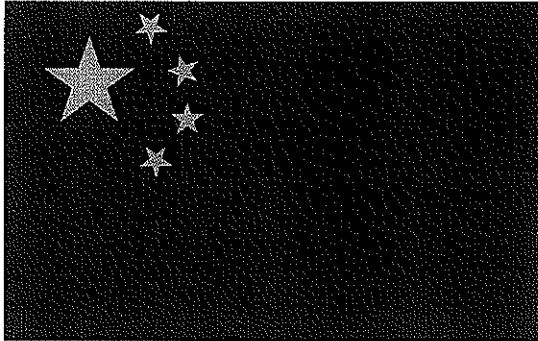


CHINA



Quick Facts about China

Capital	Beijing
Population	1,338,612,968
Dominant Language	Mandarin Chinese
Government Type	Communist State
Urbanization	43%
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$6,000
Literacy Rate	91%
Life Expectancy	73.5 years

LOCATION AND CAPITAL

China is located in eastern Asia, sharing borders with several Asia nations, such as Vietnam, India, North Korea, and Mongolia. The capital is Beijing, a large city located in northeast China.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE, NATURAL RESOURCES

China has a diverse physical landscape with low coastal plains in the east and high mountains and deserts in the west. Only 12% of China's land is plains, while 69% is classified as mountains, hills, or highlands. The largest area of highlands in China is the Qingzang (Tibetan) Plateau, which meets the Himalayan Mountains. China also has an extensive river system, with over 50,000 rivers. The largest rivers include the Changjiang (Yangtze River), Huanghe (Yellow River), Zhujiang (Pearl River).

China's climates are as diverse as the landscapes, with wet, temperate climates in the south and east and dry or highland climates in the north and west. Monsoons affect southern China, where rice-growing is common practice. Western China has highland, desert, and steppe climate, where grasslands and livestock grazing is more commonly practiced.

HISTORICAL ROOTS

China is one of the oldest and continuous civilizations in the world. The first recognized dynasty, the Xia, arose in 2200 B.C. During the Zhou Dynasty (1040-256 B.C.), Chinese culture and intellectual thought flourished under scholars, like Confucius and Lao-tzu. Both Confucianism and Taoism, philosophies developed by these scholars, are widely practiced in China today. Over several millennia, the Chinese dynasties built cities and armies, developed a written language system, and invented useful items, such as paper and gunpowder. The last dynasty, the Qing, fell in 1911, followed by a nationalist movement, and later a communist form of government was put into place. Prominent leaders of the 20th century included Chiang



Kai-shek, Mao Zedong, and Deng Xiaoping. The Nationalists, led by Chiang-Kai-shek, were defeated by the Communists in 1949, led by Mao Zedong, and the Nationalist Party fled to Taiwan, causing an ongoing rift between the People's Republic of China (mainland China) and the Republic of China (Taiwan). Mao led China for over 25 years under strict, and sometime controversial, rule. After Mao's death in 1976, Deng Xiaoping ushered in a new era of Communist China by improving foreign relations and allowing economic development with less stringent control by the government.

POLITICAL SYSTEMS

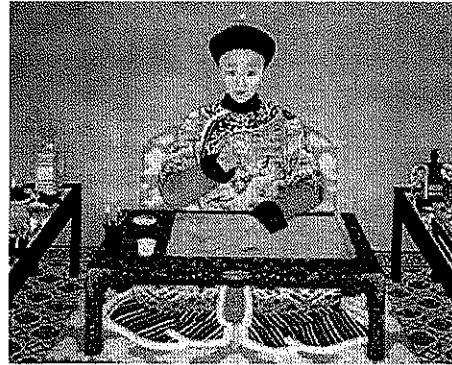
China, formally known as the People's Republic of China, is a communist state currently under the leadership of Hu Jintao. The government has three branches: an executive branch, a unicameral legislative branch, and a judicial branch. The president and vice president are elected every 5 years by the legislative branch, the National People's Congress. There is only one controlling political party in China, the Chinese Communist party (CCP). The government supports a dual economic structure that promotes a socialist market economy, a mix of socialism in government practice, allowing some market economy principles in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). For most of mainland China, government offices control the production of agriculture and manufactured goods from state-owned lands and factories. In SEZs, market forces (supply, demand, capital) control the production of goods. The government of China promotes international trade with the SEZs

POPULATION AND PEOPLE

China is the most populous country in the world with over 1.3 billion people living within its borders. China recognizes 55 other ethnic groups, but 92% of people living in China are Han Chinese. The other ethnic groups live primarily on the north, western, and southwester periphery of the country. The dominant language in China is Mandarin Chinese, and the dominant religions include Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Confucianism is not a religion actually, but a philosophy promoting good morals in family life

and society.

The most densely populated regions of China are in the east and south-



eastern coasts, and particularly along the major river basins, such as the Sichuan Basin. However, 94% of people live in the eastern 1/3 of the country, and 60% of people in China live within 250 miles of the eastern coast. The coast is attractive to rural Chinese, who flock to the coastal cities that are more economically developed and have a milder climate than the western portions of China.

The dominant groups of western China include the Tibetans and the Uyghurs. The groups have largely been isolated because of their location, and have pushed for separation from the central Chinese government.

LAND USE AND INDUSTRY

Approximately 15% of the land in China is arable (used for agriculture), but only 1.3% is used for permanent crops (crops that don't have to be replanted each year). As a result, eastern China, particularly the southeast, uses intensive farming techniques to double-crop, or even triple-crop, rice. This means that the same plot of land can produce 2-3 rice harvests each year, supplying more food for the Chinese population. China also produces large amounts of wheat in the northern part of the country, and corn and potatoes are grown all over.

China's major industries include 1) mining of iron, steel, aluminum, other metals, coal, 2) machine building, 3) textiles and apparel, 4) chemicals and fertilizers, 5) consumer products, including footwear, toys, and electronics, 6) food processing, 7) transportation equipment, including automobiles, rail cars and locomotives, ships, and aircraft, and 8) telecommunications

equipment. There are over 800 million people in the labor force of China, and approximately 25% work in industry.

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

The economy of China is the second largest in the world, following the United States. Its economy is one of the fastest growing in the world, particularly since the Chinese government opens "special economic zones" along the coasts that have less stringent government control. Special Economic Zones offer less government control, tax incentives, promote materials for export, and an emphasis on international trade. Economic development in China is so rapid that it is actually constrained by a lack of infrastructure (energy, transportation and communication systems) that is needed. China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, which further liberalized their economic development. However, each sector of the economy is carefully monitored and controlled by government organizations.

Even though China is developing rapidly, 43% of the population still works in agriculture. China is the world's largest producer of rice. About one fourth of the population works in industry, making China a leader in the production of industrial products. A long-term effect of this rapid development has been environmental deterioration, primarily in the form of air and water pollution and soil erosion. Coal provides 70-75% of China's energy, the burning of which decreases air quality.

Exports:

China's major exports include equipment and manufactured goods (electrical machinery, data processing equipment, apparel, toys, textiles, iron and steel, optical and medical equipment). China primarily exports products to the United States (19%), Hong Kong (15%), Japan (8%), South Korea (5%), and Germany (4%).

