

Glencoe
The
World and
Its People

Reading Essentials and
Study Guide
Student Workbook



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TO THE STUDENT

This *Reading Essentials and Study Guide* booklet is designed to help you use recognized reading strategies to improve your reading-for-information skills. For each section of the Student Edition, you are alerted to key terms, asked to draw from prior knowledge, organize your thoughts with a graphic organizer, and then follow a process to read and understand the text. This booklet was prepared to help you get more from your textbook by reading with purpose.



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BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt

Key Terms

civilization a culture that has reached a high level of development

city-state a city and the land around it

polytheism the worship of many gods and goddesses

theocracy rule by an individual who is both the religious leader and the king

cuneiform writing made up of wedge-shaped markings on clay tablets

empire group of states under one ruler

delta fan-shaped fertile area near the mouth of a river

pharaoh great ruler of ancient Egypt

pyramid tomb of pharaohs

hieroglyphics form of picture writing

papyrus plant from which a form of paper is made

Drawing From Experience

Have you ever thought about a society without any laws? What would it be like? The idea might seem exciting at first, but would it really work? Babylon's greatest king—Hammurabi—didn't think so, and he attempted to bring some justice and fairness to society by writing a set of laws.

This section discusses the two earliest known civilizations—those of Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart on the next page to help you take notes. Write one fact about Mesopotamia and one fact about Egypt for each of the categories.

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Category	Mesopotamia	Egypt
Famous People	1.	5.
Location	2.	6.
Waterways	3.	7.
Writing Methods	4.	8.

Read to Learn

Introduction

Egypt, in North Africa, and Mesopotamia, in Southwest Asia, were the earliest known human civilizations. Historians use the term **civilization** to describe a culture that has reached a high level of development. These cultures used systems of writing, built cities, and assigned workers to specific jobs, such as farmers, blacksmiths, builders, and teachers.

9. What is a civilization?

Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia lay between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This area was part of the Fertile Crescent, a region that curved between the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf.

The area was settled around 4500 B.C. The settlers built dirt walls and an irrigation system to control the flooding of the rivers and to better water their fields. They created a 12-month calendar and grew grains with the use of the plow.

Some of the villages and towns grew into cities of up to 40,000 people. Each city was considered a small state, or nation. The **city-state** of this time was made up of the city and farmland around it.

The earliest of the city-states was Sumer. It was located where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flowed closest to each other. The Sumerians

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

grew rich from trade. They invented many things, including the wheel and the sailboat. Both of these inventions were useful in getting from one place to another.

At the center of each city was a large tower called a ziggurat. At the top of the ziggurat was a temple. This temple was believed to be the home of that city's main god or goddess.

Mesopotamia's religion was based on polytheism. **Polytheism** is the worship of many gods and goddesses. At first, each city-state was a theocracy. A **theocracy** is a government that is ruled by religious leaders. Later, military leaders took over the government. They took the place of the religious leaders.

The Sumerians were the first people to write down laws and keep records. They created a form of writing known as **cuneiform**. This system of writing includes hundreds of wedge-shaped forms. Sharp reeds made the markings on moist, clay tablets that dried in the sun.

The Sumerians taught writing in schools called tablet houses. Only rich people could send their children to these schools. The students were trained to be scribes. Scribes kept records and wrote letters for government leaders.

Sumerian scribes are believed to have written the world's first known story. It was called the *Epic of Gilgamesh*. It was about a king who traveled the world and performed brave deeds.

Around 2300 B.C., Akkad conquered Sumer and several other city-states to create the first **empire**. An empire is a group of states under one ruler. Babylon took over the Akkadian Empire around 1800 B.C.

Babylon's greatest king was Hammurabi. Hammurabi made the Babylonian empire even larger. He built temples and irrigation canals. He encouraged trade and new ideas. The Babylonians developed a number system based on 60. Our 60-minute hour, 60-second minute, and 360-degree circle came from this Babylonian system.

Hammurabi wrote a set of laws in an attempt to create justice and fairness. The set of laws is known as the Code of Hammurabi. It helped people know the rules and the punishments for breaking them.

After Hammurabi's death, his empire split into smaller regions. Much later, during the 500s B.C., a new Babylonian empire rose and fell. It was ruled by people called the Chaldeans. They were warriors. Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest Chaldean king. Once again, Babylon was a center of trade and culture.

The Phoenicians were also important traders of the time. They lived in what is today Lebanon. The Phoenicians traveled far. They developed

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

an alphabet. The Hebrew, Greek, and Latin alphabets still in use today were developed from the Phoenician alphabet.

10. Why was the Code of Hammurabi important?

Egypt—Gift of the Nile

Like Mesopotamia, Egypt grew out of a river valley—the Nile. The Nile is the longest river in the world. It passes through the mountains of East Africa and flows north to the Mediterranean Sea. Most Egyptians lived near the Nile or its delta. A **delta** is a fan-shaped fertile area near the mouth of a river.

Egyptians depended on the Nile to survive. Every year, the Nile overflowed its banks. The floodwaters went down but left behind large amounts of rich soil. This soil was good for growing crops.

Eventually, there were two kingdoms along the Nile. They were called Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. About 3100 B.C., a king of Upper Egypt called Narmer conquered Lower Egypt. The two kingdoms were then united.

The Egyptian ruler had the title of pharaoh. **Pharaoh** means “great house.” Like Mesopotamia, Egypt was a theocracy. Egyptians believed that their pharaoh was a god as well as a priest.

Egyptians believed in many gods and goddesses. Each god stood for some part of nature. Important gods were the sun god Re and the river god Hapi.

The Egyptians believed in a form of life after death. They embalmed a body immediately after death to prepare it for the next life. Embalming preserved a body. Egyptians believed that a person’s soul could not exist without a body. The embalmed body, wrapped in long strips of linen, was called a mummy.

Rich people’s mummies were placed in very elaborate tombs, often along with wonderful treasures. The biggest tombs belonged to the pharaohs and were called **pyramids**.

Egypt conquered many lands during its history. It was also defeated many times. In the 1700s B.C., invaders from Asia conquered Egypt. These invaders were known as the Hyksos. The Hyksos were defeated

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

after about 150 years. From the Hyksos, the Egyptians learned how to make bronze and iron weapons. They also learned to build chariots that were pulled by horses.

With their new weapons, Egyptians pushed to get gold and gems from the part of Africa that is now the Sudan. The first female pharaoh was Hatshepsut. She expanded trade to East Africa and across the Mediterranean Sea to Greece. Wherever the Egyptians traded, they spread their ideas.

The ancient Egyptian system of writing is called hieroglyphics. **Hieroglyphics** uses small pictures instead of letters. These pictures were cut into stone or painted on walls and **papyrus**—a form of paper made from the papyrus plant. Some of these writings can still be read today.

The Egyptians invented many things. They used the number system based on ten. They also developed geometry. They created a calendar to keep track of when the Nile would flood. In medicine, they were the first to use splints. Egyptian doctors could sew up cuts and set broken bones.

In time, Egypt became weak. The priests fought with the pharaohs for power. Egypt spent a great deal of money trying to control nearby countries. Eventually Greece and Rome conquered Egypt.

11. Why did the Egyptians believe in embalming?

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2

Three World Religions

Key Terms

- monotheism** belief in one supreme god
- covenant** an agreement
- prophet** messenger of God
- messiah** savior
- disciple** follower
- five pillars of faith** five obligations all Muslims must fulfill
- hajj** pilgrimage, or journey to Makkah

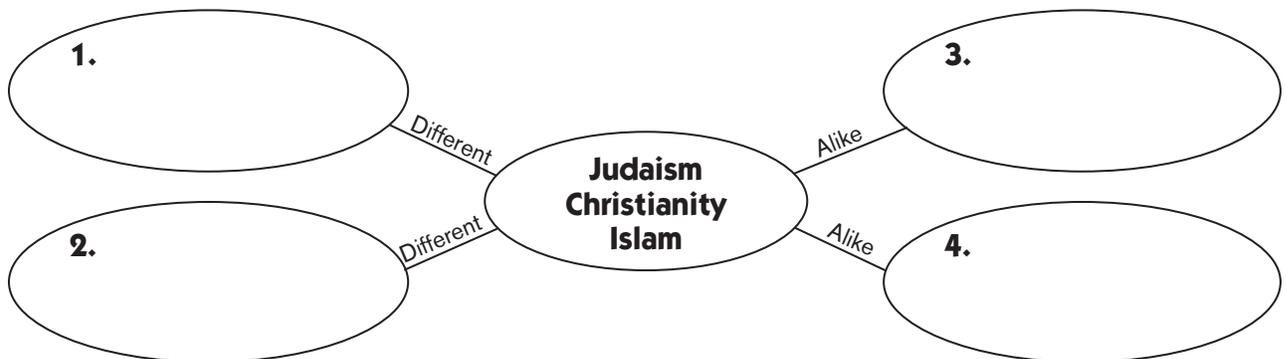
Drawing From Experience

Have you and a friend ever had different opinions about a movie, song, or story? Can you see how easy it is for people to have different opinions about religion?

The last section discussed the early civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia. This section discusses the major world religions that came from the same areas.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. Write two beliefs or facts that show the differences among the three religions. Then write two ways that the religions are similar.



BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Read to Learn

Introduction

Today Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are major world faiths. They are examples of **monotheism**, the belief in one supreme god.

5. What is monotheism?

Judaism

Judaism is the oldest of these three world religions. The first people who practiced Judaism were called Israelites. The followers of Judaism today are known as Jews. The Jewish holy book is the Torah.

Jews believe they are descended from Abraham and Sarah. They were the first to worship the one God, or Yahweh. Abraham lived at least 3,700 years ago in what is now Iraq. The Torah says that God made an agreement, or **covenant**, with Abraham. If Abraham moved to the land of Canaan, Abraham and everyone who followed him would be blessed. Because of this, the Jews believed they were God’s “chosen people.” They believed they would continue to be blessed as long as they followed God’s laws.

The most important laws are the Ten Commandments. God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. Moses was a **prophet**, or messenger of God. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, where they had been slaves. The Ten Commandments were different than the laws of other nearby people. They stated that there was only one God, Yahweh. They said that all people are equal, whether they are rich or poor.

About 1000 B.C., the Israelites created a kingdom in the area of present-day Israel. The kingdom’s capital was Jerusalem. By 922 B.C., the kingdom had split into two states. They were Israel and Judah. The people of Judah came to be called Jews. Over time, the Jews would be forced to leave their homeland many times. Eventually, the Jewish people spread to many parts of the world. In some areas, the Jews were treated fairly. However, in many areas, the Jews were cruelly treated. Everywhere they went, Jewish writers, artists, and scientists spread their knowledge.

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Today Jews follow many religious traditions. They have several important holy days. Passover is the festival that retells the story of the Israelites fleeing Egypt. Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year's Day. Yom Kippur is known as the Day of Atonement. People fast (go without food) and pray on this day.

6. What are three important Jewish holy days?

Christianity

Christianity grew out of the traditions of Judaism. It started in Southwest Asia among the Jews. It later spread to non-Jews. It became a major influence on Western civilization.

Centuries after the start of Judaism, a Jew named Jesus began preaching in what today is Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. Jesus taught that God loved all people. He said that if people trusted God, their sins would be forgiven.

At this time, Romans ruled the land where Jesus lived. Many Jews opposed the Roman rulers. Some Jews believed God would send a **messiah**, or savior, to rescue them from the Romans. In A.D. 30, Jesus and his followers, or **disciples**, went to Jerusalem. They were going to celebrate Passover, a Jewish holiday. Some Jews greeted Jesus as the messiah. This worried other Jews and the Romans. Jesus was found guilty of treason, or betraying the government. He was then crucified, or executed on a cross. Soon afterward, Jesus' disciples said he had risen from the dead. They began preaching that Jesus was the Son of God. They said that everyone who believed in Jesus would have eternal life. After that, his disciples started calling him Christ, after the Greek word for "messiah."

The disciples spread the word about Jesus around the Mediterranean area. People who believed in Jesus became known as Christians. Stories about Jesus and other Christian writings became known as the New Testament. The New Testament is part of the Christian Bible.

Christians were mistreated in the Roman Empire until about A.D. 300. Then the Roman emperor Constantine proclaimed that Christianity was a lawful religion. Christianity spread throughout Southwest Asia, North Africa, and Europe. Disputes divided Christianity into two major groups. These were the Roman Catholics and the Eastern Orthodox Christians.

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Today Christianity has more followers than any other religion. The three major groups are Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, and Protestants. Christians celebrate several important holidays. Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth. Good Friday remembers his death. Easter is the day on which Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead.

7. What do Christians believe that Jesus' rising from the dead means?

Islam

Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam is a monotheistic religion. It began in the A.D. 600s in the Arabian Peninsula. In the Arabic language, *Islam* means "surrender" to the will of God, or Allah. Followers of Islam are called Muslims. They believe that Muhammad was the last and greatest prophet of Islam.

Muhammad was born about A.D. 570 in Makkah. Makkah is in western Arabia. According to Muslims, in A.D. 610 the angel Gabriel spoke to Muhammad. Gabriel told Muhammad to preach about God. Muhammad told the people there is only one God, Allah. All believers are equal before Allah. On the Day of Judgment, evildoers will be punished and good people will be rewarded.

Muhammad's message made the rich people in Makkah angry. They began to threaten him. In A.D. 622, Muhammad went to the city of Yathrib, which is now known as Madina. This trip was known as the *Hijrah*, or migration.

In Madina, Muhammad made the people proud of their new faith. Armies from Makkah came and tried to capture Madina, but the people defeated them. Makkah became the center of Islam. Soon all of Arabia was Islamic. Islam also began to spread outside of Arabia.

As Islam spread, it split into two groups. These were the Sunnis and the Shiites. Most Muslims are Sunnis. These two groups disagree on which leaders should rule Muslims.

BIRTHPLACE OF CIVILIZATION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2** (continued)

The Quran is the Muslim holy book. Muslims believe it is the direct word of Allah. It lists the five pillars of faith. The **five pillars of faith** are the duties which all Muslims must fulfill. First, Muslims must state that there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger. Second, Muslims must pray five times each day. Third, they must help poor people or institutions such as schools. Fourth, they must fast. Fasting means that they cannot eat or drink during the daytime of a special holy month. This holy month is called Ramadan.

The last pillar of faith is a pilgrimage, or trip to a sacred place. Once in each Muslim's life, he or she must make a trip to Makkah to pray. This journey is called the **hajj**. The reward for fulfilling all these religious duties is paradise.

8. What is the hajj?

NORTH AFRICA TODAY

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

Egypt

Key Terms

- silt** small particles of rich soil carried by running water
- oasis** fertile or green area in a desert
- phosphate** mineral salt used in fertilizers
- republic** government headed by a president
- fellahin** Egyptian peasant farmers
- bazaar** a marketplace
- service industries** businesses that provide services to people rather than producing goods
- mosque** place of worship for the followers of Islam

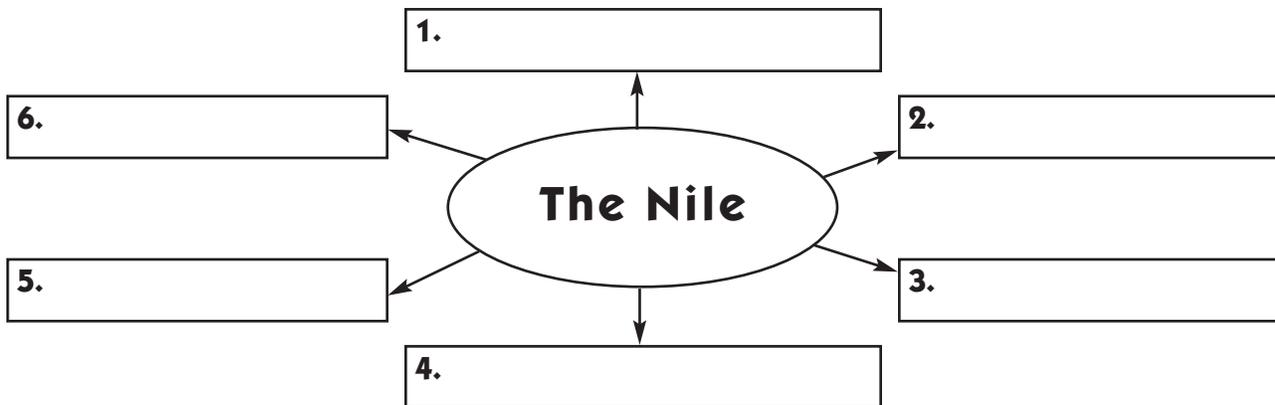
Drawing From Experience

Have you ever used rocks to build a small wall or to dam a creek? Think about the weight of even fairly small rocks. Early Egyptians built pyramids as tall as 50-story buildings. They used stones that weighed more than 2,000 pounds each. With no modern tools, how did they do it?

In this section, you will learn about Egypt, a desert land with a rich history.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Fill in six facts about the Nile River.



NORTH AFRICA TODAY**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Egypt lies in Africa's northeast corner. The Nile River runs between the country's vast deserts. Egypt's location, deserts, and the Nile have shaped life there throughout history.

7. What major river runs through Egypt?

Egypt's Land and Climate

Egypt is about the size of Texas and New Mexico together. Most of it is desert. The people live in only a small area. Egypt gets most of its water from the Nile River. The Nile is the world's longest river. It formed a delta where it empties into the Mediterranean Sea. A delta is a fertile area of land that has been built up by soil carried downstream.

For centuries, the Nile flooded the nearby land in spring. The water carried **silt**, or small bits of rich soil. As the water returned to its riverbanks, it dropped its silt. This soil made the land good for farming. Today the floods no longer take place. Dams control the river. Farmers water their plants from the Nile. The Nile also provides hydroelectric power.

Egypt's Sinai Peninsula links Africa with Southwest Asia. The Suez Canal separates the Sinai Peninsula from the rest of Egypt. Egyptians and Europeans built the canal. Ships use it to pass from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. This passage allows them to avoid traveling all the way around Africa.

The Eastern Desert, or Arabian Desert, lies east of the Nile River. The larger Libyan Desert lies west of the Nile. This desert covers about two-thirds of the country. **Oases** dot both deserts. These are areas fed by underground water. The water allows plants to grow, creating lush green spots within the hot sands.

The Eastern and Libyan Deserts are part of the Sahara. The Sahara is the world's largest desert. It is about the size of the United States. It stretches from Egypt across North Africa to the Atlantic Ocean.

NORTH AFRICA TODAY

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

All of Egypt has a dry desert climate. Summers are hot. Winters are mild. Egypt receives little rain. Some areas may get no rain for years. Strong, hot winds bring dust storms in spring. These powerful winds can damage crops and houses.

8. The Eastern and Libyan Deserts are part of what larger desert?

Egypt's Economy

Egypt's economy is growing. Still, farming remains the main way that Egyptians make a living. Only a very small amount of Egypt's land is good for farming. The best land lies in the Nile River valley. Farmers grow sugarcane, grains, fruits, vegetables, and cotton. Egypt sells cotton and cotton products to other countries.

The Aswan High Dam and other dams were built to stop the Nile floods. Dams store water behind them. They release some water several times a year, rather than all in the spring. Farmers can then harvest two or three crops a year, instead of just one.

The dams bring challenges, too. They block the silt that makes the land rich. They also keep freshwater from reaching the delta. The Mediterranean Sea's salt water now flows deeper into the delta. The salt water harms crops. Now farmers must use chemical fertilizers to grow crops.

The Aswan Dam provides hydroelectric power to run factories. Cairo, the capital of Egypt, and Alexandria are major centers of industry. Egypt's factories make food products, cloth, and some consumer goods. Tourism is important to Egypt's economy. Visitors come to see the pyramids and temples of ancient Egypt.

Egyptians pump oil from in and around the Red Sea. Egypt earns almost half its income from selling oil to other countries. It also has natural gas and phosphates. **Phosphate** is a mineral salt that is used in fertilizer.

9. What challenges do dams on the Nile River bring?

NORTH AFRICA TODAY**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1** (continued)**The Egyptians**

As you have already learned, ancient Egypt had an advanced civilization. Greece and Rome, however, controlled Egypt from 300 B.C. to A.D. 300. Queen Cleopatra ruled Egypt during Rome's rise to power.

In A.D. 641, Arabs took control of Egypt. They were Muslims, or followers of Islam. They worshiped one god, Allah. Today Egyptians speak Arabic and almost all are Muslims.

By the end of the 1800s, Egypt had become part of the British Empire. In 1952 Egypt won independence. Gamal Abdel Nasser was Egypt's president from 1954 to 1970. Nasser made Egypt a powerful country in the Muslim world.

Egypt is a **republic**. A president heads the government. A legislature makes the laws. In recent years, some Islamic groups have used violence to change the government. By the early 2000s, the government had stopped these attacks.

Most Egyptians live close to the Nile River. Over half the people live in small villages. Most are **fellahin**, or peasant farmers. They rent small plots of land and grow just enough to feed their families. When they have food left over, they sell it at a **bazaar**, or marketplace, in town.

Egypt's cities are modern. City dwellers live in large apartment buildings. They work in factories, construction, or service industries. **Service industries** provide services to people rather than producing goods. A restaurant is an example of a service industry. Trade takes place in ports like Alexandria and Port Said.

Cairo is the largest city in Africa. It has been a leading center of the Muslim world. **Mosques**, or places of worship for Muslims, dot the city.

Cairo's population is increasing very fast. The birthrate in Egypt is high. Many farmers have moved to Cairo to find work. There are not enough houses, schools, and hospitals for everyone. Many people are poor. Pollution is a serious problem.

