Global Studies: A World View
By: Joanne Pralle
v 1.0
INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to your Continental Academy course “Global Studies: A World View”. It is made up of 6 individual lessons, as listed in the Table of Contents. Each lesson includes practice questions with answers. You will progress through this course one lesson at a time, at your own pace.

First, study the lesson thoroughly. Then, complete the lesson reviews at the end of the lesson and carefully check your answers. Sometimes, those answers will contain information that you will need on the graded lesson assignments. When you are ready, complete the 10-question, multiple choice lesson assignment. At the end of each lesson, you will find notes to help you prepare for the online assignments.

All lesson assignments are open-book. Continue working on the lessons at your own pace until you have finished all lesson assignments for this course.

When you have completed and passed all lesson assignments for this course, complete the End of Course Examination.

If you need help understanding any part of the lesson, practice questions, or this procedure:

- Click on the “Send a Message” link on the left side of the homepage
- Select “Academic Guidance” in the “To” field
- Type your question in the field provided
- Then, click on the “Send” button
- You will receive a response within ONE BUSINESS DAY
Joanne Pralle received her Bachelor of Arts [B.A.] degree in American Studies from the University of Florida. She also obtained her Master of Arts [M.A.] degree in Public History and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from Florida International University. She was a home educator of her four children for fifteen [15] years and then taught in a private school in Miami, Florida. Currently, she is employed in the museum field and working on a historical fiction series about Florida history for students.
Geography, history, politics, economics, sociology, and anthropology are applied to the study of cultural diversity. Challenges of today’s world are examined and students are taught to be active participants in the world community.

- Student will understand the characteristics of places and regions
- Students will understand the characterizations of human systems
- Student will understand the relationship humans have with their environment
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The World and Its Regions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Europe and Russia</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Middle East and Africa</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>World Issues Today</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>End of Course Review</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 1: Introduction

The world offers problems to solve. Realities are seen by studying cultures of the past and cultures of today. Areas of the world differ in their physical features and climate. We have a global environment consisting of different landforms, vegetation and bodies of water. Study physical geography of location and climate. We can better understand the people who reside there.

Technology affects life. Culture [or the way of life of a group of people] molds society. This is especially true when cultures come into contact with other cultures. The actions, behavior, ideas and beliefs of one group are passed down to the young. People learn to relate to others within their own culture. Cultural traits spread from one culture to another. Cultural diffusion occurs. Some cultures are assimilated within another. In this case, one culture gives up its ways. It becomes part of another culture. Societies become more diverse as cultures increase contact.

Cultures are impacted by history of their region. Political systems in different regions depend on the history and the culture of the people. Political systems or form of government vary. In a democracy, citizens have the right to choose their leaders. In a dictatorship, the head of the government controls by force.

Regions of the world may be impacted by resources found in the area. Economic systems organize workers to use resources to produce goods and services. Economic power depends on plant, animal, mineral,
and human wealth of a region. The conflict over resources influences lifestyle and movement of people. The Gross Domestic Product or GDP of a nation is the total value of all the goods and services produced in a certain period of time.

The world can be divided into regions based on geography. Because countries are on the same continent or close to each other does not mean they have the same culture. Physical geography does affect lifestyle of a group. This study of the world’s cultures has divided the globe into four distinct regions: Latin America, Europe and Russia, the Middle East and Africa and Asia. Within each region, there are cultural differences. Cultures are linked because they have a similar location. One can best understand and appreciate the peoples of our global village thru increased knowledge.

Lesson 1: Practice Questions

Directions: Select the letter of the best answer.

1. The way of life of a group of people is its __________.
   a. globe       b. culture       c. region       d. diffusion

2. Cultural traits spread from one culture to another are known as ______.
   a. lag   b. space  c. interaction   d. diffusion

3. When one culture gives up its ways and becomes part of another culture, it is __________
   a. diseased       b. assimilated      c. juried      d. diffused
4. The form of government is known as the __________ system.
   a. economic    b. societal    c. cultural    d. political

5. Organization of the workers to use resources to produce goods and services is the __________ system.
   a. economic    b. cultural    c. political    d. geographical

6. Total values of all the goods and services produced in a certain period of time is known as __________.
   a. cultural diffusion   c. Gross Domestic Product
   b. political system   d. assimilation

7. The world is divided into regions based on:
   a. economics   b. politics   c. geography   d. culture

8. ____________ feature the right to choose leaders freely.

9. Which regions will be studied in the same sub-lesson of this course?
   a. Europe and Africa   c. Europe and Russia
   b. Asia and Africa   d. Middle East and Americas

10. What traits are passed from elders to the young?
    a. Actions   b. Values   c. Ideas   d. All of these
Lesson 1 Answers

1. B  6. C
2. D  7. C
4. D  9. C
5. A  10. D
LESSON 1 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The form of government is known as the political system.
- The way of life of a group of people is its culture.
- When cultural traits spread from one culture to another it is known as cultural diffusion.
- Assimilation is when one culture gives up its ways and becomes part of another culture.
- The form of government is an aspect of a place’s societal system.
- Organization of the workers to use resources to produce goods and services is part of its economic system.
- Gross Domestic Product is the total value of all the goods and services produced in a certain period of time.
- The leading industry in the world is tourism.
- In a democracy, people choose the leaders.
- In a dictatorship, government is by force.
Lesson 2: The World and its Regions

Latin America

Credit: Travelnotes.org
Latin America is in the Western Hemisphere. It stretches from the northern border of Mexico for six thousand miles to the southern tip of South America. It covers one-sixth of the earth’s land surface. It is mostly located in the Tropics just north and south of the Equator. South America, Central America and the Caribbean are the three parts of Latin America. No one in Latin America speaks Latin. The name Latin America comes from the Spanish and Portuguese languages. These Romance languages are derived from Latin.

Latin America is home to the second highest mountains in the world, the Andes. The Andes is the “backbone” of South America. The altiplano is a vast central plateau located in the Andes at the height of 12,000 feet. High in the Andes Mountains is Lake Titicaca. It is the world’s highest navigable lake. In Mexico, the Sierra Madre Mountains includes the Occidental in the west. In the east is the Oriental Madres. Between these two mountain ranges is a plateau where most of Mexico’s people reside. Underwater mountains form some of the Caribbean islands. Volcanoes are found throughout Latin America.

The Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico are the major bodies of water surrounding Latin America. On the continent of South America is the Amazon River. The Amazon is the second longest river in the world. It flows for about 4,000 miles across the northern half of the continent. It carries more water than any other river in the world. The Amazon River and the rivers which flow into it (tributaries) drain an area of more than two million square miles. That is about two thirds the size of the United States. The Orinoco and the Río de la Plata also function as
important waterways within Latin America. The Atacama Desert, located in Perú and Chile, is one of the driest places on earth. It stands in contrast to the Amazonian rainforest. The Amazon receives abundant rainfall. It provides a home for millions of species and forms of the world’s largest mass vegetation. The *Llanos* and the pampas are two geographical features found in Latin America. The Llanos is a region of tropical grasslands. It fills the center of the continent of South America. The pampas are found in the southern part of South America. These are grasslands, too, but have a more temperate climate.

Because of its location, most of Latin America has a tropical climate. The Equator passes across northern South America. Almost 75% of Latin America located in the Tropics. Trade winds in the Caribbean cool the hot, humid temperatures. Besides location, another major influence on the climate of Latin America is altitude. Places at higher altitudes experience a cooler climate despite being close to the equator.

The language heard most frequently in Latin America is Spanish. Some portions of the region don’t have Spanish as the main language. In Barbados, Belize and Jamaica, it is English. In Brazil it is Portuguese. In Martinique and Guadeloupe it is French. In Curacao and Aruba, one would hear Dutch spoken. There are also different dialects of Spanish within Latin America. Native Americans or indigenous peoples speak their Native languages such as Quechua or Guaraní. In some places it is not uncommon for people to speak more than one language.
Latin Americans have more of a mixed heritage than any other region of the world. The native peoples mixed with the Europeans who first came to the area in the 1400s. Persons of this heritage are called mestizos. As slaves were brought to Latin America beginning in the 1500s, African heritage was added.

Those of African and European heritage are called mulattoes. Another source of workers, besides slave labor, was indentured servants. They worked under contract for a person or company for food, housing, training, and passage to a new country. They received no money. At the end of their contract (likely seven years) they were free. Asians and African indentures added to the melting pot of Latin America. There are areas which are more homogenous. In Argentina and Uruguay, many are of European heritage. In Bolivia and Perú, many are strictly of Native American heritage. Overall, Latin Americans have diverse heritage.

Latin America is patriarchal. This is male dominance or machismo. Women have been granted more rights like to vote and equal pay. Women still face barriers to equality. Educational opportunities are opening to women. Latin Americans are opening doors once closed to women.

There is a large gap between the rich and the poor in Latin America. Many live at the poverty level and function as subsistence farmers. They produce only enough to live on and none to sell. Others live in the slums of immense urban centers. They hope to someday secure an industrial job. The expanding population in urban centers strains public services. The
population of Latin America grows and becomes more urbanized. The gap between the rich and the poor grows

Part of the population growth can be attributed to Roman Catholicism in Latin America. The Catholic Church has long advocated no contraception or abortion. Roman Catholicism dominated the life of Latin Americans for centuries. Europeans brought their religion to America. They believed that Native religions must be eliminated. The Church grew to be a colonial institution of wealth and power.

Much of the arts resembled European art until the last century. More Native works surfaced. Indigenous peoples spoke of their struggle against imperialism through art and narrative. Authors such as Gabriel García Márquez in his *One Hundred Years of Solitude* chronicled civil wars and instabilities of Latin America. Artists such as José Orozco and Diego Rivera popularized mural painting. Works of art were often pieces of satire against dictators or the elite. Many artists have worked in exile from their country and let their voices of protest be heard.

Before European ships arrived in Latin America, Native cultures flourished. The three most prominent Native cultures were the Mayas, the Aztecs and the Incas. The ancient Maya lived in the region of southern Mexico and Central America from about A.D. 300 until A.D. 900. From ancient statues and ruins, the cultural achievements of the Maya are evident. The many buildings they constructed were all built without the use of the wheel or metal tools.
The science of mathematics was also developed by the Maya. They utilized a number system with the concept of zero and units of ones, fives, and twenties. The ones were represented by dots, the fives by bars, and twenties and its multiples by the position of the number. Maya murals on the inner walls of buildings depicted much of their daily lives. They also created books by painting on folding pieces of bark. The Maya had a hieroglyphic system of writing in which characters represented pictures of ideas or objects, not sounds. This writing can be found often on Maya stelae or carved stone monuments.

The Valley of Mexico, site of present-day Mexico City, was home to the Aztecs. They lived there during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. At one time, the Aztec empire covered more than 80,000 square miles. It included more than 12 million people. Nomadic people, the Mexica, saw their god Huitzilopochtli command they build a city where an eagle, perched on a cactus, attacked a snake. (This is the symbol on the flag of Mexico.) The Aztecs, built a city on that spot. This city, Tenochtitlán, was home to 150,000 to 200,000 people at its peak. It was constructed on an island in Lake Texcoco and dedicated to the Sun god. In the early 1500s, Hernan Cortez of Spain and his men encountered the Aztec civilization. With a band of approximately five hundred soldiers, Cortez entered Tenochtitlán. The Aztec emperor, Moctezuma II, at first welcomed him. Hostilities increased between the Spaniards and the Aztecs. Moctezuma II was killed and the Aztecs surrendered in 1521. This ended the empire.

