

CHAPTER 2

THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY

Geography Matters!

You may not think about geography often, but it has a direct impact on life around the globe! As you study countries in the Eastern Hemisphere, you will explore their many physical characteristics, such as **location**, **climate**, and **natural resources**.

You will see that these factors influence a great number of things, including **population distribution** (where people live), **economic activities** (what people produce), and **trade** (how people exchange goods).

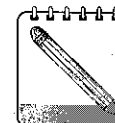
Impact on Population

Some areas are very densely populated with thousands of people living very closely together. Other areas are scarcely populated at all.

So what makes a location favorable for human life? The right climate and the right resources, of course!

Impact on Trade

What should a country produce and trade? These decisions largely depend on the availability of natural resources. Similarly, climate affects which crops will grow and which livestock can survive in an area. Location helps determine how easy it is to trade with other countries.



True or False



L6-8RH8

Write T for True and F for False. Correct any false statements to make them true.

- ___ 1. Locations with a mild climate and many resources typically have lower populations.
- ___ 2. A country's location greatly impacts its ability to trade with other nations.
- ___ 3. Locations with extreme climates and few natural resources tend to have lower populations.
- ___ 4. Waterways, such as rivers and seas, are important routes of transportation and trade.
- ___ 5. Natural resources have very little impact on what goods and services a country produces.

Writing Prompt

L6-8RH1; L6-8RH7; L6-8VHST7; L6-8VHST8

You are a travel agent who books trips to Africa, Southwest Asia, and Southern and Eastern Asia. You want to provide more information about how the geography of a country will impact your clients while on vacation. Research the different types of climates that these regions experience. Then create a pamphlet that explains how each region's climate will potential impact their vacation.

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Classify Information

L6-8RH1; L6-8RH2;
L6-8VHST4

Determine whether each physical environment of the Eastern Hemisphere supports or limits human activities. Use evidence to explain your answer.

1. The Siberian tundra, a region in northern Russia, experiences extremely cold temperatures in the winter. Summer months provide a short crop-growing season.

2. The Saudi Arabian desert covers most of the Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East. It is a hot, dry region with very few rivers and little rainfall.

3. The Mekong River basin in Southeast Asia is a wet, rainy region with lots of fertile land.

4. Japan is an island nation located in the Pacific Ocean. It has a moderate climate.



Apply What You Learned

L6-8RH1; L6-8RH2

China is an enormous country with many different physical environments. Read the table and then answer the questions.

Eastern China	North China Plain	This region contains the Yellow River. The rainy climate, fertile soil, and geographical features make this region a key agricultural region.
	Southern Hills	This hilly region experiences significant rainfall and a warm climate. The Yangtze and Pearl Rivers flow through this major rice-farming region.
	Plateau of Tibet	This region of high elevation and cool, dry climate supports small-scale agriculture. Many Tibetan people still live as nomads, raising and herding livestock.
Western China	Himalayas	This mountainous region includes the highest mountains in the world. The Himalayas experience freezing, snowy winters and cool summers.
	Taklamakan Desert	One of the largest sandy deserts in the world, this region lacks significant rainfall or other water sources. Typically, this desert is a cold, dry desert.
	Gobi Desert	The Gobi is Asia's largest desert. This cold, dry region is made of bare, exposed rock and is known for extreme temperature changes from day to night.

1. Which region of China most likely has higher populations? **Eastern China** **Western China**
Explain why: _____

2. Trading goods is easier in Eastern China than in Western China. Explain why the geographical features of Western China make trade more difficult.