10. Why is Gamal Abdel Nassar important in Egypt's history?

NORTH AFRICA TODAY

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2**Libya and the Maghreb****Key Terms**

- aquifer** underground rock layer that stores large amounts of water
- dictatorship** government under the control of one all-powerful leader
- erg** desert area of shifting sand dunes
- civil war** conflict between different groups inside a country
- secular** nonreligious
- casbah** old area of North African cities with narrow streets and small shops
- constitutional monarchy** government with a king or queen as head of state, but elected officials run the government

Drawing From Experience

Picture a sandy beach near an ocean. Now imagine that the ocean as far as you can see has turned to sand. Add sand dunes 1,000 feet high and temperatures up to 110 degrees. You now have a picture of the Sahara that blankets North Africa.

The last section discussed the land, economy, and people of Egypt. This section introduces you to countries that share the Sahara with Egypt. They are Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. For each country, give one key fact about its land and one fact about its history.

Country	Fact About Land	Fact About History
Libya	1.	2.
Tunisia	3.	4.
Algeria	5.	6.
Morocco	7.	8.

NORTH AFRICA TODAY

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Read to Learn

Introduction

Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco together make up the rest of North Africa. They are like Egypt in some ways. They all earn much of their income from the oil and other resources found in the Sahara. Only Egypt, though, has the life-giving waters of the Nile. The other countries have no large rivers.

- 9. What important feature does Egypt have that the other North African countries do not?

Libya

Libya is a bit larger than Alaska. Along the Mediterranean coast are lowlands. Most of Libya is a desert area with a few oases. Strong, dusty winds blow from the desert in spring and fall. They bring temperatures up to 110 degrees.

Libya has no permanent rivers. Instead, **aquifers** lie below the desert. These are underground rock layers that store much water. The government built pipelines to carry this water from the desert to the coast.

Oil was discovered in Libya in 1959. Since then, Libya has gained great wealth from selling oil. It uses the money to buy food, build schools and hospitals, and keep an army.

Almost all Libyans are a mix of Arab and Berber groups. The Berbers were the first North Africans. Later the Arabs brought Islam and the Arabic language to the region. Since then, Libya has been Muslim and the people speak Arabic.

Most Libyans live along the Mediterranean Sea. They live in the modern cities of Tripoli, the capital, and Benghazi. Libya became independent in 1951. In 1969 Muammar al-Qaddhafi took power from the king. He set up a **dictatorship**. This is a government under the control of one all-powerful leader.

- 10. What resource brought great wealth to Libya?

NORTH AFRICA TODAY**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Tunisia

Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco form the Maghreb region. *Maghreb* means “the land farthest west.” These countries are the westernmost part of the Arabic-speaking Muslim world.

Tunisia is the smallest country in North Africa. It is about the size of Georgia. Tunisia’s north and central regions get more rain than most of North Africa. These areas have Mediterranean or steppe climates. Farmers along the eastern coast grow wheat, olives, fruits, and vegetables.

Tunisian factories make food products, cloth, and oil products. Visitors come to explore the country’s Roman ruins.

Because it is along the coast, Tunisia has drawn many people over the centuries. The Phoenicians founded the city of Carthage. It is in northern Tunisia. This city was the center of a powerful trading empire. Carthage later battled Rome to control the Mediterranean world, but lost.

Different Muslim empires controlled the country for centuries. Tunisia was a French colony until it became a republic in 1956.

Almost all Tunisians are from mixed Arab and Berber groups. They speak Arabic and practice Islam. Tunis is the capital and largest city.

11. What powerful ancient city battled Rome?

Algeria

Algeria is the largest North African country. It is about one and a half times the size of Alaska. Algerians can grow crops on its narrow coast. To the south are the Atlas and the Ahaggar Mountains. Between these mountain ranges lie parts of the Sahara called **ergs**. These are huge areas of shifting sand dunes.

Algeria must buy about a third of its food from other countries. It makes money by selling oil and natural gas. Algeria’s industries have not grown fast enough to provide enough jobs and income for its people. Many people are poor.

The people are from mixed Arab and Berber groups. Most are Muslim and speak Arabic. Algeria was a French colony from 1834 to 1962. A **civil war**, or conflict between groups inside a country, started in Algeria in 1954. Algerian Arabs wanted freedom from French rule. The civil war ended with independence in 1962.

Today Algeria is a republic. In recent years, Muslim groups have tried to change the government’s **secular**, or nonreligious, nature. The Muslims gained support and won a national election. But the government

NORTH AFRICA TODAY**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

rejected the election results. Many Muslims who opposed the government were put in prison. There is an ongoing civil war.

Algiers is the capital of the country. Some of it is modern. The older sections, called **casbahs**, have narrow streets and small shops.

12. What do Muslim groups want to change in Algeria?

Morocco

Morocco is a bit larger than California. Its coasts touch the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. The Strait of Gibraltar separates Morocco from Spain. It is only 8 miles wide.

The plains along the coast have rich soil. Farmers there grow sugar beets, grains, fruits, and vegetables. Many raise sheep. Morocco is a world leader in selling phosphates. Tourist services are growing. Visitors flock to Marrakech and Casablanca. They enjoy the markets called souks. Sellers offer leather, copper, and brass goods.

First the Berbers and then the Arabs settled Morocco. In the A.D. 600s, these groups crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and took over Spain. Called Moors, these people ruled parts of Spain until Christians drove them out in the late 1400s. Many descendants of the Moors live in Morocco today.

France and Spain gained control of Morocco in the early 1900s. Morocco became free once more in 1956. Today it is a **constitutional monarchy**. It has a king or queen, but elected leaders run the government. The Moroccan monarch has many powers, however.

In the 1970s, Morocco claimed the desert region of Western Sahara. The discovery of minerals there started a war. A rebel group in Western Sahara wanted independence for the region. The United Nations tried to hold a vote to allow the people of Western Sahara to decide what to do. Nothing has been resolved, however.

Casablanca is Morocco's largest city. Rabat is the capital. Moroccan music blends Arab, Berber, and African rhythms. Morocco's skilled craftspeople make carpets, pottery, jewelry, and brass and wood products.

13. What narrow waterway separates Morocco from Spain?

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan

Key Terms

migrate to move from one place to another

bedouins nomadic desert people who follow a traditional way of life

Drawing From Experience

What is a shish kebab? Hint: You may have eaten one at a cookout. It is grilled meat and vegetables on a small metal rod. In Turkey, where the idea began, the rod would likely hold pieces of lamb and eggplant.

In this section, you will learn about Turkey, a land that lies on two continents. You will also learn about three other countries in this region— Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. For each country, give one fact about its land and one fact about its cities.

Country	Fact About Land	Fact About Cities
Turkey	1.	2.
Syria	3.	4.
Lebanon	5.	6.
Jordan	7.	8.

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Turkey is a bit larger than Texas. It forms a bridge between the continents of Asia and Europe. Turkey's large Asian part covers the peninsula once called Asia Minor. Its much smaller European part lies on the Balkan Peninsula. Separating the Asian and European parts are three waterways: the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles. Together these waterways make up the Turkish Straits.

9. What separates Turkey's Asian part from its European part?
-
-

Turkey

The center of Turkey is a wide plateau called Anatolia. Mountains go around its edges. The Pontic Mountains form the northern edge. Earthquakes often strike this region. The Taurus Mountains rise at the southern edge. Low plains follow the curves of Turkey's three coasts.

The Anatolian plateau has a steppe climate. Summers are hot and dry. Winters are cold and snowy. The coasts have a Mediterranean climate. Hot, dry summers give way to mild, rainy winters.

Many of Turkey's people are farmers. On the mild coasts, they raise livestock and grow cotton, tobacco, fruits, and nuts. They sell these crops to other countries. In the drier center, farmers grow wheat and barley to use at home.

Turkey wants to join the European Union. Turkey has coal, copper, and iron. Its factories earn most of their money from making oil products, cloth, and clothes. Some factories make food products, cars, steel, and building materials. Beautiful beaches and historic places are drawing more and more tourists.

Most of the people live on the northern part of Anatolia, on the coasts, or in the valleys. Almost all are Muslims. Turkish is the main language. Some people also speak Kurdish and Arabic. Kurdish is the language of the Kurds. This group makes up about a fifth of the people. The Turkish government has tried to turn the Kurds away from their culture. Angry Kurds want their own country. The conflict between the Kurds and the government sometimes turns violent.

Almost 70 percent of Turkey's people live in cities or towns. Istanbul is the largest city. It is the only city in the world located on two continents. Beautiful palaces, museums, and mosques decorate the city. Istanbul

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

bul sits at the entrance to the Black Sea. This key spot makes it a major trading center. Ankara is Turkey's capital and second-largest city.

Istanbul began as a Greek city about 2,500 years ago. The Greeks called it Byzantium. Later, the Romans made it bigger. They changed the name to Constantinople. For hundreds of years, the grand city served as the capital of the Byzantine Empire.

Most of Turkey's people come from the Turks. The Turks migrated from Asia during the A.D. 900s. **Migrating** means moving from one place to another. The Ottomans were one group of Turks. This group conquered Constantinople in the 1400s. They renamed the city Istanbul. It became the capital of the powerful Ottoman Empire, a Muslim empire. At one time, this empire ruled much of southeastern Europe, North Africa, and Southwest Asia.

The Ottoman Empire broke up after its defeat in World War I. Turkey's first president, Kemal Atatürk, helped make the country more modern. Turkey began to think of itself as European as well as Asian. The Muslim faith remained strong, however. During the 1990s, Muslim and secular, or nonreligious, groups struggled for control of the government.

Traditional Turkish arts are still common. They include colored tiles, fine carpets, and beautiful books. Folk music blends old and new styles.

10. What is Turkey's climate like?

Syria

Syria has been a trade center for hundreds of years. It was part of many empires until it became a country in 1946. One political party controls the government. It does not allow much political freedoms.

Syria's land is rich along the Mediterranean coast. Mountains keep rain from reaching its eastern area, however. The huge Syrian Desert covers this area.

Syria earns most of its income from farming. Farmers grow cotton, wheat, and fruit. The government built dams on the Euphrates River. The dams provide hydroelectric power and water for crops. Turkey is building a dam on the Euphrates upstream from Syria. The dam will decrease the flow of water to Syria and Iraq downstream. Conflicts may occur over rights to this water.

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Oil is the main product that Syria sells to other countries. Its factories make food products and cloth. Syrian cloth is highly valued.

Almost half of Syria's people live in the countryside. A few are **bedouins**. These desert people move from place to place with their herds. Most other Syrians live in cities. Damascus is the capital. Over 4,000 years old, Damascus is one of the oldest cities in the world.

The people are mostly Arab Muslims. Many cities have beautiful mosques and palaces. Syrians welcome guests. Group meals strengthen family ties and friendships. Syrians enjoy lamb, flat bread, and beans flavored with garlic and lemon.

11. What Syrian product is highly valued?

Lebanon

Lebanon is small. It is about half the size of New Jersey. The Mediterranean Sea is in the west. Mountains are in the east.

Cedar trees once covered Lebanon. Now only a few groves remain in the mountains. Pine and fruit trees can still be found throughout the country.

Over half of Lebanon's people work in services like banking and insurance businesses. Lebanon's factories make food products, cement, cloth, metal products, and chemicals. Farmers grow fruits, olives, and grapes on the coast.

Almost 90 percent of Lebanon's people live in cities on the coast. Beirut is the capital and largest city. Beirut was once a popular vacation spot for European visitors. A civil war from 1975 to 1991 tore it apart. The larger Arab Muslim group fought the Arab Christians. Israel also invaded during the war. It took its troops out in 2000.

Most Lebanese speak Arabic. French is also an official language. France ruled Lebanon before it became a country in the 1940s. The people enjoy food that blends Arab, Turkish, and French cooking.

12. Where do most of Lebanon's people live?

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Jordan

In the western part of Jordan is the Jordan River valley with rich soil. In the eastern part, the land is dry and rugged. Jordan does not have much water. In the Jordan River valley, farmers must use irrigation to grow wheat, fruits, and vegetables. The bedouins in the eastern desert raise livestock.

Jordan lacks energy fuels. Most people work in services or in factories. They make pottery, chemicals, and food products. Miners dig phosphate and potash.

Most Jordanians are Arab Muslims. More than a million of these are Palestinian Arabs who fled to Jordan. Amman is the capital and largest city. Parts of ancient Roman buildings still remain in Amman.

The Ottoman Empire ruled the area in the early 1900s. The British took over after World War I. Jordan became a country in 1946. It has a constitutional monarchy. A king or queen is head of state, but elected leaders run the government. King Hussein I ruled Jordan from 1952 to 1999. He worked to blend old ways with new, modern ways. Today his son, King Abdullah II, rules.

13. What two important resources does Jordan lack?

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2

Israel and the Palestinian Territories

Key Terms

- kibbutz** Israeli farm settlement in which the people share farming, production, selling, and all property
- moshav** Israeli farm settlement in which the people share farming, production, and selling, but may own some private property
- Holocaust** mass imprisonment and killing of European Jews by German Nazis during World War II

Drawing From Experience

Do you feel at home in your country? How would you feel if you had no country to call your own? The Jews had no homeland until 1948. The Palestinians want their own country, too. Unfortunately, both claim the same land and will fight for it.

The last section discussed the land and people of Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. This section describes the history of Israel and its way of life today.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. The diagram lists several items about Israel’s land, economy, and people. Write a brief description of each.

Description

Dead Sea	→	1.
Main Crops	→	2.
Farm Settlements	→	3.
Mining	→	4.
Religions	→	5.
Capital City	→	6.

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

On the east side of the Mediterranean Sea lies Israel. It is a little larger than New Jersey. It is narrow from east to west, but longer from north to south.

7. Where is Israel located?

Israel's Land and Climate

The mountains of Galilee rise in Israel's far north. To the east is the Golan Heights, a plateau. South of this high area lies the Dead Sea, located between Israel and Jordan. The shores of the Dead Sea are the lowest place on the earth. They are over a thousand feet below sea level. The Dead Sea also holds the world's saltiest water. It is nine times saltier than ocean water.

The Negev desert covers the southern half of Israel. A narrow strip of fertile land runs along the Mediterranean. The Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea.

Israel's north has a Mediterranean climate. Summers are hot and dry. Winters are mild with some rain. The south, though, has a desert climate. Less than an inch of rain falls there each year. Temperatures can top 120 degrees.

8. What body of water lies between Israel and Jordan?

Israel's Economy

Farmers along the Mediterranean coastal plain grow oranges, grapefruits, and lemons. These are the main products that Israel sells to other countries. In dry areas away from the coast, farmers use water carefully. In the very dry desert, farmers use drip irrigation to water crops. This method releases just enough water through underground tubes directly to crop roots. With advanced methods like this, Israel's farmers can feed the country plus sell some food to other countries.

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Farmers in Israel work together to grow and sell crops. A **kibbutz** is a farm settlement in which the people share all property as well as produce goods such as clothing and equipment. A **moshav** is like a kibbutz, except that each person can own some private property.

Israel has the most industry in Southwest Asia. Aid from Europe and the United States has helped it develop. Israel's factories make electronic products, clothes, food products, chemicals, and machines. Diamond cutting and polishing is a major activity. Tel Aviv-Yafo is Israel's largest manufacturing center.

Mining is also important. The Dead Sea area has deposits of potash. The Negev supplies copper and phosphate.

9. What method has helped Israeli farmers grow crops in the desert?
-
-

The Israeli People

About four-fifths of Israel's people are Jews. The other fifth are Palestinian Arabs. Most Palestinians are Muslims. Some are Christians.

The Jews of today come from an ancient people. About 1000 B.C., the ancient Jews under King David lived where Israel is today. At different times, the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and Ottomans all ruled the area. Under the Romans, the area was called Palestine. The Jews tried twice to win freedom from Rome, but failed. In response, the Romans ordered all Jews to leave the land.

Prejudice caused the Jews many problems. In the late 1800s, some European Jews began to move back to Palestine. They hoped to find a safe home. They were called Zionists.

The British won control of Palestine during World War I. They supported a Jewish homeland there. Arabs, however, already lived in Palestine. Both sides claimed the land. To keep peace with the Arabs, the British began to limit the number of Jews entering Palestine.

During World War II, Germans imprisoned and murdered millions of Europe's Jews. This slaughter is called the **Holocaust**. It brought attention to the Jews.

In 1947 the United Nations voted to split Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. The Arabs did not accept this division. In 1948 the British left. The Jews then declared the land to be their country called Israel. David Ben-Gurion was Israel's first leader.

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Soon, war broke out between the Jews and Arabs in the area. The Jews won. Many Arabs fled to nearby countries.

Israel later fought other wars with its Arab neighbors. In each one, Israel won some land, including Arab lands. Palestinian Arabs demanded their own country. Jews and Palestinians fought through the 1970s and 1980s. Agreements toward peace were made in 1979, 1993, and 1994.

In the 1993 agreement, Israel said it would give the Palestinians two areas. They are the West Bank along the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip on the Mediterranean coast. Palestinians now have some control in these areas. Yet some Jews still live there. Relations between the groups remain tense. Who will control Jerusalem is a key issue. Fighting broke out in 2000 over this and other issues.

Most Israelis live in cities. The largest cities are the capital of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv-Yafo, and Haifa.

Israel's Law of Return states that Jews anywhere can come to Israel to live. As a result, Jews have moved there from many countries.

Israel is a democratic republic. A prime minister heads the government. The Knesset is its lawmaking body.

10. What Israeli law brought Jews to Israel from many countries?

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3**The Arabian Peninsula****Key Terms**

- wadi** dry riverbed occasionally filled by rainwater
desalinization process of taking salt out of seawater
caliph political and religious leader of Muslims

Drawing From Experience

Most religions require their followers to observe special holy days. Islam requires its followers to pray five times a day. Also, all Muslims must visit the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia at least once if they are able to do so.

The last section described Israel and the Palestinian territories. In this section, you will learn about the mostly oil-rich lands of the Arabian Peninsula.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. The diagram lists several key items about the Arabian Peninsula. Give one fact about each item.

Item	Description
Empty Quarter	1. <input type="text"/>
OPEC	2. <input type="text"/>
Makkah	3. <input type="text"/>
Riyahd	4. <input type="text"/>
Strait of Hormuz	5. <input type="text"/>
Sanaa	6. <input type="text"/>

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

On the Arabian Peninsula, the highest areas are in the south. The north is mostly desert. From there, the land slopes to the Persian Gulf.

7. Where are the highest elevations in the Arabian Peninsula?
-
-

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the largest country in Southwest Asia. It is about the size of the eastern half of the United States. Deserts cover most of it. The largest is the Rub' al Khali, or Empty Quarter. It has mountains of sand over 1,000 feet high.

Saudi Arabia's climate is mostly dry desert. It has no rivers or bodies of water that stay wet all year. Rain in the high southwest allows crops to grow in the valleys. In some seasons, farmers can water their crops from **wadis**. These dry riverbeds fill with water from rare heavy rains. Underground water also feeds green areas in the desert, or oases.

Saudi Arabia holds a large share of the world's oil. In fact, Southwest Asia is by far the world's leading source of oil. Saudi Arabia's economy depends on it. In 1960 Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing countries formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). OPEC countries work together to increase their income from the sale of oil to the world. These countries control more than 40 percent of the world's oil. They can make oil prices go up or down. They do this by increasing or reducing the amount of oil they put up for sale.

Oil has helped Saudi Arabia's people have better lives. Money earned from selling oil has built schools, hospitals, and roads. Saudi Arabia's government knows that the oil may run out someday. It has tried to find other ways for the country to earn income. It has tried to boost the country's manufacturing and farming. Lack of water and rich soil has held farming back. To provide more water for crops, the government has spent much money on **desalinization**. This is a process for taking salt out of seawater.

You have already learned about Muhammad and the Islamic holy city of Makkah. Makkah is located in Saudi Arabia. After Muhammad died, his closest followers chose a new leader, or **caliph**. Caliphs were both political and religious leaders.

Under the early caliphs, Arab Muslims conquered many lands. They created a vast empire. The people they conquered became Muslims. They also began speaking the Arabic language.

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

By the end of the A.D. 900s, this empire had split into many smaller kingdoms. Mongols from Central Asia invaded the area. Later the Ottoman Turks created an empire that lasted until the early 1900s.

Between the 700s and 1300s, scholars in the Arab Empire shared their knowledge with others. They wrote about mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, medicine, and the arts.

In 1932 the Saud family brought many family groups together as one country. The Saud family still rules Saudi Arabia. Most of the people of Saudi Arabia live in towns along the oil-rich Persian Gulf coast or around oases. Riyadh is the capital and largest city. It sits in a large oasis in the center of the country. Once a small village, Riyadh now has skyscrapers like other modern cities.

Islam strongly influences the government, laws, and lives of the Saudi people. Business, school, and home schedules are set around the five daily prayers and two yearly celebrations. The government spends much time and money in preparing Makkah and Madinah for the millions of Muslims who visit each year. Saudis follow strict rules on the roles of women. Women work outside the home only in jobs that require no close contact with men.

- 8.** What is the main purpose of OPEC?

The Persian Gulf States

Along the Persian Gulf lie Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Large amounts of oil lie under their flat deserts and just off their shores. Money from selling oil has made these countries wealthy. They are trying to find other ways to earn money, however. Having other industries can make their income depend less on the ever-changing price of oil.

The people of the Persian Gulf states once made a living from pearl diving, fishing, and camel herding. Now they work for oil and natural gas companies. They live comfortably. From oil money, their governments provide free education, health care, and other services. Many workers come from other countries to work in the oil fields. They want to share in the wealth.

- 9.** What countries make up the Persian Gulf states?

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

Oman and Yemen

Oman is mostly desert. Its economy depends on the oil under its bare land. Many of Oman’s people are leaving their villages. Jobs in oil companies are drawing them to Muscat, the country’s capital.

Northern Oman sits on the Strait of Hormuz. Oil tankers must use this narrow waterway to pass from the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.

Yemen has a narrow plain on the coast and mountains toward its center. Early Yemen was famous for its trade in sweet-smelling tree saps, such as myrrh and frankincense. Yemen’s capital is the walled city of Sanaa. Traders once passed through this city with their camels loaded with goods from distant places.