The "Children of the Sun", or Incas, flourished in the Andes in the 1500s. The Inca Empire included what is now most of Perú, Ecuador,
Bolivia and parts of Colombia, Argentina and Chile. The people called their empire the “Land of the Four Quarters.” Through wars and conquest, the Inca built the mightiest empire of ancient America. The Inca are remembered as master engineers especially considering the mountainous terrain. The Inca had no written language. They recorded information on quipus or knotted strings. A main cord with several cords attached represented people, items or districts, depending on the color of the cord. On each individual cord, knots represented numbers.

The Caribbean
Europeans searched for new trade routes to Asia. They sought spices, silks and other goods of value in the fifteenth century. Spain and Portugal led the way. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain funded the initial journey of Christopher Columbus in 1492. Columbus, his crew of eighty-seven men and the three ships: the Pinta, the Niña and the Santa María, set sail on August 3, 1492. After many weeks of sailing and no land, the crew began to think of returning to Spain. They hatched a plan to rid the voyage of Columbus so this could be done. Floating seaweed and birds convinced the crew land was near. On October 12, land was sighted. Columbus called this San Salvador, near the present-day Bahamas. He believed he reached some part of Asia. He had no idea this was an entirely different continent.

Others followed Columbus. Spain and Portugal agreed upon a treaty for exploration and settlement purposes. In 1500, Pedro Cabral and his ships were sailing from Portugal to India and were blown off course. They landed on what is now Brazil. At the time they did not realize it was the same continent as the Spanish were settling. Amerigo Vespucci and three ships and crewmen surveyed the land in 1502. He was one of the first to call the continent the “New World.” Among all the explorers of this newly discovered area, Vespucci was honored by a German geographer who named it America after Vespucci.

The Spanish were greatly outnumbered. Again and again using horses, swords, and guns, they defeated natives. As the Spanish conquered and settled these new lands, the native peoples disappeared, mostly from European diseases. In both Spanish America and in the
Portuguese territory of Brazil, political institutions were similar. At first, in Spanish America, the conquistadors, or those who conquered the Natives governed. Because of mineral wealth and available labor of natives, most of the first settlements were in areas densely populated by natives. As time passed, the Spanish government set up an elaborate system to govern the largest overseas empire a European country had ever possessed. By the late 1500s, viceroys became governing officials in the new Spanish provinces.

Many of the early conquistadors or conquerors and settlers were granted encomiendas by the Spanish government. This was an area of land over which the owner or encomendero had the right to demand labor and taxes or tribute from the natives. Haciendas or large landed estates were prevalent by the end of the sixteenth century. The economies of Brazil and the Caribbean islands were dominated by plantations. These plantations, mostly sugar, required heavy physical labor. The Native population dwindled. African slaves were imported. The first shipload of African slaves arrived in Brazil in 1530. By the end of the 1700s, millions of slaves toiled in the New World under harsh conditions.

The struggle for independence from the colonial powers began in Haiti in 1791. François-Dominique Toussaint Louverture, a personal servant, led Black forces for a period of over ten years to secure their freedom. Toussant made the island a republic. The “Cry of Dolores” began the fight for Mexican independence. Miguel Hidalgo was a Creole priest in Dolores, a small village approximately one hundred miles from Mexico City.
He joined a revolutionary conspiracy and gathered a group of mestizos and natives to fight for human rights against the Spanish government in New Spain. Hidalgo rang the church bells in Dolores to alarm the people. This became known as the “Cry of Dolores.” Within a few months, though, Hidalgo was caught and executed by a firing squad. Mexico regards Hidalgo as the “Father of Mexican Independence” and September 16, the day of the “Cry of Dolores”, is Mexico’s Independence Day. With the help of other freedom fighters, Mexico became independent in 1821. The rest of Latin America struggled for independence. They were led by Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín. Brazil, under the Portuguese, achieved independence under the Prince of Portugal, Dom Pedro. By 1825, only Cuba and Puerto Rico remained under the domination of Spain. This ended with the Spanish-American War of 1898.

After independence, Latin America struggled for stability. Power shifted from liberals, who favored individual rights and decentralized governments. It shifted to conservatives who favored power in a strong national government. Charismatic leaders called “caudillos” combined their political and military skills to rule as dictators. Civil wars plagued many countries and damaged economies. The world wars and the depressions of the twentieth century affected the economy of Latin America as it fought to industrialize. Foreign investors were welcomed to build industries and infrastructure. Latin American governments favoring this intervention by foreigners were neo-colonials. Political movements against this foreign involvement often led to coups and government takeovers. Social movements developed as the gap between the rich and the poor frustrated the lower classes.
In the twentieth century, United States involvement in Latin America grew. American economic ties strengthened. This led to political intervention to protect interests. The Panama Canal eased travel as the United States facilitated its construction. The Spanish American War ended all colonial ties for Spain in the Americas. The United States established another foothold. It gained Puerto Rico. The intervention of the United States and social problems in Cuba led to Castro’s takeover in 1959. Troops from the United States were sent on many capitalistic or democratic missions to Latin America throughout the 1900s.

Throughout the twentieth century, Latin America depended on its export of raw materials to the world. Developed nations of the world looked to Latin America as a market for manufactured goods. Industrial development increased during the twentieth century. It still did not meet the expectations of many. There were various causes. Mostly it was the shortage of capital and the lack of advanced technology that contributed to the shortfall. Latin America was slow to reform its agricultural sector. Many remained poor. They did not have the purchasing power to buy manufactured goods. Income was not distributed equally either. Large masses of people did not have the ability to participate in the economic growth of the nation.

One notable change in the twentieth century was the growth in the number of women laborers. Companies were not required to pay equal wages. Women were often hired especially in light manufacturing. Service jobs such as domestic servants and street vendors employed women. This
sector of the economy increased tremendously. Mechanized agriculture and urban growth forced many into this occupation.

The population of Latin America continues to become more urbanized. Yet poverty threatens economic development. Illiteracy and lack of health care affect the working population. As nations, Latin America faces an immense debt crisis as it has had to borrow funds through the years. Trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are major issues of debate throughout the Americas. Nations seek to reduce tariffs among regional trading partners.

Latin America continues to rely on agricultural exports such as coffee, bananas and sugar. Yet, agriculture only adds a small percentage to the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] in proportion to the large economy. Latin America still struggles to industrialize. Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela lead the way. Tourism contributes to the economy significantly in many areas, especially in the Caribbean. Continued political instability and social problems such as crime deter foreign investments in the region.

Lesson 2 Practice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices given.

1. The second highest range of mountains in the world is __________ .

2. The most common language of Latin America is __________ .
3. Which is an ancient civilization of Latin America?

4. An area of land over which a Spanish colonist demanded labor and taxes from natives is a(n):
   a. plantation  b. encomienda  c. province  d. state

5. Father of Mexican Independence is:

6. __________ favors foreign intervention in Latin America.
   a. communists  b. socialists  c. neocolonials  d. poor

7. United States built the __________ to ease travel through Latin America.
   a. Panama Canal  b. Suez Canal  c. Erie Canal  d. Ontario Canal

8. The population of Latin America is very __________.
   a. wealthy  b. urbanized  c. rural  d. elite

9. A major economic sector, especially in the Caribbean, is __________.
   a. mining  b. industry  c. tourism  d. exploration

10. There has been a large growth in the number of __________ laborers in the 20th century.
    a. children  b. teenagers  c. men  d. women
Lesson 2 Answers

1. B  6. C
2. D  7. A
3. A  8. C
5. C  10. C
LESSON 2 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- An ancient civilization of Latin America is the Incan civilization.
- The population of Latin America is very rural.
- The Caribbean is part of Latin America.
- The second highest mountains in the world, located in Latin America, are known as the Andes.
- The most common language of Latin America is Spanish.
- The most influential religion in Latin America is Catholicism.
- The ancient Mayan civilization was based in Latin America.
- An ecomiendas was an area of land over which a Spanish colonist demanded labor and taxes from natives.
- The “father of Mexican independence” was Hidalgo.
- Neocolonials favored foreign intervention in Latin America.
Lesson 3: Europe and Russia

Europe

Credit: U.S. Library of Congress
Europe and Russia are rich in history and culture. The geography of this region adds to its contributions. Europe is the second smallest continent. It has many peninsulas. Its ragged coastlines furnish ports of trade. Europe is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the west, the Mediterranean Sea on the south, and the Arctic, Baltic and North Seas to the north. The western portion of Europe has a strong relationship with water. Also, many navigable rivers throughout the continent provide economic interdependence and cultural diffusion. The Danube River is a major commercial route as are the Rhine, Seine, and Thames Rivers. To ease travel and trade between England and France, the Chunnel, an underwater tunnel, was completed under the English Channel in 1994.

Unlike waterways, mountains acted as barriers throughout much of Europe’s history. The Alps are the highest mountains with Mount Blanc, at 15,771 feet or 4,807 meters, being the highest peak. The Urals form the boundary between Europe and Asia. They are low mountains with a height of only about 4,000 feet or 1200 meters above sea level. The Balkan Peninsula in the southern part of Eastern Europe is composed of mountain ranges and valleys south of the Danube River.

Russia stretches across Europe into Asia to the Pacific Ocean. Its topography varies immensely. In northern Siberia, tundra composed of tough grasses, lichens and mosses covers portions of the ground that remain frozen throughout the year. The taiga [meaning “little sticks” in Russian] forms the largest forest region in the world. It has immense pine forests. The steppes are the vast grassland plains that stretch across central Russia. Here, the fertile topsoil under the grasslands (chernozem or
“black earth”) is suited for agriculture. These steppes are similar to the Northern European Plain. The plain stretches for 1200 miles across Europe from France to Russia to provide farmland for the many living in this area.

Along the western coast and interior of Europe, the North Atlantic Drift brings warm air and moisture with tropical waters. This moderating influence on the climate is felt throughout Europe except in Scandinavia. There mountains block the warm air and keep climate cold. Southern Europe is influenced by the waters of the Mediterranean Sea. It has a climate of hot dry summers and warmer winters than the rest of Europe. Moving from Russia’s sub-arctic climate in the north, areas around Moscow can see snow on the ground for as much as six months of the year due to winds from the seas.

Many people in Russia and Europe are multilingual. They speak more than one language. In Western Europe, the Romance languages: French, Spanish and Italian, predominate. People also speak Germanic languages such as German and English. Some nations have more than one official language. In Russia and Eastern Europe, over one hundred ethnic groups speak over two hundred languages. Most of those who live in Russia and Eastern Europe are of Slavic descent. The Swiss speak dialects (versions) of the languages spoken in surrounding nations: Germany, France, and Italy.

In Western Europe, there is a high rate of literacy. Healthcare is readily available sometimes through the government. Through centuries of industrialization, Western Europeans have attained a high standard of
living. A large middle class and largely democratic governments created societies in which most people are treated fairly equally. There is also a high population density as a large number of people reside in the second smallest continent in the world.

Eastern Europeans and Russia struggled under communism and dictatorships. Ravaged were their countries. Many were left without even basic goods. Urbanization followed communism. These nations attempted to industrialize and recruit workers. Gender equality allowed women under communism to attain equal wages and representation.

Roman Catholicism is the main religion of Western Europe, particularly in Spain and Italy. The Protestant Reformation and the formation of its accompanying Protestant religions began in Germany. In the eleventh century, the Eastern Orthodox Church split from the Roman Catholic Church. The Eastern Orthodox faith was part of the Byzantine Empire, from Turkey eastward. The domes of Byzantine church buildings were seen in many Russian and Eastern European towns and cities. Communism or atheism, the belief there is no God, were the rule. With the end of communism in Eastern Europe, the Church is regaining its influence.