Imports:

China's major imports include oil and mineral fuels, metal ores, plastics, and organic chemicals. China primarily imports materials from Japan (14%), South

Korea (11%), Taiwan (11%), US (7%), and Germany (5%).

CULTURE, CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

Food:

Cuisine in China is dependent upon location. In the south, meals are based on the rice with vegetables, fish, and meats on the side, while in the north, where wheat is grown, meals are based on steamed dumplings are breads. Vegetables, such as Bok Choy or sprouts, make up a large portion of the Chinese diet in addition to the rice or wheat grains. Meat and animal products are more common in restaurants and urban areas than in rural areas, and fast food restaurants are growing too. Soy products have also been used as protein sources, as well as fish. Typical Chinese meals are eaten with chopsticks, a diverse eating utensil that is also used for stirring.

Greeting and Gift-giving:

Greetings are formal and the oldest person is always greeted first. Handshakes are the most common form of greeting with foreigners and many Chinese will look towards the ground when greeting someone. Foreigners should always address the person by a title and their surname.

Gift-giving can be tricky in China. Giving food basket are perfectly acceptable gifts in China, but giving flowers, clocks, or handkerchiefs are associated with funerals. Likewise, giving a gift of scissors or other sharp cutting items indicates a severing of a relationship. Certain numbers, such as 4, are very unlucky, while other numbers, such as 8, give the receiver luck, and gifts should never be given in blue, black, or white wrapping. Always give the gift with two hands, and be prepared if it is refused. A gift might be refused three times before being accepted by the recipient.

Important Festivals:

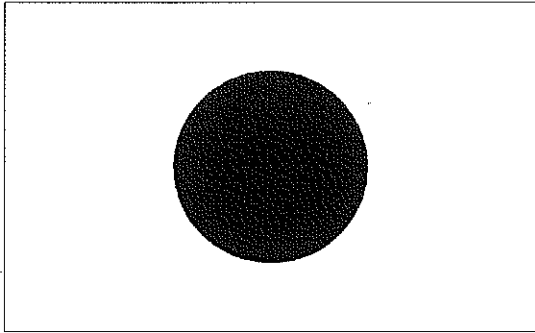
The most important holiday for the Chinese is the Chinese New Year (or Lunar New Year) celebrated each January or February. The celebrations for the New Year last for two weeks, with festivals, firecrackers, and elaborate dinners as part of the traditional celebration. This is also called the Spring Festival.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

As a result of China's rapid industrialization and reliance on coal for energy, China is now dealing with air pollution and acid rain. There is also an estimated 20% loss of agricultural land from soil erosion (from deforestation) and economic development since 1949. China deals with water shortages in the north, desertification in the west, and water pollution throughout the country. Finally, trade in endangered species is a pervasive problem in China.

Source: CIA World Factbook and Library of Congress Country Studies.

JAPAN



Quick Facts about Japan

Capital	Tokyo
Population	127,078,679
Dominant Language	Japanese
Government Type	Constitutional monarchy
Urbanization	66%
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$34,200
Literacy Rate	99%
Life Expectancy	82

LOCATION AND CAPITAL

Japan is situated in northeastern Asia between the North Pacific and the Sea of Japan. The area of Japan is 377,873 square kilometers, nearly equivalent to Germany and Switzerland combined or slightly smaller than California. Japan consists of four major islands, surrounded by more than 4,000 smaller islands.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE, NATURAL RESOURCES

About three-fourths of Japan's land surface is mountainous. The Chubu Region of central Honshu is known as "the roof of Japan" and has many mountains which are more than 3,000 meters high. Japan's highest mountain is Mt. Fuji (3,776 meters) on the border of Yamanashi and Shizuoka Prefectures. Japan's second-highest peak is Kitadake in Yamanashi Prefecture, at 3,192 meters, and its third-highest peak is Hotakadake at 3,190 meters, on the border between Nagano and Gifu prefectures. Since it is situated on the Ring of Fire, Japan has several volcanic regions—usually considered to number seven—from the far north to the far south. Of the total number of volcanoes, approximately 80 are active, including Mt. Mihara on Izu Oshima island, Mt. Asama on the border between Nagano and Gunma Prefectures, and Mt. Aso in Kumamoto Prefecture. Japan has almost 10% of the world's approximately 840 active volcanoes, even though it has only about 1/400 of the world's land area. Mt. Fuji, which has been dormant since its last eruption in 1707, is by no means incapable of erupting again in our lifetimes.

Though volcanoes can cause great harm through large eruptions, they also contribute an incalculable tourist resource. Touristic areas such as Nikko, Hakone, and the Izu Peninsula, for example, are famous for their hot springs and attractive scenery of volcanic mountains.

A major feature of Japan's climate is the clear-cut temperature changes between the four seasons. From north to south, Japan covers a range of latitude of some 25 degrees and is influenced in the winter by seasonal winds blowing from Siberia and in the summer by seasonal winds blowing from the Pacific Ocean. In spite of its rather small area, Japan is characterized by four different climatic patterns. Hokkaido has a subarctic weather pattern while the region of northern Honshu to Kyushu, belongs to the temperate zone, and its summers are hot. The side of the country which faces the

Sea of Japan has a climate with much rain and snow. The



southwestern islands of Okinawa belong to the subtropical climate zone, with warm temperatures and large amounts of rain.

The many rivers descending from mountainous areas have done much to mold Japan's topography, creating large and small valleys and basins and producing fan-shaped deltas near the points where they flow into the sea. Most of the country's plains are small. The largest is the Kanto Plain, which includes parts of Tochigi, Ibaraki, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, and Kanagawa prefectures.

HISTORICAL ROOTS AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

In 1603, a Tokugawa Shogunate (military dictatorship) ushered in a long period of isolation from foreign influence in order to secure its power. For more than two centuries this policy enabled Japan to enjoy stability and a flowering of its indigenous culture. Following the Treaty of Kanagawa with the US in 1854, Japan opened its ports and began to intensively modernize and industrialize. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power that was able to defeat the forces of both China and Russia. It occupied Korea, Formosa (Taiwan), and southern Sakhalin Island. In 1931-32 Japan occupied Manchuria, and in 1937 it launched a full-scale invasion of China. Japan attacked US forces in 1941 - triggering America's entry into World War II - and soon occupied much of East and Southeast Asia. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become a world economic power and an ally of the US. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, elected politicians, with heavy input from bureaucrats and business executives, control actual decision-making. The economy experienced a major slowdown starting in the 1990s following three decades of rapid growth, but Japan still remains a major economic power, both in Asia and globally.



POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Japan's system of government is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary government, with Emperor Akihito leading the Chief of State as the political figure head and Prime Minister Taro Aso in the position of head of government. The cabinet positions are appointed by the Prime Minister. There is a bicameral legislative branch, called the Diet or Kokkai. There is also a Supreme Court for Japan, and the judicial system and laws are modeled after the English-American system. There are four major political parties in Japan: 1) the Democratic Party, 2) Japanese Communist Party, 3) Liberal Democratic Party, and 4) the Social Democratic Party.