Yemen is the only country of the Arabian Peninsula without much oil. Most of the people farm or herd sheep and cattle. They live in the high fertile land near the center, where Sanaa sits. In the south lies the port city of Aden.

10. How do most of the people of Yemen earn a living?

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4

Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan

Key Terms

alluvial plain area built up by rich soil left by river floods

embargo limit or ban on trade with a country

shah former king of Iran

Islamic republic government run by Muslim religious leaders

Drawing From Experience

Imagine that you are a girl living in Afghanistan. Until several years ago, you would not have the freedoms that you currently have. You would not have gone to school. If you left your house, you would have to completely cover your face and body.

The last section discussed the Arabian Peninsula, where oil is common and water is not. This section discusses conflicts and changes in Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. List five ways that the Islamic religion has affected life in Iran and Afghanistan.

Islam and Life in Iran and Afghanistan

1.

5.

2.

4.

3.

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Some of the earliest civilizations started where Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan now stand. Conflicts have rocked this region throughout history. They still do today.

6. What has this region experienced throughout its history and today?

Iraq

The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flow through Iraq. They then join and empty into the Persian Gulf. Between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers is an **alluvial plain**. This is an area of rich soil built up by river floods. Most of Iraq's farming takes place here. Farmers grow wheat, barley, dates, cotton, and rice.

Oil is the main product that Iraq sells to other countries. Its factories also make food products, cloth, chemicals, and building materials.

Most of Iraq's people live in cities. Baghdad is the capital and largest city. Baghdad was the center of a large Muslim empire from the A.D. 700s to 1200s. Most of the people are Muslim Arabs. The Kurds, another Muslim people, are the second-largest group. They have their own language and culture. Many Kurds want to form their own country.

Modern Iraq became independent in 1932. It was a kingdom. A revolt overthrew the last king in 1958. It then became a military dictatorship. Dictator Saddam Hussein ruled from 1979 to 2003. Iraq fought a bloody war with Iran in the 1980s. In 1990, Iraq invaded its neighbor Kuwait. This led to the Persian Gulf War in 1991. A United Nations force pushed Iraqi soldiers out of Kuwait.

Saddam continued to rule Iraq. He refused to obey demands of the United Nations. In response, the United States and other nations put an embargo on trade with Iraq. An **embargo** is a limit or ban on trade with another country. It kept Iraq from selling oil to other countries. The embargo hurt Iraq's economy.

SOUTHWEST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4 (continued)**

In the early 2000s, the United Nations sent inspectors to search Iraq for weapons of mass destruction. The United States did not believe that Saddam Hussein was cooperating with inspectors. In March 2003, American and British soldiers invaded Iraq. Saddam was overthrown less than a month later. Plans were created for a new democratic government. In December 2003, Saddam was captured.

7. What Muslim people in Iraq want to form their own country?

Iran

Iran is a little larger than Alaska. It was once called Persia. A high desert plateau covers its center. Around it are the Elburz and Zagros Mountains. Iran is rich in oil. Its leaders are trying to find other ways to earn money. Iran's factories make cloth, metal goods, and building materials. The people also weave beautiful carpets. Farmers must bring water to their fields of wheat, rice, sugar beets, and cotton. Iran grows more pistachio nuts than any other country.

Over half the people are Persians. Most speak Farsi, or Persian. Some speak Kurdish, Arabic, and Turkish. Over half live in cities. Tehran is the capital and largest city. Almost all the people follow Islam.

About 2,000 years ago, Iran was the center of the powerful Persian Empire. Kings known as **shahs** ruled it. In 1979 Muslims threw out the last shah. Since then, Iran has been an **Islamic republic**. This is a government run by Muslim religious leaders. Its laws are based on the Quran, the Muslim sacred writings. The government forbids many Western customs and views these Western practices as threats.

8. What is the main language in Iran?

SOUTHWEST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4 (continued)

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is landlocked. The high Hindu Kush mountains cover most of it. The Khyber Pass cuts through the mountains. For centuries, this pass has been a major trade route. Kabul is the capital.

Afghanistan has about 20 different ethnic groups. The two largest are Pashtuns and Tajiks. Most of the people farm for a living. They grow wheat, fruits, and nuts. They also herd sheep and goats.

In the 1980s, the Afghans fought against Soviet soldiers who had invaded their country. Soviet soldiers left Afghanistan in 1989. The Afghans were very poor and there was little food. A civil war started. A group called the Taliban gained power. The Taliban was a group of fighters who were educated in Islamic schools in Pakistan. They set up very strict laws based on their view of Islam. For example, women had to completely cover themselves in public. In addition, they could not hold jobs or go to school. On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The United States accused the Taliban of supporting the terrorists. The United States began bombing Taliban forces. Within a short time, the Taliban government collapsed. The United Nations began working with local leaders to create a new government for Afghanistan.

9. What group ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s?

WEST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1**Nigeria—African Giant****Key Terms**

mangrove tropical tree with roots both above and below the water

savanna tropical grassland with only a few trees

harmattan dusty wind that blows from the Sahara

subsistence farm small plot where farmers can grow only enough to feed their families

cacao tropical tree whose seeds are used to make chocolate and cocoa

compound group of houses surrounded by walls

civil war a fight among different groups within a country

Drawing From Experience

Do you like chocolate? If so, you can thank Nigeria for it. Nigeria is one of the world's top growers of cacao. Chocolate is made from the seeds of this tree.

This section describes Nigeria's struggle to meet the needs of its people and to come together as one nation.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram on the next page to help you take notes. Give a fact about Nigeria for each item listed.

WEST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Item	Fact
Climates →	1. <input style="width: 500px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Main source of income →	2. <input style="width: 500px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Cash crops →	3. <input style="width: 500px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Major ethnic groups →	4. <input style="width: 500px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Main religions →	5. <input style="width: 500px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Capital →	6. <input style="width: 500px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Largest city →	7. <input style="width: 500px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

Read to Learn

Introduction

Nigeria takes its name from the Niger River that flows through it. Nigeria is one of the largest nations in Africa. It is more than twice the size of California.

8. How did Nigeria get its name?

From Tropics to Savanna

Nigeria has a long coast bordering the Gulf of Guinea. This gulf juts into Africa from the Atlantic Ocean. Mangrove swamps lie along Nigeria's shore. A **mangrove** is a tropical tree. Its roots lie both above and below the water. Just north of the coast are tropical rain forests. Near the center of Nigeria, the forests give way to **savannas**. These tropical grasslands have only a few trees.

Most of the country has a tropical savanna climate. Temperatures are hot. Some seasons are rainy. The grasslands in the far north have a dry steppe climate. In winter, a dusty wind called the **harmattan** blows south from the Sahara.

WEST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

9. Nigeria has a coast on what body of water?

Economic Challenges

Nigeria is a major oil producer. Nigeria earns most of its income from selling oil to other countries. It has used this income to build schools and factories. Nigeria's factories make food products, cloth, chemicals, machines, and vehicles. Still, Nigeria does not earn enough to meet its needs. More than a third of its people are poor and without jobs.

Nigeria's economic troubles began in the 1980s. Oil prices fell. As a result, Nigeria's income dropped. Also, little rain fell for a few years. Nigeria could no longer grow enough food to feed its people.

Most Nigerians work as farmers. Some have **subsistence farms**. On these small plots, farmers can grow only enough to feed their families. Others work on large farms. They grow crops for sale to other countries. Their products include rubber, peanuts, and palm oil. Nigeria is also one of the world's top growers of **cacao**. The seeds of this tropical tree are used to make chocolate and cocoa.

10. What caused Nigeria's income to drop in the 1980s?

Nigeria's People

Nigeria has the most people of any African country. Most people live along the coast or near the northern city of Kano.

Africans have strong ties to their group or family. Nigeria has about 250 ethnic groups. The four largest groups are the Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, and Ibo. Nigerians speak many African languages. They use English for business, however. About half the people are Muslims. Less than half are Christians. The rest follow traditional African religions.

Over half the people live in countryside villages. The typical village family lives in a **compound**. This is a group of houses with walls all around. Every week women of the village run a market. They sell products grown nearby.

WEST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Many young men are moving to the cities to find work. The women stay in the villages to raise their children and farm the land. The men return to visit their families when they can.

Lagos is Nigeria's largest city. It is a busy shipping and business center on the coast. Abuja is the capital. Other major cities are Ibadan and Kano.

Nigerian culture is a blend of old and new. Artists make wooden masks, metal sculptures, and colorful cloth. In 1986 Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka became the first African to win the Nobel Prize for literature.

About 2,000 years ago, the Nok people lived in Nigeria. They were skilled metalworkers and traders.

Later, powerful city-states and kingdoms arose. The people in northern Nigeria adopted the religion of Islam. The people of the south followed African religions.

Europeans arrived in Africa in the 1400s. They wanted gold. They also wanted to take Africans overseas as enslaved laborers. In 1884 European leaders divided Africa into colonies. The borders split many ethnic groups. The British took control of Nigeria in the early 1900s.

Nigeria became its own country in 1960. Yet differences among the people kept them from feeling like part of one nation. Ethnic, religious, and political disputes tore the nation apart. The Ibo people tried to set up their own country. The result was a **civil war**. This fight among different groups within the country cost many lives. The Ibo lost, and their region stayed part of Nigeria.

Military leaders ruled Nigeria for most of its years as a nation. In 1999 Nigerians chose a president in free elections. The democratic government is working to bring the people together as one nation.

11. What European country controlled Nigeria in the first half of the 1900s?

WEST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2

The Sahel and Coastal West Africa

Key Terms

overgraze animals strip the land so bare that plants cannot grow back

drought long period of extreme dryness and water shortages

desertification process of grasslands turning into deserts

bauxite mineral used to make aluminum

phosphate mineral salt used in fertilizers

Drawing From Experience

Why do you think Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola are called colas? They are flavored with kola nuts. These are seeds from trees that grow naturally in West Africa. Many West Africans chew the seeds like gum.

In the last section, you learned about Nigeria. This section describes the countries of the Sahel and coastal West Africa.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. Name five West African countries discussed in this section. Then give two facts about each one.

Country	Fact 1	Fact 2
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.
10.	11.	12.
13.	14.	15.

WEST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Five countries make up the Sahel area. They are Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad. *Sahel* means “border.” These countries border the Sahara, which lies to the north.

16. Why are these five countries called the Sahel?

Land and History of the Sahel

Little rain falls on the Sahel. Only short grasses and small trees can grow. The people graze animals on the grasses. In some places, the animals have **overgrazed**. They have stripped the land so bare that plants cannot grow back. Without plants to hold the soil, winds blow it away.

The Sahel also experiences **droughts**. These long periods without rain cause the area to run short of water. The Sahel usually has a dry season and a wet season. Some years, the rains never come. Those are drought years. In the 1980s, so little rain fell that rivers dried up. Crops failed and millions of animals died. Thousands of people died of hunger. Over the years, overgrazing and drought have turned grasslands into deserts. This process is called **desertification**. As humans increase their use of the Sahel’s lands, the desert will continue to spread.

Hundreds of years ago, three great African empires arose in the Sahel. These were the Ghana, Mali, and Songhai empires. The empire of Ghana was powerful between the A.D. 700s and 1100s. The people knew how to make iron weapons. They used these weapons to conquer neighboring groups.

Ghana also had a great deal of gold. Trade routes connected its gold mines with copper and salt mines in the Sahara. Ghana charged a fee to the traders who used these routes. This helped Ghana become wealthy.

Mali defeated Ghana in the A.D. 1200s. Mali also became rich because of the gold and salt trade. One famous ruler of Mali was Mansa Musa. He was a faithful Muslim. His capital was Tombouctou. It became a leading center of the Islamic world. People came from all over to study in Tombouctou.

WEST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

In the 1400s, Songhai became the most powerful West African empire. It had a huge army and navy. Songhai's rulers welcomed teachers, poets, and religious leaders from Asia and Europe.

In the late 1500s, invaders from Morocco defeated Songhai. France ruled the Sahel during the 1800s. The French divided the area into five colonies. In 1960 these colonies became the nations of Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta (now known as Burkina Faso), Niger, and Chad.

17. Why did thousands of people die during the drought of the 1980s?

The People of the Sahel

The Sahel countries have few people. Most people live in the south where rivers offer water for animals and crops. Even these areas do not have enough water to support many people.

Most people in the Sahel live in small villages. They grow millet and sorghum to feed their families. For years, many people were nomads. They crossed the desert with herds of camels, cattle, goats, and sheep. Droughts have forced many to give up this way of life. They now live in crowded camps of tents near towns.

Mauritania is the only Sahel country with a coast. Its shore meets the Atlantic Ocean. Fishing boats from other countries have taken too many fish from the waters near Mauritania. Now, fewer people can earn a living by fishing these waters. Mauritania earns money by selling fish and iron ore to other countries. The other four Sahel countries suffer because they are not near an ocean. They also do not have good transportation. Mali hopes to make money by improving its gold mining industry. Niger has uranium. This mineral is used to make nuclear fuels. Chad has oil, but lacks money to pump it from the earth.

Most of the people are Muslims. They speak Arabic as well as several African languages. People in larger cities also speak French.

18. Why do most people of the Sahel live in the south?

WEST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

West Africa's Coastal Countries

West Africa's coastal countries are Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

Beaches, mangrove swamps, and rain forests cover most of West Africa's shores. Away from the coast lie highlands with grasses and trees. The Sénégal, Gambia, Volta, and Niger Rivers flow from the highlands to the coast. The rivers are too shallow to allow ships to follow them very far in from the coast.

These coastal countries receive much rain. Warm waters of the Gulf of Guinea provide a wet, tropical rain forest climate along the coast.

Many trees have been cut down to make room for palm, coffee, cacao, and rubber plantations. There are also many small farms. People have moved to the port cities looking for work.

The region sells many farm products to other countries. Still, it cannot earn enough to buy the manufactured products it needs. Prices for farm products are mostly lower than prices for factory products. To meet their needs, West African governments must borrow money.

The rich and powerful kingdoms of Ashanti and Abomey once ruled the West African coast. These kingdoms were centers for trade, learning, and the arts.

From the late 1400s to the early 1800s, Europeans set up trading posts along the coast. They traded to get African gold, ivory, and other goods. They also traded to get slaves.

The Europeans enslaved millions of Africans. They took the Africans to the Americas to work on large farms and in mines. The loss of so many young and skilled people destroyed West African families, villages, and economies.

The French, British, and Portuguese set up colonies in West Africa. They wanted the region's rich resources. After many years, the people of West Africa demanded freedom. In 1957 Ghana became the first to throw off European rule. By the late 1970s, all West African countries had won their independence.

19. What products do West Africa's coastal countries grow on plantations?

WEST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2** (continued)**People of Coastal West Africa**

The people of West Africa have strong family ties. Some practice traditional African religions. Others are Christians or Muslims. They speak African languages in everyday conversation. For business, they speak French, English, or Portuguese. The cities are modern and growing. People in Western-style business suits mix with people in traditional African clothing.

Most of the people in Gambia, Senegal, and Guinea work on farms. Guinea has diamonds and **bauxite**. This mineral is used to make aluminum. Senegal is an important source of **phosphate**. This mineral salt is used in fertilizers.

Liberia is the only West African nation that was never a colony. African Americans freed from slavery started it in 1822. Monrovia is Liberia's capital. It was named for James Monroe, who was president of the United States when Liberia became a country. A civil war from 1989 to 2003 destroyed lives and Liberia's economy.

Freed slaves also started Sierra Leone. The British ruled it from 1787 until 1961. The people farm most of the land. The country also has minerals, especially diamonds. Civil war has also slowed Sierra Leone's progress.

Côte d'Ivoire has a French name. It means "ivory coast." From the 1400s to the early 1900s, Europeans traded for the ivory tusks of elephants. Today the ivory trade is illegal. The country protects the elephants that remain. Abidjan is Côte d'Ivoire's largest city. Many government buildings are there, but Yamoussoukro has been named the new capital.

Ghana has about 100 different ethnic groups. The Ashanti and Fante are the largest. Their kings have no real power, but they keep the old ways alive. About one-third of Ghana's people live in cities. Accra is the capital and largest city. A giant dam on the Volta River provides waterpower for the cities. The dam also created Lake Volta. This is one of the world's largest human-made lake.

20. What makes Liberia different from other West African nations?

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

Central Africa

Key Terms

canopy umbrella-like forest covering so thick that sunlight rarely reaches the forest floor

hydroelectric power electricity generated by flowing water

tsetse fly a fly in Africa whose bite causes a deadly disease called sleeping sickness

deforestation widespread cutting of too many trees

Drawing From Experience

When an insect bites you, do you worry about getting sick? Probably not. Insects that cause serious illness are fairly rare in the United States. In Central Africa, though, the tsetse fly can be a big problem. Its bite can cause a deadly illness in farm animals and humans.

This section looks at the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country rich in minerals but whose people remain poor, and the countries of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and São Tomé and Príncipe—smaller countries whose main economic activity is agriculture.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart on the next page to help you take notes. For each country listed, give one fact about its land. Also give one fact about its people.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Country	Fact About Land	Fact About People
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1.	2.
Central African Republic	3.	4.
Cameroon	5.	6.
Congo	7.	8.
Gabon	9.	10.
Equatorial Guinea	11.	12.
São Tomé and Príncipe	13.	14.

Read to Learn

Introduction

Central Africa includes seven countries. They are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Africa’s second-longest river—the Congo River—flows through the middle of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This large country is located on the Equator in the center of Africa.

15. What are the seven countries of Central Africa?

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one-fourth the size of the United States. It has only about 23 miles of coastline, however. Most of its land borders nine other African countries.

High, rugged mountains rise in the eastern part of the country. Here you will find four large lakes—Lake Albert, Lake Edward, Lake Kivu, and Lake Tanganyika. Lake Tanganyika is the longest freshwater lake in the world. It is also the second deepest. Savannas cover the highlands in the far north and south of the country. A savanna is a tropical grassland with few trees. In these areas, lions and leopards stalk antelopes and zebras for food.

One of the world's largest rain forests covers the center of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The treetops form a **canopy**. A canopy is an umbrella-like forest covering that blocks out sunlight. More than 750 different kinds of trees grow here. The rain forests are being destroyed at a rapid rate. They are being cleared for timber and farmland.

The Congo River is about 2,800 miles long. It weaves its way through the country on its journey to the Atlantic Ocean. The river's current is so strong that it carries water about 100 miles into the ocean. The Congo River provides **hydroelectric power**, or electricity generated by flowing water. The river produces more than 10 percent of all the world's hydroelectric power. The Congo River is also the main way that people travel and trade in this country.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo could be a wealthy nation. The country sells gold, petroleum, diamonds, and copper to other nations. It is Central Africa's main source of diamonds. These diamonds are used in making strong machine tools that cut metal. The country's factories make steel, cement, tires, shoes, cloth, food products, and beverages.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has not been able to take full advantage of its rich resources. One reason is that many of the minerals are found deep inside the country. Lack of roads and the thick rain forests make it hard to reach these areas. Another reason is political unrest. For many years, leaders kept the nation's wealth for themselves. Then a civil war broke out in the late 1990s. This war has made it hard to improve the country's economy.

The people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are divided into more than 200 different ethnic groups. The country is named for one of these groups—the Kongo people. The official language is French, but many people speak local languages. More than 75 percent of Congolese are Christians. Most of these are Roman Catholic.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Most people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo live in rural areas. Less than one-third are city dwellers. Still, Kinshasa, the capital, has about 6 million people. After years of civil war, life here is difficult. Many people in the cities have no jobs.

In rural areas, people follow traditional ways of life. They grow crops. Most of the crops go to feeding the family. Any extra is sold or traded for goods the people need.

The Congo region was first settled about 10,000 years ago. The Bantu people moved here from Nigeria around the A.D. 600s and 700s. Several powerful kingdoms arose in the savannas south of the rain forests. The largest of these kingdoms was the Kongo.

In the late 1400s, European traders arrived in Central Africa. During the next 300 years, they enslaved many people from the Congo region. Most of these Africans were shipped to the Americas.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo was once a European colony. When it became independent, the people gave the country a new name—Zaire. A harsh dictator named Mobutu Sese Seko ruled Zaire until a civil war began. In 1997, Mobutu's government was finally overthrown. Again the country was given a new name. Zaire became the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Another dictator took power. In 2002 the country began to set up a representative government.

- 16.** For what are the diamonds of the Democratic Republic of the Congo used?

Cameroon and the Central African Republic

Cameroon and the Central African Republic lie deep in the middle of Africa. They are just north of the Equator. Most people farm for a living. A few large plantations raise cacao, cotton, tobacco, and rubber to sell to other countries. Some people herd livestock in areas that are safe from tsetse flies. The bite of the **tsetse fly** causes a deadly disease called sleeping sickness.

These two countries are only beginning to industrialize. To industrialize means to base an economy more on manufacturing and less on farming. Cameroon has had greater success at industrializing. It has coastal ports and forest products, petroleum, and bauxite. The Central African Republic only has diamond mining as an important industry.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

The Central African Republic was a colony of France from 1910 to 1960. French is its official language, but most people speak Sango. Cameroon was divided between the British and the French until 1960. It uses both English and French as its official languages.

17. Why is the tsetse fly dangerous?

Congo and Gabon

Congo and Gabon both won their independence from France in 1960. In Congo, a plain stretches along the Atlantic coast and rises to low mountain ranges and plateaus. Farms and factories get water from the Congo River. To the north, a large swampy area along the Ubangi River has dense vine thickets and tropical trees. Both the Ubangi and Congo Rivers provide Congo with hydroelectric power. They also allow people and goods to travel to the Atlantic Ocean.

More than half of the people farm small plots of land. Both countries export lumber. They are beginning to export oil as well. The oil has been found in rich offshore oil fields. **Deforestation** is a problem in Gabon. Deforestation is the widespread cutting of too many trees. Gabon has valuable deposits of manganese and uranium.