The church throughout history remained a strong influence on the arts. Ancient Greece and Rome contributed with new styles and works of literature, art and other forms of art. The Renaissance movement in Europe added humanism to the arts. Leonardo da Vinci and Shakespeare influenced great minds and the masses.
As independence movements and democratic trends occurred in the 1800s, the arts were affected. The Romantic Movement, like the music of Frederic Chopin and the Realism of authors such as Charles Dickens, grew in popularity. Communism and its social injustices and policies of exile succeeded in extending the arts into other areas like Solzhenitsyn’s work on concentration camps.

Europe and Russia’s history is long and varied and chronicles the story of ethnic and national conflicts. Beginning with the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome around 2000 B.C., the idea of democracy grew. Democracy, or rule by the people developed. Architectural styles including columns and arches and literature like Homer’s *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* stayed with the West. After the fall of the Roman Empire in the late fifth century, modern European history began with small groups such as the Franks and the Saxons dueling for power throughout the region.

In the period of the Middle Ages from 500 until 1500 A.D., the power of the church strengthened. Much of Western Europe was known as “The Holy Roman Empire.” Feudalism flourished. Land was given to nobles for royal support. These nobles then had peasants (serfs) work the land for a portion of the crop. The Crusades attempted to free the Middle Eastern area of Palestine from the Muslims. Trade and cultural diffusion grew.

In Russia, princes united in protection to form the first Russian state of Kiev in the ninth century. The Orthodox Christian faction united the church and state. The Church aligned them against the Catholics in other territories. Mongols from central Asia invaded in the thirteenth century and
instituted absolute rule. They were forced out by the Russians after two hundred years. The first czar or emperor, Ivan the Great, took the throne in the 1400s. In Eastern Europe at the same time, Ottoman Turks took over and ruled the area until 1821.

Peter the Great, the Czar of Russia in the 1700s, wanted to adopt many of the Renaissance’s ways of Europe. This period of rebirth of the arts and education stimulated new developments throughout society from the 1300s until the end of the 1600s. The invention of the printing press and new scientific ideas revolutionized thinking and works of the period. The Protestant Reformation questioned the authority of the Catholic Church. It influenced the formation of many new denominations. Religion fueled conflicts throughout the continent. The Ottoman Turks were forced out of Eastern Europe. The Orthodox Christian Russians and the Catholic Austrians competed for influence in the 1800s.

Trade and exploration added colonies to European nations. As trade increased, middle class bankers and merchants grew in influence. The Enlightenment ideas of the 1500s to the 1800s influenced social and political movements for equality. Revolutions led by the middle class against established elites. Their traditions stormed through Europe and Russia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Absolute rulers such as Napoleon in France lost power to democratic governments.

The democratic feelings of nationalism or pride in one’s nation often led to the buildup of the military. Combined with alliances of friendly countries, tension grew in Europe. In Eastern Europe, the “powder keg of
Europe,” the assassination of the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand in 1914 led to World War I. The triple alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy faced the Triple Entente or Allies of Great Britain, France, Russia and later, the United States. World War I is known as the first modern war. Poison gas, machine guns, tanks, airplanes and trenches changed warfare. The Allies won and imposed harsh penalties on Germany. The nation lost land. Germany was required to pay money or reparations for war damages in the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

In Russia, disappointment with the war and other dissatisfaction led to revolution. Soviets or councils of workers and soldiers petitioned for more of a voice in the government. By November 1917, the czar left and the provisional government was overthrown by radical followers of Karl Marx. Nikolai Lenin and Leon Trotsky imposed communist ideas on the Russians. A civil war to combat the Bolsheviks or Communists was fought, but the Communists prevailed. In 1922, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or USSR was formed with Joseph Stalin as one of its first leaders. Stalin had many opponents killed in his infamous purges. Stalin kept Russia on economic plans to develop heavy industry. This focus on that part of the economy left little food and no real consumer goods for the public.

A worldwide economic depression in the 1930s and the disillusionment of the German people after World War I left them ripe for the Nazi ideas of Adolph Hitler. He believed Germany could once more rise to prominence as the Third Reich in its history. Hitler’s belief in a master race and his desire for power caused the death of millions.
Germany invaded neighboring countries Austria and Poland. With the invasion of Poland, World War II began. The Allies of Great Britain, the USSR, France and other European nations (and later the United States) lined up against Germany, Italy and Japan. Approximately 35 million people died and Europe was left in a state of destruction when the war ended in 1945.

After World War II and throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the colonial powers of Great Britain and France and others lost colonies and influence. With the end of World War II, the most powerful nations in the world were the United States and the USSR. Contrasting ideologies of democracy and Communism would fuel conflicts all over the world for the next few decades. Eastern European nations became satellites of the USSR. An “Iron Curtain”, or imaginary barrier, descended between communist and non-communist Europe. In 1961, a real barrier, the Berlin Wall, was erected between East and West Germany. It would prevent East Germans from escaping communism.

The conflicts between communism and democracy led to a Cold War between the United States and the USSR. This involved no actual battles between the two nations. It was a period of spying, propaganda and mistrust. Different leaders failed to thaw the Cold War as policies of peaceful coexistence (détente) or easing of tensions were discussed.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the leader of the USSR from 1985 until 1991, implemented “glasnost” or “openness.” The Soviet Union made more contact with other countries. He also began “perestroika.” He restructured
the economy to end collective farms and return farms and businesses to private ownership. Meanwhile, factions in Eastern Europe protested the harsh rule of the Soviets and their puppet rulers. In the 1980s, Lech Walessa led the labor union in Poland to push for reforms. Hungary and Czechoslovakia pushed reform in government. In 1989, the Berlin Wall was topped and Germany was reunified as a nation. Finally, in 1991 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ended as Russia and the other republics declared their independence. The Soviet Union was financially bankrupt.

Associations continued to develop in Russia and Europe. Russia and eleven former USSR republics joined together in the loosely organized Commonwealth of Independent States. Most important to this group is the establishment of an economic union without tariffs on trade between the nations. Beginning in 1950, the idea of a union of European nations was first proposed. By 1994, the European Union [EU] united what are now twenty-five nations of Europe. The EU’s goals are to bring peace, stability and prosperity to the area by developing a tariff-free trade zone, a single currency and to encourage cooperation between its peoples.
Russia

Credit: U.S. Library of Congress
The economies of Europe and Russia have been affected by political and ethnic conflict within their borders. With the increase in world trade in the 1400s, Europe and Russia began implementing different economic policies to regulate trade and production. At first, the idea of mercantilism (where the government controls the economy) prevailed especially in regard to colonies. Europe needed the raw materials of its colonies to further the Industrial Revolution. England, with its money and resources, started this movement with the ideas of the factory system, mass production, and the assembly line. Inventors such as James Watt and his steam engine aided the revolution.

Capitalism and socialism divided the economies of Europe and Russia after the Industrial Revolution. Capitalism with its private ownership and socialism with government control of the economy led to urbanization of Europe and Russia. Industrialization replaced agriculture. Concepts such as command economy, where the government closely controls the economy, and market economy where supply and demand control the economy, developed.

As communism faded in Russia and other republics, the transition to a market economy has been difficult. Under communism and its command economy, agriculture was collectivized or given to groups to run together or by the state. All industrial resources went to the heavy industrial manufacturing of iron and steel and little was left for food and consumer goods. Lack of incentives and severe shortages were constant problems. Without communism, these nations have moved toward privatization of
both agriculture and industry and a market economy. Inflation and unemployment have continued to plague this transition.

Trade agreements and unions such as the European Union have strengthened economies. The EU is now the world’s largest importer and exporter and a competitor of the United States and Japan. Also, most nations of Europe and Russia moved from capitalism or socialism to a mixed economy with features of both. Free healthcare and other social programs with private ownership of the industries and farms constitute a mixed economy. Also, service industries such as medicine and accounting have increased tremendously since World War II.

The farmlands and number of farmers of Western Europe are shrinking, yet remaining farmers continue to produce in abundance using efficient methods and increased technology. Wheat, dairy products and potatoes are grown in Western Europe. Industries such as electronics, chemical and auto manufacturing lead that sector. Eastern Europe is limited in minerals, but is rich in forests and farmland. Wheat, barley and hops are produced. Poland has developed into a strong industrial state as chemicals and automobiles are manufactured. Russia has immense mineral potential in Siberia where coal, oil, gold and diamonds are found. Climate and transportation problems make these resources difficult to utilize. The steppes region of Russia is called its breadbasket as much of its agricultural production stems from this area.
Lesson 3 Practice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices given.

1. The underwater tunnel under the English Channel between England and France is known as the __________.

2. Highest mountains in Europe are the __________.

3. Northern region of tundra and permafrost in Russia is in the ________.
   a. steppes  b. taiga  c. chunnel  d. Siberia

4. When people in an area speak more than one language the area is ___.
   a. African  b. blonde  c. multilingual  d. English

5. The main religion of Western Europe is __________.
   a. Hinduism  b. Presbyterianism  c. Greek Orthodox  d. Catholicism

6. The form of government of ancient Greece and Rome which means “rule by the people” is __________.
   a. communism  b. democracy  c. dictatorship  d. socialism

7. Nobles given farmland which serfs worked is known as a _____ system.
   a. feudal  b. socialist  c. market economy  d. capitalist
8. The movement which questioned the authority of the Catholic Church and led to the formation of new denominations.
   a. Bolshevik Revolution    c. Perestroika
   b. Protestant Revolution   d. Glasnost

9. ________ was the first “modern” war because trenches, poison gas and machine guns were used.

10. Association of European countries for free trade and cooperation is ___.
    a. Protestant Reformation    c. European Union
    b. Ancient Greece    d. Renaissance

Lesson 3 Answers

2. C  7. A
3. D  8. B
5. D  10. C
LESSON 3 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- When people in an area speak more than one language the area is multilingual.
- The second smallest continent formed of many peninsulas is Europe.
- The highest mountains in Europe are the Alps.
- The tundra is composed of tough grasses, lichen and mosses in Siberia.
- In Russia and Europe, many people speak more than one language.
- The main religion of Western Europe, particularly Spain and Italy, is Roman Catholicism.
- The underwater tunnel beneath the English Channel, linking England to France, is called the Chunnel.
- Democracy means “rule by the people” and was the government of Ancient Greece and Rome.
- In feudalism, nobles were given farmland on which peasants or serfs worked.
- The movement known as the Protestant Reformation questioned the authority of the Catholic Church and led to the formation of new denominations.
The Middle East combines parts of the continents of Europe, Africa and Asia. Therefore it is often referred to as “the crossroads of the world.” Over three quarters of the Middle East is desert. The Sahara Desert, the Sinai Desert and the Negev Desert are all found in the region. As desert areas, they receive less than ten inches of rain per year. Water can be
found in the oases in the desert, in rivers and in the water of the surrounding seas. The Caspian, Dead, Mediterranean, Black, Red and Arabian Seas are all in the Middle East. The Suez Canal is a waterway linking the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. The canal provides a shorter route from Europe to Asia. The Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits of the Black Sea access the Mediterranean Sea. This helps northern landlocked countries like Russia and the Ukraine. Rivers are the lifeblood of many throughout the Middle East. They provide water for irrigation and human usage. The Tigris River and the Euphrates River begin in the mountains of Turkey and meet to form the Shatt-al-Arab River. That river empties into the Persian Gulf surrounding parts of the Middle East. The Nile River is the world’s longest river. It flows north. It is formed from the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea. At 1300 feet below sea level, the Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth. The heavy snow found in the mountains of Afghanistan and Iran also provides water as they melt.

