens flourish in the humid subtropical regions.

Bamboo, a treelike grass, grows abundantly in many of the warmer areas. This tough, versatile plant has more than a thousand uses, from herbal medicine, food, and decoration to construction of homes, skyscrapers, and bridges. Bamboo also provides the only food source for two of East Asia’s rare mammals—the giant panda and the smaller, raccoon-like red panda. Other economically important native plants are the mulberry tree, whose leaves provide food for silkworms, and the tea bush. Bamboo, tea, and silk are significant to East Asia’s culture and economy and have become identified worldwide with the region.
**Desert and Steppe Climates**
Far away from the moist winds of the coast, deserts spread across Mongolia and inland northern China. Moisture that might reach these areas is blocked by the rain shadow effect caused by the surrounding mountains. Deserts are not always hot—the Gobi and Taklimakan are often cold and windy. In the northern and northwestern deserts and steppe climates, temperature variation can be extreme, falling as much as 55°F (31°C) from daytime to nighttime. In the Gobi, temperatures average 73°F (23°C) in summer and 0°F (-18°C) in winter, but they may range from 100°F to -30°F (38°C to -34°C). Grasses and sparse trees are the natural vegetation of the large steppe climate east of the deserts and in most of Mongolia.

**Highland Climates**
The climate in mountainous areas changes with elevation. Generally, the higher the elevation, the cooler the temperature. East Asia’s highland climates, therefore, are usually cool or cold. On the Plateau of Tibet, with an elevation of 13,000 to 15,000 feet (3,962 to 4,572 m), the average annual high temperature reaches only about 58°F (14°C). Small alpine meadows with grass, flowers, and trees dot the lower mountain slopes. Above the timberline, where no trees grow, only mosses and colorful lichens thrive.

**Tropical Wet Climate**
The island of Hainan, off China’s southern coast, has a tropical wet climate. This area experiences year-round high temperatures and a very rainy summer monsoon. In tropical areas, palms and tropical hardwoods thrive alongside broad-leaved evergreens and tropical fruit trees. Lush rain forest covers much of Hainan.

**Comparing U.S. and East Asian Climate Zones**

**Objective:** To understand similar climate regions in the United States and East Asia.

**Focus:** Ask students to fill in the U.S. state names that have matching climate zones on the climate map of East Asia.

**Teach:** Provide a climate map of the United States with state names.

**Assess:** Evaluate student maps for accuracy.

**Close:** Display maps and discuss results.

**Differentiated Instruction Strategies**

**BL** Ask students to compare one climate type and estimate which region has more area of that type.

**AL** Ask students to find comparable climate zones on another continent and add those names to the map as well.

**ELL** Have students review the characteristics of 4 climate zones in the region.
Seasonal Weather Patterns

**MAIN IDEA:** Prevailing winds and ocean currents influence East Asia’s climates.

**GEOGRAPHY AND YOU:** Where in the United States are hurricanes part of a seasonal weather pattern? Read to find out about the effects of winds and ocean currents in East Asia.

The interaction of prevailing winds and ocean currents creates seasonal weather patterns in East Asia.

The air mass above the Asian continent and the air mass above the Pacific Ocean meet in East Asia. The movement of these air masses results in prevailing winds, called **monsoons**, that blow in a steady direction for approximately half the year and then switch directions. The summer monsoon in East Asia blows from southeast to northwest, bringing heat and humidity from the Pacific Ocean. From April through October, intense downpours provide more than 80 percent of the region’s annual rainfall. From November to March, the winter monsoon brings cold, arctic air that blows from northwest to southeast. Along the coast, these winds pick up moisture in the Sea of Japan and bring snow to Japan and the Koreas.

The East Asian economy depends on summer monsoons to water the crops. If the monsoons are late or do not bring enough rain, crop failures occur. Too much rain brings flooding.

Ocean currents also influence climate. The warm-water **Japan Current** flows northward along the coasts of the Japanese islands and adds moisture to the winter monsoon as it warms the land. The cold Kuril Current flows southwest from the Bering Sea along the Pacific coasts of Japan’s islands. It brings harsh, cold winters to Hokkaido’s east coast. In summer, when the cold ocean current meets the warm one near Hokkaido, a dense sea fog develops.

The warm, humid air over the tropical ocean frequently gives rise to violent storms called **typhoons**, which form in the Pacific and blow across coastal East Asia. Like hurricanes in the western Atlantic and Caribbean, typhoons tend to be most severe between late August and October. Occasionally, a winter typhoon brings welcome rains during the normal dry season.

**Critical Thinking**
5. **Answering the Essential Question:** How do ocean currents shape Japan’s climate?
6. **Comparing and Contrasting** How are the climates in the southeastern part and the northeastern part of East Asia similar and different?
7. **Analyzing Visuals** Study the climate map on page 668. Which countries have areas of humid subtropical climate?