Most of Gabon's people live along rivers or in the coastal capital, Libreville. Congo's people generally live along the Atlantic coast or near the capital, Brazzaville.

18. What do the Ubangi and Congo Rivers provide to the country of Congo?

Island Countries

Equatorial Guinea used to be a Spanish colony. It won its independence in 1968. The country includes land on the mainland and five islands. Today the country is home to about 500,000 people. Most live on the mainland. The capital and largest city, Malabo, is on the country's largest island.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Farming, fishing, and harvesting wood are the country's main economic activities. For many years, timber and cacao were the main exports. Oil was recently discovered. It now leads all other exports.

The island country of São Tomé and Príncipe gained its independence from Portugal in 1975. The Portuguese had first settled here about 300 years earlier. At that time, no people lived on the islands. Today about 200,000 people live here. Almost all live on the main island of São Tomé.

São Tomé and Príncipe are volcanic islands. As a result, the soil is rich and productive. Farmworkers on the islands grow various crops, including coconuts and bananas for export. The biggest export crop is cacao, which makes cocoa and chocolate.

19. What is Equatorial Guinea's leading export?

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2**People of Kenya and Tanzania****Key Terms**

coral reef natural formation near the water's surface that is made of skeletons of small sea animals

poaching illegal hunting of protected animals

free enterprise system economic system in which people can start and run businesses with little government involvement

cassava plant whose roots are ground to make porridge

sisal plant fiber used to make rope and twine

habitat environment in which a certain kind of animal lives

ecotourist person who travels to another country to view its natural wonders

Drawing From Experience

What does the word *safari* bring to mind? Most likely, you will think of lions, elephants, or other large African animals. Actually, the word *safari* means “journey” in the Swahili language.

In the last section, you learned about the countries of Central Africa. In this section, you will read about the land and economies of Kenya and Tanzania—two countries located on the East African coast.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram on the next page to help you take notes. Kenya and Tanzania have interesting landforms. For each landform listed, give a fact that makes it special.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Landform	Fact
Indian Ocean Coastline →	1.
Great Rift Valley →	2.
Mt. Kenya →	3.
Serengeti Plain →	4.
Kilimanjaro →	5.
Lake Tanganyika →	6.
Lake Victoria →	7.

Read to Learn

Introduction

Old and new cultures meet in Kenya, a country in East Africa. The Masai follow ways of life similar to their ancestors. City dwellers live in apartments and work in offices.

8. What are the two lifestyles in Kenya?

Kenya

Kenya is about twice the size of Nevada. The country’s Indian Ocean coastline has stretches of white beaches lined with palm trees. Offshore lies a **coral reef**. A coral reef is a natural formation at or near the water’s surface that is made of the skeletons of small sea animals. Lions, elephants, rhinoceroses, and other wildlife roam a plain in the center of the country. Millions of acres are set aside by the government to protect plants and wildlife. Still, in recent years there has been heavy **poaching**. Poaching is the illegal hunting of protected animals.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Highlands and the Great Rift Valley are found in the western part of the country. The Great Rift Valley is really a fault—a crack in the earth’s crust. The valley begins in southeastern Africa and stretches about 3,000 miles north to the Red Sea. In many places, water has flooded part of the valley to form lakes. Volcanoes also dot the area. One of them—Mt. Kenya—rises 17,058 feet high. Fossils of early human ancestors, dating back about 4 million years, have been found in the Great Rift Valley.

Kenya has a **free enterprise system**. In this economic system, people can start and run businesses with little government interference. Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, is a center of business and trade for all of East Africa. Foreign companies have set up offices in this city.

Many Kenyans remain poor. Farmers raise corn, cassava, sweet potatoes, and bananas. **Cassava** is a plant whose roots are ground to make porridge. Some larger farms raise coffee and tea for export. In recent years, corruption in the government has hurt the economy.

One of the fastest-growing industries in Kenya is tourism. Thousands of tourists visit each year. Visitors often take tours called safaris. They travel in groups to see the country’s wildlife.

During the A.D. 700s, Arab traders from Southwest Asia settled along the coast of East Africa. Their culture eventually blended with the culture of the Africans already living there. The Swahili language came about from this blending. The name *Swahili* comes from an Arabic word meaning “of the coast.” The language combines features of several African languages and Arabic. Today Swahili is one of Kenya’s two official languages. English is the other.

The British made Kenya a colony in 1920 after World War I. They took land from the Africans. They set up farms on the land to grow coffee and tea for export. By the 1940s, Kenya’s African groups like the Mau Mau fought to end British rule. Kenya finally won its independence in 1963. It became a republic. The country’s first president, Jomo Kenyatta, was an early leader in Africa’s movement for freedom. Under Kenyatta, Kenya’s economy grew and its government was stable. In recent years, the economy has weakened. In response, many Kenyans have demanded democratic changes.

Kenya’s people are divided among 40 different ethnic groups. The Kikuyu people are Kenya’s main group. They make up less than one-fourth of the population. Most Kenyans live in rural areas. They struggle to grow crops. Many people have moved to cities in search of a better life.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

The people of Kenya believe in *harambee*, which means “pulling together.” Different ethnic groups have pulled together to build schools and clinics in their communities. They have raised money to send good students to universities.

About one-third of Kenya’s people live in cities. Nairobi is the largest city, with over 2 million people. Mombasa is Kenya’s chief port on the Indian Ocean. This city has the best harbor in East Africa. Many ships from around the world use this harbor.

9. What is *harambee* and what has it done for Kenya?

Tanzania

Tourists flock to Tanzania’s Serengeti Plain. It is famous for its wildlife preserve. To the north, a snowcapped mountain called Kilimanjaro towers over this region. It is the highest point in Africa. The Great Rift Valley cuts two gashes through Tanzania, one in the center of the country and the other along the western border. Tanzania also borders two large lakes. Unusual fish swim in the deep water of Lake Tanganyika. Lake Victoria is Africa’s largest lake. It is one of the sources of the Nile River.

More than 80 percent of all Tanzanians work in farming or herding. Important export crops are coffee and **sisal**. Sisal is a plant fiber used to make rope and twine. The islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, off the coast of Tanzania, produce more cloves than any other place in the world.

Tourism is a fast-growing industry. The government has set aside several national parks to protect the habitats of the country’s wild animals. A **habitat** is the type of environment in which a particular type of animal lives. Serengeti National Park has about 5,600 square miles. Lions and wild dogs hunt zebras, wildebeests, and antelopes. The park attracts many **eco-tourists**. These are people who travel to another country to view its natural wonders.

Tanzania’s leaders are working to preserve farmland. In recent years, many trees have been cut down. Without trees, the land cannot hold soil or rainwater in place. The land dries, and soil blows away. To prevent the land from becoming desert, the government of Tanzania has announced a new policy. For every tree that is cut down, five new trees should be planted.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

In 1964 the island country of Zanzibar united with the German colony of Tanganyika to form Tanzania. Tanzania has been one of Africa's most politically stable republics. During the 1960s, Tanzania's government controlled the economy. By the 1990s, it had moved the country toward a free market system. In taking this step, Tanzania's leaders hoped to improve the economy and reduce poverty. The country's government also became more democratic.

Tanzania's people include more than 120 different ethnic groups. Each group has its own language. Most people also speak Swahili. The two main religions are Christianity and Islam.

- 10.** What do Tanzania's leaders hope to gain with a move toward a free market system?

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3**Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi****Key Terms****plantains** a kind of banana**autonomy** self-government**watershed** region drained by a river**endangered species** plant or animal under the threat of completely dying out**genocide** deliberate murder of a group of people because of their race or culture**refugee** person who flees to another country to escape danger or disaster**Drawing From Experience**

You have probably heard much about AIDS and HIV. This disease is a very serious problem in the United States. Yet in African countries such as Uganda, a much larger portion of the population is infected.

The last section described the land, economy, and history of Kenya and Tanzania. In this section, you will learn about the landlocked nations of Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. For each category, write one fact about Uganda and one fact about Rwanda and Burundi.

Category	Uganda	Rwanda and Burundi
Land	1.	5.
Economy	2.	6.
People	3.	7.
Government	4.	8.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi are landlocked. They have no land touching a sea or an ocean. Instead, they use their large lakes to travel and trade.

9. What does “landlocked” mean?
-
-

Uganda

Uganda was once called “the pearl of Africa.” It is a green land of mountains, lakes, and wild animals. Uganda is about the size of Oregon. Most of the country is a central plateau. To the south is Lake Victoria. Uganda lies on the Equator, yet the height of its plateau keeps temperatures mild.

Uganda’s soil is rich. Plus, the land receives plenty of rain. As a result, it is good for farming. About 80 percent of the people work on farms. Most grow enough just to feed their families. They grow **plantains**, a kind of banana. They also grow cassava, potatoes, corn, and grains. Some large farms grow coffee, cotton, and tea to sell to other countries. Uganda earns nearly three-fourths of its income from selling coffee. Uganda has few factories. They make cement, soap, sugar, metal, and shoes.

Uganda’s people live mainly in countryside villages in the south. Kampala, the capital, lies on the shores of Lake Victoria. This spot makes it a port for trade.

About two-thirds of the people are Christians. The rest follow Islam or traditional African religions. At one time, Hindus and Sikhs lived in Uganda. A dictator drove them out. Recently, the government invited them back. Many are returning.

More than 40 ethnic groups make up Uganda. They have a rich culture of songs, stories, and poems. Ugandans enjoy a diet of beans, beef, goat, sheep, cornmeal, and tropical fruits.

The British ruled Uganda through most of the 1900s. Uganda won its freedom in 1962. Then ethnic groups began to fight each other. These groups had enjoyed **autonomy**, or self-government. Their kings lost power in 1967. The regions were then bound to the central government. The rule of cruel dictator Idi Amin in the 1970s hurt the country. Now the ethnic groups are again allowed to have kings. The kings act as ceremonial rulers only.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

Ugandans have worked to build up their country. The economy has been growing. Uganda also has a stable government. It is a republic with a president and a lawmaking body. Still, Uganda faces troubled times. Hundreds of thousands of Ugandans have died from the AIDS disease. Many more have the HIV virus.

10. Why is Uganda's land good for farming?

Rwanda and Burundi

Rwanda and Burundi are each about the size of Maryland. They have mountains, hills, and high plateaus. They sit on a ridge between the Nile and Congo watersheds. A **watershed** is an area drained by a river. To the west, water runs into the Congo River. The Congo takes it to the Atlantic Ocean. To the east, water drains into the Nile River. The Nile takes it to the Mediterranean Sea.

Rwanda and Burundi lie near the Equator. Because their land is high, temperatures remain mild. Heavy rains help dense forests to grow. Gorillas live in these forests. Gorillas are an **endangered species**. They are threatened with extinction.

Both countries rely on farming. Most people farm small plots of land. They grow just enough to feed their families. Coffee is the main product sold to other countries. The people near Lake Kivu and Lake Tanganyika also fish. Rwanda and Burundi have no coast. As a result, they have trouble getting their products to foreign buyers. They have few paved roads and no railroads. Most goods go by road to Lake Tanganyika. From there, boats take them to Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Rwanda and Burundi are small countries. Yet they have many people. As a result, they are very crowded. Few of the people live in cities.

Most of the people of both countries belong to one of two ethnic groups. Over three-fourths of the people are Hutu. The rest are Tutsi. The Tutsi have controlled the governments. A power struggle led to civil war and genocide in the 1990s. **Genocide** is the murder of people because of their race or culture. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed. Two million became **refugees**. They fled their country to escape danger. Today the fighting has decreased. Both countries are now trying to rebuild.

11. Why do Rwanda and Burundi have trouble getting their goods to foreign buyers?

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4

The Horn of Africa

Key Terms

plates huge slabs of rock that make up the earth's crust

clan family group

Drawing From Experience

Have you ever wondered where humans began? No one knows for sure. However, scientists have found remains of the oldest known humans in Ethiopia.

The last section described the challenges facing Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. In this section, you will learn about the countries and conflicts in the Horn of Africa.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. The Horn of Africa has faced several difficulties. Write a brief description of each difficulty listed below.

Difficulty	Description of this Difficulty
Drought →	1.
Volcanic Activity →	2.
War →	3.

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

East Africa comes to a point that looks like a horn. This shape gives the region its name—the Horn of Africa. The horn juts out into the Indian Ocean. The countries in the horn are Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Somalia.

4. Why is this region called the Horn of Africa?
-
-

Sudan

Sudan is the largest country in Africa. It is about a third the size of the United States. The Sahara and Nubian Desert cover its north. Here, people herd camels and goats. The center of Sudan has the richest soil. Two branches of the Nile join together in the country. They are the Blue Nile and the White Nile Rivers. Khartoum, Sudan's capital, is located where they join. Much rain falls in southern Sudan. It also holds one of the world's largest swamps.

Most of Sudan's people live along the Nile River or one of its branches. They water their crops from these rivers. Farmers grow sugarcane, grains, nuts, dates, and cotton. Cotton is the main product that Sudan sells to other countries. It also sells sheep and gold. Oil may provide income for the country in the future.

In early times, Sudan was the center of the powerful Kush civilization. The people built temples, palaces, and pyramids in the capital at Meroë.

During the A.D. 500s, Egyptians brought Christianity to what is today Sudan. Later, Muslim Arabs brought Islam to the north. From the late 1800s to the 1950s, the British and Egyptians ruled Sudan. Sudan became free in 1956. Military leaders have ruled since then.

Civil war broke out in the 1980s. Sudan's northern people have been fighting its southern people. Recently, Sudan has had a drought. The war and this long dry period have caused millions to starve. Diseases have spread through the country. Even though there have been some peace talks, the war continues.

5. Where do most of Sudan's people live?
-
-

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4 (continued)

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is almost twice the size of Texas. It has no coast. In its center, the Great Rift Valley cuts through a high plateau. This high area has mild temperatures and rich soil. Farmers here grow grains, sugarcane, potatoes, and coffee. They sell coffee to other countries.

In the 1980s, a drought caused Ethiopia's fields to turn to dust. The world sent food. Still, over a million Ethiopians died from hunger.

Scientists have found remains of the oldest known humans in Ethiopia. Kings and emperors ruled early Ethiopia. The country remained free for hundreds of years. Ethiopia kept Europeans from taking control in the 1800s. The last emperor lost power in 1974. Then the country suffered under a military dictator. Now it is trying to build a democratic government. A war with Eritrea slowed its progress. Eritrea broke away from Ethiopia in 1993.

Ethiopia has the most people of any East African country. Addis Ababa is the capital and largest city. Over three-fourths of Ethiopians live in the countryside.

A little under half the people are Muslims. The next largest group is Christian. Others follow traditional African religions. Amharic is the official language.

6. What are the two main religions in Ethiopia?

Eritrea

After 30 years of war, Eritrea won freedom from Ethiopia in 1993. Eritrea sits on the Red Sea. When Eritrea became independent, Ethiopia no longer had a coast.

Most of Eritrea's people farm. The dry climate makes farming hard. The long war with Ethiopia also ruined farmland. In the war, women formed a third of Eritrea's winning army. After the war, the government passed laws that gave women more rights.

7. How did Eritrea's freedom affect Ethiopia's land?

CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 4 (continued)**

Djibouti

Djibouti lies at the northern tip of the Great Rift Valley. Here, three of the earth's plates join. **Plates** are huge rock slabs that make up the earth's crust. In Djibouti, two plates are pulling apart. As a result, hot melted rock is rising to the surface. This causes volcanic activity.

Djibouti sits where the Red Sea meets the Gulf of Aden. It is one of the hottest, driest places on the earth. Rocky desert covers the land. Salt lakes and small patches of grass lie here and there.

Most of the people are Muslims. Farming and herding are hard in the dry climate. Many people have moved to the capital, also called Djibouti. They work on docks in this busy seaport.

8. What is Djibouti's climate?

Somalia

Somalia borders the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. It is almost as large as Texas. It is a hot, dry country where farming is difficult. Most of the people move from place to place, herding their animals. Rivers in the south provide water for crops. Here farmers grow fruits, sugarcane, and bananas.

Nearly all of the people are Muslims. They belong to different **clans**, or family groups. In the 1980s, civil war broke out among the clans. A drought struck a few years later. Hundreds of thousands starved. Other countries gave food. The fighting, however, often kept the food from reaching the people. Today different armed groups control parts of Somalia. The country has no real government.

9. What do most people of Somalia do for a living?

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

The New South Africa

Key Terms

industrialized country a country in which a great deal of manufacturing occurs

Boer Dutch word for farmer

apartheid set of South African laws that separated racial and ethnic groups and limited the rights of blacks; word means “apartness”

township neighborhood outside of a city

enclave small country located inside a larger country

Drawing From Experience

When you think of African music, what sounds come to mind? Drums? Lively rhythms? Today’s South African music blends these traditional sounds with modern rock. If you have ever heard the famous group Ladysmith Black Mambazo, you have experienced the sounds of South Africa.

This section discusses the mineral-rich land of South Africa. You will also learn about the country’s progress toward racial equality.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. For each item listed in the chart, give two facts about South Africa.

Item	Fact 1	Fact 2
Minerals	1.	2.
History	3.	4.
People	5.	6.
Enclaves	7.	8.

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1** (continued)**Read to Learn****Introduction**

South Africa (officially called the Republic of South Africa) is a land of great mineral wealth. Here you will find the continent's biggest animal, the African elephant. The smallest mammal, the miniature shrew, is also here. To protect these creatures, the government has set aside land as national parks.

9. What is the official name of South Africa?

A Land Rich in Resources

South Africa borders the Atlantic Ocean on the west. The Indian Ocean is on the south and east. The vast Namib Desert reaches into the northwest. The Cape of Good Hope is the southernmost point of Africa.

South Africa is the most industrialized country in Africa. An **industrialized country** has a great deal of manufacturing. Not all South Africans benefit from the strong economy, however. In rural areas, many people live in poverty.

South Africa's economy is supported in several ways. South Africa is one of the richest countries in the world in mineral resources. It is the world's largest producer and exporter of gold. South Africa also has diamonds, chromite, platinum, and coal. The country also exports machines, chemicals, clothing, and food products. Major crops are corn, wheat, fruits, cotton, sugarcane, and potatoes. Ranchers raise sheep, cattle for beef, and dairy cows.

10. Why is gold important to South Africa's economy?

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

South Africa's History and People

About 44 million people live in South Africa. Black African ethnic groups make up about 78 percent of the population. Most come from Bantu people who migrated throughout Africa between A.D. 100 and 1000. The largest groups in South Africa today are the Sotho, Zulu, and Xhosa.

The Dutch settled in South Africa in the 1600s. They were known as the **Boers**, a Dutch word for farmers. German, Belgian, and French settlers joined them. Together these groups were known as Afrikaners. They spoke a language called Afrikaans. They pushed Africans off the best land and set up farms and plantations. They brought many laborers from India to work on sugar plantations.

The British came to South Africa in the early 1800s. The Boer War broke out between the British and the Afrikaners. In 1902 the British won. In 1910 Afrikaner and British territories became the Union of South Africa. It was part of the British Empire and was ruled by whites. Black South Africans founded the African National Congress (ANC) in 1912 in hopes of gaining power.

In 1948 the whites set up a system of apartheid, or “apartness.” **Apartheid** involved laws that separated racial and ethnic groups. It limited the rights of blacks. For example, laws forced black South Africans to live in separate areas, called “homelands.” People of non-European background were not even allowed to vote.

People inside and outside South Africa protested apartheid. Many black Africans were jailed for speaking against it. The United Nations declared that apartheid was “a crime against humanity.” Many countries cut off trade with South Africa.

Finally, in 1991 the South African government agreed to end apartheid. In 1994 South Africa held its first democratic election in which all people could vote. South Africans elected their first black president, Nelson Mandela.

South Africa has 11 official languages, including Afrikaans, English, Zulu and Xhosa. About two-thirds of South Africans are Christians. Almost one-third practice traditional African religions.

One of the challenges facing South Africa today is to develop a better standard of living for its poor people. Most European South Africans are well off. Most black Africans and other groups live in rural areas and crowded **townships**. These are neighborhoods outside cities.

Another challenge facing South Africa is AIDS. South Africa is one of the hardest-hit countries.

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Within South Africa lie two other African nations—Lesotho and Swaziland. These tiny kingdoms are **enclaves**. An enclave is a small country located inside a larger country. Both are poor countries that depend heavily on South Africa. Lesotho’s only natural resource is water. It sells water to South Africa. Many of Lesotho and Swaziland’s people are engaged in subsistence farming. Others work in mines in South Africa.