Africa is the second largest continent of the world with about one-fifth of the world’s land. Africa is mostly plateaus. The elevation of the land rises as one moves eastward across Africa. Most of the high mountains are also in Eastern Africa with Mount Kilimanjaro topping 19,000 feet. The Great Rift Valley is also in eastern Africa and stretches over 1,000 miles long with a width of twenty to sixty miles. The Sahara Desert in North Africa is bigger than the continental United States. It is the largest desert area in the world.

Africa is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea on the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the west, and the Indian Ocean and Red Sea on the
east. Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe are a spectacular sight. The rivers of Africa mostly have falls and rapids as they approach the coast. They become more navigable in the interior of Africa. The Nile River and its surrounding land support most of the Egyptian population. The Zaire River, the Niger River and the Zambezi River are other important waterways of Africa. Sudden rains in desert or dry areas can also fill wadis, or small valleys, creating raging streams and often flash floods caused by sudden heavy cloudbursts. These quickly dry up but can be dangerous during a flood.

The Equator divides Africa almost in half and, along with the altitude and winds, determine the climate. The areas around the equator, especially in the western part, are rainforests with high humidity, heat, and daily rainfall. The savanna region forms almost half of Africa and borders the rainforests. This is the region of grassy plains with scattered trees and bushes. Wet summers and dry winters aid the abundant wildlife found in this zone. The steppe climate borders the deserts in Africa such as the Sahel south of the Sahara Desert. As the desert areas are increasing, the life of those in the Sahel region is adversely affected. The areas become even drier. Deserts form about forty percent of Africa. The Namib Desert in southern Africa is one of the driest places on earth. On the northwestern and southeastern coasts, a climate of warm, dry summers and cool, moist winters is found.

The desert climate found in much of the Middle East and Africa affects the lifestyle of those who reside there. They live as nomads moving from place to place without a permanent home. The Tuareg live in small
groups throughout the Sahara along with the nomadic Berbers. Those who
do not live as nomads live in villages. In these rural areas, healthcare and
educational opportunities are often scarce. Clans, tribes and cultural
groups figure prominently in the lives of most people. Village markets
provide opportunities for the village people to trade, meet and socialize. In
Africa, these societies are traditional with men involved as hunters, warriors
or herders while women handle the farming and marketing duties. Middle
Eastern societies are also traditional cultures, especially among those who
practice fundamental Islam.

Three religions credit the Middle East as their birthplace. Judaism
began as desert nomads settled in Canaan (modern-day Iraq) and set up
the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The Jews suffered defeats and exiles.
The words of the prophets served to remind them of their God and their
religion. Christianity stemmed from Judaism through Jesus “Christ,” or
Messiah. Born a Jew and recognized by Christians as the “Son of God,”
Jesus Christ as God in human form came to Earth to show God’s love and
offer a means of salvation.

Islam is based on the teachings of Mohammed from the city of Mecca
in Saudi Arabia. Followers of Islam (Muslims) must surrender to the will of
God or Allah. The word Islam means “to submit.” Today, most people in the
Middle East practice Islam. It is the fastest growing religion in Africa. Islam
spread to Africa through Muslim conquerors in North Africa. Christianity
spread through missionaries such as David Livingstone. In Africa, people
also practice traditional religions where ancestral spirits and a relationship
with nature are important. Conflict between religions and between
traditional and modern factions within the religious groups fuels conflicts in the Middle East and Africa today.

Africa is the most diverse continent with over two thousand ethnic or cultural groups speaking over one thousand languages. In northern Africa and the Middle East, most speak Arabic. In the part of Africa south of the Sahara Desert, most people are Black Africans. They are distinguished by languages of which there are over eight hundred. The art forms used in ceremonies (such as masks) characterize African art. Abstract forms found in sculptures (such as the bronzes of Benin) reflect the traditional African life. Dance is also tied to traditional life, particularly religion. Religion influences the art and architecture of the Middle East through the large domes and minarets or towers in Muslim mosques, Byzantine mosaics and calligraphy or beautiful handwriting in Islam art.

Much of the literature of the Middle East and Africa is found in its oral traditions. The African griot or storyteller is an important member of African cultural groups. Proverbs and stories detail African life. Authors such as Leon Maurice Anoma Kanie and Leopold Senghor tell of culture and the clash of the old and new within Africa. Nadine Gordimer detailed the segregated life found in South Africa in *Occasion for Loving* and won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991. In Middle Eastern poetry, “*A Thousand and One Nights*” is an example of the important role of poetry in the Arabic culture. Authors such as Naguib Mahfouz write of the life in the Middle East with its frequent conflicts.
Conflicts have identified much of the history of the Middle East and Africa. The Middle East and Africa also are known for the earliest civilizations of mankind. Mesopotamia was located in the Fertile Crescent, the region between present-day Israel arching through Syria and Iraq to the Persian Gulf. Here the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers contributed to the rise of the Sumerian and Babylonian civilizations. The Sumerians in approximately 3,000 B.C. have the first known system of writing while the Babylonians developed codes of law.

Another river valley civilization sprang up along the Nile River. The Egyptians here built pyramids as ritual sites and burial places for pharaohs or kings. Because of their belief in an afterlife, treasures of all types were buried in the pyramids along with the mummified body. In the first century, B.C., the Kush Empire flourished in northeastern Africa. Iron tools and weapons allowed these people to conquer much territory. In western Africa, the kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai depended on the gold and salt trade. Large centers of trade such as Timbuktu grew into prestigious sites of learning.

The Greeks, under Alexander the Great, conquered portions of the Middle East and Africa in the third century, B.C. The Romans later occupied areas of these regions. Under Roman emperor Constantine, Christianity spread. Constantinople was built as the capital of the Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire in 1313 A.D. This city is on the northern coast of Turkey. In 1930 its name was changed to Istanbul. The rise of Islam also led to jihads or holy wars to take over lands in Africa and the Middle East.
Four hundred years of the world slave trade deeply affected African civilizations. Beginning in the fifteenth century, Portugal developed trading posts on the coast of Africa as ships made their way to Asia. Other nations followed and not only trading posts for goods, but the trade in slaves, too,
began. Plantation agriculture developed in the Americas. Slave traders raided villages to supply the slave stockades on the African coast. Estimates of over ten million African people suffered in slavery in foreign countries.

Industrialization fueled the need for raw materials. Africa became a source for European needs. In the late nineteenth century, Europeans explored the interior of Africa. Their stronger weapons helped them defeat Africans. By 1885, conflicts between Europeans over African territories reached a new point. A conference was held in Berlin to divide Africa among the Europeans. Great Britain, France, Portugal, Belgium and Germany ruled over all of Africa except Ethiopia and Liberia by 1914. In South Africa, the Dutch arrived in the 1600s. They were pushed northward in a migration called the “Great Trek” by British settlers. A war called the Boer War broke out between the Dutch and the British over South Africa from 1899 until 1902. The British were victorious. South Africa then joined other areas of Africa to become part of the British Empire.

In the Middle East, Ottoman Turks from Central Asia conquered the region of present-day Turkey and other parts of the Middle East in the 1400s. The changed the capital’s name from Constantinople to Istanbul. During World War I, the Turks allied with Germany. Upon losing the war, the League of Nations confiscated much of their land and divided it among the European victors. In the Balfour Declaration of 1917, Great Britain encouraged the settlement of Palestine as a Jewish homeland.
The European colonial powers differed in the manner of ruling the colonies. Most in the Middle East and Africa had little or no say in the government. Feelings of nationalism, or the desire to form their own nations, spread during the early twentieth century. Prejudice against native peoples by the Europeans also caused discontent. Policies such as apartheid in South Africa were enacted. Under apartheid, races were strictly separated and blacks faced severe discrimination. They could not vote or own land (except in the areas set aside for blacks). They had to carry passes to travel. Many other laws enforced this apartheid throughout South Africa.

In 1948, riots and boycotts against European-owned shops and goods began. Under the leadership of Africans such as Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana was the first country to win its independence in 1957. By 1965, all of Great Britain’s African empire was independent with Gambia being the last to achieve it. Belgian, French, German and Portuguese colonies were the last to win freedom in 1975.

A Zionist movement to create a nation for the Jews of the world led to the re-creation of Israel in 1948. Great Britain asked the United Nations to resolve the conflict in the area and the UN responded by dividing the land into two states. The Jews accepted this division. Arabs in the region rejected it. Conflict over land and religion has led to many skirmishes and four wars since 1948. In 1977, Egyptian President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin met for peace talks. Peace talks have been held at various points to resolve issues in the Middle East. Nothing has brought permanent peace.
Peace has been difficult in other parts of the Middle East and Africa. The African National Congress in South Africa, under the leadership of Nelson Mandela, worked for equality for Blacks. Riots and sabotage landed Mandela in prison. His work for human rights continued. Finally, in 1991, apartheid was repealed and, in 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected president of the country.

Iran and Iraq also faced conflicts. Under the leadership of Islamic militant Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran became a theocracy, or government based on religion. Border disputes led to a long war in the 1980s between Iraq and Iran. Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, invaded neighboring Kuwait in 1990 which started the Persian Gulf War. US and UN coalition forces quickly drove Hussein and the Iraqis out of Kuwait in “Operation Desert Storm.” Religious conflicts between different religions and between Sunni and Shiite Muslims create continuing tension in the Middle East and Africa.

Many people in the Middle East and Africa are rural farmers. Poor soil, the lack of water and primitive methods cause most to be subsistence farmers who grow only enough for their own use and have nothing left to sell for a profit. Often famines and droughts leave these farmers with not even enough for themselves. Governments have attempted to aid the farmers by providing loans and implementing land distribution plans. Governments also encourage the production of cash crops to sell for a profit. In many places, transportation problems exist. Iran and Afghanistan produce wheat and cotton in the Middle East. Israel’s extensive irrigation systems help the citrus industry to prosper. Egypt has less than ten percent
of its land available for farming yet produces cotton and sugar cane to sell on the world market. Ghana is a world leader in the production of cocoa. The introduction of new crops such as sorghum (a cereal grass which grows in poorer soil) aids production in areas such as Sudan.

The major natural resource of the Middle East is oil. Saudi Arabia has approximately 25% of the world’s reserves of oil. Previously, foreign companies utilized the profits from oil reserves. With independence and nationalization of these industries, governments used the profits to construct dams, highways and other public work projects in the nations. In 1960, the major oil producing nations formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cooperate economically. In 1973, this group was able to create an oil crisis in the United States and other places due to their reaction against American support for Israel.

In Africa, some people depend on the land in ways besides subsistence farming. Herding is practiced in the drier parts of Africa. Sheep, goats and camels are led from place to place in search of food and water. Some groups in Africa live by hunting and gathering. These are semi-nomadic people who trap animals and pick fruits and other edible items.

Minerals, besides petroleum, also form an important part of the economy of the Middle East and Africa. South Africa’s gold and diamonds are a prized resource. The Sahara Desert has phosphates and copper. Jordan’s Dead Sea provides potash to be used in fertilizers. Transportation difficulties such as the falls and rapids of Africa’s rivers and other climate
and geographical barriers have not always allowed the full development of these resources.

African and the Middle Eastern history in the twentieth century was a time of colonialism. Industrialization was not encouraged. Many nations now do not have the money for industrialization. So much money is spent on the military. Other nations find it hard to acquire money because of debt built up in the past. Israel’s high standard of living, human resources and available money has enabled that nation to develop high-tech industries. In other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, the government has financed industrial growth. The Organization for African Unity (OAU) encourages economic cooperation. It has increased trade between African nations.