POPULATION AND PEOPLE

Japan's population is over 127 million, but Japan is experiencing a negative population growth. Most Japanese reside in densely populated urban areas. Japan's capital city is Tokyo. The population of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area including the city, some of its suburbs and the surrounding area is approximately 12 million.

Japan is 98.5% ethnically Japanese, with some resident claiming Korean, Chinese, or Other decent. Approximately 84% of Japanese practice either Shintoism or Buddhism, with another 16% claiming another religion (less than 1% Christian). The dominant language in Japan is Japanese and 99% of the population is literate.

LAND USE AND INDUSTRY

Approximately 14% of the land in Japan is used for agriculture, while approximately 80% of the land is either forested, mountainous, or unsuitable for agriculture. Only 4.4% of the workforce works in agriculture, while 28% work in industry and 66% work in services. The primary agricultural products include rice, sugar beets, vegetables, and fruit, with pork, poultry, dairy products, eggs, and fish also being important. The major industries of Japan include motor vehicles, electronic equipment, machine tools, steel and nonferrous metals, ships, chemicals, textiles, and processed foods.

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Japan is the third-largest economy in the world after the US and China. Two notable characteristics of the post-war economy were the close interlocking structures of manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors, known as *keiretsu*, and the guarantee of lifetime employment for a substantial portion of the urban labor force. Both features are now eroding under the dual pressures of global competition and domestic demographic change. Japan's industrial sector is heavily dependent on imported raw materials and fuels. A tiny agricultural sector is highly subsidized and protected, with crop yields among the highest in the world. Usually self-sufficient in rice, Japan imports about 60% of its food on a caloric basis. Japan maintains one of the world's largest fishing fleets and accounts for nearly 15% of the global catch. Japan's economy grew rapidly from the 1960s-1980s, but slowed in the 1990s. Currently Japan faces two major problems: government debt and an aging population.

Exports:

Japan's major exports include transport equipment, motor vehicles, semiconductors, electrical machinery, chemicals. Japan primarily exports these products to the United States (20.4%), China (15.3%), South Korea (7.6%), Taiwan (6.3%), and Hong Kong (5.4%).

Imports:

Japan's major imports include machinery and equipment, fuels, foodstuffs, chemicals, textiles, raw materials. Japan primarily imports these products from China (20.5%), US (11.6%), Saudi Arabia (5.7%), UAE (5.2%), Australia (5%), South Korea (4.4%), and Indonesia (4.2%).

CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

Food:

Culinary originality was able to explode in Japan during the 250 year isolationist period. The different regions were able to develop distinct styles and dishes, typically specializing in particular flavors or styles. Hokkaido developed dishes based on seafood. The plains area, where cattle were raised, gave rise to beef

dishes and cooking styles. Tokyo became the culinary capital of Japan. Some common Japanese foods are:

Sukiyaki: Sukiyaki is prepared right at the table by cooking thinly sliced beef together with vegetables, tofu and vermicelli. **Tempura:** Tempura is food deep-fried in vegetable oil after being coated with a mixture of egg, water and wheat flour. Among the ingredients used are prawns, fish in season and vegetables. **Sushi:** Sushi is a small piece of raw seafood placed on a ball of vinegared rice. The most common ingredients are tuna, squid and prawns. Cucumber, pickled radish and sweet egg omelet are also served. **Sashimi:** Sashimi is sliced raw fish eaten with soy sauce. **Kaiseki Ryori:** Kaiseki ryori is regarded as Japan's most exquisite culinary refinement. Consisting mainly of vegetables and fish with a seasoning base of seaweed and mushrooms, the dishes are characterized by their refined savor. **Yakitori:** Yakitori is made up of small pieces of chicken meat, liver and vegetables skewered on a bamboo stick and grilled over hot coals. **Soba and udon:** Soba and udon are two kinds of Japanese noodles. Soba is made from buckwheat flour and udon from wheat flour. They are served either in a broth or dipped in sauce and are available in hundreds of delicious variations.

Traditions:

The Japanese culture has a massive amount of culture and traditions for almost everything. Festivals, tea ceremonies, cooking, and sake brewing among numerous other examples are highly ritualized and precise.

Tea Ceremony: The tea ceremony (*chanoyu*), which is also known as the Way of Tea (*chado* or *sado*), is the ritualized preparation and serving of powdered green tea in the presence of guests. A full-length formal tea ceremony involves a meal (*chakaiseki*) and two servings of tea (*koicha* and *usucha*) and lasts approximately four hours, during which the host engages his whole being in the creation of an occasion designed to bring aesthetic, intellectual, and physical enjoyment and peace of mind to the guests. **Kabuki:** Kabuki is characterized by its stylized acting, its gorgeous costumes and its spectacular scale. However, the features which spring most readily to mind in connection with kabuki are probably the *mawari-butai*, or revolving stage, the violent makeup of the *aragoto* actor, and the *oyama*, or female roles, played by male actors. **Calligraphy:** *Sho*,

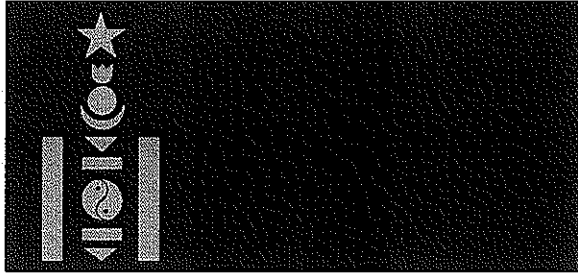
or calligraphy, is one of the unique arts of the East. In it, beauty is sought through the shape and position of the characters drawn, the gradation of the ink, and the force of the brushstrokes. **Ikebana:** Japanese floral art (*ikebana*) was brought to its peak of refinement in the latter half of the sixteenth century by its founder, *Sen-no-Rikyū*. At present, there are about three thousand schools of ikebana, two of the better-known ones being the *Ikenobō* school and the *Obara* school.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

As a result of Japan's power plant emissions, Japan is now dealing with air pollution and acid rain. Acid rain has degraded water quality and aquatic life. Japan is also one of the largest consumers of fish and timber in the world, contributing to massive depletion of these resources in Asia and around the world.

Source: CIA World Factbook.

MONGOLIA



Quick Facts about Mongolia

Capital	Ulaanbaatar
Population	3,041,142
Dominant Language	Khalkha Mongol
Government Type	Parliamentary republic
Urbanization	60%
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$3,200
Literacy Rate	97.8%
Life Expectancy	67.5 years

LOCATION AND CAPITAL

Mongolia is a landlocked country in northern Asia, sandwiched between China and Russia. Its capital, Ulaanbaatar, also spelled Ulan Bator, is an independent municipality not part of any province, and its population as of 2008 is just over 1 million, 38% of the nation's population.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE, NATURAL RESOURCES

The terrain of Mongolia is one of mountains and rolling plateaus, with a high degree of relief. The landscape includes one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes (Lake Khövsgöl), many salt lakes, marshes, sand dunes, rolling grasslands, alpine forests, and permanent montane glaciers. Northern and western Mongolia are seismically active zones, with frequent earthquakes and many hot springs and extinct volcanoes. Mongolia has three major mountain ranges: the Altay Mountains in western Mongolia; the Khangai Mountains, occupying much of central and north-central Mongolia; and the Khentii Mountains near the Russian border to the northeast of Ulaanbaatar. Much of eastern Mongolia is occupied by a plain, and the lowest area at 1,837 feet (560 meters) is a southwest-to-northeast trending depression that reaches from the Gobi Desert region in the south

near China to the eastern frontier. Natural resources include oil, coal, copper, molybdenum, tungsten, phosphates, tin, nickel, zinc, fluorspar, gold, silver, and iron.

