

Junior Scholastic®

SKILLS MANUAL 2014

CONTENTS

Dear Teacher,

Welcome to *Junior Scholastic's* World Affairs Skills Manual 2014.

Like our World Affairs issue, this is a valuable resource that you and your students can use all year.

In our manual you'll find

- a skills sheet and blank map for each continent/region map in the October 14, 2013, student issue;
- a skills sheet and discussion questions based on the country data in the student issue; and
- an answer key.

We hope that exploring the world with your students in these pages will yield informative and lively classroom discussions.

—The Editors



The reproducible skills sheets on the following pages are based on the maps and facts in the October 14, 2013, issue of *Junior Scholastic*. Students will need that issue to complete the skills sheets.

Supplement to *Junior Scholastic*
October 14, 2013

WORLD AFFAIRS 2014

Written by Sara Schonfeld
Edited by Rebecca Zissou

2 *JS* Atlas

One skills sheet and one blank map for each continent/region map in the student issue

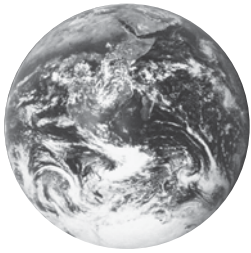
North America	2
South America	4
Europe	6
Asia	8
Africa	10
Oceania	12
Middle East	12

14 *JS* Almanac

A skills sheet and discussion questions based on the tables in the student issue

Answers: You'll find the answers to the Skills Manual in this issue's online Answer Key. Click here to go to our Teaching Resources section of the website for access information.

Contact us at *Junior Scholastic*, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-3999 or at junior@scholastic.com.
Customer-service inquiries: 1-800-SCHOLASTIC



JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2014



NORTH AMERICA

Map of North America

FAST FACTS

Area: 9.4 million square miles—the third-largest continent, after Asia and Africa.

Population: About 557 million people. It ranks fourth among the continents, after Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Location: Includes Greenland

(a self-governing territory of Denmark), Canada, the U.S., Mexico, the seven countries of Central America, and the islands of the Caribbean Sea

Physical features: Has three major mountain systems—the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachian Mountains, and the

Sierra Madre. Major waterways include Hudson Bay, the five Great Lakes, and the Mississippi and St. Lawrence Rivers.

Elevation: *Highest:* Mount McKinley (Denali) in Alaska, 20,320 ft above sea level; *lowest:* Death Valley, California, 282 ft below sea level

Use the map on p. 10 and the almanac on pp. 12-13 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label those geographic features or places on the outline map provided.

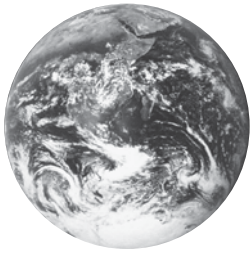
- Which body of water lies at 15°N, 75°W? _____ *
- Name the four largest countries in North America (by area), and the population of each. _____

- Which North American country was the last to gain independence, and in what year? _____ *
- Name the national capitals and countries at (a) 10°N, 84°W: _____ ;
 (b) 45°N, 76°W: _____ ; (c) 19°N, 99°W: _____ ;
 (d) 18°N, 70°W: _____
- About how many straight-line miles separate Mexico City, Mexico, from Kingston, Jamaica? _____

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. Write your response on the back of this page.

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama met with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico. Why is the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico important?





JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2014



Map of South America

FAST FACTS

Area: 6.9 million square miles. It is the fourth-largest continent.
Population: 401 million people. It ranks fifth among the continents in population.
Location: Stretches from the Caribbean Sea in the north to Cape Horn at the continent's

southern tip
Physical features: Earth's longest mountain chain hugs the western edge of South America. The continent's longest river begins in the mountains of Peru and flows eastward for about 4,000 miles to the Atlantic Ocean. The huge area drained

by this river and its tributaries covers more than one third of South America and receives enough rainfall to sustain the world's largest tropical rainforest.
Elevation: Argentina's Aconcagua, at 22,835 ft, is the tallest mountain in the Western Hemisphere.

Use the map on p. 11 and the almanac on p. 13 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label those geographic features or places on the outline map provided.