Lesson 4 Practice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices given.

1. __________ is the “Crossroads of the World”
   a. Africa    b. Middle East    c. Japan    d. Russia

2. An important waterway linking the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea is the __________ .

3. Small valleys, which may fill with water after a cloudburst and cause a flash flood, are known as __________ .
   a. pyramids    b. nomads    c. wadis    d. masks
4. People with no permanent home are called _________.
   a. nomads  b. refugees  c. pharaohs  d. wadis

5. An African storyteller is a ____________.
   a. nomad  b. griot  c. king  d. pharaoh

6. ____________ were built by the Egyptians to bury their dead.
   a. wadis  b. pharaohs  c. pyramids  d. oil pipes

7. Leader of the African National Congress and later President of South Africa:

8. The Dutch migration from South Africa into the interior of Africa was called the ____________.
   a. West Train  b. Middle Passage  c. Kush Empire  d. Great Trek

9. The policy of strict separation of races in South Africa was known as ____________.
   a. nomads  b. apartheid  c. jihad  d. griot

10. ____________ was the movement to create a homeland for the Jews.
Lesson 4 Answers

1. B  6. C
2. C  7. B
3. C  8. D
5. B  10. D
LESSON 4 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The crossroads of the world is the Middle East.
- The world's longest river, located in Egypt, is the Nile.
- Africa is the second largest continent in the world and home to Mt. Kilimanjaro.
- The largest desert area in the world, located in Africa, is the Sahara.
- Wadis are small valleys which fill with water after cloudburst and create flash floods.
- Nomads are people who move from place to place without a permanent home.
- The Suez Canal was built to link the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea.
- An African storyteller is a griot.
- Pyramids were built by the Egyptians for rituals and to bury their dead.
- Mandela was leader of the African National Congress and later president of South Africa.
Lesson 5: Asia

Central Asia

Asia is the largest continent. It encompasses all types of climates and geographical features. It includes the highest mountains in the world, the Himalayas. Asia features Mount Everest, the world’s tallest mountain. Other mountains in the area provide an almost three hundred mile border for India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the other countries of South Asia.
South of the ring of mountains is the Hindustan Plain. This fertile plain supports half the population of South Asia with alluvial soils washing down from the mountains. Further south, the Deccan Plateau is rocky and forested. It is laden with minerals. Important rivers such as the Indus River, the Ganges River, and the Brahmaputra River bathe South Asia with their waters. The Indian Ocean and its Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal provide transportation routes around the Indian peninsula. Monsoon rains in the months of June through September give the majority of rain to South Asia. The monsoon rains can be a blessing or a curse depending on the timing and amount of rain.

Hot and humid, Southeast Asia also experiences monsoons. Two archipelagoes or chains of islands are located here, the Philippines and Indonesia. Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world, stretching about three thousand miles across Southeast Asia. It is also the home to about 120 active volcanoes. Mount Pinatubo exploded in 1991 and caused major damage. These volcanoes are associated with an active earthquake line along the western rim of the Pacific Ocean (the “Ring Of Fire). On Dec. 26, 2004 an underwater earthquake on the western edge of Indonesia sent a tidal wave west across the tip of India to Africa. Most coastal villages were destroyed and more than 100,000 people died.

The islands of Southeast Asia are located in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and these bodies of water have figured prominently in the history of the area. The Strait of Malacca joins the two oceans.
On the mainland, the Irawaddy River, Mekong River and Red River provide irrigation and transportation. The countries of mainland Southeast Asia are located on the Indochina and Malay peninsulas with the exception of Laos which is landlocked.

China is the world’s third largest country and the most populated one. China is part of East Asia. Most of the people live in the eastern section of China. There, China’s long irregular coastline forms natural harbors. Many also live in the river valleys of China’s rivers such as the Hwang-Ho River and the Yangtze River. Besides providing irrigation and alluvial soil for farming, these rivers unfortunately also present a flooding problem. The Hwang-Ho has been called “China’s Sorrow” because of the many times it has flooded and ruined property and caused death. Moving north and west, China becomes more mountainous. The Gobi Desert is located in north central China between China and Mongolia. Tibet, in southwestern China, lies on a plateau at about 15,000 feet.

Japan is also an archipelago or chain of approximately 3400 islands stretching for over 1400 miles. These islands are located in the North Pacific, in the Sea of Japan and the Korean Strait. Japan’s 15,000 miles or more of coastline provide excellent harbors. The four main islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. Hokkaido has a small population and difficult terrain, yet coal is abundant there. A thirty-three mile underwater tunnel connects Hokkaido and Honshu. Most of Japan’s people live on Honshu. It also has the best soil and areas such as the Kanto Plain around Tokyo are farmed extensively.
The six largest cities of Japan are located on Honshu along with its major industries. Most of Japan is mountainous, with Mount Fujiyama at 12,000 feet being one of its highest.

Mount Fuji is an extinct volcano. Japan is located in the “Ring of Fire”, an area prone to earthquakes and volcanoes. Japan averages about four earthquakes a day with most being only slight tremors. Japan is also threatened by typhoons which are tropical wind storms and the Pacific equivalent of hurricanes. Two ocean currents affect the climate of Japan. The Japan Current brings warm waters from the south and the Kamchatka Current brings cold waters from the north. They meet off the coast of Japan. This creates a temperate climate. With this temperate climate, Japan experiences four seasons with warm summers and mostly mild winters. Most of the rivers in Japan are short in length and not navigable, but are useful for hydroelectric power supplies.

Korea is located just across the Korean Strait from Japan and has felt the influence both of Japan and its neighbor, China. Korea is located on a peninsula about 150 miles wide and 600 miles long. Besides the Korean Strait, it is bordered by the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. The Korean peninsula is composed of two nations separated at the 38th parallel of latitude, the Democratic Republic of Korea in the north and the Republic of Korea in the south. Mountains form the border of Korea, China and Russia and run down the middle of the peninsula. Only about twenty percent of the land is suitable for farming. This is located in the southwestern portion of the area and along the coasts. Rivers such as the Yalu River and the Tumen River provide the resources for hydroelectric power. Monsoons
affect Korea, too, and southern areas receive up to eighty inches of rainfall per year.

Asia is also a continent of diverse cultures. This is sometimes the result of religious choice. In South Asia, India and Pakistan have a long history of conflict due to religious differences. In India, the majority of the people practice Hinduism. Hindus believe every person occupies a place on the wheel of life and through reincarnation or rebirth, previous life experiences affect current situations. Many gods and goddesses are worshipped in Hinduism with the most popular being Vishnu and Shiva. Hindu temples contain carvings which tell the stories of the religion. Famous poems such as “Ramayana” detailed the desired behaviors for Hindu followers. The goal of a Hindu is to achieve “moksha.” It releases the believer from this birth and death cycle. Hindus believe cows, bulls and oxen are sacred symbols of life. They do not eat beef.

The caste system is also a part of the Indian culture. Each person is ranked according to one’s occupation and heredity. Usually one’s caste group is permanent. The highest of the castes are the priests, then the soldiers and politicians, then merchants and farmers, and lastly, laborers and servants. Untouchables are not part of the caste system and are viewed as unclean. Even though legislation in India prohibits this type of discrimination, it is still quite common.

Buddhism also began in India with the teachings of Siddharta Gautama, the “Enlightened One.” It started around the sixth century B.C. Buddhism is somewhat similar to Hinduism. Buddhists rejected the caste
system. It has no priests though. Approximately ten percent of the people in India are Muslims. The Taj Mahal, one of India’s most beautiful buildings, was built by a Muslim ruler as a tomb for his wife. Islam is the religion of the Muslims. It is the official religion of Pakistan and Bangladesh. They are India’s neighbors.

The majority of the people in South Asia live in villages. These societies are traditionally patriarchal. Marriages are arranged. Sons assume the occupation of the father. Roles for women outside the home are limited. Poverty and malnutrition are ongoing problems in South Asia. Cities are overcrowded. Homeless people are common on the streets. A high population growth rate contributes to these concerns.

Southeast Asia differs in religion. It also differs by ethnic groups and languages, too. In Indonesia, alone, over one hundred and fifty languages are spoken. Languages of colonial powers such as France and Great Britain are spoken along with the native languages such as Thai and Lao. Population densities vary. Java has one of the highest in the world with about 1500 people per square mile. Sumatra is conversely under populated. Some mainland areas have lost people due to the harsh political regimes of the 1970s and 80s. Many of these refugees left the area in small boats to become the poor “boat people” of the region. Animism or nature worship is found among the native peoples, while colonial heritage left the Philippines with a strong Roman Catholic following. On the mainland of Southeast Asia, Buddhism is demonstrated in the “wats” or Buddhist temples found in most villages.
Southeast Asia

Credit: U.S. Library of Congress
Buddhism from India made its way to East Asia. It is one of the most popular religions of China. It has changed somewhat. Taoism, founded also around the sixth century B.C., encourages its followers to live in harmony with nature. It is a religion of elaborate rituals and ceremonies. Taoism views laws as burdens. Confucius stressed peace and harmony also. He based the five relationships of life on moral ideals. Confucianism advocates the avoidance of strong feelings. It cherishes honor and duty to those in authority. Many Chinese live as followers of these belief systems.

Most Chinese speak Mandarin. The minority groups forming less than ten percent of the population have fifty distinct cultures. Marriages are usually arranged. Sons are valued to carry on the family name in the patriarchal society. Ancestors are worshipped. Children feel a lifelong obligation to the parents. Because of the economic strains of overpopulation, the Chinese government advocates a “one child” policy and late marriages.

Japan blends the religions of Buddhism and the native religion Shinto. Shinto worships nature. It believes that all nature contains kamis or spirits of gods. Ancestor and emperor worship were once part of Shinto. Zen, a popular sect of Buddhism, is popular in Japan. Through meditation, Zen followers find enlightenment. Zen influence is seen in the popular flower arranging called “ikebana” and tea ceremonies. As in China, many Japanese incorporate aspects of both religions into their daily lives.

Chinese culture was imitated in the early days of Japan. In the sixth and seventh centuries, students were sent to China to be educated.
Customs such as arranged marriages and even the writing system resembled those in China. By the end of the eighth century, Japan had isolated herself for almost four hundred years. During this period, native arts, such as Japanese drama, began.

Japan is one of the most crowded nations. Yet the people are the most racially homogenous or similar in the world. Japan averages about 800 people per square mile. Almost 100% are ethnic Japanese who speak Japanese. Farmable land is scarce. Most Japanese people work in manufacturing or service industries. Education is very important to the Japanese. To enter high school and college, entrance exams need to be taken. School entrance exams are competitive. School days are long and disciplined. Education is the key to many high level jobs in Japan. One’s first job is important. Many Japanese companies employ their workers for life. Japan has a small gap between the rich and the poor. Incomes are the more evenly divided throughout the population than anywhere else in the world.

Overcrowding has led to problems in the cities of Japan. A severe housing shortage and the necessity to obtain permits to purchase automobiles are two of the consequences. A major health hazard is pollution in Japan. Transportation is less than adequate for the rapid growth. Japan utilizes bullet trains and underwater tunnels.

Korea also has a homogenous population with the majority being of Mongoloid origins who speak one language. Much of Korea’s culture was adapted from the Chinese. The alphabet, the hangul, was formerly based
on the Chinese one, and then simplified to only 24 letters. It is a simple alphabet to learn. Korea has a high literacy rate. North Korea discourages any religious beliefs. South Korea is evenly divided between Buddhists and Christians. Shamanism or nature worship is seen in Korea. The shaman or priest functions as the intermediary between the follower and the spirit world. He employs a kut or ritual to get rid of evil spirits.