Because of its high elevation (at 4,300 feet, or 1,360 meters), relatively high latitude, and location hundreds of miles from any coast, Ulaanbaatar is the coldest national capital in the world, with a monsoon-influenced subarctic climate with brief, warm summers and long, very cold and dry winters. Precipitation is heavily concentrated in the warmer months. It has an average annual temperature of 29.7 °F (-1.3 °C). The city lies in the zone of sporadic permafrost, which means that building is difficult in sheltered aspects that preclude thawing in the summer, but easier on more exposed ones where soils fully thaw. Suburban residents live in traditional *gers* that do not protrude into the soil.



HISTORICAL ROOTS

The Mongols lived in the outer reaches of the Gobi Desert in what is now Outer Mongolia. They were a pastoral and tribal people that did not really seem to be of any consequence to neighboring peoples. The Mongols were a group of disunified tribes that would gather regularly during annual migrations; although they elected chiefs over the tribes at these meetings, they never unified into a single people. The area of what is now Mongolia has been ruled by various nomadic empires, including the Xiongnu, the Xianbei, the Rouran, the Gökturks, and others. The Mongol Empire was founded in 1206 by Genghis Khan, who created an



incredibly expansive empire, extending west to east from Poland to Siberia, and north to south from Moscow to the Arabian peninsula and Siberia to Vietnam. In 1260, Kublai Khan, a grandson of Genghis Khan, became Great Khan. Four years later he relocated his capital from Mongolia to Beijing in northern China, and in 1271 he adopted a Chinese dynastic name, the Yuan. Kublai Khan had decided to become the emperor of China and start a new dynasty; within a few short years, the Mongols had conquered all of southern China. After the collapse of the Yuan Dynasty, the Mongols returned to their earlier patterns. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Mongolia came under the influence of Tibetan Buddhism. At the end of the 17th century, most of Mongolia had been incorporated into the area ruled by the Qing Dynasty. During the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, Mongolia declared independence, but had to struggle until 1921 to firmly establish *de-facto* independence, and until 1945 to gain international recognition. As a consequence, it came under strong Russian and Soviet influence: In 1924,

the Mongolian People's Republic was declared, and Mongolian politics began to follow the same patterns as Soviet politics of the time. After the breakdown of communist regimes in Eastern Europe in late 1989, Mongolia saw its own Democratic Revolution in early 1990, which led to a multi-party system, a new constitution in 1992, and the rather rough transition to a market economy.

POLITICAL SYSTEMS

As a democracy, Mongolia has an executive, legislative, and judicial branch. The legislature is the unicameral State Great Hural, which has 76 seats. Members are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms. Following legislative elections, the leader of the majority party or majority coalition is usually elected prime minister by State Great Hural. Presidential candidates are nominated by political parties represented in State Great Hural and elected by popular vote for a four-year term, and are eligible for a second term. The Supreme Court serves as appeals court for people's and provincial courts, but rarely overturns verdicts of lower courts. Judges are nominated by the General Council of Courts and approved by the president.

POPULATION AND PEOPLE

Mongolia is a sparsely populated country. Approximately 30% of the country's 3 million people are nomadic or semi-nomadic. The predominant religion in Mongolia is Tibetan Buddhism, and the majority of the state's citizens are of the Mongol ethnicity, though Kazakhs, Tuvans, and other minorities also live in the country, especially in the west. Poverty in Mongolia is magnified by the harsh climate, where on average a third of household or institutional budget is spent just on heating and shelter to so as to survive the cold or stay warm.

LAND USE AND INDUSTRIES

The country contains very little arable land and 0% of the land is dedicated to permanent crops, though 34% of the population is employed in agriculture. Although pastoral land use patterns have altered over time in response to the changing political economy, mobility and flexibility remain hallmarks of sustainable grazing

in this harsh and variable climate, as do the communal use and management of pasturelands. Recent changes in Mongolia's political economy threaten the continued sustainability of Mongolian pastoral systems due to increasing poverty and declining mobility among herders and the weakening of both formal and customary pasture management institutions. Major industries include construction and construction materials, mining (coal, copper, molybdenum, fluorspar, tin, tungsten, and gold), oil, food and beverages, and the processing of animal products, cashmere and natural fiber manufacturing.

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Economic activity in Mongolia has traditionally been based on herding and agriculture. Mongolia has extensive mineral deposits. Copper, coal, gold, molybdenum, fluorspar, uranium, tin, and tungsten account for a large part of industrial production and foreign direct investment. Soviet assistance, at its height one-third of GDP, disappeared almost overnight in 1990 and 1991 at the time of the dismantlement of the USSR. The following decade saw Mongolia endure both deep recession because of political inaction and natural disasters, as well as economic growth because of reform-embracing, free-market economics and extensive privatization of the formerly state-run economy. Severe winters and summer droughts in 2000-02 resulted in massive livestock die-off and zero or negative GDP growth. This was compounded by falling prices for Mongolia's primary sector exports and widespread opposition to privatization. Growth averaged nearly 9% per year in 2004-08, largely because of high copper prices and new gold production. In 2008, falling prices for copper and other mineral exports reduced government revenues and forced spending cuts. The global credit crisis has stalled growth in key sectors, especially those that had been fueled by foreign investment. Mongolia's economy continues to be heavily influenced by its neighbors. Mongolia purchases 95% of its petroleum products and a substantial amount of electric power from Russia, leaving it vulnerable to price increases.

Exports:

Mongolia exports copper, apparel, livestock, animal products, cashmere, wool, hides, fluorspar, other non-ferrous metals, and coal to China (71.9%), Canada (10.7%), and the United States (4.8%).

Imports:

Imports include machinery and equipment, fuel, cars, food products, industrial consumer goods, chemicals, building materials, sugar, and tea from China (32%), Russia (29.4%), South Korea (7.9%), Japan (7.2%).

CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

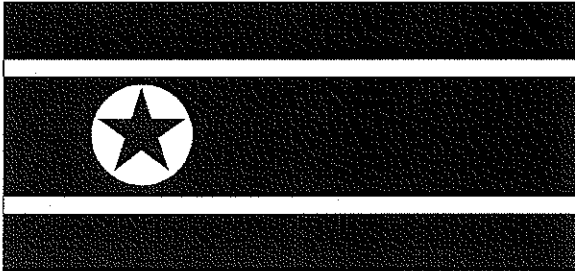
Mongolian culture has been heavily influenced by the Mongol nomadic way of life. Other important influences are from Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism, and from China. In the 20th century, Russian culture and, via Russia, European cultures have had a strong effect on Mongolia. Mongolian dress has changed little since the days of the empire, because it is supremely well-adapted to the conditions of life on the steppe and the daily activities of pastoral nomads. However, there have been some changes in styles which distinguish modern Mongolian dress from historic costume. For a child, the first big celebration is the first haircut, usually at an age between three and five. Birthdays were not celebrated in the old times, but these days, birthday parties are popular. Wedding ceremonies traditionally include the hand-over of a new *ger* to the marrying couple. Deceased relatives were usually put to rest in the open, where the corpses would be eaten by animals and birds. Nowadays, corpses are usually buried.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mongolia has limited natural fresh water resources in some areas. The policies of former Communist regimes promoted rapid urbanization and industrial growth that had negative effects on the environment, including the burning of soft coal in power plants. Deforestation and overgrazing that have led to an increase in soil erosion. Finally, desertification and mining activities had a negative effect on the environment.

Source: CIA World Factbook.

NORTH KOREA



Quick Facts about North Korea	
Capital	Pyongyang
Population	22,665,345
Dominant Language	Korean
Government Type	Communist State
Urbanization	63%
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$1,700
Literacy Rate	99%
Life Expectancy	63.8 years

LOCATION AND CAPITAL

North Korea is located in Eastern Asia, on the northern half of the Korean Peninsula bordering the Korea Bay and the Sea of Japan, between China and South Korea. The capital city is Pyongyang.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE, NATURAL RESOURCES

North Korea occupies the northern portion of the Korean Peninsula, covering an area of 120,540 square kilometres (46,541 sq mi). North Korea shares land borders with People's Republic of China and Russia to the north, and borders South Korea along the Korean Demilitarized Zone. To its west are the Yellow Sea and Korea Bay, and to its east lies Japan across the Sea of Japan (East Sea of Korea). The highest point in North Korea is Paektu-san Mountain at 2,744 metres (9,003 ft). The longest river is the Amnok River which flows for 790 kilometres (491 mi).

North Korea's climate is relatively temperate, with precipitation heavier in summer during a short rainy season called *changma*, and winters that can be bitterly cold. On August 7, 2007, the most devastating floods in 40 years caused the North Korean Government to ask for international help. NGOs, such as the Red Cross, asked people to raise funds because they feared a humanitarian catastrophe.

The capital and largest city is Pyongyang; other major cities include Kaesong in the south, Sinuiju in the northwest, Wonsan and Hamhung in the east and Chongjin in the northeast.

HISTORICAL ROOTS AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

An independent kingdom for much of its long history, Korea was occupied by Japan beginning in 1905 following the Russo-Japanese War. Five years later, Japan formally annexed the entire peninsula. Following World War II, Korea was split with the northern half coming under Soviet-sponsored Communist control. North Korea (DPRK), under its founder President KIM Il Sung, adopted a policy of ostensible diplomatic and economic "self-reliance" as a check against outside influence. The DPRK demonized the US as the ultimate threat to its social system through state-funded propaganda, and molded political, economic, and mili-





tary policies around the core ideological objective of eventual unification of Korea under Pyongyang's control. KIM's son, the current ruler KIM Jong Il, was officially

designated as his father's successor in 1980, assuming a growing political and managerial role until the elder KIM's death in 1994. After decades of economic mismanagement and resource misallocation, the DPRK since the mid-1990s has relied heavily on international aid to feed its population.

POLITICAL SYSTEMS

North Korea is a self-described *Juche* (self-reliant) state with a pronounced cult of personality organized around Kim Il-sung (the founder of North Korea and the country's first and only president) and his son and heir, Kim Jong-il (in picture to right). Following Kim Il-sung's death in 1994, he was not replaced, but instead received the designation of "Eternal President", and was entombed in the vast Kumsusan Memorial Palace in central Pyongyang.

Although the active position of president has been abolished in deference to the memory of Kim Il-sung, the de facto head of state is Kim Jong-il, who is Chairman of the National Defense Commission of North Korea. The legislature of North Korea is the Supreme People's Assembly, currently led by President Kim Yong-nam. The other senior government figure is Premier Kim Yong-il.

North Korea is a single-party state. The governing party is the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, a coalition of the Workers' Party of Korea and two other smaller parties, the Korean Social

Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party. These parties nominate all candidates for office and hold all seats in the Supreme People's Assembly.

POPULATION AND PEOPLE

The population of North Korea is just over 22.5 million people. The North Koreans are ethnically homogeneous, but there is a small Chinese community and a few ethnic Japanese living within the country. Most North Koreans are traditionally Buddhist and Confucianists, but there are some Christians and syncretic Chondogyo (Religion of the Heavenly Way). However, it is important to note that religious activities are now almost nonexistent with government-sponsored religious groups existing to provide illusion of religious freedom.

LAND USE AND INDUSTRY

Approximately 37% of North Koreans work in agriculture, with 22% of the land being arable and only 1.66% of the land being used for permanent crops. The major crops of North Korea include rice, corn, potatoes, and soybeans, as well as cattle, pigs, pork, and eggs. The remaining 63% of North Koreans work in either industry or services. The major industries of North Korea are military products, machine building, mining (coal, iron ore, limestone, magnesite, graphite, copper, zinc, lead, and precious metals), metallurgy, textiles, and food processing.

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

North Korea has an industrialized, command economy, almost completely isolated from the rest of the world. North Korea's isolation policy means that international trade is highly restricted, hampering a significant potential for economic growth. Nonetheless, due to its strategic location in East Asia connecting four major economies and having a cheap, young and skilled workforce, the North Korean economy could grow to 6-7% annually "with the right incentives and reform measures".

Exports:

The primary exports of North Korea are minerals, metallurgical products, manufactures (including arma-

ments), textiles, agricultural and fishery products, and North Korea exports these products to South Korea (45%), China (35%), Thailand (5%).

Imports:

The primary imports to North Korea are petroleum, cooking coal, machinery and equipment, textiles, and grain, which come primarily from China (27%), South Korea (16%), Thailand (9%), and Russia (7%).

CULTURE, CUSTOMS, AND COURTESIES

There is a vast cult of personality around Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il and much of North Korea's literature, popular music, theater, and film glorify the two men.

A popular event in North Korea is the Mass Games. The most recent and largest Mass Games was called "Arirang". It was performed six nights a week for two months, and involved over 100,000 performers. Attendees to this event in recent years report that the anti-West sentiments have been toned down compared to previous performances. The Mass Games involve performances of dance, gymnastic, and choreographic rou-

tines which celebrate the history of North Korea and the Workers' Party Revolution. The Mass Games are held in Pyongyang at various venues (varying according to the scale of the Games in a particular year) including the May Day Stadium.