11. What is one of the challenges of South Africa today?

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2

Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana

Key Terms

copper belt large area of copper mines

sorghum tall grass whose seeds are used as grain and to make syrup

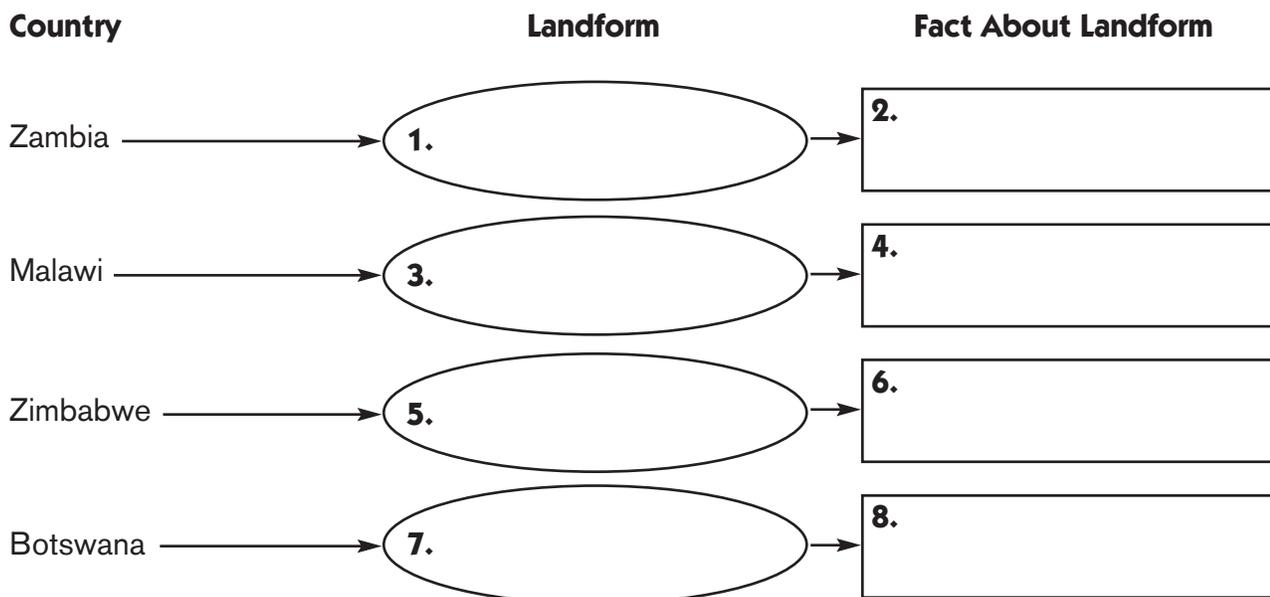
Drawing From Experience

Have you ever seen a waterfall? Imagine one that is a mile wide and falls 355 feet. This is the roaring Victoria Falls in Zambia. Earth scientists list it as one of the seven modern wonders of the world.

The last section described South Africa and the two countries within it—Lesotho and Swaziland. This section discusses four countries without a coast: Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Name a major landform in each country. Then give one fact about each landform.



SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Read to Learn

Introduction

Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Botswana share several things. All are landlocked. A high plateau covers most of them. They all have a mild climate. Also, nearly three-fourths of their people farm small plots in countryside villages.

9. What landform do Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Botswana share?

Zambia

Zambia is a bit larger than Texas. The long Zambezi River crosses it. The Kariba Dam makes electricity from the river’s flow. The Zambezi’s spectacular Victoria Falls were named for British Queen Victoria.

Across Zambia’s north is a **copper belt**. This is a large area of copper mines. Zambia is one of the world’s largest sources of copper. The country earns over three-fourths of its income from copper. When copper prices go down, so does Zambia’s income. Also, its copper supplies are getting smaller. The government is trying to get city people to return to farming. Zambia must buy most of its food from other countries.

Zambia was once a British colony. It became a free country in 1964. The people belong to over 70 ethnic groups and speak many languages. English is the official language. Lusaka is the capital. City people work in mining and service industries. Farmers grow corn and rice to feed their families.

10. Why does the government want people to return to farming?

Malawi

Grasses cover western Malawi. Large herds of elephants, zebras, and other animals roam the parks here. The Great Rift Valley crosses eastern Malawi. Here lies beautiful Lake Malawi. It holds more kinds of fish than

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

any other inland body of water in the world. Malawi also has many kinds of orchid flowers.

Malawi has few minerals or factories. It sells tobacco, tea, and sugar to other countries. Farmers also grow **sorghum**. The seeds of this grass are used as grain and to make syrup. World organizations give aid to Malawi to help the people live.

Bantu-speaking peoples came to the area about 2,000 years ago. Famous Scottish missionary David Livingstone arrived in the mid-1800s. Today most of Malawi’s people are Protestant Christians because of missionaries.

Malawi was a British colony. It became its own country in 1964. A harsh dictator ruled for a long time. Now Malawi is again democratic.

Malawi is one of Africa’s most crowded countries. It offers few jobs. Many of its people seek work in South Africa and Zambia.

11. What form of government does Malawi have now?

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is mostly a plateau. Large rocks rise up from it. The Limpopo River crosses the low areas of the south. The Zambezi River crosses the north.

Most of the country’s income comes from gold, copper, iron, and asbestos. Large farms grow coffee, cotton, and tobacco. Europeans own the large farms. Africans farm small plots. The government has been trying to give some of the large farmland to Africans. This has caused serious problems and violence.

AIDS is also a serious problem in Zimbabwe. People who have AIDS often cannot work. The government does not have enough money or other resources to deal with the AIDS problem.

Zimbabwe’s name comes from an old African city and trading center—Great Zimbabwe. The Shona ethnic group built this stone fort in the A.D. 1100s to 1400s. Until the 1800s, this group and the Ndebele ruled large parts of south-central Africa. The British controlled the area in the 1890s. They called it Rhodesia. Europeans owned all the best land.

Eventually, Africans fought European rule. They won free elections in 1980. The new country changed its name to Zimbabwe.

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Zimbabwe has about 12.6 million people. About a fourth are Christian. The rest follow African religions. Harare is the capital and largest city.

Zimbabwe has many kinds of art and music. Artists make sculptures from stone and wood.

12. How does Zimbabwe earn most of its income?

Botswana

The Kalahari Desert spreads over southwestern Botswana. It is a hot, dry area with red sands and low thorny bushes. The Okavango River in the northwest forms one of the largest swamps in the world. It is home to many wild animals.

Little rain falls on Botswana. Many years can pass between rains. Droughts often occur.

Botswana is rich in minerals. The country earns three-fourths of its income from diamonds. Also, Botswana earns money from visitors. Thousands come to Botswana's national parks each year. The country can grow only about half the food it needs. Many of the people work in South Africa part of each year.

Britain ruled until 1966 when Botswana became its own country. Today Botswana is a strong democracy. Many of the people are Christians. A large number follow African religions. English is the official language, yet most people speak an African language called Setswana. Gaborone is the capital and largest city.

13. What language do most of the people of Botswana speak?

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3**Coastal and Island Countries****Key Terms**

exclave small part of a country that is separated from the main part

slash-and-burn farming method of clearing land for planting by cutting and burning forest

cyclone intense storm system with heavy rain and high winds

Drawing From Experience

Have you ever snowboarded or seen the sport on television? Now, instead of snow-covered mountains, imagine towering hills of sand. Visitors come to Namibia to “sand-board” down its huge sand dunes.

The last section described four African countries that do not touch an ocean. This section discusses Angola and Namibia and the troubles that keep the people poor, plus several other countries that border or lie within the Indian Ocean.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart on the next page to help you take notes. For each country, give one fact about its products and one fact about its people.

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3** (continued)

Country	Fact About Products	Fact About People
Angola	1.	2.
Namibia	3.	4.
Mozambique	5.	6.
Madagascar	7.	8.
Comoros	9.	10.
Seychelles	11.	12.
Mauritius	13.	14.

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Angola and Namibia have long coasts on the Atlantic Ocean. Bordering the Indian Ocean are Mozambique and four island countries—Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, and Mauritius.

15. Which country in southern Africa's Indian Ocean region is not an island?

Angola

Angola is almost twice the size of Texas. Cabinda is part of Angola. It is an **exclave**—a small part of a country that is separated from the main part. Cabinda lies just north of Angola. Northern Angola has hilly grasslands. The southern part is rocky desert. Cabinda has rain forests.

About 85 percent of Angola's people farm small plots to feed their families. Some farmers grow coffee and cotton to sell to other countries. Angola makes most of its money, however, from oil. The oil lies off the

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

coast of Cabinda. Angola also mines diamonds. Its factories make fish products and cloth. Still, Angola is poor. Conflicts within the country have blocked its progress.

Most of Angola's people come from the Bantu-speaking peoples who settled much of Africa. In the 1400s, the Kongo kingdom ruled a large part of northern Angola.

From the 1500s until 1975, Portugal controlled Angola. Angola became a separate country in 1975. Portuguese is the official language. Many Angolans also speak Bantu and other African languages. Almost half the people are Catholic. The Portuguese brought this religion to Angola.

After independence, civil war broke out among different groups. The fighting has lasted more than 25 years. It has brought great suffering to the people.

16. What important resource lies off the coast of Cabinda?

Namibia

Namibia was a colony of Germany. Then South Africa ruled it for 75 years. It became an independent country in 1990.

The center is a large plateau. Most of the people live on this patchy grassland. The rest of the country is desert. The Namib Desert covers the Atlantic coast. It is a narrow strip of towering dunes and rocks. Visitors come to “sand-board” down the dunes. The Kalahari Desert covers the southeast. Most of Namibia has a hot, dry climate.

Namibia's land holds large amounts of diamonds, copper, gold, zinc, silver, and lead. Namibia is also a leading source of uranium. This mineral is used to make nuclear fuels. Namibia makes most of its money from these minerals.

In spite of this mineral wealth, most of the people are poor. A small group of people keep the money from the minerals. Large sums also go to companies from other countries. These companies invested in Namibia's minerals. Half of Namibia's people depend on farming small plots or herding. Some work in factories, making food products.

Namibia does not have many people. In fact, it is one of the least crowded countries in Africa. Most Namibians belong to African ethnic

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

groups. A small number of people come from European backgrounds. Namibians speak African languages. Most of the white people speak Afrikaans and English.

17. In what part of Namibia do most of the people live?

Mozambique

Mozambique’s coast on the Indian Ocean has sand dunes, swamps, and good harbors. A flat plain covers the country’s center. Grasses and tropical forests grow on it.

Most of the people are farmers. Some use **slash-and-burn farming**. They clear the land for planting by cutting and burning forest. A result of this method is deforestation. Lack of trees can lead to floods in the rainy season. Floods forced more than a million people to leave their homes in 2000. Deadly cyclones sometimes strike. A **cyclone** is a strong storm with heavy rain and high winds that move in a circular pattern.

Mozambique’s farmers grow cashews, cotton, sugarcane, tea, coconuts, and fruits. Mozambique earns most of its income from its sea-ports, however. Other countries pay to use the docks at port cities such as Maputo, the capital.

Civil war in the 1980s and early 1990s slowed Mozambique’s progress. In recent years, though, other countries have started to invest in metal production, natural gas, fishing, and transportation services.

Most of the people come from African groups. Mozambique used to be a colony of Portugal. Portuguese is the official language, but most of the people speak African languages. About half the people follow African religions. The rest are Muslim or Christian.

18. How does Mozambique earn most of its income?

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

Madagascar

Millions of years ago, this island broke away from Africa. Madagascar remained apart from the rest of the world. As a result, many of its plants and animals are found nowhere else. Its people are mainly farmers. Madagascar grows most of the world’s vanilla beans. The crop that brings the most money to Madagascar is coffee. More than three-fourths of the island has been cleared by slash-and-burn farming. The government is trying to save the rest of the forests. It is also trying to help the poor people.

Less than a fourth of the people live in cities. Antananarivo is the capital. There craftspeople sell their goods in colorful street markets.

Madagascar’s music blends Southeast Asian and African rhythms. The people there are known for a style of singing to the rhythm of hand clapping.

19. Why does Madagascar have many plants and animals that are found nowhere else?

Small Island Countries

Volcanoes formed the three islands of Comoros. Thick tropical forests cover it today. Most of the people are farmers. They grow rice, vanilla, cloves, coconuts, and bananas. They cannot grow enough to feed all the country’s people. The government is trying to start more industry and tourist businesses.

The people are a mix of Arabs, Africans, and people from Madagascar. They speak Arabic, French, and Comoran. Most are Muslim. France once ruled the islands. Comoros became its own country in 1975. Since then, groups within the country have fought for control.

A group of 86 islands make up the Seychelles. About half of the islands are rock with high green peaks. The rest are small, flat, coral islands with few people. The largest island is Mahé. Nearly all of the people live there.

No one lived in the Seychelles until the 1700s. The French and then the British ruled the islands. Seychelles became a free country in 1976. Most of the people are a blend of African, European, and Asian back-

SOUTHERN AFRICA—A VARIED REGION

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

grounds. They grow coconuts and cinnamon to sell to other countries. The people also earn a living from fishing and tourists.

Volcanoes formed the islands of Mauritius. The country sells sugar to other nations. Mauritius earns about half its income from selling cloth and clothing. Tourists bring money to the country as well.

Nearly three-fourths of the people are descendants of settlers from India. The rest have African, European, or Chinese backgrounds. The mix of peoples shows in the variety of foods they eat. The people enjoy Indian chicken curry and Chinese pork. They also eat foods cooked in African and French styles.

20. Which island countries were formed by volcanoes?

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

India—Past and Present

Key Terms

subcontinent large land area that is part of another continent but distinct from it

monsoon seasonal wind that blows steadily from the same direction for months

green revolution an effort to use modern methods to produce more food

jute plant fiber used to make rope, burlap bags, and carpet backing

cottage industry home- or village-based industry in which family members supply their own equipment to make goods

pesticide chemicals used to kill insects

caste social class based on a person's ancestry

reincarnation the belief that when a body dies, the soul is reborn, often in an animal or human form

Drawing From Experience

Do you like hamburgers? What do you think would happen if you asked for one in India? Most likely, India's Hindus would be horrified. In the Hindu religion, cows and all living things are considered holy and must not be killed.

This section describes India and the differences among its people.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram on the next page to help you take notes. For each item, give two facts about India.

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Item	Fact 1	Fact 2
Landforms →	1. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	2. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Seasons →	3. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	4. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Industries →	5. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	6. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
History →	7. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	8. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Religion →	9. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	10. <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Read to Learn

Introduction

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives make up South Asia. South Asia is a **subcontinent**. This is a large land area that is part of another continent but distinct from it.

11. What countries are part of South Asia?

India's Land and Economy

The Karakoram Range and the Himalaya form India's northern border. The Himalaya are the world's tallest mountains. In the south, India borders the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. Just in from the southern coasts are the mountains of the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats. The Satpura Range divides India's center.

The Ganges Plain north of the Satpura has rich soil. About 40 percent of India's people live here. The Ganges River flows through the plain to the Bay of Bengal. South of the Satpura is the Deccan Plateau. This area has forests, farmland, and minerals.

The Himalaya block the cold air from the north. This keeps most of India warm or hot all year. **Monsoons** are seasonal winds. They blow steadily from the same direction for months at a time. India's rainy season is June through September. During this season, monsoon winds bring moist air from the Indian Ocean.

SOUTH ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Today India grows most of the food it needs. This was not always true. In 1943 millions of Indians starved to death. The government then began the **green revolution**. The green revolution helped farmers use modern farming methods. They then could grow more food. Better types of wheat, rice, and corn were invented as well.

The government also built dams. These dams saved water from the monsoon rains. During dry times, this water was used to irrigate crops.

Farmers today grow rice, wheat, cotton, tea, sugarcane, and jute. **Jute** is a plant fiber used to make rope, burlap bags, and carpet backing. India is the world's second-largest rice grower. China is first.

India's factories make cotton cloth, iron, and steel. They also refine oil and sugar. American companies have started to make computer software there. India also has coal, iron, manganese, and bauxite. It sells gems and jewelry to other countries.

Many Indian products are made in cottage industries. A **cottage industry** is a home- or village-based industry. Family members use their own equipment to make goods. They make cotton and silk cloth, rugs, metal products, and leather goods.

Burning coal, factory wastes, and pesticides have polluted India's land and water. **Pesticides** are chemicals used to kill insects. The Ganges River is one of the world's most polluted rivers.

Pollution and forest cutting have destroyed animal habitats. As a result, India's elephants, lions, and other animals are disappearing. The government has set up parks to save them.

12. What do Indians make in their cottage industries?

India's History and People

India's first communities rose about 4,000 years ago. In the 1500s B.C., Aryans came from Central Asia. Aryan beliefs mixed with local practices to form the religion of Hinduism.

Over time, Hinduism divided India's people into groups called castes. A **caste** is a social class based on a person's family line. A person is born into a caste. The caste determines what jobs people can have and who they can marry. Today laws forbid unfair treatment of people in "lower" castes. Still, the caste system affects Indian life.

SOUTH ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Over three-fourths of India's people are Hindus. Hindus worship many gods and goddesses. They believe that after death, the soul is reborn in a different form. This form could be another human or an animal. This process is called **reincarnation**. The soul continues to be reborn until it reaches perfection. For this reason, many Hindus believe it is wrong to kill any living creature. Cows are especially holy. They are allowed to roam freely.

Buddhism started in India about 500 B.C. It had declined by 300 B.C. In the A.D. 700s, Muslims brought Islam to India. They started the Mogul Empire in the 1500s and ruled for 200 years.

India has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world. Other Indians practice Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, or Jainism. Conflicts sometimes arise among religious groups. Today many Sikhs want their own country.

Indian art has been influenced by religion. Long ago, Hindu builders created temples with hundreds of statue. People wrote stories about the gods. There are also many Muslim buildings. A famous one is the Taj Mahal.

The British ruled India from the 1700s to the mid-1900s. They built roads, railroads, and ports. They made a great deal of money from large farms, mines, and factories. Indian leader Mohandas Gandhi led a non-violent push for freedom. It resulted in independence from the United Kingdom in 1947.

Before India became free, the British government split it into two countries: India and East and West Pakistan. India was Hindu, and Pakistan was Muslim. After India became free, there was violence between these groups. More than a million people were killed.

India is a representative democracy. Its capital is New Delhi. It has both a president and a prime minister. The prime minister has the power in the government. The first prime minister was Jawaharlal Nehru. He was elected in 1947. His daughter, Indira Gandhi, became prime minister in 1966.

India has more than a billion people. There are 18 official languages. Hindi is the most widely used, but English is popular. Just under three-fourths of the people live in farming villages. The government is working to bring electricity and drinking water to the villages.

India's cities are very crowded. In cities like Mumbai (formerly Bombay), Delhi, Calcutta, and Chennai, tall modern buildings tower over slums. In 1979 Mother Teresa won the Nobel Prize for helping the poor in Calcutta.

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a popular Hindu holiday. It marks the coming of winter and the victory of good over evil. Indians also like movies. India has a thriving movie industry.

13. What do Hindus believe?

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2

Pakistan and Bangladesh

Key Terms

tributary small river that flows into a larger one

delta buildup of soil dropped by a river at its mouth

cyclone strong tropical storm with high winds and heavy rains

Drawing From Experience

Do you like baseball? A favorite game in Pakistan is cricket. It is like baseball in some ways, but very different in others. For example, if you don't like where you hit the ball in cricket, you don't have to run.

In the last section, you learned about the land and people of India. This section describes Pakistan and Bangladesh—two countries that used to be one country.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Describe four natural disasters that sometimes strike Bangladesh.



SOUTH ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Pakistan and Bangladesh are mostly Muslim. However, they have different cultures and languages.

For centuries, both were part of India. When British rule was ending, these two Muslim areas did not want to be part of mostly Hindu India. In 1947 they separated from India. They became one country called Pakistan. Differences between the two parts led to war in 1971. At the war's end, the two parts became different countries. West Pakistan kept the name Pakistan. East Pakistan became Bangladesh.

5. Why did Pakistan and Bangladesh want to be separate from India?

Pakistan

Pakistan is about twice the size of California. The mostly Muslim area of Kashmir lies on Pakistan's border with India. Kashmir is now divided between India and Pakistan. Both want all of Kashmir for its water resources. The two countries have fought three wars over Kashmir. Now that both countries have nuclear weapons, their conflict threatens the whole world.

Mountains tower over Pakistan's north and west. The world's second-highest peak, K2, is in the Karakoram Range. The Hindu Kush range lies in the far north. The famous Khyber Pass cuts through it. For centuries, travelers have used this pass to cross the mountains.

The plains of eastern Pakistan have rich soil. The Indus River and its tributaries run through the plains. A **tributary** is a small river that flows into a larger one. Farmers water their crops from the Indus River. West of the river the land rises to a dry plateau. East of the river is the Great Indian Desert, which crosses into India.

Pakistan has fertile soil. About half of Pakistan's people are farmers. A large system to bring water from the rivers helps them grow enough food to feed the country. They grow sugarcane, wheat, rice, and cotton. Pakistan sells cotton and cloth to other countries. Its factories make cement, fertilizer, food products, and chemicals. People working in cottage industries make metalware, pottery, and carpets.

SOUTH ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Pakistan's government has changed many times. Some governments were elected, including a female prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. At other times, the army has taken power away from the elected government. Military rulers control the country now.

Nearly all Pakistanis are Muslim. The people are divided among many ethnic and language groups. The major languages are Punjabi and Sindhi. The official language is Urdu, but few Pakistanis speak it. English is the language spoken in government.

Just under three-fourths of the people live in countryside villages. Most follow the old ways. They live in small homes of clay and sun-dried mud. People also live in large cities. Karachi is a huge port city on the Arabian Sea. Islamabad, in the far north, is the capital. The government built this modern city to draw people away from the crowded coast. Most people in the cities are factory workers, shopkeepers, and craft workers. They live in crowded neighborhoods.

6. Why does the conflict over Kashmir threaten the whole world?

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is about the size of Wisconsin. India's land goes almost all around it. It is a Muslim country. However, its culture is similar to India.

Bangladesh has much water. The Brahmaputra and Ganges Rivers flow through its lush, low plains. They join with a third river before flowing into the Bay of Bengal. Where these rivers join, they drop silt to form the world's largest delta. A **delta** is a buildup of soil dropped by a river at its mouth. The people depend on the rivers for travel and farming.

Bangladesh has tropical and subtropical climates. It also has monsoons. Floods often drown its low, flat land. Violent water flows cause thousands of deaths. Millions lose their homes. When the monsoons end, cyclones may strike. A **cyclone** is a strong tropical storm with high winds and heavy rains. Deadly tidal waves may follow cyclones. These waves surge up from the Bay of Bengal. Even worse, sometimes the rains come too late. Then crops fail and there is widespread hunger.

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Most people of Bangladesh work on farms. Rice is the most important crop. Farmers can sometimes grow three rice crops a year in the rich, wet soil. They also grow sugarcane, jute, and wheat. They grow tea in the hilly east to sell to other countries. The farmers, though, have few modern tools and use old methods. Also, floods sometimes drown their crops. As a result, they cannot grow enough to feed the country.