The native religions in Asia stem from early civilizations of these regions. The early peoples of Asia depended on the rivers for much of their lifestyle. Civilizations sprang up in river valleys. In South Asia, specifically present-day Pakistan, the Indus River was home to Dravidians about 3,000 B.C. Their city of Mohenjo-Daro was later conquered by the Aryans. Many of the Dravidians fled further south on the peninsula. The Guptas of South Asia established empire in 350 A.D. It gave rise to the Golden Age of India. During this period, the idea of zero, the Arabic number system and surgery figured prominently in East Indian civilization. Muslims conquered much of the area between the thirteenth and eighteenth centuries.

In Southeast Asia, the Funan Empire ruled in present-day Cambodia around 100 A.D. Many influences from India and China permeated this civilization. The Khmer Empire in 800 A.D. combined Hinduism and Buddhism. The temple at Angkor was built during this period. It is an immense rectangular structure measuring about one-half mile on each side with interesting towers and intricate carvings.

China’s Yellow River Valley was home to many dynasties or successions of rulers from the same family. One of the longest ruling ones
was the Zhou Dynasty which lasted from about 1,000 B.C. until about 250 B.C. This was a feudal society with nobles ruling over peasant farmers. Agriculture flourished with the help of iron tools and irrigation canals. The Great Wall was begun soon after this by the Qin Dynasty. This 2,000 mile barrier was erected in North China over hundreds of years to prevent invasions from the north. Under the Han Dynasty, the government was divided into administrative units. Civil service examinations were required for service.

The Tang and Song Dynasties flourished in the Golden Age of China. Trade and culture expanded in the seventh through the thirteenth centuries. With the institution of the Ming Dynasty, China traded with empires far across the sea and land. The ceramic vases of this period are today’s treasures. Chinese people believed their lands were the center of the world or the “Middle Kingdom.”

Japan and Korea both experienced early civilizations influencing their later histories. In Japan, the Yamato clan was first of the emperors to be worshipped as divine beings. Later in the feudal period of the Middle Ages, warriors or samurai figured prominently in Japanese society. Samurai protected the lands of their nobles and lived life by a strict code of behavior. This code stressed loyalty and refusal to surrender. It was believed heroic to die for a worthy cause and samurai would commit hara-kiri or suicide rather than surrender. During the fifteenth through eighteenth centuries, shogun or military rulers took much of the emperor’s power. The Tokugawas shoguns ruled for over two hundred and fifty years by isolating Japan and controlling the nobles. Korea was also isolated from the rest of
the world from the sixteenth until the nineteenth centuries. Korea was known as the “Hermit Kingdom.” This occurred after a “Golden Age” of the Silla Kingdom where moveable type, writing, literature and art flourished from the 600s through the 900s A.D.

The period of isolation and rule by dynasties was disrupted in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. European powers entered the region for exploration and trade. In South Asia, the British East India Company established trading posts throughout India beginning in the 1600s. They ruled this area as a government would, with armies and legislation. After a revolt by the Indian people in 1857, the British government took over and founded the Crown Colony of India. The British improved transportation, education and the well-being of many. Yet economically England took the natural resources of India for its own nation.

In Southeast Asia, Portugal and Spain searched for spices in the region beginning in the 1500s. Soon Great Britain, France, Holland, and by 1898, even the United States had colonies in the area. Minerals and agricultural products developed a great interest for the colonial powers. Political control was another reason for the establishment of colonies. By 1900, all of Southeast Asia was colonized except for the present-day country of Thailand.

In China, colonial powers wanted the opportunity to trade and send missionaries for the Christian religion. In 1757, one port of trade, Canton, opened. The Opium War, fought between China and Great Britain from 1840-1842, resulted in defeat for China. This opened the way for trade and
missionary work. China was carved into spheres of influence as colonial powers divided China into areas for the exclusive right to trade. With the encouragement of the Americans in 1899, China instituted an “Open Door Policy.” It gave all nations trading rights throughout the country.

Japan was isolated until 1853 when the American, Matthew Perry, and his fleet of steamships arrived in Tokyo Harbor. The Japanese were amazed by the steamships. They signed a treaty opening Japan to trade. In 1912, after years of shogun rule, the emperor was restored and a rapid period of modernization began. Railroads were built. Military forces strengthened. Japan sought to compete with the Western nations. Japan invaded surrounding nations seeking raw materials needed for industrialization. This led to wars with China and Russia in the early 1900s. Korea was the “Hermit Kingdom” until Japan forced it to open in 1876. Soon other trading partners approached Korea. China and Russia fought for the lands of Korea. Japan annexed Korea though in 1910. As its territory, Japan tried to rid Korea of all its culture. It instituted Japanese ways and government. At the end of World War I in 1918, Japan, having allied with the winners, took over former German lands in the Pacific region.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw a rise in nationalism in Asia. Natives worked to cast off colonial rule. They established their own governments. In 1885, the Indian National Congress was established with the goal of lessening British control in the area. By 1921, India had been granted limited self government. Mahatma Gandhi encouraged the protest against British rule in a non-violent way. By 1947,
Great Britain granted independence to India. It also created a Muslim nation, East and West Pakistan, in the northern part of South Asia.

In Southeast Asia, transitions to self government were sometimes peaceful and other times bloody. The Philippines and Malaysia made peaceful changes while Vietnam, Laos and Indonesia faced battles. Japan invaded many of the countries for their raw materials in the mid 1900s. Japan suffered defeat in World War II. The colonial powers tried to reinstate their authority in the region. In Indonesia, the Dutch battled from 1945 until 1949 to regain power. The French fought in Vietnam to do the same. Both attempts were unsuccessful. Both resulted in pain, death, and destruction.

The Boxer Rebellion occurred in China in 1900. The Chinese tried to rid the country of foreigners. In 1911, Sun Yat-sen and his Nationalist Party took over the government and instituted a period of land reform and democracy. The military took over China. The Nationalists did not regain power until 1928 under Chiang Kai-shek. He had strong anti-Communist leadership. During World War II, Japan invaded China. Much of the Nationalist resources were drained. Mao Zedong and his Red Army built up strength as the Nationalists weakened in the fight against the Japanese. By 1949, Zedong and his Communists took over China. They drove the Nationalists to the island of Taiwan. Under the Communist rule, foreigners were expelled and industries were nationalized. Mao Zedong and his *Little Red Book* of sayings retrained the thinking of millions in China.
Japan’s militaristic rulers closed the door to foreigners as Japan joined the Axis powers of Germany and Italy World War II. Japan bombed American forces at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. Japan engaged the Allied powers in battle throughout the Pacific. Japan was attempting to end Western control over the Pacific.

The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war. Japan was placed under United States occupation forces from 1945 until 1952. Forces led by American commander Douglas McArthur aided Japan’s recovery. Japan moved toward democracy. Japan’s territory of Korea was divided at the 38th parallel of latitude. Soviet forces gained control of the north. United States forces controlled the south. A united government was supposed to form. Communist and democratic ideologies prevented this. In 1948, North Korea became the Communist country called the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. South Korea became the democratic nation called the Republic of Korea. Tensions between the two led to an attack on South Korea by North Korea in 1950. United Nations troops helped repel North Korean forces. Still, neither side was ever victorious. In 1953, a truce for the Korean War was signed. The 38th parallel once again became the dividing line.

Since independence, Asia has seen struggle after struggle. India became a democracy, but the military dictators in Pakistan conflict with India’s rulers. In 1971, East Pakistan became the country of Bangladesh which faces troubles as one of Asia’s poorest countries. In Southeast Asia, the Vietnam War in the 1960s and 70s ended with a communist victory. Cambodia’s monarchy has struggled with the Khmer Rouge movement. At
one time, this movement led the government under dictator Pol Pot. He inflicted punishment and death on millions of Cambodians. Indonesia’s government has violated the human rights of minority groups within its borders. Refugees fleeing conflicts within their countries cause problems in other areas of Asia.

China faced a Cultural Revolution in the 1960s. Protests against Mao Zedong’s domestic and foreign policies strengthened. This led to many deaths within China. The government cracked down on dissidents. Relations between China and the United States were strained with conflicts in Vietnam and Korea. In the 1970s, relations improved as American President Richard Nixon made a visit to China. In 1989, students protested in Tiananmen Square for a democratic China. These protests were put down with army tanks and soldiers inflicting beatings and killing. Relations have once again improved. China is now a Most Favored Nation in trade with the United States.

Japan’s new constitution, implemented with US aid during the occupation period, called for a two-house legislature and a symbolic emperor. From the legislature, called the “Diet,” a Prime Minister is elected. This constitutional monarchy style of government led to many economic and social reforms. Japan has become one of the world’s most powerful nations because of its strong economy.

Asia’s economic growth, particularly in Japan and China in the latter part of the twentieth century, has been phenomenal. Agriculture still reigns supreme in most economies. The genetically manipulated Green
Revolution has aided production. In the Green Revolution, science aided agriculture by developing breeding plants to create strains well-suited to growing conditions throughout the world. In India, government aid for irrigation and equipment improved farming. Rice, wheat and millet are the primary crops.

In Southeast Asia, the tropical climate allows for usually two crops of rice per year. It is the region for the most rice exports in the world. Agriculture usually developed in three ways in Southeast Asia. One is the small plot type of farming. Another is the “slash and burn agriculture.” In this method, land is cleared of trees. The land is then burned to produce fertile ash for the soil. This soil is depleted. Farmers move on to another area to repeat the process. In Southeast Asia, plantations produce rubber, coffee, tobacco and pineapples for export. Between Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, an area known as the “Golden Triangle” is one of the world’s sources for opium poppies. Heroin is produced from opium poppies.

Agriculture is the major source of income in China for most people. Even though only one-third of the land is farmable, plans instituted by the communist government tried to increase production. Tenant farming was replaced by commune farming where people joined forces to work the land together. This attempt to make more efficient use of the land was not successful. In 1979, China moved toward a policy of greater freedom for farmers. They now are able to sell crops produced above the quota for a profit. Wheat is grown in the grasslands of the north. Cotton is the leading non-food crop.
Farmers in Japan produce almost three quarters of the food needed by the Japanese even though Japan has little land available to farm. With only about ten percent of the land suited for agriculture, Japanese farmers use intensive farming. This process uses methods such as terracing to utilize all lands possible. Hand labor is used in areas machines would not function. In Korea, most of the agricultural areas are located in the south. Rice, cotton and tobacco are the crops of South Korea. North Korea has a shorter growing season. Wheat and soybeans are its primary crops.

All of Asia’s nations have made attempts to industrialize. A move toward mixed economies, combining capitalism with government control, has proven most successful. India implemented five year plans to stimulate industrial growth. It borrowed from foreign sources. This has led to debt and trade imbalance as imports exceed exports. In the 1990s, the government sold off industries to private firms in an attempt to boost the economy. Steel mills and space satellites are two of India’s major industries.

Natural resources in Southeast Asia have aided industrialization. Tin and other resources in Thailand have made it the most industrialized country in the area. The lack of technology and skilled labor has hurt Laos as it is the most underdeveloped country in the region. Forest products such as teak and ebony provide income where industry does not. Petroleum has boosted the economy in Indonesia. Natural gas is being exported from the Gulf of Thailand. As in other Asian regions, the proximity to water has made the fishing industry a major contributor to economy. The
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed to promote economic cooperation between nations in the area.