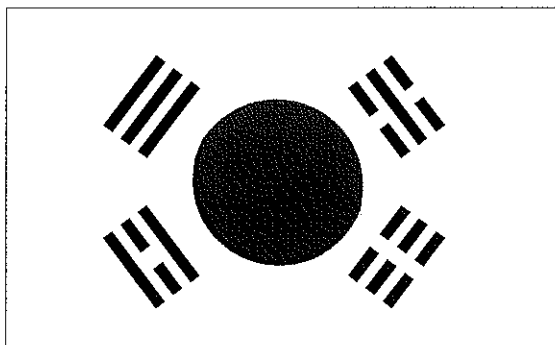
Culture is officially protected by the North Korean government. Large buildings committed to culture have been built, such as the People's Palace of Culture or the Grand People's Palace of Studies, both in Pyongyang. Outside the capital, there's a major theatre in Hamhung and in every city there are State-run theatres and stadiums.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

North Korea has several environmental issues relating to water, including water pollution, inadequate supplies of potable water, and waterborne disease. Deforestation and soil erosion are also environmental issues in North Korea.

Source: CIA World Factbook and Library of Congress Country Studies.

SOUTH KOREA



Quick Facts about South Korea	
Capital	Seoul
Population	48,508,972
Dominant Language	Korean
Government Type	Republic
Urbanization	81%
GDP per capita (PPP)	\$26,000
Literacy Rate	97.9%
Life Expectancy	78.7 years

LOCATION AND CAPITAL

South Korea, also known as the Republic of Korea, is located on the southern half of the Korean peninsula between the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. Occupying about 45% of the Korean peninsula (about 38,022 square miles, or 98,477 square kilometers), it is about the size of Portugal or Hungary, and is slightly larger than the state of Indiana. Its capital city is Seoul, located in the northwestern part of the country on the Han River.

PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE, CLIMATE, NATURAL RESOURCES

South Korea is a very hilly and mountainous place. Its highest peak is Hallasan, located on Jeju (Cheju) Island, at 6,397 feet (1,950 meters), and is the cone of a volcanic formation that constitutes the island. The lowest point is at sea level on the Sea of Japan. The south and west have coastal plains, and are more prone to low-level seismic activity. As part of the East Asian monsoonal region, South Korea has a temperate climate with four distinct seasons. The movement of air masses from the Asian continent exerts greater influence on South Korea's weather than does air movement from the Pacific Ocean. Winters are usually long, cold, and dry, whereas summers are short, hot, and humid. Spring and autumn are pleasant but short in duration. About two-thirds of the annual precipitation occurs between June and September. Despite this, the country generally has sufficient rainfall to sustain its agriculture. Serious droughts occur about once every eight

years, especially in the rice-producing southwestern part of the country. Natural resources include coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum and lead.

HISTORICAL ROOTS

An independent Korean state or collection of states has existed almost continuously for several millennia. Between its initial unification of three predecessor Korean states in the 7th century until the 20th century, Korea existed as a single independent country. In 1905, following the Russo-Japanese War, Korea became a protectorate of imperial Japan, and in 1910 it was annexed as a colony. Korea regained its independence following Japan's surrender to the United States in



1945. After World War II, a Republic of Korea (ROK) was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a Communist-style government was installed in the north (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK). During the Korean War (1950-53), U.S. troops and UN forces fought alongside South Korean soldiers to defend South Korea from DPRK attacks that were supported by China and the Soviet Union. The original border between the two Korean states was the 38th parallel of latitude. After the Korean War, the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) formed the boundary between the two. The DMZ is a heavily guarded, 4,000-meter-wide (2.48 miles) strip of land that runs along the line of cease-fire, the Demarcation Line, from the east to the west coasts for a distance of about 150 miles (241 kilometers). Since the ceasefire that ended the war, South Korea achieved rapid economic growth with per capita income rising to roughly 14 times the level of North Korea.

POLITICAL SYSTEMS

Today, South Korea is a fully functioning modern democracy. In 1993, Kim Young-sam became South Korea's first civilian president following 32 years of military rule. Like other democracies, South Korea has three branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch has a president, prime minister, and a cabinet (called the State Council) appointed by the president on the prime minister's recommendations. Presidential elections are held every five years, the next to be in 2012, and presidents may serve only one term. The National Assembly, which is the legislative branch of government, approves the president's choice for prime minister. The National Assembly, or Kukhoe, is comprised of 299 seats, 243 of which are elected in single-seat constituencies, and the remaining 56 are elected by proportional representation. Representatives serve four-year terms. Supreme Court justices are appointed by the president and approved by the National Assembly.

POPULATION AND PEOPLE

In the last several decades, South Korea has witnessed a rapid growth of its urban centers. The population of these areas now constitutes over 85 percent of the

national total. Urban growth has been particularly spectacular along the Seoul-Pusan corridor, the Seoul metropolitan area and the Kyongsang-do area. By contrast, the southwestern and northeastern peripheral regions have sustained a considerable loss in population. Koreans are a homogenous ethnic group, with only about 20,000 Chinese living among the South Koreans.



The dominant language is Korean, and English is widely taught in schools as well. There are around 78 million speakers of the Korean language worldwide. Koreans use their own unique alphabet called Hangeul. It is considered to be one of the most efficient alphabets in the world and has garnered unanimous praise from language experts for its scientific design and excellence. Most Koreans do not identify themselves with a religion.

LAND USE AND INDUSTRY

Only 16.58% of land in South Korea is arable, and only 2% of that land is used for permanent crops. Major agricultural products of South Korea include rice, root crops, barley, vegetables, fruit, as well as cattle, pigs, chickens, milk, eggs, and fish. The major industries of South Korea include electronics, telecommunications, automobile production, chemicals, shipbuilding, and steel production.

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

The economy of South Korea is a highly developed trillion-dollar economy that is the 4th largest in Asia and 13th largest in the world. It sustained double-digit eco-

conomic growth for decades, growing faster than any other major economy in the 20th century. South Korea's overnight transformation to a wealthy developed country in less than half a century is often called the Miracle on the Han River, and earned South Korea the distinctive reputation of "Asian Tiger" in the international community, joining Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Since the 1960s, South Korea has achieved an incredible record of growth and integration into the high-tech modern world economy. Four decades ago, GDP per capita was comparable with levels in the poorer countries of Africa and Asia. In 2004, South Korea joined the trillion-dollar club of world economies. In 2008, its GDP per capita was roughly the same as that of the Czech Republic and New Zealand. Initially, this success was achieved by a system of close government/business ties including directed credit, import restrictions, sponsorship of specific industries, and a strong labor effort. The government promoted the import of raw materials and technology at the expense of consumer goods and encouraged savings and investment over consumption. South Korea's corporatist economic system has many well known global conglomerates such as Samsung, Hyundai-Kia, and LG.

Exports:

South Korea's major exports include semiconductors, wireless telecommunications equipment, motor vehicles, computers, steel, ships, and petrochemicals. The country primarily exports products to China (22.1%), the United States (12.4%), Japan (7.1%), and Hong Kong (5%).

Imports:

Major imports are machinery, electronics and electronic equipment, oil, steel, transport equipment, organic chemicals, and plastics, coming from China (17.7%), Japan (15.8%), the United States (10.5%), and Saudi Arabia (5.9%).