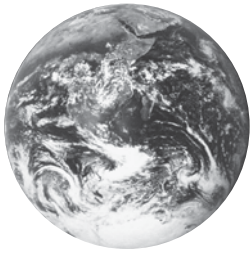
1. The Amazon rainforest stretches into which countries? _____ *
2. Which South American countries are crossed by 23°27'S (west to east)? What's that parallel called? _____
3. What's the approximate latitude and longitude of Montevideo, Uruguay? _____
4. (a) Which South American country has the highest per capita GDP? _____ *
- (b) Which South American country has the lowest per capita GDP? _____
5. Which South American country has two capitals, and what are their names? _____

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. Write your response on the back of this page.

In March 2013, Pope Francis of Argentina became the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Why is his election significant?

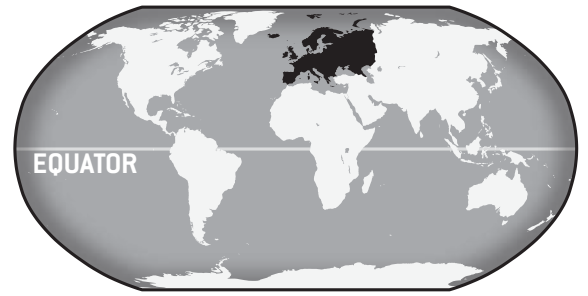


Name: _____



JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2014



EUROPE

Map of Europe

FAST FACTS

Area: About 4 million square miles. Europe is the sixth-largest continent.

Population: Densely populated, with 740 million people. (This figure includes Russia, which lies partly in Europe and partly in Asia.)

Location: Shares a landmass, known as Eurasia, with Asia. The dividing line between the two continents, according to most geographers, is formed by the Ural Mountains, the Ural River, and the Caucasus Mountains. North to south, Europe runs from the cold Arctic region

to the warm, sunny beaches along the Mediterranean Sea.

Physical features: Has excellent farmland and is rich in mineral resources. Russia's Volga River, at 2,300 miles long, is the continent's longest.

Elevation: Mount Elbrus, Russia (18,510 ft), is the highest peak.

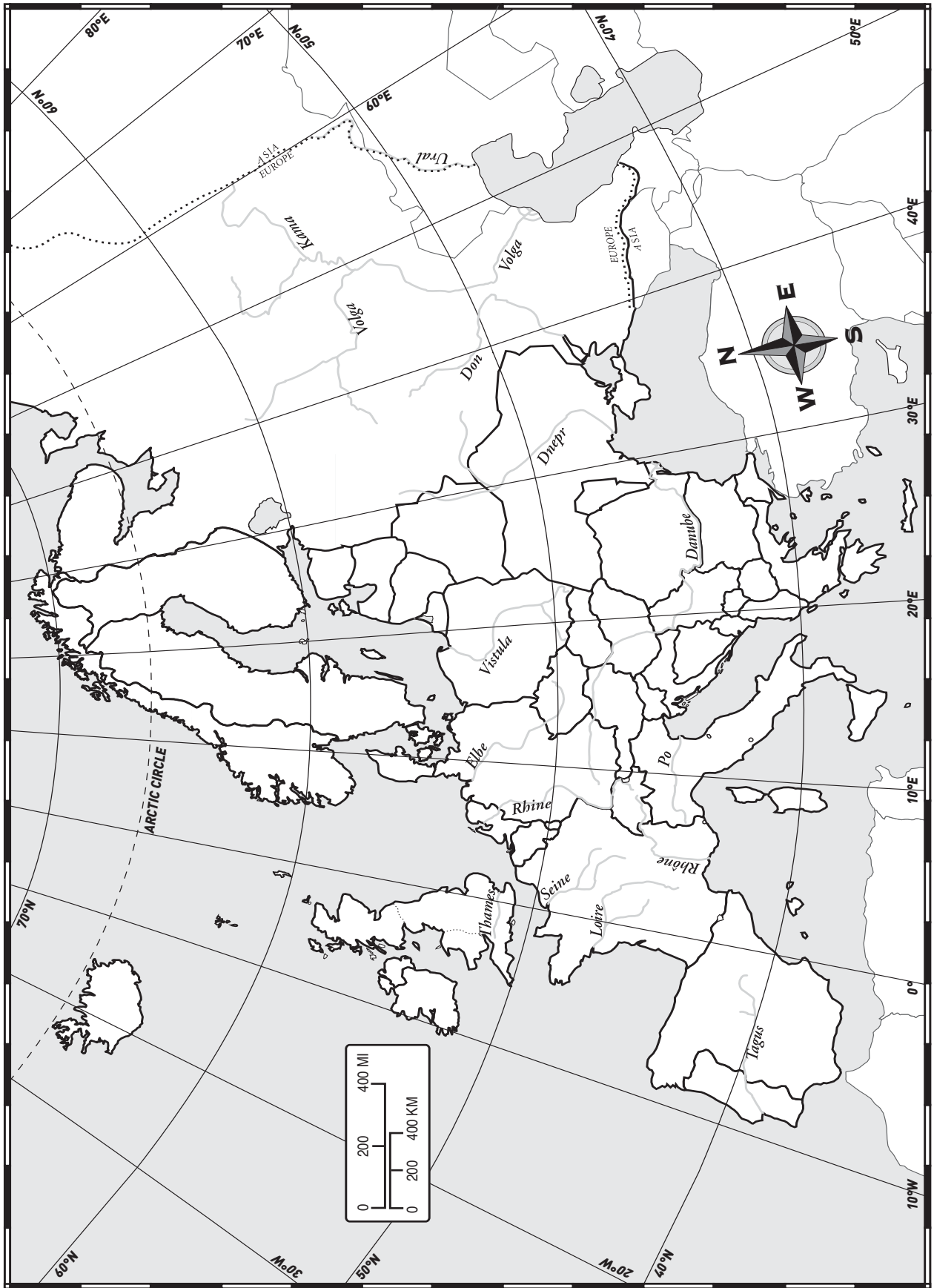
Use the map on pp 14-15 and the almanac on pp. 16-17 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label those geographic features or places on the outline map provided.