The factories of Bangladesh make many clothes to sell to other countries. Many of your clothes were probably made in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is one of the most crowded countries in the world. It is also one of the poorest. About three-fourths of the people live in the countryside. They build their houses on platforms to avoid floodwaters. In the cities, the people live in crowded neighborhoods. Dhaka is the capital and main port.

Most of the people speak Bengali. Over three-fourths of the people are Muslim. Most of the rest are Hindus.

7. What creates the world's largest delta?

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3**Mountain Kingdoms, Island Republics****Key Terms****dzong** Buddhist center of prayer and study in Bhutan**atoll** low-lying, ring-shaped island that surrounds a lagoon**lagoon** shallow pool of water near a larger body of water**Drawing From Experience**

Imagine that your town has no roads. Now imagine that high mountains lie between you and the next closest town. Do you think you would visit people outside your town very much? In Bhutan and Nepal, the Himalaya and lack of roads have separated the people from the rest of the world.

The last section described Pakistan and Bangladesh, two mostly Muslim countries that were once part of India. This section discusses the landlocked countries of Nepal and Bhutan. You will also learn about the island countries of Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. For each country, give one fact about its land and one fact about its people.

Country	Fact About Land	Fact About People
Nepal	1.	2.
Bhutan	3.	4.
Sri Lanka	5.	6.
Maldives	7.	8.

SOUTH ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Nepal and Bhutan lie among the towering Himalaya. They are land-locked and have a king. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are islands with republic forms of governments in the Indian Ocean.

9. Which two countries lie among mountains?
-
-

Mountainous Nepal

Nepal is a kingdom about the size of Arkansas. The world's highest mountains, the Himalaya, cover over three-fourths of it. The world's highest peak, Mount Everest, lies in Nepal.

Rivers cut through the mountains in the south. They create rich valleys. Farmland, swamps, and rain forests cover the southern plain. Here tigers, elephants, and other wild animals roam.

The south has a humid subtropical climate. The north has a highland climate. Monsoon rains often flood the southern plain.

The people of Nepal earn a living mainly from farming. Farmers grow rice, sugarcane, wheat, corn, and potatoes to feed their families. Most farms lie in the southern plains or lower mountain slopes.

As the population grows, farmers are moving farther up the slopes. They clear this land of trees. Without the trees to hold the land, the rich soil erodes away.

Nepal was isolated for centuries. Roads and airplanes have opened up the country. It sells herbs, jute, rice, and wheat to India. It buys gasoline, fertilizer, and machines. In recent years, Nepal has earned more from selling cloth and carpets to other countries than any other products. Also, tourists are becoming a rich source of income. They come to climb the rugged mountains. The Sherpa people of Nepal are known for their skill as mountain guides.

About 85 percent of the people live in the countryside. Kathmandu is Nepal's capital and largest city. Nepal is a parliamentary democracy. A prime minister is selected by Nepal's king.

Siddartha Gautama was born in Nepal about 563 B.C. He was raised as a prince. He gave up his wealth and became a holy man. People called him the Buddha, or "Enlightened One." He taught them to find peace through living simply, doing good deeds, and praying. This teaching became the base of the Buddhist religion. The religion spread through Asia.

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

Today Hindu is the official religion of Nepal. Many people, though, follow Buddhist teachings.

10. Who are the Sherpa?

Bhutan—Land of the Thunder Dragon

Bhutan is a kingdom about half the size of Indiana. A small part of India separates Bhutan from Nepal.

The Himalaya are its main landform. Violent mountain storms are common. The hills at the base of the Himalaya have a mild climate. Thick forests grow here. Along the southern border are subtropical plains and river valleys.

Nearly all of Bhutan’s people are farmers. They grow just enough oranges, rice, corn, and potatoes to feed their families. They herd cattle and yaks, a kind of ox. Bhutan has few roads and no railroads. It has built power plants to make electricity from rushing mountain waters. It now sells electricity to India. Tourists are another source of income for Bhutan. The government limits the number of tourists to protect the country’s culture.

Most of Bhutan’s people speak Dzonkha. Many live in countryside villages in the southern valleys and plains. Thimphu, the capital, lies in the south.

Roads built in the 1960s gave Bhutan more contact with the outside world. Most of the people are deeply Buddhist. Buddhist centers of prayer and study are called **dzongs**.

Kings have ruled Bhutan for many years. In 1998 the country began to move toward democracy. The king agreed to share power with elected lawmakers.

11. What product does Bhutan sell to India?

SOUTH ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

Sri Lanka—Brilliant Island

The island of Sri Lanka lies off the southeast coast of India. It is a little larger than West Virginia. Sri Lanka has white beaches, thick forests, and many wild animals. Low areas along the coast rise to highlands in the center. Farmers water crops from rivers that flow from the highlands.

Sri Lanka’s tropical climate has dry and wet seasons. Monsoon winds bring heavy rains. The rains, warm temperatures, and rich soil make farming good.

Farmers grow rice and other food in the low areas. In high areas, they grow tea, rubber, and coconuts on large plantations. Sri Lanka is a world leader in producing rubber and tea.

Sri Lanka is famous for its sapphires, rubies, and other gems. Its forests offer valuable woods, such as ebony. Many kinds of birds and animals live in the forests. The government has set aside national park land to protect them.

In recent years, Sri Lanka has started more industries. Factories make cloth, fertilizers, cement, and products from leather and wood. They sell these products to other countries. Telecommunications, insurance, and banking are growing industries. Colombo is the capital city.

For centuries, Sri Lanka prospered from its ocean location. It was a natural stopping place for traders sailing between Asia and Africa. In the 1500s, Europeans took control of the island. It was then called Ceylon. The British ruled it starting in 1802. The island became a free country in 1948. In 1972 Ceylon changed its name to Sri Lanka, meaning “brilliant land.” Today Sri Lanka is a republic. It has a president, but a prime minister runs the government.

There are two main ethnic groups: the Sinhalese and the Tamils. About three-fourths of the people are Sinhalese. They live in the south and west. They speak Sinhalese and are mostly Buddhist. The rest of the people are Tamils. They live in the north and east. They speak Tamil and are Hindus.

The Tamils and Sinhalese began fighting a civil war in 1983. The Tamils want their own country. A cease-fire began in 2001 after nearly 20 years of fighting.

12. What makes Sri Lanka a good place for farming?

SOUTH ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

The Maldives

The Maldives are 1,200 coral islands. Many of the islands are atolls. An **atoll** is a low, ring-shaped island that surrounds a lagoon. A **lagoon** is a shallow pool of water near a larger body of water. People live on only 200 of the islands. The climate is warm and humid all year. Monsoons bring much rain.

The soil is poor and sandy. Farmers can grow only a few crops. They grow sweet potatoes, grains, and watermelon. In recent years, the beaches and coral reefs have attracted many visitors. Now tourism is the largest industry in the Maldives. Fishing is the second-largest industry.

Over the years, the islands have been a stopping place for traders traveling by ocean. Male is the capital. Most of the people are Muslims. The British ruled the islands starting in the late 1890s. The islands became a free country in 1965. In 1968 the king lost his throne. The Maldives became a republic.

13. What is the climate of the Maldives?

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

China's Land and New Economy

Key Terms

dike high bank of soil

fault crack in the earth's crust

communist state country in which the government has strong control over the economy and society as a whole

consumer goods goods people buy to use for themselves, such as televisions and cars

Drawing From Experience

Think about the hottest day you have ever experienced. How hot do you think it was? Now imagine being outside in 122°F. If you lived in China's Turpan Depression, you would have to be prepared for such a temperature.

This section describes China's varied landforms and the recent changes it has made to its economy.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Give two facts about each landform of China listed in the diagram.

Landform	Fact 1	Fact 2
Plateau of Tibet	1.	2.
Turpan Depression	3.	4.
Gobi	5.	6.
China's coasts	7.	8.
Yangtze River	9.	10.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

The People's Republic of China is the third-largest country in the world. Russia and Canada are larger. China is a little bigger than the United States.

11. What two countries are larger than China?

China's Landscape

Mountains cover about a third of China. Important mountain ranges are the Himalaya, Kunlun Shan, Tian Shan, and Altay Mountains.

The Plateau of Tibet is the world's largest plateau. This high flat land is called the "Roof of the World." Shrubs and grasses cover this harsh land. Pandas, golden monkeys, and other rare animals roam the forests on the east side of the plateau.

China also has low areas. East of the Tian Shan is the Turpan Depression. This area lies 505 feet below sea level. It is also the hottest place in China. Temperatures can rise to 122°F.

In the north, mountains circle deserts. One desert is the Taklimakan Desert. It is very hot. Sandstorms may last for days. The Gobi desert lies farther east. The Gobi has rocks and stones instead of sand.

Plains run along the coasts of the Yellow, South China, and East China Seas. About 90 percent of China's people live on these coastal plains. The soil is rich. Mineral resources and large cities with factories are found here. China is the world leader in mining coal and iron ore.

China's three major rivers are the Yangtze, Yellow, and Xi Rivers. They serve as important travel routes. They also provide soil. For centuries, these rivers have flooded. The floods dropped rich soil to form flat river basins. This soil is good for farming.

Floods have caused much suffering in China, however. Flooding by the Yellow River has cost hundreds of thousands of lives. To control the floods, the Chinese have built dams and dikes. **Dikes** are high banks of soil built along the sides of rivers. The Chinese are now building the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Eastern China is part of the Ring of Fire. This name is given to Pacific coastal areas with volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Eastern China lies along a **fault**, or crack in the earth's crust. As a result, earthquakes are common here. Some earthquakes are violent and bring great suffering.

12. What area of China lies below sea level?

A New Economy

Since 1949, China has been a **communist state**. In a communist state, the government controls the economy and daily life. It decides what crops farmers will grow, and what products the factories will make. It even sets prices for all products. This communist system has caused problems. China's technology did not keep up with the rest of the world. Its products were of poor quality.

China's leaders are now trying to make the economy stronger, without completely giving up the communist system. They are allowing some features of the free enterprise system to take hold. They now allow people to choose their own jobs. People can start their own businesses and keep the profits. Farmers can grow what they want.

These changes have helped China's economy to boom. Factories produce cloth, chemicals, electronic equipment, and machines. Only a small part of China's land is good for farming. Yet now China is a world leader in some farm products.

China has asked other countries to invest in, or put money into, Chinese businesses. Now Chinese and foreign businesspeople own many businesses together. Foreigners want to do business in China for two reasons. First, they can pay Chinese workers less than they pay workers in their own countries. Second, China offers millions of possible customers.

Because of economic growth, more Chinese people can get jobs. Wages are higher. Plus, more goods are available to buy. Some Chinese now live comfortably. They can afford to buy **consumer goods**. These are products made for use by individuals rather than businesses. They include products such as televisions and cars. The boom has not helped everyone. For many Chinese, prices have gone up faster than their incomes. They remain poor.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Growth has also hurt China's environment. Many factories dump chemicals into rivers. Others burn coal that pollutes the air with smoke. Air pollution leads to lung disease. This disease is the number one cause of death in China.

European countries once controlled the cities of Hong Kong and Macau. The United Kingdom held Hong Kong. Portugal controlled Macau. China got Hong Kong back in 1997 and Macau in 1999. Both cities are important business centers. Chinese leaders hope that business success in these cities will help the rest of China prosper. China has made a "one-country, two-systems" pledge to allow Western freedoms and capitalism to exist side by side with communism.

13. How has economic growth helped the Chinese people?

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2**Dynasties to Communism****Key Terms****dynasty** line of rulers from a single family**human rights** basic freedoms and rights that all people should enjoy**exile** unable to live in one's own country because of political beliefs**calligraphy** the art of beautiful writing**pagoda** temple with many-storied towers**Drawing From Experience**

Have you ever disagreed with a school rule? Did you tell anyone that you didn't like the rule? If you said such a thing in China, you would likely be punished. If you spoke out against a government rule, you could even be killed.

The last section discussed China's land and economy. This section describes how China's culture reflects its rich history.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. Several people helped to shape China's culture and government. Give a fact about each person listed in the chart.

Famous Person	Fact
Kongfuzi	1.
Laozi	2.
Mao Zedong	3.
Chiang Kai-shek	4.
Deng Xiaoping	5.
The Dalai Lama	6.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

Over a billion people live in China. This is about a fifth of all the world's people. By far, most Chinese are ethnic Han Chinese. The rest are divided among 55 other groups. Most of these other groups live in China's west. These other groups, such as the Tibetans, have tried to keep their own culture.

7. What is the main ethnic group in China?

China's History

China's culture is over 4,000 years old. Until the early 1900s, emperors or empresses ruled China. They often lived in the Imperial Palace located in Beijing, China's capital. A **dynasty** is a line of rulers from a single family. A dynasty would hold power until forced to step down. A new leader would then start a new dynasty. Under the dynasties, China built an advanced culture.

The Chinese tried to keep foreign invaders out. Mountains, seas, and deserts protected most of China's borders. Still, invaders could enter from the north. To defend the north, the Chinese built the Great Wall of China. Over the centuries, they added to the wall. Now it winds more than 4,000 miles.

Chinese thinkers believed that learning led to good behavior. One thinker was Kongfuzi, or Confucius. About 500 B.C., he taught that people should be polite, honest, brave, and wise. Children should obey their parents. Everyone should respect old people and obey the rulers. These teachings shaped life in China until the early 1900s.

Another thinker, Laozi, taught a set of ideas called Daoism. He believed that people should live simply and in harmony with nature.

About A.D. 100, Buddhism came to China from Central Asia. Buddhism taught that prayer, wisdom, and good deeds would bring relief from life's problems. Chinese spiritual life today often blends Buddhism, Daoism, and the ideas of Kongfuzi.

The early Chinese were inventors as well. They used paper and ink before anyone else. They invented silk, the magnetic compass, printed books, gunpowder, and fireworks.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

China tried to keep foreigners out of the country. During the 1700s and 1800s, Europeans wanted to open China to trade. They wanted China's silk, tea, and pottery. The British and other countries used military power to force China to trade with them.

In 1911 the Chinese overthrew the last emperor. China became a republic with elected leaders. The Nationalist Party took control. The Communist Party also gained power. The two parties fought for control.

In 1949 the Communists won control of the country. They set up the People's Republic of China under their leader, Mao Zedong. The Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek fled to the island of Taiwan.

8. Name two early Chinese thinkers.

China's Government and Society

The Communists completely changed China. The government took over all land and factories. It organized farmers to work on large government farms. The people lost individual freedoms. Many who were against communism were killed.

Mao Zedong died in 1976. The new Communist leader was Deng Xiaoping. His government gave people more economic freedom. However, the government continued to deny individual freedoms. It punished any Chinese who spoke against its actions. In 1989 thousands of students and workers gathered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. They called for democracy in China. The government sent tanks and troops to stop these people. These forces killed or injured thousands of protesters. They arrested thousands more.

Human rights are basic freedoms and rights that all people should enjoy. People around the world say that Chinese leaders do not respect these rights. Some people say that other countries should not trade with China.

People have also protested China's actions in Tibet. China took control of Tibet in 1950. The Dalai Lama is the Buddhist leader of Tibet. He now lives in **exile** in India. He cannot live in his home country because of his political beliefs.

About 63 percent of China's people live in the countryside. Most crowd into the river valleys of eastern China. Families work hard in the fields.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Village life has improved. Most families have enough to eat. They have some modern appliances.

China’s cities are growing fast. Housing is crowded, but most have heat, electricity, and running water. Many workers now earn enough to buy extra clothes and television sets. They also have time to relax.

9. What happened in Tiananmen Square in 1989?

China’s Culture

China is famous for art. Craft workers make items such as bronze bowls and jade jewelry. The Chinese are known for their painting, sculpture, and architecture.

Artists try to show harmony between people and nature. They paint on long panels of paper or silk. Paintings show mountains, forests, and rivers.

Many Chinese paintings include a poem written in **calligraphy**. This is the art of beautiful writing. Chinese writing does not use an alphabet like English. It uses characters to represent words and ideas instead of sounds. There are more than 50,000 Chinese characters. Most Chinese know only about 4,000 to 5,000 characters.

The Chinese invented porcelain centuries ago. Porcelain is made from coal dust and fine, white clay. Early Chinese vases of porcelain are priceless today.

Most buildings in Chinese cities are modern. Yet old buildings still stand. Buddhist temples called **pagodas** have towers of many stories. Large statues of the Buddha are inside them.

Different regions of China cook food differently. A typical Chinese meal includes vegetables with meat or seafood, soup, and rice or noodles. The Chinese often stir-fry the meat and vegetables over high heat.

10. What materials are used to make porcelain?

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3**China's Neighbors****Key Terms**

high-technology industry business that makes computers and other electrical equipment

steppe dry, treeless plain often found on the edge of a desert

nomad person who moves from place to place with herds of animals

empire group of lands under one ruler

yurt large circle-shaped structure made of animal skins that can be packed and moved from place to place

Drawing From Experience

Do you have a radio, television, telephone, computer, or calculator? If so, look on the labels to see where they were made. Most likely, one or more of them were made in Taiwan.

The last section discussed the history, government, and culture of China. This section describes two of China's neighbors—Taiwan and Mongolia. You will learn about the history that these countries share with China.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram on the next page to help you take notes. For each item, give one fact about Taiwan and one fact about Mongolia.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)



Item	Taiwan	Mongolia
Land	↓ 1. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	↓ 6. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
Climate	↓ 2. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	↓ 7. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
Products	↓ 3. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	↓ 8. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
History	↓ 4. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	↓ 9. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>
Government	↓ 5. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>	↓ 10. <input style="width: 100%; height: 40px;" type="text"/>

Read to Learn

Introduction

Taiwan is an island off the coast of China. Mongolia borders China on the north. Throughout history, both countries have had close ties to their large neighbor.

11. Which of China's neighbors is an island?

Taiwan

Taiwan is a little smaller than Connecticut and Massachusetts put together. Mountains form a ridge running through the island's center. East of the ridge, the land falls to a rocky coast. West of the ridge, the land falls to a narrow, fertile plain. A majority of the people live in this flat area. Taiwan's winters are mild. Summers are hot and rainy.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

Taiwan has one of world's strongest economies. It earns its wealth from high-technology industries, manufacturing, and trade. **High-technology industries** make computers and other electrical equipment. Taiwan's factories make computers, calculators, radios, televisions, and telephones.

Despite political differences, Taiwan and China have strengthened their economic ties. Many Taiwan companies have recently built factories in the People's Republic of China.

Not much of the island's land is good for farming. Still, farmers grow rice on mountain slopes. They also grow sugarcane, citrus fruits, sweet potatoes, tea, and soybeans. In fact, Taiwan's farmers grow enough food to feed the island and sell some food to other countries.

For centuries, Taiwan belonged to China. In 1895 Japan took the island from China in a war. Japan developed Taiwan's economy but treated the people badly. After Japan lost in World War II, Taiwan returned to China.

After the Communists took control in China in 1949, one and a half million Nationalists fled to Taiwan. Their leader was Chiang Kai-shek. The Nationalists kept a large army because they feared a Communist invasion. They also hoped to take back China someday. At first, they allowed no other political parties.

By the early 1990s, the Nationalists felt safe enough to make changes. They allowed more political parties. Taiwan became a democracy. China claims Taiwan as part of China. Many Taiwanese want their own country. China said it will use force to stop Taiwan from becoming independent.

About three-fourths of Taiwan's people live in cities. Taipei is the capital and largest city. It is a busy business center with skyscrapers and modern stores. Buddhist temples also dot the city.

12. Why did the Nationalists come to Taiwan?

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)**

Mongolia

Mongolia is about the size of Alaska. It is also landlocked. Mountains and high plateaus cover the west and center. The Gobi desert spreads over the southeast. **Steppes** cover the rest. Steppes are dry, treeless plains often found on the edges of a desert.

Mongolia is known as the Land of the Blue Sky. It is sunny most of the year. Little rain falls. Dust storms sometimes sweep the land. Summer days can be very hot. Winter nights can fall below freezing.

For centuries, most of Mongolia's people were **nomads**. They moved from place to place with herds of animals. Even today, many Mongolians tend sheep, goats, cattle, and camels on the steppes. Mongolia's factories use products from these animals. Some factories make cloth and clothes from wool. Others make leather and shoes from animal hides. Mongolian farmers grow wheat and other grains. Miners dig copper and gold.

Mongolia's people are skilled in raising and riding horses. In the past, they were fierce fighters. In the 1200s, Mongol armies under Genghis Khan conquered many lands. At one time, the Mongols controlled the largest land empire in history. An **empire** is a group of different lands under one ruler.

During the 1300s, the Mongol Empire fell apart. China ruled Mongolia from the 1700s to the early 1900s. In 1924 Mongolia freed itself from China. It set up a strict Communist government. After communism fell, Mongolia became a democracy in 1990. Since then, the economy has moved slowly toward a free market system.

Most of Mongolia's people are Mongols. They speak the Mongol language. Over half live in cities. Ulaanbaatar is the capital and largest city. The rest of the people live on farms. A few are still nomads who live in **yurts**. These shelters are large and round. They are made of animal skins. The herders can pack them up and move them from place to place.

A favorite Mongolian meal is boiled sheep's meat, rice, and tea. The biggest event of the year is the Naadam Festival. It is held during mid-summer. At the festival, people take part in sports such as wrestling, archery, and horse racing.

Most Mongolians have been Buddhists throughout history. Buddhism shows in their art, music, and writing.

CHINA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 3 (continued)

Buddhist temples once dotted the country. However, communism discouraged religion. Under communism, many holy buildings were destroyed. With democracy came freedom to practice religion. The people have rebuilt many of their holy buildings.