CUSTOMS AND COURTESIES

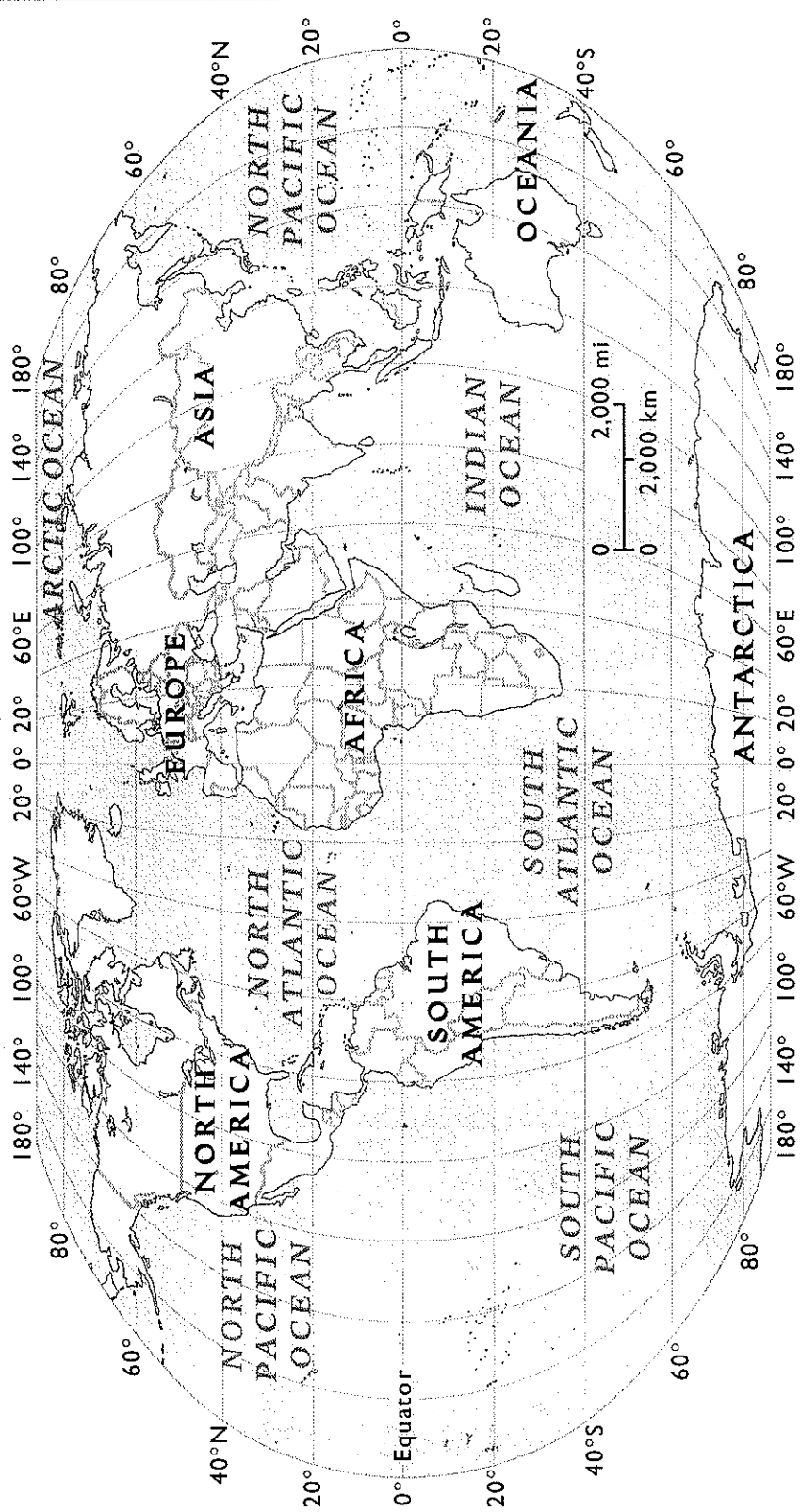
Korea is one of the oldest continuous civilizations in the world and has 5,000 years of documented history. The current political separation of North and South Korea has resulted in divergence in modern Korean cultures; nevertheless, the traditional culture of Korea is historically shared by both states. While the historical links between Korea and China have resulted in extensive influences from China, Korea has nevertheless managed to retain a distinct cultural identity from its larger neighbor. Rice is the staple food of Korea. Having been an almost exclusively agricultural country until recently, the essential recipes in Korea are shaped by this experience. The main crops in Korea are rice, barley, and beans, but many supplementary crops are used. Fish and other seafood are also important because Korea is a peninsula. Kimchi is a traditional Korean pickled dish made of vegetables with varied seasonings. Its most common manifestation is the spicy baechu (cabbage) variety. Kimchi is the most common side dish in Korea, served with all meals, including breakfast. It is so ubiquitous that when taking photographs, South Koreans often will use the word "kimchi" in the same way as English speakers tend to use the word "cheese!"

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

South Korea faces several environmental issues, including air pollution in large cities, acid rain, water pollution from the discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, and drift net fishing.

Source: CIA World Factbook and Library of Congress Country Studies.

THE WORLD



Lizzie's Morning

7 a.m. The clock radio blasts Jamaican reggae into Lizzie's room in Washington, D.C., and the music wakes her. As she comes to life, she thinks about school and the day ahead. She doesn't think about Guglielmo Marconi of Italy, who patented the radio. And she doesn't know that the first experimental radio broadcast took place in Massachusetts in 1906.

Lizzie gets dressed, heads to the kitchen, and makes a pitcher of orange juice, using frozen concentrate that was preserved by a process developed in Florida during the 1940s. The very same round, golden fruit was popular in ancient China.

Lizzie's mom uses an electric appliance to grind coffee beans from Brazil. The first version of this machine was invented in Ohio in the 1930s. (Before then people used manual grinders, which date to the 1800s.) Her mom pours the ground beans into a cone-shaped filter invented in Germany around 1900.

For breakfast, Lizzie eats a bowl of Kellogg's corn flakes, named after the American family that developed the cereal in the 1890s. As she eats, she glances at the newspaper. (The first regular weekly newspapers appeared in Germany in the early 1800s.)

After breakfast, Lizzie brushes her teeth. (The Chinese claim they invented the toothbrush in the 1400s.) She then says good-bye to her father, who is shaving with a safety razor—patented in 1901 by a salesman from Wisconsin. The earliest safety razors date from France in the late 1800s. Centuries ago, people used shells and sharks' teeth as razors.

Lizzie gathers her stuff for school, including her saxophone—invented in Belgium by Adolphe Sax in the 1840s. She puts on her Walkman, developed in Japan in the 1970s. Then, when her mom isn't looking, she pops some gum into her mouth. People have enjoyed gum since ancient times, and the Indians of Mexico and Central America chewed chicle, a substance from wild sapodilla trees. Chicle was introduced to the United States in the 1860s.

Rain begins to fall as Lizzie leaves the house. She races back inside for her umbrella, which was made in Taiwan. Umbrellas have a long past. They appear in artwork from ancient Egypt, and they've been used in various cultures—both practically and ceremonially.

Back outside, Lizzie dashes across the street once the traffic light turns green. The first working traffic signal was installed outside the Houses of Parliament in London, the capital of the United Kingdom. Modern traffic lights were invented in the early 20th century.