The people of China are its greatest resource as industrialization increases. Its petroleum (found in the west and offshore) provides the needed energy resources and even provides exports to Japan and other nations. Minerals such as tin and uranium add to the economy.

The most important boost to the Chinese economy has come from its move toward capitalism. At the current time, about thirty percent of the economy is in government hands, ten percent in collective hands and sixty percent in the private sector. China expects to privatize hundreds of state-owned companies within the next few years. China has also expanded into trading partnerships with Latin America. This has contributed substantially to economic growth.

Japan’s economy was in ruins after World War II. Land reform and industrial growth since that time have given it the distinction of the second highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It leads the world in shipbuilding and the production of electronic goods and automobiles. Government aid through loans, subsidies and protective tariffs has also boosted the economy in Japan. South Korea also produces automobiles along with shoes and steel for export. North Korea produces more heavy industrial products and petrochemicals from its mineral resources. The growth of urban populations both in Japan and Korea aid in providing adequate labor forces for the continued industrial growth of both nations.
Lesson 5 Practice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices given.

1. What are the highest mountains in the world?

2. Weather which brings much rain to Asia.
   a. cold front  b. tornado    c. monsoon     d. hari-kari

3. Area in the Pacific region where most earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.
   a. Ring of Fire  b. Green Revolution c. Hiroshima  d. Indonesia

4. ________________ is divided at the 38th parallel of latitude.

5. The Indian ________________ tradition ranks a person by occupation and heredity.
   a. samurai     b. caste system c. Vishnu     d. Taoism

6. Chinese belief system that based the five relationships of life on moral precepts and cherishes honor and duty to those in authority.

7. Some Japanese warriors are:
   a. samurai      b. hari-kari   c. wat       d. kut
8. Indian who advocated nonviolence against British colonial power.


10. Type of agriculture in Southeast Asia which involves the clearing of trees and resulting ash for fertilizer.
    a. animism  b. Shinto  c. slash and burn  d. plantation

**Lesson 5 Answer Key**

1. B  6. C
2. B  7. A
3. A  8. A
5. B  10. C
LESSON 5 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore are the Four Tigers.
- The Himalayas are the highest mountains in the world.
- Confucianism is the Chinese belief system that based the five relationships of life on moral precepts and cherishes honor and duty to those in authority.
- Gandhi is the Indian who advocated nonviolence against British colonial power.
- Zedong was the Communist ruler of China famous for his *Little Red Book* of sayings.
- Slash and burn is the type of agriculture in Southeast Asia which involves the clearing of trees and using the resulting ash for fertilizer.
- Korea was a nation divided at the 38th parallel of latitude into North and South Korea.
- The most populated country in the world is China.
- Japan is made up of four main islands.
- An area in the Pacific prone to earthquakes and volcanoes is known as the Ring of Fire.
Lesson 6: World Issues Today

Economic Development

The nations of the world are becoming more interdependent. Globalization establishes financial and trade links between different parts of the world. The developed countries are characterized by high levels of urbanization, industrialization, and standard of living. Developing countries are those on the path of striving to reach these high levels of urbanization, industrialization, and a high standard of living. Developing nations lack much industry. They depend on manufactured goods from developed nations. As interdependence grows, conflicts over economic goals and the realization of unfulfilled expectations deepen.

Most developing nations depend on the export of raw materials and cash (valuable) crops. These items (commodities) often fluctuate in price on the world market. Developed countries usually import the raw materials from the developing countries and sell them manufactured goods. The problem is many of the commodities are purchased at low fluctuating prices while manufactured goods maintain high prices. Southeast Asia shows this in its export of sugar, rubber and tin as commodities. There is less control in the production of agricultural products.

Natural disasters or climate changes can cause price fluctuations. Production amounts are not always reliable. To combat this, countries that produce and buy commodities have signed international commodity
agreements. These agreements try to stabilize and even raise commodity prices by insuring a steady supply at a reasonable price. This occurs by having the government of the commodity producers buy surplus raw materials when prices are low and stockpile them. When prices increase, the government can sell the stockpiled goods. This is not always successful. It is an attempt to stabilize the commodity market and aid the economies of developing nations.

Another economic issue today is foreign debt many countries have incurred throughout the twentieth century. Few people within developing nations have money to invest. Banks do not make loans as frequently as in developed nations. Because of the shortage of money within developing nations, they have resorted to borrowing from foreign companies, banks and organizations. This means that profits made in developing countries often have to be used to repay debts instead of being reinvested in the economy.

Industrialization in the world is still confined mostly to the Northern Hemisphere. In the southern part of the Western Hemisphere, Brazil and Mexico are the only countries with substantial industries. Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and India are developing industries. Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore are called the “Four Tigers.” They are providing competition within Asia for the industrial giant, Japan. More countries are becoming industrialized. The demand for energy resources will rise. India has iron and hydroelectric resources, but no petroleum reserves. Japan is totally dependent on energy resources from foreign
nations. Conflicts over the allocation of the resources may affect industrial
development in the world.

Agriculture throughout the world has become more mechanized as large corporations or agribusinesses take over more production. This often drives the smaller farmer out of business or onto less fertile lands. Increasing crop specialization means that countries are concentrating on primarily one crop or a few crops for export. When prices drop for that product, the whole economy of the nation suffers. Another problem plaguing agriculture is the erosion of the farmlands. In Africa and other places around the world, intensive farming methods have taken nutrients from the soil. The farmer must move on to find fertile lands and the former land is left to be blown away and eroded.

Throughout the world the economic sector experiencing the most growth is the service industry. This includes those in medical, retail and finance fields. Transportation and communication costs decrease. Industry is more mechanized. The development of the service industry has provided employment for many people. Of all industries within the world’s economies, the tourism and travel industry ranks as the leading one. About ten percent of all jobs worldwide and ten percent of the combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for all nations are in the tourism and travel sector. As transportation improves and leisure time and incomes rise, this field faces a promising future throughout the world. The negative aspect in the growth of tourism in developing nations is most jobs in the tourist industry are low-paying unskilled ones. Also, many of the hotels and income producing aspects of the tourist industry are owned by multinational corporations and do not contribute to the overall economy of the nation.
Practice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices given.

1. __________ nations have an urbanized, industrialized and high standard of living.
   a. Developed   b. Rural   c. Western   d. Developing

2. __________ nations depend on manufactured goods from other nations.
   a. Developed   b. Rural   c. Western   d. Developing

3. Raw materials and cash crops are called __________.
   a. agriculture   b. erosion   c. commodities   d. tourism

4. A shortage of money in a country can lead to much _________.
   a. industrialization   b. cities   c. banks   d. foreign debt

5. Most industrialized nations are located in the __________.
   a. Northern Hemisphere   c. Eastern Hemisphere
   b. Western Hemisphere   d. Southern Hemisphere

6. Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore are the __________.
   a. Erosion   b. Four Tigers   c. Rural   d. Agricultural

7. Large corporations involved in agriculture are called __________.
   a. agribusinesses   c. Four Tigers
   b. industrials   d. Indians
8. __________ is the loss of fertile soil that is a problem in agriculture.
a. topsoil  b. erosion  c. fertilizer  d. developing

9. The __________ sector of the economy has had the most growth recently.
a. service  b. industrial  c. tourism  d. agriculture

10. __________ is the leading industry in the world.
    a. Toy making  b. Fertilizers  c. Tourism  d. Commodities

Technology

    Increasing technology promotes global interdependence. Communication and transportation bring people and nations closer. One major development in technology has aided all of society. This is the silicon chip. With this, computer technology is available worldwide. It is available at an increasingly lower price. People, organizations and governments can communicate at an amazing speed and share information over computers.

    With the help of technology, agriculture throughout the world changed with the “Green Revolution.” This began in the 1960s in the Philippines. A new strain of rice was developed. It was more pest resistant and productive than previous strains. New strains of seeds could be produced by interbreeding. Agricultural production could increase on lands already cultivated and also could be expanded to lands not previously desirable to be farmed. These Green Revolution plants yield more. Critics charge that more water and fertilizer is needed for these strains. Therefore, some
charge that the Green Revolution is not beneficial to the poor farmer who does not have access to an abundant water supply and cannot afford fertilizer. Other technological advances within the agricultural field have given farmers the ability to fatten livestock faster. Also improved are the appearance and flavor of fruits and vegetables.

Technology has also benefited society in the medical field. Vaccinations against previously deadly diseases are now available in most areas of the world. Diseases such as tuberculosis and pneumonia, which formerly killed thousands, are no longer a threat due to medical breakthroughs. Yellow fever, which plagued thousands and almost stopped the construction of the Panama Canal, can now be prevented with a vaccine. Also, prevention of diseases is being taught and advocated throughout the world. Still, problems of disease exist. In South Asia, malaria kills many and sleeping sickness strikes the Africans. With malaria, its carrier is the mosquito. With sleeping sickness, its carrier is the tsetse fly. Eradication programs to rid the environment of the breeding areas and the habitats of these insects have helped. Also, scientists have been able to alter genetically some mosquitoes so they cannot transmit diseases. By releasing these mosquitoes to breed, hopefully, the threat of malaria will lessen. Cholera due to improper sanitation procedures has a vaccine, too, but it is short-lived. The proliferation of slums in many developing countries has led to cholera outbreaks throughout the world.

The most crucial medical problem at this time is the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). AIDS spreads when individuals come in
contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person usually through sexual activity or blood transfusions. Within Africa, AIDS is now the leading cause of death in the Sub-Saharan region. In 2004, over two million people died from AIDS in this area. Many children are left orphaned by the epidemic of AIDS in Africa. AIDS is a problem throughout the world. Those infected in the developing countries face less health care and more poverty.

Practice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices given.

1. The __________ allowed computer technology to develop.
   a. Green Revolution   b. Silicon chip   c. Fertilizer   d. Irrigation

2. The __________ has made more pest resistant and productive seeds.
   a. Green Revolution   b. silicon chip   c. malaria   d. vaccines

3. __________ have tried to rid the environment of the breeding areas and the habitats of some harmful insects.
   a. Green Revolution   c. Eradication programs
   b. Silicon chip   d. Sleeping sickness

4. __________ is the leading killer disease in Africa.
   a. AIDS   b. Cholera   c. Yellow fever   d. Tuberculosis
Political Structures

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, the “Cold War” officially ended. Tensions between the two superpowers, the US and the USSR, lessened. As nations move from unsuccessful communist regimes, other repressive governments evolved. The European model for government spread throughout the world by migration and colonization. This model has not always been successful in the non-Western world. Some of the developing nations are still struggling to develop a government to effectively serve its citizens.

During the Cold War, talks were held between the US and the USSR to discuss arms control. Reduction treaties and limitations on the types of missiles were enacted. Now that the Cold War is over, the debate on how to rid the world of these arms has sparked controversy. Nations like India and North Korea, which did not have nuclear warheads, want to develop missiles. This causes concern from neighboring countries and those in conflict with them.

Terrorism is violence against unarmed, innocent civilians. Throughout the world, terrorism has been used by various groups. Such groups include some Palestinians and the Shining Path group in Peru. Kidnappings and executions attempt to make a point by threat. Some terrorism is supported by governments who give money and training to terrorists to encourage action against its enemies.
Political instability is another problem in developing countries. Social inequalities create challenges for nations and often lead to political uprisings. Nations where few people hold most of the wealth and power and the majority of the people live in poverty, such as Colombia, give rise to guerrilla groups. Political instability affects the economy and other aspects of society, too.

