### EAST ASIA

**Overview**

China takes 4/5 of the region. Mongolia is between Russia and China. All the remaining countries are on peninsulas and island. (Taiwan, Japan, North and South Korea) Two main deserts Gobi and Taklimakan. Coastal area has Monsoons (tropical). Because of population, all land must be used, and even on hill and mountain areas, Terrace farming is used (cutting flat levels into the hills for farming).

China is the cultural hearth for East Asia, 2000BC. Powerful Dynasties ruled China for centuries. ¼ of the worlds pop. live in this area. China & North Korea became Communists. Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea follow Capitalist, free-market enterprise.

North to South West to East: n Altay mountains, n Taklimakan & Gobi desert, w Kunlan Shan Mountains, w Plateau of Tibet, sw Himalayas, North China Plains (East Coast), Manchurian Plains (North East above N.K.), Sichuan Basin (Southern Central China) Deserts in the North, Plains in the South

Rivers: Yellow, Wei Rivers: Central Tarim River: Far West Songhua, Amur, Liao, Yalu Rivers: North East (Plains) Red, Xi, Xiang, Gan, Yangtze, and Mehekong Rivers: Southern (basin) Seas: North to South Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, Philippines Sea, South China Sea. Others: Gulf of Tonkin (next to SE Asia) Pacific Ocean

Most of the population live along the East coast and southern area, IN THE BASIN. A few in the far West in desert.
| **Resources** | Japan and Taiwan have dense population.  
Coal everywhere.  
Tungsten, Tin, Bauxite South.  
Iron Ore east coast.  
Some Petroleum & Copper  
Subsistence farming in all arable land in east and south.  
Crops: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rice, and Tea  
| **The Land** | China: Machinery>Machinery  
Japan: Machinery>Manufactured Goods  
Mongolia: Copper>Fuels  
North Korea: Minerals>Petroleum  
South Korea: Electronic Equipment>Machinery  
Taiwan: Textiles>Machinery  
| **Climate and Vegetation** | Archipelago: The chain of Islands that make up Japan.  
Ring of Fire: East Asia makes up the western part of the ring.  
Climates:  
Far North: Subarctic  
Mongolia: Mostly Steppes and Subarctic  
Far NE: Humid Continental  
Desert: below steppes  
SW: Highlands (Mountains: Himalayas Plateau)  
Humid Subtropical: The basin in South China, southern Japan, and South Korea  
Tropical Rainforest: Hainan (island belonging to China directly below)  
Weather:  
Monsoons & typhoons  
| **Culture and Geography** | Han: Ethnic group =1.3 billion (92%) Chinese belong to Han.  
The other 8% are Tibetans  
Taiwanese were originally Aborigines (related to people of the South Pacific)  
Japan: Homogeneous (population is from the same ethnic group).  
Korea: Came from North China  
Mongolia: Mongolian ethnic group |
Most Japanese live in Urban areas.

Biggest problem with growth in East Asia is lack of resources, infrastructure, and over population.

China: Cultural Hearth

China’s Dynasties
1. **Shang**: 1st to keep records. Emperors, lords, peasants, and attacking nomads.
2. **Zhou**: Ruled 900yrs, iron tools, Confucius (philosopher), Laozi (Philosopher started Daoism “Harmony with Nature”)
   - Qin Shi Huang Di: ruler who united all China & built the 1st part of the Great Wall of China.
3. **Han**: Trading
4. **Tang**: Trading
5. **Ming**: Naval Exploration
6. **Qing**: Last Dynasty

Korea: 1200BC started by North Chinese

Japan: Ruled by clans, the Yamato Dynasty adopted Chinese philosophy, writing, art, Science, and government. 1100’s local nobles fought for control of Japan. **Yoritomo Minamoto** was the 1st shogun and started the Shoguns (military rulers). They were professional warriors known as **Samurai**.

1600’s Western (USA & European) world came. Traded with west, but rejected western influences.

China:
1911 Sun Yat-sen started the revolution in China that ended emperor’s rule.
Chiang Kai-shek started the Nationalist Government.
Mao Zedong started road to Communism. 1949 Communists took over. The People’s Republic of China was created.

Japan:
1890’s-1940’s Japan created a military power and looked to expand. They ran into the USA during WWII. 1945 Japan lost and headed down road to Democracy and a Free market economy. 1990’s Japan
East Asia Today

Culture and Lifestyles

became a global economic leader.

Divided Korea:
After WWII Korea was divided into North (Communism) and South (Democracy). Tensions between them developed because many wanted to reunite the Koreas. 1950 Korean War: this war was fought to a draw, with USA help. United Nations created a DMZ (De Militarized Zone) at the 38th Parallel. Tensions today have increased because North Korea is attempting to gain Nuclear power.

Mongolia:
They were Communist state until the fall of the Soviet Union. Now a Democracy.

China’s languages:
Mandarin, which uses ideograms (pictures or symbols which stand for ideas)

Religions:
Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shintoism (Japan). 47% Non-Religious. 6% Christian

Education:
Literacy rates: Japan All, China 82%, Taiwan 95%, N. Korea 95%, S. Korea 98%, Mongolia 82%
Average Life Expectancy: 74 women, 70 men
They use alternate forms of medicine, such as herbs and acupuncture (needles).

Political and Economic systems:
China & North Korea: Communism & Command
Japan, South Korea, Taiwan: Democracy & Free Enterprise (Capitalist)
Mongolia: Democracy and Tradition/Free Enterprise

Mostly industrial and they all trade with the West (the USA and Europe).
Trade:
APEC: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Group
Trade Surplus: When you export more than you import.
Trade Deficit: When you import more than you export.

The US has a trade deficit with all Asian countries. We buy way more than they get from us.

Environmental Issues:
The same as everywhere else.
Pollution, natural disasters, Nuclear energy, desertification...

THE END