1. Name the national capitals and countries at (a) 61°N, 25°E: _____; (b) 38°N, 9°W: _____; (c) 60°N, 11°E: _____; (d) 54°N, 28°E: _____
2. Which countries share a border with Greece? _____*
3. What's located at 58°N, 20°E? _____*
4. Which waterway forms part of the boundary between Romania and Bulgaria? _____
5. (a) Over which European countries would you travel if you were to fly from Frankfurt, Germany, going east along 50°N latitude? _____

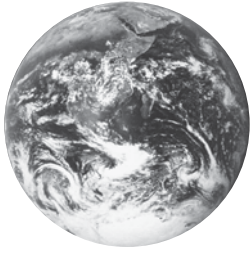
- (b) Which of those countries gained independence in 1918? _____

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. Write your response on the back of this page.

The European Union (E.U.) recently agreed to discuss whether Turkey should be allowed membership in the E.U. Why are some nations against Turkey's inclusion in the E.U.?



Name: _____



JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2014



ASIA

Map of Asia

FAST FACTS

Area: 17 million square miles. Asia is the largest continent. It occupies one third of the world's total land area.

Population: 4.3 billion people—about 60 percent of the world's population. This includes Turkey, which is partly in Europe.

Physical features: Includes the cold expanse of Siberia in the Arctic region; the rich farmland of China and India; and the warm, humid rainforests of Southeast Asia. Also included are the populous island nations of Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, and Malaysia.