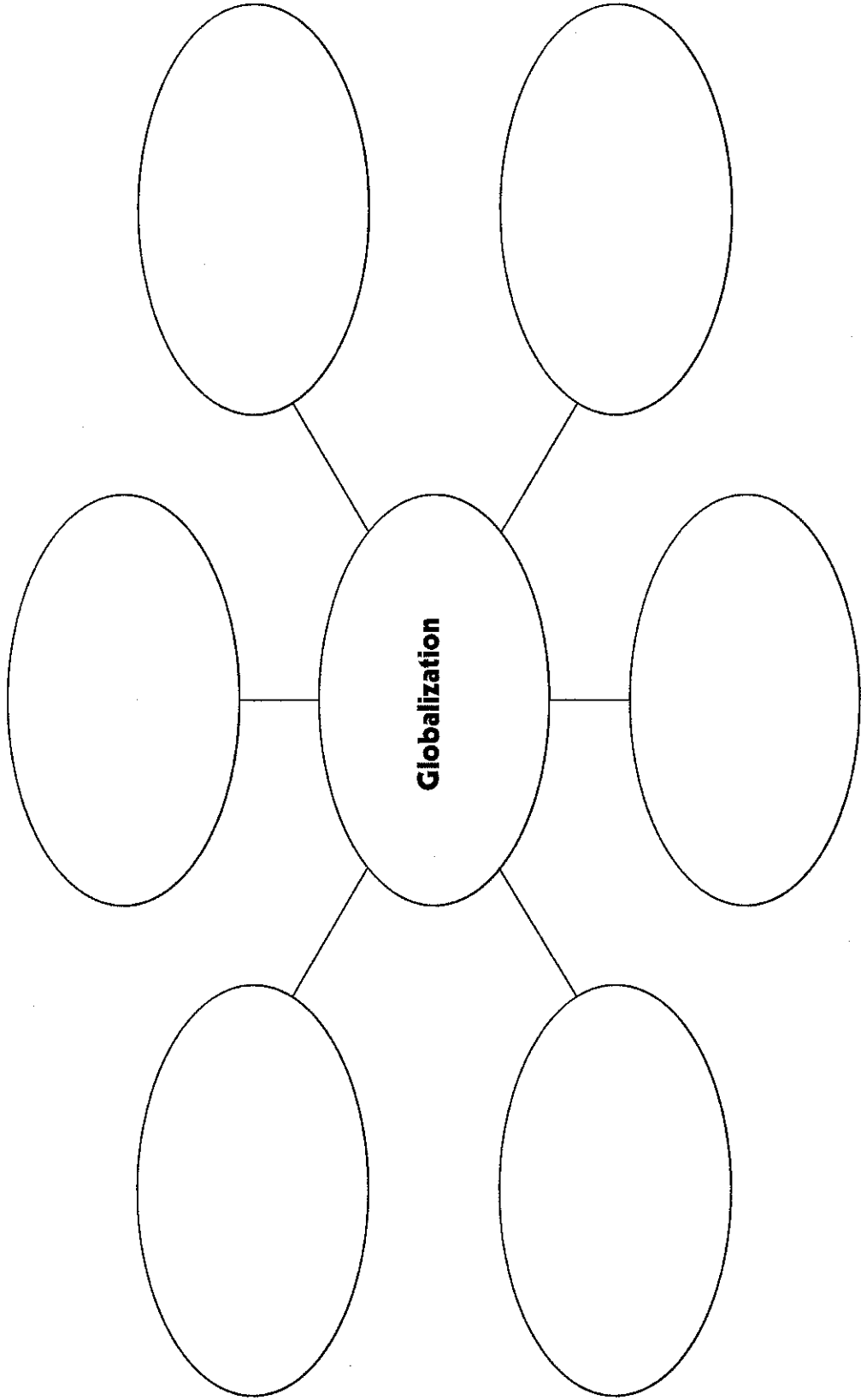
The smooth, solid road that Lizzie crosses is paved with macadam, a surface developed in part by English engineer John McAdam. Lizzie waits a few minutes for the bus that will take her to school. The first bus line was established in Paris, France, in the 1600s, but it didn't last long. Not until the 1800s were horse-drawn buses a regular part of life in cities such as Paris, London, and New York.

Lizzie climbs aboard the bus, pays her fare, and heads off to school.

Source: National Geographic Expeditions

Student Name: _____

Concept Web: Globalization and East Asia



Business Plan Outline

Student Name: _____

Question	Response
<p>WHERE</p> <p>Where, specifically, do you plan to locate your business?</p> <p>Why did you select that location?</p>	
<p>WHAT</p> <p>What product or service are you planning to provide?</p> <p>Why did you select that product or service?</p>	
<p>WHO</p> <p>Who are your intended customers?</p> <p>Why did you select those particular customers?</p>	
<p>HOW</p> <p>How do you plan to go about establishing your business?</p> <p>What steps will you take?</p> <p>What obstacles might stand in your way?</p>	
<p>WHY</p> <p>Why do you think your business plan will be successful?</p> <p>What other information would you like to have to aid you in planning?</p>	

East Asia Comparison Matrix (ESPN Chart)

Student Name: _____ Expert Country: _____

Country	Economic (E)	Social/Cultural (S)	Political (P)	Physical/Environmental (N)
China				
Japan				
Mongolia				
North Korea				
South Korea				
Taiwan				

East Asia Group Work Skills Rubric

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Contributions	Routinely provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. A definite leader who contributes a lot of effort.	Usually provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. A strong group member who tries hard!	Sometimes provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. A satisfactory group member who does what is required.	Rarely provides useful ideas when participating in the group and in classroom discussion. May refuse to participate.
Quality of Work	Provides work of the highest quality.	Provides high quality work.	Provides work that occasionally needs to be checked/redone by other group members to ensure quality.	Provides work that usually needs to be checked/redone by others to ensure quality.
Focus on the task	Consistently stays focused on the task and what needs to be done. Very self-directed.	Focuses on the task and what needs to be done most of the time. Other group members can count on this person.	Focuses on the task and what needs to be done some of the time. Other group members must sometimes nag, prod, and remind to keep this person on-task.	Rarely focuses on the task and what needs to be done. Lets others do the work.
Preparedness	Brings needed materials to class and is always ready to work.	Almost always brings needed materials to class and is ready to work.	Almost always brings needed materials but sometimes needs to settle down and get to work.	Often forgets needed materials or is rarely ready to get to work.
Working with Others	Almost always listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. Tries to keep people working well together.	Usually listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. Does not cause "waves" in the group.	Often listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others, but sometimes is not a good team member.	Rarely listens to, shares with, and supports the efforts of others. Often is not a good team player.
Attitude	Never is publicly critical of the project or the work of others. Always has a positive attitude about the task(s).	Rarely is publicly critical of the project or the work of others. Often has a positive attitude about the task(s).	Occasionally is publicly critical of the project or the work of other members of the group. Usually has a positive attitude about the task(s).	Often is publicly critical of the project or the work of other members of the group. Often has a negative attitude about the task(s).