13. When and how did the Mongol Empire become so powerful?

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1**Japan—Past and Present****Key Terms**

tsunami huge sea wave caused by an undersea earthquake

archipelago group of islands

intensive cultivation growing crops on every available piece of land

clan group of related families

shogun military leader in Japan

samurai powerful land-owning warrior in Japan

constitutional monarchy government headed by a king or queen, but run by elected officials

megalopolis huge urban area made up of several large cities and communities near them

Drawing From Experience

Did you know that baseball is not just an American passion? It is also a national sport in Japan. Japan has its own home run hero. Japanese slugger Sadaharu Oh hit 868 home runs in his career. Henry Aaron hit only 755.

In this section, you will learn about the rich history and strong economy of Japan.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the time line on the next page to help you take notes. Describe the importance of each date in Japanese history.

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

400s

1.

1100s–1860s

2.

1853

3.

Late 1800s

4.

1930s

5.

1941

6.

Read to Learn

Introduction

Japan lies on the Ring of Fire. This name refers to the areas around the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Here the earth’s crust often shifts, causing earthquakes. Thousands of earthquakes strike Japan each year. Earthquakes under the sea send **tsunamis**, or huge waves, toward Japan.

7. What is the Ring of Fire?

Japan’s Mountainous Islands

Japan is an **archipelago**, or group of islands. The islands lie between the Sea of Japan and the Pacific Ocean. Thousands of islands are part of Japan. The four largest islands are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu.

The islands are really peaks of mountains. They rise from the ocean floor. The mountains are volcanoes, but many are no longer active. Mount Fuji is Japan’s highest mountain. Mountains and hills cover most of Japan.

Narrow plains squeeze between the coast and the mountains. Yet most of Japan’s cities, farms, and factories lie on these plains. The largest is the Kanto Plain on Honshu. Tokyo, the capital, and Yokohama, a major

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

port, sit on this plain. Many good harbors and ports lie in bays along the coasts.

Japan's climate is different in the north than in the south. The northern islands receive cold winds and ocean currents. Warm ocean currents flow to the southern part of Japan.

8. Where are most of Japan's cities, farms, and factories located?

Japan's Economy

Japan's workers are highly skilled. The Japanese value education, hard work, and working well together. Many Japanese students go to universities.

Japan has few minerals. It must buy raw materials like iron, coal, and oil from other countries. Yet Japan is a world business leader. It is known around the world for the many kinds of high-quality products it makes. Japan's modern factories use the latest technology. They make products for people, such as cars, cameras, televisions, and calculators. Other factories make products for businesses, such as steel, cement, fertilizer, cloth, and plastic.

Japan has little farmland. Yet its farmers grow large amounts of crops. They use modern machines and fertilizers. They also practice **intensive cultivation**. They grow crops on every open piece of land. They even plant between buildings and highways. The main crop is rice, a key part of the Japanese diet. Farmers also grow sugar beets, potatoes, fruits, and tea. Japanese meals usually include seafood. Japan's fishing boats catch many fish.

Japan sells more products to other countries than do most other nations. It buys fewer finished goods from the rest of the world. Other countries say that Japan's government unfairly limits their chances to sell goods in Japan.

Japan's power plants have polluted the air. The result is acid rain. Also, Japan's fishing boats have taken too many fish from the sea. The supply of fish is falling. Japan's government has passed laws to stop pollution and limit fishing.

9. What are two main foods in the Japanese diet?

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Japan's History and Government

The Japanese people trace their ancestry back to **clans**, or groups of related families. These clans moved to the islands from mainland Asia in the 400s.

Emperors ruled Japan. The Japanese based their way of life on China's culture. They used the Chinese system of writing. They accepted Buddhism from Chinese missionaries. Today most of the people practice the early Japanese religion of Shinto along with Buddhism. Shinto is Japan's own traditional religion.

In the 790s, the power of emperors began to decline. From the 1100s to the 1860s, **shoguns**, or military rulers, and powerful land-owning warriors called **samurai** ruled Japan. Other countries wanted to trade with Japan, but it wanted to keep outsiders out. In 1853 the United States sent Commodore Matthew Perry to Japan with a fleet of ships. He demanded that Japan open trade. Japan finally agreed.

In the late 1800s, Japanese leaders began to bring modern ways to the country. They improved education and set up factories. Japan became a leading military power.

In the 1930s, Japan took land from China and spread its influence to Southeast Asia. In 1941 Japan attacked the American navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. This attack brought the United States into World War II. The countries fought for four years. Japan surrendered after the United States dropped atomic bombs on two of its cities. Japan's cities lay in ruins. The United States helped Japan rebuild after the war.

Japan became a **constitutional monarchy**. This is a form of democracy. An emperor is head of state, but elected officials run the government. The party that wins the most seats in the lawmaking body chooses the prime minister.

Japan is now a world economic power. It is no longer a military power. After the suffering and defeat of World War II, Japan has chosen to keep its military small.

10. What caused Japan to surrender during World War II?

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)****Japan's People and Culture**

Japan is about the size of California. Yet it holds almost half the number of people as in all of the United States. Most Japanese come from the same Japanese ethnic group. About three-fourths of the people crowd into cities on the coasts. Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, and Nagoya form a **megapolis**. This is a huge city area made up of several large cities and communities near them.

Japan's cities have tall buildings and busy streets. Homes and apartments are small and close together. Men work long hours. Women often raise children and then return to work.

Old ways can still be seen in the modern cities. Some people still wear the traditional clothes called kimonos.

Fewer than a fourth of the people live in the countryside. Family is the center of Japanese life. Family members must obey certain rules. The rules are less strict now than in earlier times.

Shinto and Buddhism are Japan's main religions. Shinto teaches respect for nature and love of simple things. It also teaches clean habits and good manners. Buddhism came from China. It teaches respect for nature and the need for inner peace.

Respect for nature shows in Japanese art. Haiku is a well-known type of Japanese poetry. It is written in a strict pattern.

Japanese artists became famous for wood-block printing. A picture is carved in a block of wood. Ink is applied to the raised parts of the wood block. When the wood block is pressed against paper, a picture is created.

Many people believe that the world's first novel came from Japan. A woman in the emperor's court around A.D. 1000 wrote *The Tale of Genji*. Since the 1600s, the Japanese have attended plays at the Kabuki theater. The actors wear brightly colored costumes and perform on colorful stages.

A popular sport in Japan is sumo. It is an early form of wrestling. Two martial arts—judo and karate—also developed in this area.

The Japanese also love baseball. They have professional leagues. Young people enjoy rock music, modern clothes, television, and movies. Japanese cartoons and video games have become popular around the world.

11. What do Japan's main religions teach?

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2**The Two Koreas****Key Terms****parallel** a line of latitude**famine** severe lack of food**Drawing From Experience**

Have you ever seen someone perform martial arts in movies or video games? Perhaps you know of classes in your area that teach these skills. Korea invented one popular martial art—tae kwon do.

The last section described Japan, a country that has turned itself into a world business leader. This section discusses South Korea and North Korea, a land divided.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. For each topic, write one fact about North Korea and one about South Korea.

Topic	Fact About South Korea	Fact About North Korea
History	1.	2.
Government	3.	4.
Land	5.	6.
Climate	7.	8.
Farms	9.	10.
Factories	11.	12.

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

The Korean Peninsula lies between the Sea of Japan (East Sea) and the Yellow Sea. For centuries, the land was all one country. Today it is divided into Communist North Korea and non-Communist South Korea.

13. What countries lie on the Korean Peninsula?

A Divided Country

China ruled the Korean Peninsula from the 100s B.C. until the early A.D. 300s. Later, many Korean kingdoms controlled parts of the land.

The kingdom of Silla brought together most of the peninsula under one government from A.D. 668 to 935. The Silla rulers built one of the world's earliest observatories to look at the stars.

After the Silla came many dynasties, or ruling families. In the 1400s, Korean scholars invented a new way to write the Korean language. The new way was called *hangul*. It uses less than 30 symbols. This is far fewer than the number needed to write Chinese. As a result, Korean is easier to learn than Chinese.

Korea acted as a bridge between Japan and the rest of Asia. Trade went back and forth. The Japanese made Korea part of their empire in 1910. They ruled it until the end of World War II in 1945.

After World War II, the Communist Soviet Union took over the northern half of Korea. This part became Communist. The United States took over the southern half. This part did not become Communist. The line between North and South Korea became the 38th parallel. A **parallel** is a line of latitude.

In 1950 North Korea attacked South Korea. North Korea wanted to bring all of Korea under Communist rule. United Nations countries, led by the United States, rushed to help South Korea. Communist China sent troops to help North Korea. The Korean War lasted until 1953. Neither side won.

After years of anger, the two Koreas became closer in the 1990s. In the year 2000, the leaders of the two countries met for the first time.

14. Why did North Korea attack South Korea?

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

South Korea

Much of South Korea is covered by mountains. Most South Koreans live on the coasts. They are affected by monsoons. A monsoon is a wind that blows for months at a time over Asia during certain seasons. South Korea's summer monsoon blows from the south. It brings hot, humid weather. The winter monsoon blows from the north. It brings cold, dry weather to the country.

South Korea earns most of its income from manufacturing and trade. South Korea is a leader in selling ships, cars, cloth, computers, and electronic appliances to other countries.

South Korean farmers own their small farms. They grow rice, a basic food for South Koreans. They also grow barley, onions, potatoes, cabbage, apples, and tangerines. Some raise chickens. South Koreans also fish.

The people of both Koreas come from the same Korean ethnic group. Over three-fourths of South Koreans live in cities on the coast. Seoul is the capital and largest city.

City people live in large apartment buildings. Many own cars. In the countryside, the people live in small brick or concrete homes.

The main religions are Christianity, Buddhism, and Confucianism. The Koreans have their own culture, but it has been influenced by China. The martial art of tae kwon do started in Korea. People who study it learn self-defense. They also learn to be mentally strong.

15. Where do most South Koreans live?

North Korea

North Korea is a little larger than South Korea. The Yalu River separates it from China. Mountains run through its center. North Korea is affected by monsoons, but the mountains block some of the winter monsoon winds.

North Korea's government owns and runs factories, businesses, and farms. North Korea does not prosper like South Korea. North Korea has plenty of coal and iron. Its factories, however, have old machines and face power shortages.

JAPAN AND THE KOREAS**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Most of North Korea is hills and mountains. It has little land for farming. Still, almost one-third of the people work on large government farms. The farms do not grow enough food to feed the country. Recently, they have not had enough fertilizer. The result was a **famine**, or severe lack of food.

Most of North Koreans live in cities along the coasts and river valleys. Pyongyang is the capital and largest city. It was rebuilt after the Korean War. It now has modern buildings. Kim Il Sung was North Korea's first ruler. He ruled from the late 1940s until his death in 1994. His son, Kim Jong Il, now rules.

The government places the needs of the Communist system over the needs of individuals and families. In 2002 North Korea said it would make nuclear weapons. Other countries, including the United States, do not want North Korea to have nuclear weapons. In 2003 talks were held about this problem. However, no agreement was reached.

16. Who owns and runs North Korea's factories, businesses, and farms?

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1**Life on the Mainland****Key Terms**

precious gems valuable stones like rubies, sapphires, and jade

deforestation the widespread cutting of trees

socialism economic system in which most businesses are owned and run by the government

civil war a fight among different groups within a country

Drawing From Experience

Do you know anyone who fought in the Vietnam War? Ask some older adults what they remember. Anyone who was a young adult in the 1960s will likely have strong feelings about the war.

In this section, you will learn about the countries and conflicts of Southeast Asia.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. For each country, give one fact about its products and one about its people.

Country	Fact About Products	Fact About People
Myanmar	1.	2.
Thailand	3.	4.
Laos	5.	6.
Cambodia	7.	8.
Vietnam	9.	10.

SOUTHEAST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1** (continued)**Read to Learn****Introduction**

Southeast Asia is the region located south of China and east of India. It also includes thousands of islands and the long Malay Peninsula. The countries of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam lie on the mainland.

11. What land areas make up Southeast Asia?

Myanmar

Myanmar was once called Burma. It is about the size of Texas. Mountains cover its west and east sides. The Irrawaddy and Salween Rivers flow between the mountain ranges. Monsoons, or strong seasonal winds, cause wet summers and dry winters in Myanmar.

About two-thirds of the people farm. They grow rice, sugarcane, beans, and peanuts. Most use plows pulled by water buffalo.

Myanmar sells wood products, gas, beans, and rice to other countries. Three-fourths of the world's teakwood comes from Myanmar. **Deforestation**, or the widespread cutting of trees, has made its forests smaller. Myanmar also sells **precious gems** such as rubies, sapphires, and jade to other countries.

About three-fourths of the people live in the countryside. The Irrawaddy River valley is the most crowded place. Many people in the countryside build their homes on poles. This protects them from floods and wild animals.

Yangon is the capital and largest city. It has a modern university as well as gold-covered Buddhist temples. The main religion is Buddhism. Most people are ethnic Burman and speak Burmese.

The British controlled Myanmar for many years. It became its own country in 1948. Military leaders have made the country socialist. **Socialism** is an economic system in which the government owns and runs most businesses. Some people are pushing for democracy. A woman, Aung San Suu Kyi, leads this struggle. In 1991 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for working for change without violence.

12. Why do people in the countryside build their homes on poles?

SOUTHEAST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Thailand

On a map, Thailand looks like a flower on a stem. The country's center is a low plain. The Chao Phraya River flows through the plain. Thailand's summer monsoons are wet. Its winter monsoons are dry.

Thailand was once called Siam. It is the only Southeast Asian country that was never under European control. Thailand has a constitutional monarchy with a king.

Thailand sells rubber to other countries. The government is trying to limit deforestation to protect this industry. Thailand is rich in minerals. It sells tin and tungsten to other countries. Bangkok is the capital. Most factories are there. They make cement, cloth, clothes, computers, and electrical appliances. The country also earns money from tourism.

Most of the people are Thai and follow Buddhism. Buddhist temples called *wats* are found all over the country.

About 80 percent live in the countryside, although thousands look for jobs in Bangkok. In Bangkok, temples and palaces stand next to modern skyscrapers. Traffic jams can last for hours here.

13. What minerals does Thailand sell to other countries?

Laos and Cambodia

Landlocked Laos is covered by mountains. Rich farmland lies along the Mekong River. The country used to be a French colony. It became free more than fifty years ago.

Laos is a poor country. About 80 percent of the people live in the countryside. Farmers grow rice, sweet potatoes, sugarcane, and corn along the Mekong. Laos has few factories. Only a few cities have electricity. Vientiane is the capital and largest city. The Communist government discourages religion. Still, most of the people remain Buddhist.

Cambodia used to be a rich farming country. It sold rice and rubber to other countries. A civil war and Communist rule destroyed the economy. A **civil war** is fighting among different groups in the same country. The few factories make wood products, cloth, and rubber.

Most of the people come from the Khmer ethnic group. About 80 percent live in countryside villages. Phnom Penh is the capital. The main religion is Buddhism.

Cambodia became free of French rule in 1953. Rival political groups in Cambodia have been fighting almost constantly since the 1960s. A Communist government took over in the mid-1970s. It brought hard

SOUTHEAST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

times to the people. It forced many people to leave the cities to work as farmers. More than a million Cambodians died. Some fled the country. In 1993 Cambodia brought back its king. Still, the fighting continues.

14. Most Cambodians come from which ethnic group?

Vietnam

Vietnam has a long east coast on the Gulf of Tonkin, the South China Sea, and the Gulf of Thailand. The Red River in the north offers a rich delta. This land area was formed by soil deposits at the mouth of the river. The Mekong River in the south formed a wide swampy delta. Monsoons bring wet and dry seasons.

Farmers on the fertile deltas grow rice, sugarcane, cassava, sweet potatoes, corn, bananas, and coffee. The mountain forests provide wood. The Vietnamese catch many fish in the South China Sea.

Vietnam has the most people in mainland Southeast Asia. About three-fourths of them live in small villages. The largest city is Ho Chi Minh City. It is named for the country's first Communist leader. It was once called Saigon. Vietnam's capital is Hanoi. Most people are Buddhists and ethnic Vietnamese. The rest are Chinese, Cambodians, and other Asian groups. Vietnamese is the main language. Many people also speak French, English, or Chinese.

The ancestors of the Vietnamese came from China. The French ruled the area from the late 1800s to the 1950s. Communists drove the French out in 1954. A Communist government controlled northern Vietnam. A government supported by the United States controlled the south. Fighting between the north and south in the 1960s led to the Vietnam War. More than 2.5 million American soldiers fought the Communists. The war cost many lives. The United States brought its troops home in 1973. The Communists then took over the south. Thousands of people fled the country.

In recent years, the Communist leaders have loosened government control. Businesses and tourists are coming to Vietnam. The leaders hope that less government control will lead to better lives for the people.

15. What country sent troops to fight for the south in the Vietnam War?

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2

Diverse Island Cultures

Key Terms

- plate** huge slab of rock that makes up the earth's crust
- strait** narrow body of water between two pieces of land
- free port** place where goods can be unloaded, stored, and shipped again without payment of import taxes
- terraced field** strips of land cut out of a hillside like stair steps

Drawing From Experience

What do the soles of your shoes and tires on a car have in common? They both may be made of rubber. What is rubber and where does it come from? Actually, natural rubber comes from the sap of a rubber tree. Many rubber trees grow in Malaysia.

The last section described the land and people of the Southeast Asian mainland. This section discusses the island countries of Indonesia, East Timor, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart below to help you take notes. For each country, give one fact about the land and one fact about the people.

Country	Fact About the Land	Fact About the People
Indonesia	1.	2.
Malaysia	3.	4.
Singapore	5.	6.
Brunei	7.	8.
Philippines	9.	10.

SOUTHEAST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

Read to Learn**Introduction**

The island countries of Southeast Asia are Indonesia, East Timor, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines. Indonesia is the largest country in Southeast Asia. It is made up of more than 13,600 islands.

11. What are the island countries of Southeast Asia?

Indonesia and East Timor

Indonesia's main islands are Sumatra, Java, and Celebes. Indonesia also shares two islands. It owns most of the island of Borneo. It controls the western half of the island of Timor. The country of East Timor is on the eastern half.

Indonesia sits where two of the earth's **plates** meet. Indonesia's location on top of these plates causes it to experience earthquakes.

Indonesia's islands were formed from volcanoes. The ash from volcanoes has made the soil rich for farming. The islands lie on or near the Equator. As a result, the climate is tropical. Monsoons bring a wet season and a dry season. Rain forests grow well in the climate and rich soil.

Foreign companies built factories on Java for the cheap labor. Nearly half the people of Indonesia farm, however. They grow rice, coffee, cassava, tea, and peanuts. Farmers in East Timor grow coffee, mangos, and vanilla.

Indonesia is rich in minerals. It has large amounts of oil and gas. Miners dig up tin, silver, nickel, copper, bauxite, and gold. The rain forests provide teak and other valuable woods. Some companies are cutting too many trees too quickly. Without trees to hold the soil, heavy rain washes it away.

Indonesia has the fourth-largest population in the world. It is also one of the most crowded countries. Jakarta, the capital and largest city, is on Java.

Almost half of Indonesians belong to the Javanese ethnic group. The official language is Bahasa Indonesia. Indonesia has more followers of Islam than any other country. Others follow the Christian or Buddhist religions. Most people on the island of Bali are Hindus.

Hindus and Buddhists from India settled Indonesia thousands of years ago. They grew rich from the trade that passed through their water-

SOUTHEAST ASIA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

ways between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Traders from Southwest Asia brought Islam to Indonesia in the A.D. 1100s. In the 1500s, Europeans came. They wanted the spices grown here. The Dutch controlled most of the islands. Indonesia became its own country in 1949.

Indonesia had serious economic problems in the late 1990s. This led to political problems. The dictator was forced to resign. Today Indonesia is a democracy. However, it has many small political parties. This makes it hard to have a strong government.

Recently, the people of East Timor voted to become independent from Indonesia. These people are largely Roman Catholic. They were once ruled by Portugal. In 2002 East Timor was recognized as a separate country and the world's newest democracy.

12. What religion has more followers in Indonesia than any other country?

Malaysia

Malaysia has two parts—one on the southern end of the Malay Peninsula and the other on the island of Borneo. Dense rain forests and rugged mountains make up the landscape of Malaysia. To the west of the Malay Peninsula lies the Strait of Malacca. A **strait** is a narrow body of water between two pieces of land. The Strait of Malacca is important for ocean shipping.

Malaysia is a leading exporter in rubber and palm oil. Malaysia also has large amounts of tin, iron, copper, bauxite, oil, and gas. Malaysia's factories make high-technology and consumer goods. Kuala Lumpur is the capital and largest city. Its Petronas Towers are among the tallest buildings in the world. In the countryside, people live in homes built on posts a few feet off the ground.

Most of Malaysia's people belong to the Malay ethnic group. Thousands of years ago, their ancestors came from southern China. The British ruled Malaysia in the 1800s. They brought workers from China and South Asia. As a result, Malaysia today has many people from these areas. Languages include Malay, Chinese, Tamil, and English. Most Malaysians are Muslims. Others are Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians.

13. What is Malaysia's capital and largest city?

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines

Singapore is made up of Singapore Island and 58 smaller islands. It is one of the world’s smallest countries, yet it is one of the most productive. The city of Singapore is the capital. It takes up much of Singapore Island. The island is full of highways, factories, offices, and docks.

The country earns most of its money from manufacturing and trade. The city of Singapore is a **free port**. Here, goods can be unloaded, stored, and shipped again without payment of import taxes. Singapore’s factories make high-tech goods, machines, chemicals, and paper products. The people live well.

The British ruled Singapore in the 1800s. It became a country in 1965. Most people are Chinese. A fourth of the people are Malaysian or Indian.

Brunei lies on Borneo’s north coast. Brunei earns half of its income from selling its oil and gas to other countries. These resources provide much wealth. The people receive free education and health care, and low-cost housing, fuel, and food. Today the government is trying to start new industries. It wants to depend less on oil and gas. Brunei’s ruler, or sultan, makes all government decisions.

About 7,000 islands make up the Philippines. Volcanoes and forests cover the land. Farmers grow crops on **terraced fields**. These are strips of land cut out of the hillsides like stair steps.

