

World Geography

Chapter 32

Japan and the Koreas

Physical Characteristics



Main

Section

1

2

3



Physical Characteristics



- **Japan is an archipelago with many small islands and four large islands, which are actually the peaks of an underwater mountain range.**
- **The surrounding seas have isolated and protected Japan from invaders.**
- **Because of the mountainous terrain, only 13 percent of the land is arable.**
- **Japan is part of the Ring of Fire, and seismographs detect about 7,500 earthquakes in Japan annually.**
- **Japan also has a number of active volcanoes.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



Climates



- **Japan's climates vary according to latitude.**
- **Monsoons, or prevailing winds, bring heavy rains and hot temperatures in summer and cool, dry air in winter.**
- **Typhoons**, hurricanes that form over the Pacific Ocean, often cause floods and landslides from the summer to early fall.
- **Ocean currents also affect Japan's climate.**
- **The Japan Current, flowing northward from the tropics, warms the air and results in long growing seasons.**
- **The Oyashio Current, flowing southeastward along the coast of Hokkaido and northern Honshu, supports high fish harvests.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



People and Culture



- **Population density affects housing and family patterns and has caused problems with pollution and waste disposal.**
- **Religious beliefs that reflect Shinto, Buddhist, and Confucian influences.**
- **The vast majority of Japan's people belong to a highly educated middle class**
- **Japanese popular culture is influenced both by Japanese traditions and ideas from the West.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



The Closure of Japan and the Meiji Era



- **At the time of its first contact with the West, Japan had a highly developed civilization and a prosperous nation.**
- **The Japanese welcomed European traders and missionaries, but soon began to worry that European nations might try to conquer them and closed its doors to the West in 1639.**
- **Beginning in 1853, Western governments forced Japan to sign unequal treaties that gave all the economic advantages to foreigners.**
- **During the Meiji era, Japan modernized and became a major industrial power.**
- **By 1900, Japan was strong enough to end the unequal treaties with the West.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



Japanese Imperialism



- **Lack of natural resources was an obstacle to Japan's goal of becoming an industrial power.**
- **Japan adopted imperialist policies, and began efforts to gain control of weaker countries that were rich in resources.**
- **Japan fought China and Russia at the turn of the century, gaining new trading rights and territory, and took over German colonies after World War I.**
- **Militarists gained control of the government, and Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931 and China in 1937.**
- **Japan gradually became a military dictatorship, and the new leaders promoted **militarism**, or the glorification of the military and a readiness for war.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



World War and Military Occupation



World War II

- Japan's leaders sided with Nazi Germany in World War II.
- Japan seized French and Dutch colonies in Southeast Asia when France and the Netherlands fell to the Nazis.
- Japan attacked the United States fleet at Pearl Harbor in 1941.
- The United States and its allies gradually destroyed Japan's ability to wage war.
- Japan quickly surrendered after the United States dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities.

American Military Occupation

- From 1945 to 1952, Japan was occupied by the United States army.
- The military leaders were removed from power, and the emperor was stripped of political powers.
- Japan was forbidden to rebuild its military.
- A democratic constitution was introduced, giving women legal equality with men.
- Large farms and businesses were broken up and sold to poor citizens.



Main

Section

1

2

3



Sources of Success



- After World War II, Japan experienced rapid economic growth.
- Japan has a highly educated work force: almost all Japanese students attend high school and a third go on to college.
- Traditional patterns of loyalty and team spirit are changing as many Japanese workers are now finding themselves **downsized**, or fired, as companies try to trim costs.
- Japan is at the center of active trade networks as other Asian nations develop economically.
- The Japanese government takes an active role in business and has controlled trade through **tariffs** and **quotas** on imported goods.



Main

Section

1

2

3



The Koreas: A Divided Peninsula



- **What cultural elements did the Koreans adapt from the Chinese?**
- **How did the Korean Peninsula become two separate countries?**
- **How do the physical characteristics of North Korea and South Korea differ?**
- **Why is reunification a challenge to both North Korea and South Korea?**



Main

Section

1

2

3



A Common Culture



- **Through more than 2,000 years of history, invading armies have swept through the Korean Peninsula.**
- **Koreans adapted Chinese cultural ways, borrowing from the Chinese writing system and adapting many Chinese words.**
- **Koreans adopted Daoism and Confucianism from China, and later modified Buddhist teachings to their own culture.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



The Korean War



- **After World War II, Korea became caught up in the Cold War struggle between Communist and non-Communist powers.**
- **The Soviet Union administered northern Korea, and the United States administered southern Korea.**
- **The Soviet Union established a Communist government in North Korea, and in South Korea an election was held. American troops pulled out in 1949.**
- **In 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea to unite the country under a Communist government, and United Nations forces came to the aid of South Korea.**
- **A cease-fire agreement was signed in 1953 establishing the division between North and South Korea, separated by a **demilitarized zone**.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



Different Environments



Main

Section

1

2

3



Different Environments



- **North Korea, located closer to the Asian mainland, has a climate similar to southern Siberia.**
- **The land of North Korea is mountainous and rugged, and contains some of the richest natural resources in East Asia.**
- **South Korea is very densely populated.**
- **The climate of South Korea is moderated by the surrounding seas, and some areas have a subtropical climate.**
- **South Korea has fewer mountains and more plains, and is better suited to agriculture than North Korea.**



Main

Section

1

2

3



Challenges to Reunification



A Changing Economy

- After 1953, South Korea was economically disadvantaged, as most industries were in North Korea.
- With aid from the U.S. and Japan, South Korea industrialized.
- Communist North Korea lags far behind South Korea in its standard of living.
- With the fall of the Soviet Union, North Korea lost its major trading partner, and shortages of supplies and food have made the situation dire.

Planning for the Future

- North and South Korea have discussed reunification, but have not been able to agree on conditions.
- North Korea wanted an exclusively Communist Korea, while South Korea wanted to maintain its high standard of living and free system of government.
- North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1993 alarmed many nations.
- After the succession of Kim Jong Il in North Korea, the two Koreas again began to talk of reunification.



Main

Section

1

2

3