Terrorism and political instability create refugee problems throughout the world. According to the United Nations, a refugee is any person with a “well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion.” In the late 1990s, the number of refugees was estimated to be over twenty million. The refugee problem stems from ethnic or religious conflicts, civil wars, natural disasters and political turmoil or persecution. Arabs in the Middle East have lived in refugee camps for years waiting to return to Palestine. Afghan refugees flooded Pakistan and Kurds fled Iraq. Violence in Cambodia and Myanmar led to refugee situations. Recently, Hutu refugee camps were established in the Congo due to troubles in Rwanda. Often, refugee camps are full of hunger and diseases as the host nation cannot provide for arriving numbers.

To combat world problems, the United Nations began in 1945 with fifty-one member nations. Today, the United Nations has 191 members. The goal of the group is to settle disputes, help end disease, supply food and aid in disasters, and safeguard basic human rights for all people. Other international organizations promote economic cooperation and defend against common enemies. CARICOM in the Caribbean, MERCOSUR in
South America and ECOWAS in Africa strive to foster goodwill and prosperity among member nations.

**Practice Questions**

**Choose the correct answer from the choices given.**

1. The __________ model of government spread throughout the world by migration and colonization.

2. Reduction treaties and limitation of types of missiles are part of ______.
   a. terrorism      b. refugees        c. instability       d. arms control

3. Violence against unarmed innocent civilians is called __________.
   a. repression       b. communism       c. terrorism       d. instability

4. Any person with a well-founded fear of being persecuted for various reasons is called a __________.
   a. civilian  b. politician  c. terrorist  d. refugee

5. Group formed to combat world problems.
People and the Environment

Population growth is an issue facing the world today. The world’s population is increasing at the rate of about ninety million per year. In the past one hundred years, the world’s population has quadrupled. Increased agricultural production led to better nutrition and modern medicine and sanitation methods have decreased the disease and death rate in many areas. Developed nations see the population rates stabilize as families decide to have fewer children. Developing nations face overpopulation. These countries have used various methods to lower the rate of population growth. In China, a one child policy was advocated for years. This was relaxed somewhat as it proved extremely unpopular in rural areas.

Often in lower income areas, children are needed to work and provide income and labor for the family. Also, social reasons, such as carrying on the family name, are reasons many have large families. Some religions such as Roman Catholicism do not advocate family planning. Many developing nations such as India now try to encourage family planning through advertisements. The motivation is free education for two children or less. As the world becomes more urban, overpopulation leads to slum conditions within these urban areas. It is estimated that by the year 2025, the world’s population could reach eight to ten billion.

Hunger and poverty plague many nations. Agriculture has increased production. Many of these products are not food crops but cash crops or resources for industry. Natural disasters such as tsunamis and famines also affect food quantities. Developed nations give food to alleviate hunger in the world. Often it does not reach the people because of corruption in
government. Each day approximately one billion people go hungry in the world and millions die each year from starvation and diseases caused by poor nutrition. To combat hunger, sustainable agriculture is advocated. This type of farming preserves the natural resources and maintains the land’s fertility. It can then be cultivated over and over without harm. This method includes the use of pest resistant seeds and drip irrigation which waters the roots in a small but steady stream. Another remedy for world hunger would be land reform. The poor can then own land and cultivate small gardens for their own consumption.

Civil wars and lack of funding hinders education for millions throughout the world. In some places, economic reasons keep children in the fields or workplace instead of in schools. Many developing countries face a “brain drain.” Bright students go abroad to be educated. They do not return to their native country. In some cultures, traditionally women are not educated and usually this problem worsens in rural areas.

Not only women but many people face prejudice and abuse in the world today. In 1948, the United Nations issued the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It states that all people have the right to dignity, free speech, freedom of assembly and an adequate standard of living. Through political abuses of power and ethnic or religious conflicts, this has been violated. Genocide or the deliberate extermination of a racial, cultural or ethnic group occurred in the Nazi Holocaust. This recently happened in Uganda, Cambodia and Rwanda. Other nations place economic and political pressure on those guilty of human rights violations. They are not always successful.
Civil wars and other conflicts often leave weapons that linger and cause pain and death. Land mines placed to kill and maim during war are not recovered when the conflict is over and still cause deaths. Worldwide land mines kill or maim about 15,000 people per year. In Nicaragua, which has the most land mines in Latin America, the leftist Sandinistas placed land mines on the border of Honduras and Costa Rica to harm CIA-backed contra guerrillas in the 1970s and 80s. Most of these were anti-personnel mines. These are harder to detect than anti-vehicle mines. Today, many still are injured or killed by these mines. The five worst countries with a land mine situation are Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia and Iraq.

Environmental issues affect countries throughout the world. One major problem is the destruction of rainforests. Often these are destroyed to cut the timber for a profit, to farm the land, or to create settlements. The discovery of gold in the Amazon rainforest has led to destruction of the area. Brazil has cut roads through the Amazon rainforest for settlement and economic ventures. In Sri Lanka, over half of the rainforest is now gone. The United Nations suggests that international organizations and developed nations reduce the debt of these developing countries with this environmental issue to encourage less rainforest destruction. Also, the cultivation of products from the rainforests should be encouraged.

In China, production goals of the Communist regime during the 1950s and 60s abused the land. Erosion, deforestation and drying out are current problems. China has planted the “Green Great Wall” of trees to combat these issues. Within the former USSR, many areas now feel the effects of past plans to increase production. Azerbaijan faces damage of years of
pollution from fertilizers and pesticides such as DDT. The rivers leading to the Aral Sea on the border of present-day Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan were drained for irrigation purposes under the USSR’s economic strategies. The fishing industry in the Aral Sea was destroyed as the water’s salt percentage increased. Irrigation needs have left little clean water for the people of Africa to use for cooking and drinking purposes. Using dirty water helps spread disease throughout the continent. This has been partially helped by the construction of giant pipelines bringing water to dry areas. Desertification is also occurring in Africa as the large Sahara Desert claims more and more land per year. Overgrazing of animals leaves little grass to prevent the erosion of soil. The desert spreads into former grasslands.

Urbanization is increasing throughout the world as people leave rural areas and make their way to the cities. Usually these people dream of a better life that awaits them in the city. They find overcrowded conditions, overburdened public services, poverty and unemployment. Half of the world still resides in rural areas, especially in developing nations. Those same nations are seeing the fastest growth in the few large cities they have. Many of the world’s most crowded cities are in the poorer countries. In Cairo, twenty percent of Egypt’s population lives in that one city. China, where only one quarter of the population resides in cities, faces severe overcrowding in the large cities like Shanghai. The Chinese government has tried to correct this problem by issuing permits to only some who try to move into cities.
Pollution from the increased urbanization of the world is another environmental issue. Industrial wastes and chemicals pollute the air, land and water of the earth. In Iran and Japan, pollution has reached such proportions that some wear medical types of face masks. Japan and China have enacted legislation to combat pollution. This has not been totally successful. Nuclear waste disposal poses another environmental hazard. The 1986 Chernobyl explosion in the USSR displayed the hazards of nuclear power that linger. Solutions to dispose of the nuclear wastes underground or to change them to more stable solids may solve some of the problem. Debate rages on the issue. Many nations do not have the finances to implement safe nuclear waste storage plans. The world faces an energy crisis and the loss of irreplaceable fossil fuels. There is a need to make nuclear power and nuclear disposal safer.

**Practice Questions**

**Choose the correct answer from the choices given.**

1. In the last one hundred years, the world’s population has __________.
   a. doubled b. tripled c. quadrupled d. reduced

2. __________ farming preserves the natural resources and maintains the land’s fertility so it can be cultivated over and over without harm.
   a. outdoor b. sustainable c. reform d. grazing

3. __________ would allow people to own their own land and cultivate a small garden for their own consumption.
   a. land reform b. pollution c. urbanization d. increase
4. __________ is the deliberate extermination of a racial, cultural or ethnic group.

5. __________ are weapons left behind after wars that kill and maim people.

6. Destruction of this in Brazil causes environmental problems.
   a. deserts  b. rivers  c. rainforests  d. farms

7. The Sahara Desert taking over more and more land is a process called:
   a. erosion  b. desertification  c. deforestation  d. irrigation

8. More and more people moving to cities is called __________.
   a. growth  b. urbanization  c. pollution  d. rural

9. Increased urbanization has caused this environmental problem.
   a. deforestation  b. desertification  c. pollution  d. farms

10. The disposal of these dangerous _____ wastes causes much debate.
    a. farm  b. dog  c. airplane  d. nuclear
## Lesson 6 Answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Development</th>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Political Structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. B</td>
<td>7. A</td>
<td>2. A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People and the Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LESSON 6 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- A shortage of money in a country can lead to much foreign debt.
- Large corporations involved in agriculture are called agribusiness.
- The Green Revolution has made more pest resistant and productive seeds.
- Eradication programs have tried to rid the environment of the breeding areas and the habitats of some harmful insects.
- The European model of government spread throughout the world by migration and colonization.
- Reduction treaties and limitation of types of missiles are part of arms control.
- In the last one hundred years, the world’s populating has quadrupled.
- Sustainable farming preserves the natural resources and maintains the land’s fertility so it can be cultivated over and over without harm.
- Destruction of rainforests in Brazil causes environmental problems.
The Sahara Desert taking over more and more land is a process called desertification.

The disposal of dangerous nuclear waste causes much debate.

Increased urbanization has caused pollution and has become an environmental problem.

Latin America is located in the Western Hemisphere and stretches from Mexico to the southern tip of South America.

The Panama Canal was built by the U.S. to shorten travel across Latin America.

A major economic sector, especially in the Caribbean, is tourism.

Most of the population of Latin America is rural.

There has been a growth in the numbers of women workers in Latin America in the 20th century.

WWI was the first modern war because of machine guns, tanks, poison gas and trenches.

The association of European countries for free trade and cooperation is known as the European Union.

Hitler was the leader of the Nazi Party in Germany.

Councils of workers and soldiers in Russia were called soviets.

The Dutch migration into the interior of Africa was known as the Great Trek.
Apartheid is the policy of strict separation of races in South Africa.

Zionism was a movement to create a homeland for the Jews.

Asia is the largest continent in the world.

Everest is the world’s tallest mountain.

Archipelagoes are chains of islands.

The Korean peninsula is composed of two nations.

The Hinduism religion believes in reincarnation and it holds cattle to be sacred.

In the caste system, a person is ranked according to one’s occupation and heredity.

The “Enlightened One” founded the Buddhism religion which does not use castes or priests.

The Japanese religion (Shinto) believes all of nature contains the spirits of gods and also worships ancestors and emperors.

Japan has the most homogeneous people in the world.

Japanese warriors who refused to surrender were Samurai.

Gandhi advocated non-violence against colonial powers.

The communist leader in China was Zedong.

Student protest in China at Tiananmen Square led to many deaths and injuries.
The science which aided agriculture by developing plants well-suited to growing conditions around the world is known as the Green Revolution.

The massive storms which bring much rain to Asia are called monsoons.

Urbanized, industrialized, and a high standard of living are characteristics of a developed nation.

Violence against unarmed innocent civilians is called terrorism.

A person with a fear of being persecuted for various reasons is a refugee.

The United Nations was founded to resolve international disputes.

Deliberate extermination of a racial, cultural or ethnic group is genocide.

Land mines are weapons frequently left behind after a war and kill and maim.

More and more people moving to cities is the phenomenon known as urbanization.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan are part of Asia.

One earthquake caused the great Indonesian tidal wave of December 26, 2004.
The fastest growing religion in Africa is Islam.

Most people in Northern Africa speak Arabic.

Portugal started the European slave trade,

From the 1400s to 1917 the Middle East was controlled by the Ottoman Turks.