Cities are busy and modern. Manila is the capital. Factory workers here make high-technology goods, food products, clothes, and shoes.

Spain ruled the Philippines for about 300 years, until 1898. Then the Spanish-American War resulted in the United States controlling the country. In 1946 the Philippines became a free country. It set up a democratic republic.

Most Filipinos are Catholic, the religion brought by Spanish missionaries. It is the only Christian country in Southeast Asia.

14. What resources provide much of Brunei’s wealth?

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1

Australia—Land Down Under

Key Terms

coral reef structure formed by the skeletons of small sea animals

outback inland regions of Australia

station cattle or sheep ranch in Australia

marsupial mammal that carries its young in a pouch

boomerang wooden weapon shaped like a bent wing that, when thrown, sails back to land near the thrower

bush rural areas in Australia

Drawing From Experience

Have you seen parents carry babies in cloth pouches strapped in front of them? Many Australian animals come with a built-in pouch. Baby kangaroos and koalas stay warm and safe inside their mothers' pouches.

This section describes Australia, a dry land that is rich in resources.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Write two facts about Australia for each topic.

Topic	Fact 1	Fact 2
Location →	1. <input type="text"/>	2. <input type="text"/>
Land Features →	3. <input type="text"/>	4. <input type="text"/>
Farming →	5. <input type="text"/>	6. <input type="text"/>
Aborigines →	7. <input type="text"/>	8. <input type="text"/>
British Background →	9. <input type="text"/>	10. <input type="text"/>

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Read to Learn

Introduction

Australia is the sixth-largest country in the world. It is also a continent. It is sometimes called the “Land Down Under.” This is because it is in the southern half of the world.

11. Why is Australia sometimes called the “Land Down Under?”

Australia’s Landscape

Most of Australia is covered with plateaus and plains. It also has low mountain ranges. The Great Dividing Range is one of these ranges. The island of Tasmania is also part of Australia. The Great Barrier Reef lies off Australia’s northeast coast. It is a **coral reef**, or a structure formed by the skeletons of small sea animals. The colorful coral stretches 1,250 miles.

Narrow plains along the south and southeast hold Australia’s best farmland. Most of the country’s people live there. The Murray and Darling Rivers flow through this area.

Australians call their inland regions the **outback**. Cattle and sheep ranches called **stations** dot the dry outback. Mining camps here dig for minerals.

Australia has little water. Yet water lies under the ground in the Great Artesian Basin. Here, ranchers water their cattle from wells. Australia’s west plateau is covered with deserts and low, dry ranges.

Australia sits on a plate of the earth’s crust. About 200 million years ago, the plate drifted away from other land areas. As a result, Australia has plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Two of them are kangaroos and koalas. Both are **marsupials**. These mammals carry their young in a pouch.

12. Why does Australia have some plants and animals that are not found anywhere else?

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Australia's Economy

Australia has a strong, wealthy economy. It is rich in iron, zinc, bauxite, gold, silver, opals, diamonds, and pearls. It also has coal, oil, and gas. Minerals and fuels bring Australia more than a third of its income.

Lack of water limits farming. Farmers grow grains, sugarcane, cotton, fruits, and vegetables. They irrigate their crops. Cattle and sheep are the main farm products. Australia is the world's top producer of wool.

Factories make food products, transportation equipment, metals, cloth, and chemicals. The country also prospers from high-tech industries, service industries, and tourism. Australia sells many goods to Asia and the United States.

Australia does not have many people for its size. The country needs more skilled workers. The government has asked workers to move there. In recent years, more than 5 million people have moved to Australia.

13. What minerals does Australia have?

Australia's History and People

The first people who arrived in Australia came from Asia at least 40,000 years ago. Their descendants are Australia's Aborigines. For centuries, the Aborigines lived by moving from one place to another. They were looking for food and water. Aborigines used a **boomerang** for hunting. This weapon is made of wood and shaped like a bent wing. The hunter throws it to stun his prey. If it misses, it curves back and lands close to the hunter.

The Dutch traveled to Australia in the late 1600s. In 1770 Captain James Cook arrived and claimed Australia for Great Britain. At first, the British sent their prisoners to Australia. After gold was discovered, more British settled there. They took land from the Aborigines. Many Aborigines died of European diseases. Today many Aborigines are moving to the cities to find jobs. In 1967 the government finally recognized them as citizens.

In 1901 the colonies became the independent Commonwealth of Australia. The country has a British-style parliamentary democracy. The party that wins the most seats in the parliament chooses the prime minister. Australia no longer belongs to Britain, yet it still accepts the British king or queen as its ceremonial leader. Many Australians would like to change their government to a republic with an elected president.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Power is divided between national and state governments. Australia has six states and two territories.

About 90 percent of Australians live in cities. Sydney and Melbourne are the largest cities. Canberra is the capital. It was built inland to draw people into the outback. Only 10 percent of the people live in the rural areas, or **bush**. Many of these people work in outback stations.

Australians speak their own form of English. For example, they may say “G’Day” instead of “Hello.”

14. What happened to the Aborigines after the Europeans arrived?

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2**New Zealand****Key Terms**

geyser hot spring that spouts steam and water through a crack in the earth

manuka small shrub that grows in New Zealand's volcanic soil

fjord steep-sided valley filled with seawater

geothermal energy electricity made from steam rising from deep inside the earth

hydroelectric power electricity made from flowing water

Drawing From Experience

Have you seen pictures of Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park? It is a geyser. It blows hot steam into the air from water heated deep inside the earth. New Zealand has many geysers. In fact, it uses the steam from these geysers to make electricity.

The last section described Australia, a country large enough to be a continent. This section discusses Australia's smaller island neighbor, New Zealand.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram on the next page to help you take notes. New Zealand's two main islands are North Island and South Island. Write four facts about each island.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

North Island	South Island
↓	↓
1. _____	5. _____
↓	↓
2. _____	6. _____
↓	↓
3. _____	7. _____
↓	↓
4. _____	8. _____

Read to Learn

Introduction

New Zealand is located in the Pacific Ocean. Its land is very different from nearby Australia's. Australia is flat and dry. New Zealand is very green. It also has many mountains. The climate is mild and wet. Both New Zealand and Australia lie in the Southern Hemisphere. Therefore, their summer starts in December, and their winter starts in June.

9. How is New Zealand's land different from Australia's?

New Zealand's Land

New Zealand's two main islands are North Island and South Island. It also has many smaller islands. Together, the islands are about the size of Colorado. The Cook Strait flows between North Island and South Island. A strait is a narrow waterway that separates two pieces of land.

The center of North Island is a large plateau. It has three active volcanoes and the inactive Mount Egmont. Here hot springs called **geysers** spout steam and water high into the air through a crack in the earth.

Small shrubs called *manuka* grow well on the plateau. Around the plateau are rich lowlands, tree-covered hills, and beaches. Farmers raise sheep and cattle on the slopes of the plateau. They grow fruits and vegetables on the coasts.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Along the west side of South Island rise the Southern Alps. Mount Cook is the highest peak in New Zealand. Glaciers, or giant sheets of ice, lie on the mountain slopes. Long ago, the glaciers cut **fjords** into the mountains. These are steep-sided valleys filled with seawater.

The flat Canterbury Plains stretch east of the mountains. Here farmers grow grains and raise sheep.

Like Australia, New Zealand has plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Its national symbol is the kiwi. This is a bird that cannot fly. Giant kauri trees once covered the land. Most have been cut down. The government now protects the remaining kauri trees.

10. What is New Zealand’s national symbol?

New Zealand’s Economy

Farmers do well in New Zealand. Sheep are a major farm product. New Zealand is second in the world in the amount of wool it produces. It also sells lamb meat to other countries. Major crops are apples, barley, wheat, and corn.

New Zealand earns much of its income from selling to other countries. It sells many products to Australia, Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom. When these countries are thriving, they buy more goods from New Zealand. When they are not doing so well, they buy less from New Zealand. As a result, New Zealand’s income depends greatly on these other countries. Today New Zealand enjoys a high standard of living.

From its volcanoes, New Zealand makes **geothermal energy**. This is electricity made from steam rising from deep inside the earth. Most of its electricity, however, is **hydroelectric power**. It is made from flowing water. New Zealand’s land holds coal, oil, iron, silver, and gold.

More factories are being built. The factories make wood products, fertilizer, wool goods, and shoes. New Zealand also earns money from service and tourist businesses.

11. What is a major farm product for New Zealand?

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)**

New Zealand's History and People

The Maori people arrived in New Zealand between A.D. 950 and 1150. They learned to farm, weave cloth, fish, hunt birds, and carve wood.

The first European explorers came in the mid-1600s. British settlers arrived in the 1800s. The Maoris agreed to accept British rule if the British did not push the Maoris off their land. When more British settlers moved onto Maori land, war broke out in the 1860s. The Maoris lost the war.

In 1893 the colony gave women the right to vote. This was the first land to do so. New Zealand was also among the first to offer help to people who were sick or out of work.

New Zealand became free of Britain in 1907. It is now a parliamentary democracy. Voters elect representatives to a law-making body. The representatives choose a prime minister. Maoris can run for any seats in parliament. However, five seats can only be held by Maoris. About a tenth of New Zealanders are Maori. Most of the rest have a British background.

About 86 percent of New Zealand's people live in cities. The largest cities are Auckland and Wellington, the capital. Both are on North Island. About three-fourths of all New Zealanders live on this island.

New Zealanders enjoy outdoor sports. They camp, hike, hunt, boat, and climb mountains. They also play cricket and rugby.

12. What did the New Zealand colony do in 1893 that was a first?

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1**Pacific Island Cultures and Economies****Key Terms**

cacao tropical tree whose seeds are used to make chocolate and cocoa

copra dried coconut meat

pidgin language language formed by combining parts of several different languages

high island island formed by volcanoes

low island island made of coral

atoll low-lying, ring-shaped island that surrounds a lagoon

phosphate mineral salt used to make fertilizer

trust territory land put under temporary control of another country

Drawing From Experience

Do you eat tuna sandwiches? If so, you may be eating a fish caught in Polynesian waters. American Samoans supply a third of the tuna eaten in the United States.

This section describes the tropical beauty of the islands that dot the Pacific Ocean.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the chart on the next page to help you take notes. Name the region of Oceania (Melanesia, Micronesia, or Polynesia) that best fits each topic. Also, write one fact about the topic.

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

Topic	Region	Fact About Topic
Pidgin Language	1.	2.
Copra	3.	4.
Phosphate	5.	6.
Low Islands	7.	8.
Trust Territories	9.	10.
Military Bases	11.	12.

Read to Learn

Introduction

Oceania includes about 25,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean. They spread over great distances. Geographers group them into three regions. These regions are Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

13. What three regions make up Oceania?

Melanesia

Papua New Guinea is the largest country in Melanesia. It is a bit larger than California. It also has the most people of any country in this region. Other island nations in Melanesia are the Solomon Islands, the Fiji Islands, and Vanuatu. France rules the islands of New Caledonia.

Melanesia's islands have rugged mountains and dense rain forests. Most of Melanesia has a tropical climate. Temperatures stay between 70 and 80 degrees all year.

Most Melanesians are farmers who grow just enough to feed their families. Others work on larger farms that grow and sell coffee, palm oil, and cacao to other countries. **Cacao** is a tropical tree. Its seeds are used to make chocolate. Melanesians also produce **copra**. This is dried coconut meat. Countries around the world use it to make margarine and soap.

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

Some Melanesian islands have gold, oil, copper, and nickel. Several islands sell wood and fish to other countries. The islands are becoming a popular vacation spot.

Most Melanesians have a Pacific Islander background. However, about a third of the people of New Caledonia are European. About half the people in the Fiji Islands are of Indian descent. Their ancestors were workers that the British brought from India. Today Indians control much of the economy of the Fiji Islands. Fiji's Pacific Islanders own most of the land. The two groups often struggle to control the government.

Papua New Guinea has more than 700 languages. The people speak a **pidgin language**. It blends parts of several languages. The people of the Fiji Islands speak English. In New Caledonia, the people speak French. Christianity is common, although many people follow traditional religions. The people from India who live in the Fiji Islands are mostly Hindu.

Many Melanesians live in small villages. Homes are often made of grass, though some are now concrete. Concrete houses protect people from tropical storms. Most people hold onto old ways. A small number of people live in cities. They have jobs in business and government.

14. What is the climate of Melanesia?

Micronesia

The independent countries of Micronesia are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Nauru, and Kiribati. The United States controls the territories of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

Micronesia is made up of two types of islands. The **high islands** were formed by volcanoes. They have many mountains. The **low islands** are made of coral formed from skeletons of millions of tiny sea animals. Most of the low islands are **atolls**. These are low, ring-shaped islands that surround lagoons.

Micronesia has a tropical climate. From July to October, typhoons sometimes strike. Typhoon is another name for a hurricane. It is a strong storm with high winds and heavy rains.

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA**Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)**

On the high islands, the volcanic soil is rich. Most people live by growing food to feed their families. They raise cassava. The roots of this plant are ground into flour to make porridge. They also grow sweet potatoes, bananas, and coconuts. Some raise animals. People in the low islands fish for food.

Several islands have **phosphate**. This mineral salt is used to make fertilizer. Unfortunately, phosphate supplies are dwindling on some islands, and other islands do not have enough money to dig mines to get it.

Other countries send aid to Micronesia. The islands use this money to build roads, airports, and factories. Factories on the Northern Mariana Islands make clothes. Beaches also draw visitors to the islands.

Micronesia's first settlers came from Southeast Asia about 4,000 years ago. Europeans arrived in the 1700s and early 1800s. By the early 1900s, many of the islands were colonies of European countries, the United States, or Japan.

Japan and the United States fought many World War II battles on the islands of Micronesia. After the war, most of Micronesia was turned over to the United States. The islands became **trust territories**. They were lands under temporary control of another country. Most are now independent.

Many Micronesians are Pacific Islanders. They speak their own languages. English is spoken on Nauru, the Marshall Islands, and in other places. Most people are Christians. The villages usually have their own chiefs. In recent years, many young people have moved to towns. They want to find jobs.

15. The United States controls which islands of Micronesia?

Polynesia

Polynesia has three independent countries. They are Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The island groups under French rule are called French Polynesia. Tahiti, the region's largest island, is part of French Polynesia. The United States rules the territory of American Samoa.

Volcanoes formed most of the Polynesian islands. Many of the islands have rugged mountains. Some islands are atolls. They have little soil and few plants. Polynesia lies in the Tropics. As a result, the climate is hot and humid.

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 1 (continued)

The people farm or fish for food. Some farmers raise coconuts and tropical fruits to sell to other countries. The factories make food products. People of American Samoa catch about a third of the tuna brought into the United States. Tonga sells vanilla used to flavor foods.

Tourists flock to Polynesia. They come for the beautiful beaches, palm trees, and mountains. New roads, hotels, shops, and restaurants serve them.

The first settlers in Polynesia probably crossed the Pacific Ocean from Asia centuries ago. When they moved from one island to another, they took what they needed. They carried pigs, chickens, and dogs. They planted banana and breadfruit trees wherever they settled.

During the late 1800s, European nations divided up Polynesia. They built military bases on the islands. These bases provided fuel stops for long trips across the Pacific. In the 1960s, several Polynesian islands chose independence. Others decided to remain under another country's rule.

Most Polynesians live in small villages. Towns and cities of Polynesia are growing, however. Papeete is the largest city in the area. It is the capital of French Polynesia and is located on Tahiti.

16. Why did European powers build military bases on Polynesia?

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2

The Frozen Continent

Key Terms

crevasse deep crack in an ice cap or glacier

ice shelf part of an ice cap that spreads past the land to cover part of the ocean

iceberg huge chunk of ice that broke off from an ice shelf and floats freely in the ocean

krill tiny, shrimplike creature that is a source of food for many sea animals

ozone type of oxygen that forms a protective layer in the atmosphere

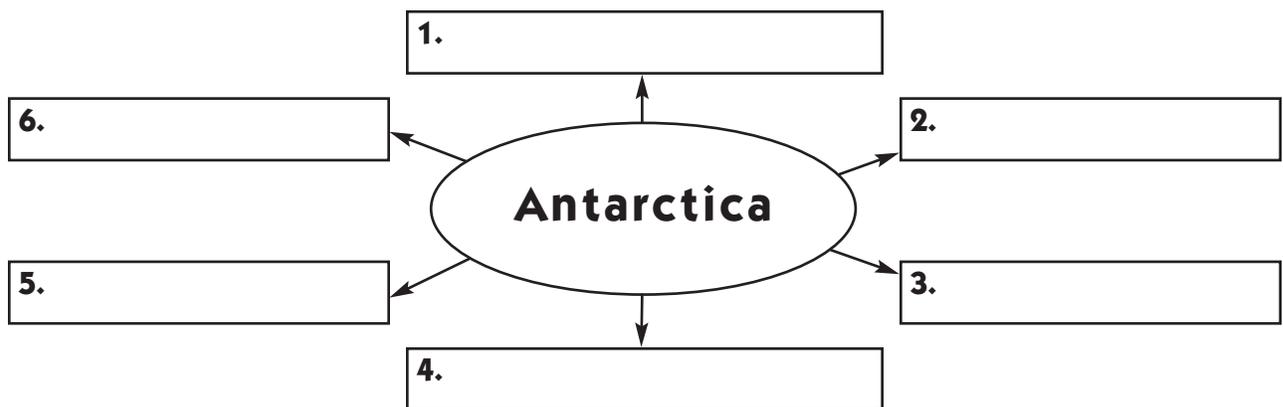
Drawing From Experience

What are the usual high temperatures in summer where you live? What are the usual low temperatures in winter? Now imagine a place where summer temperatures rise only to 32°F. Temperatures in winter in this place can fall to -100°F. Could you live there? Not many people can. This is Antarctica.

The last section described the tropical Pacific islands. This section discusses a continent at the other end of the temperature scale—Antarctica.

Organizing Your Thoughts

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Write six facts that show how Antarctica is different from the rest of the world.



OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Read to Learn

Introduction

Antarctica covers the southern end of the earth. Icy ocean waters circle it. Ice covers it. This frozen world is larger than Europe or Australia, yet it is the least explored continent in the world.

7. Where is Antarctica?

Unique Antarctica

Fossils in Antarctica tell scientists that forests and lush plants once covered this land. Dinosaurs and small mammals once roamed it.

Today almost all of the land is buried below a huge ice cap. In places, the ice is 2 miles thick. This “sea” of ice holds almost three-fourths of the world’s supply of freshwater.

The ice cap is heavy, but it moves. In places, **crevasses**, or cracks, plunge deep into the ice. At the coast, the ice cap spreads past the land. The layer of ice that covers part of the ocean is called an **ice shelf**. Huge chunks of ice sometimes break off. They form **icebergs** that float freely in the ocean.

Below the ice, Antarctica has land features like other places on the earth. It has highlands, mountains, and valleys. The Transantarctic Mountains sweep along the Antarctic Peninsula. The peninsula comes within 600 miles of South America’s Cape Horn. The Vinson Massif is Antarctica’s highest peak. The South Pole lies on a high, flat plateau east of the mountains. It is the most southern point on the earth. Mount Erebus is on an island off Antarctica’s west coast. It is an active volcano.

Almost no rain or snow falls on Antarctica. In fact, it is the world’s largest, coldest desert. Its climate is polar ice cap. In summer, temperatures range from 32°F to –30°F. Summer lasts from December through February. Winter temperatures can fall to –100°F.

8. Why is Antarctica considered a desert?

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Resources of Antarctica

Some plants and animals do live in this harsh world. Most are small. The largest land animal is an insect. It is about a tenth of an inch long. The seas around Antarctica are rich in **krill**. These are tiny, shrimplike creatures. Many penguins, fish, whales, and flying birds come here to eat these sea animals.

Scientists believe that mineral riches lie below Antarctica's ice. They have found large amounts of coal. They have also found some copper, gold, iron, manganese, and zinc. Oil may lie off the coast.

No one is digging up these minerals, however. This task would be very difficult and expensive. Also, removing the resources could damage the environment. A third reason is that nations disagree over who has the right to the resources. Forty-three nations have signed the Antarctic Treaty. This treaty bans any nation from taking resources from Antarctica. It also bans weapons testing there.

- 9.** Large amounts of what resource lie under Antarctica's ice?

A Vast Scientific Laboratory

The Antarctic Treaty does allow scientists to do research in Antarctica. Many countries have research stations there. No single country controls the continent. Scientists come in summer to study the land, plants, animals, and ice. Some stay through the harsh winter.

Much research focuses on **ozone**. This is a type of oxygen. It forms a layer in the atmosphere. The ozone layer protects all living things from harmful rays of the sun. In the 1980s, scientists found a hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica. If the hole continues to grow, some scientists say that the entire world will get warmer. This may cause skin cancer in humans. It also may kill plants. Scientists continue to study the layer to learn about possible changes.

Each year a few thousand tourists come to Antarctica. However, Antarctica is the only continent in the world that has no permanent population.

- 10.** What does the ozone layer do for life on the earth?

OCEANIA AND ANTARCTICA

Reading Essentials and Study Guide 2 (continued)

Villa Las Estrellas

Humans can live under very difficult conditions. An example is Villa Las Estrellas, or Village of the Stars. Villa Las Estrellas is in Chile's part of Antarctica. It is a small town. There is a school, hospital, grocery store, and post office. The town even has television and Internet service. Some of the people who live there are part of Chile's air force and their families. Others are scientists. The scientists come here from many different countries.

When people go outside, they must dress very warmly. Because the sunshine is very strong, they must wear dark sunglasses. The children enjoy playing outside. They slide down the hills on their stomachs.

Other countries, such as Russia and China, have bases near the village. Everyone gets along with each other. They play soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Villa Las Estrellas is a town for people from around the world. It is like a global village.

11. How must the people of Villa Las Estrellas dress when they go outside?