**Writing About Geography**
8. **Expository Writing** Think about how elevation affects climate. Write a paragraph explaining how mountains and plateaus affect East Asia’s climate and vegetation.

**Vocabulary**
1. Explain the significance of: monsoon, Japan Current, typhoon.

**Main Ideas**
2. Review the climate and vegetation maps on pages 668 and 669. Describe the relationship between natural vegetation and climate zones in East Asia. What patterns do you see?
3. How do latitude and physical features influence climate in East Asia? Give examples.
4. Use a table like the one below to identify the ways in which seasonal weather patterns influence East Asia’s climate, as well as life in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect on Climate</th>
<th>Effect on Human Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monsoons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Currents</td>
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**Answers**
1. Definitions for the vocabulary terms are found in the section and the Glossary.
2. Natural vegetation and climate regions are closely linked.
3. Mountains block moist air from entering the interior, making it dry grassland and desert. Low latitudes have a tropical climate, while areas farther north have a midlatitude climate.
4. **Monsoons:** provide 80 percent of summer rains; brings snow to Japan and Korea in winter; crops depend on monsoon rains; **Ocean Currents:** keep Japan warm and hospitable (except Hokkaido).
5. The Japan Current warms land and adds moisture to the winter monsoon. The Kuril Current brings cold winters to Hokkaido and sea fog in summer.
6. **similar:** each receives moisture from sea air; **different:** southeastern part has tropical climate, while northeastern part has midlatitude climate.
7. China, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan
8. Paragraphs will vary, but paragraphs should discuss the effects of elevation and the rain shadow on climate.
Paraphrasing Have students rewrite each of the headings on the visual summary as a question. Then have them answer that question by paraphrasing the information found in the bullet points. Point out that this is similar to using an outline when writing a summary.

Identifying Have one student name a country in East Asia. Tell that student to call on other students to identify important features of that country. Remind students that China represents nearly 80 percent of East Asia. Ask: What geographic feature of China appears most often on the summary? (rivers)

Creating An Outdoor Traveler’s Guide to East Asia

Step 3: Writing the Travel Guide
Students will gather the information they have learned and complete their travel guides.

Directions Pair students up. Write these categories on the board: Landform, Climate, and Seasons. Assign each pair of students a country in East Asia. Students should use the chart they completed in Steps 1 and 2 to write their travel guides. Their audience will be travelers who need to know about these three things when they go to that country. Students may want to include illustrations, advice about suitable clothing, or other items that travelers may want to bring on their trip.

Putting It Together Have students present and share their travel guides. Ask them how the information they found relates to the Essential Question. Finally, have students discuss where they would like to visit based on the travel guides and why.
**CHAPTER 26 ASSESSMENT**

**Answers, Analyses, and Tips**

**Reviewing Vocabulary**

1. **C** Japan is located on a **tectonic plate** and is in a **subduction zone**. However, an **archipelago** is an island chain.

2. **B** Students may know that **alluvial** refers to a type of silt carried by rivers. However, this question asks for the name of the soil. **Loess** specifically refers to topsoil.

3. **C** Students should recall that the **foehn** is specific to the Alps. The Japan Current is an ocean current, not an air current. Students may confuse **monsoon** and **typhoon**. Remind students that a typhoon refers to a violent storm not necessarily tied to the seasons.

4. **D** Each of the answer choices is a type of storm. **Tornadoes** generally form over land, and **blizzards** are not limited to the Pacific Ocean. **Monsoons** are seasonal winds.

**Reviewing Main Ideas**

5. **D** The Three Gorges Dam is a structure that impedes the flow of a river. The Huang He and Chang Jiang are natural rivers.

6. **D** Point out that the graph on page 666 clearly shows that agriculture makes up the largest share of North Korea's GDP.

7. **D** East Asia has distinct climatic regions that are affected both by latitude and by physical features such as mountains, highlands, and coastal areas. The interior of East Asia has a dry climate because the mountains of northern China and Mongolia block the moist winds from the coast.

8. **A** The Kuril Current is a cold-water current that flows southwest from the Bering Sea along the east coast of Japan.

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**TEST-TAKING TIP**

When answering multiple choice questions, students should eliminate answers that are obviously incorrect, such as **tsunami** in question 1.
Critical Thinking

9. Why does western Japan receive large amounts of snow in winter?
   A. Blizzards roar in from Siberia.
   B. The northern monsoon picks up moisture as it crosses the Sea of Japan.
   C. Wind blows from the Pacific Ocean.
   D. Snowstorms move into Japan from China.

Base your answer to question 10 on the map and on your knowledge of Chapter 26.

10. What country would you expect to have the most earthquakes?
    A. Taiwan
    B. North Korea
    C. South Korea
    D. Japan

Document-Based Questions

11. What season does the first poem describe? How do you know?

12. From the four poems together, what kind of climate does Japan have? How do you know?

Extended Response

13. Exploring the Big Idea

Describe the creative and destructive effects of tectonic activity upon the landforms of East Asia. How does this influence where people live?