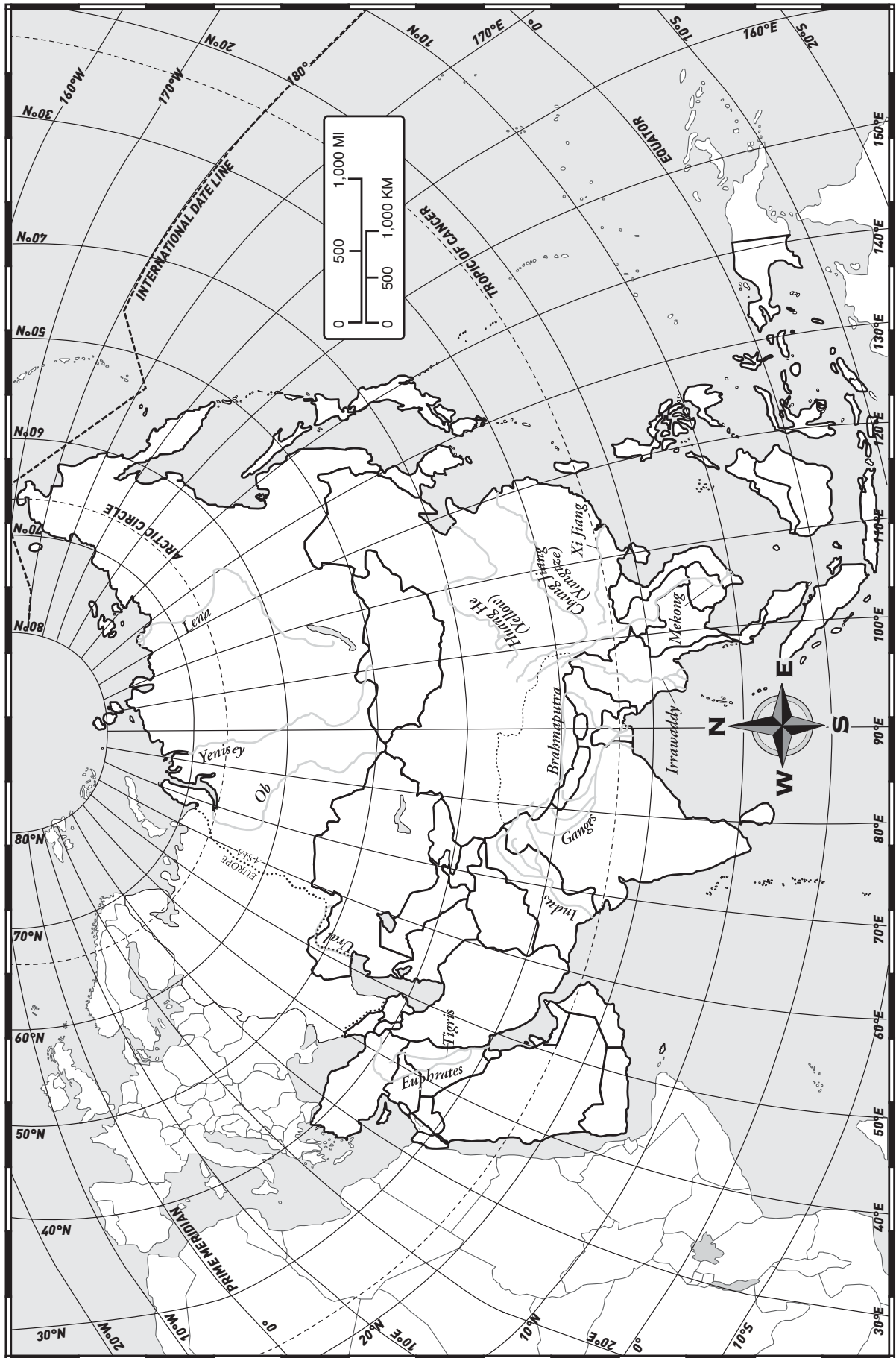
Elevation: *Highest (in the world as well as in Asia):* Mount Everest (29,035 ft), on the border of Nepal and China; part of the Himalaya Mountains; *lowest:* the Dead Sea (1,391 ft below sea level), a saltwater lake on the border of Jordan and Israel

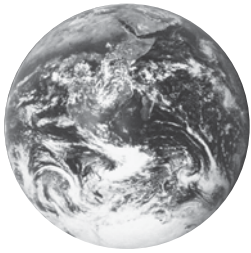
Use the map on pp. 18-19 and the almanac on pp. 20-22 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label those geographic features or places on the outline map provided.

1. Which Asian countries are crossed by 23°27'N (west to east)? What's that parallel called? _____ *
2. The Kolyma Mountains are located in the northeastern part of which country? _____
3. Name the bodies of water located at (a) 16°N, 63°E: _____ ;
(b) 27°N, 126°E: _____ ; (c) 28°N, 50°E: _____
4. (a) Which countries border Thailand? _____
(b) Which of those countries has the lowest per capita GDP? _____ *
5. The Ganges River, the longest river in India, empties into which body of water? _____ *

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. Write your response on the back of this page.

Russia will host the Winter Olympics in 2014. Why are people in some countries considering boycotting those Games?





JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2014



AFRICA

Map of Africa

FAST FACTS

Area: 11.7 million square miles, making it the second-largest continent. Only Asia is larger.

Population: About 1.1 billion people. Africa ranks second among the continents in population.

Location: Stretches from the

Mediterranean Sea in the north to the tip of South Africa.

Physical features: The world's largest desert extends across northern Africa from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea. The area south of this desert has tropical rainforests, savannas (grasslands), deserts, and many

major rivers. At 4,160 miles long, the Nile is the world's longest river. It begins as two rivers whose waters converge in Sudan and flow north to the sea.

Elevation: *Highest:* Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (19,340 ft); *lowest:* Lake Assal, Djibouti (509 ft below sea level)

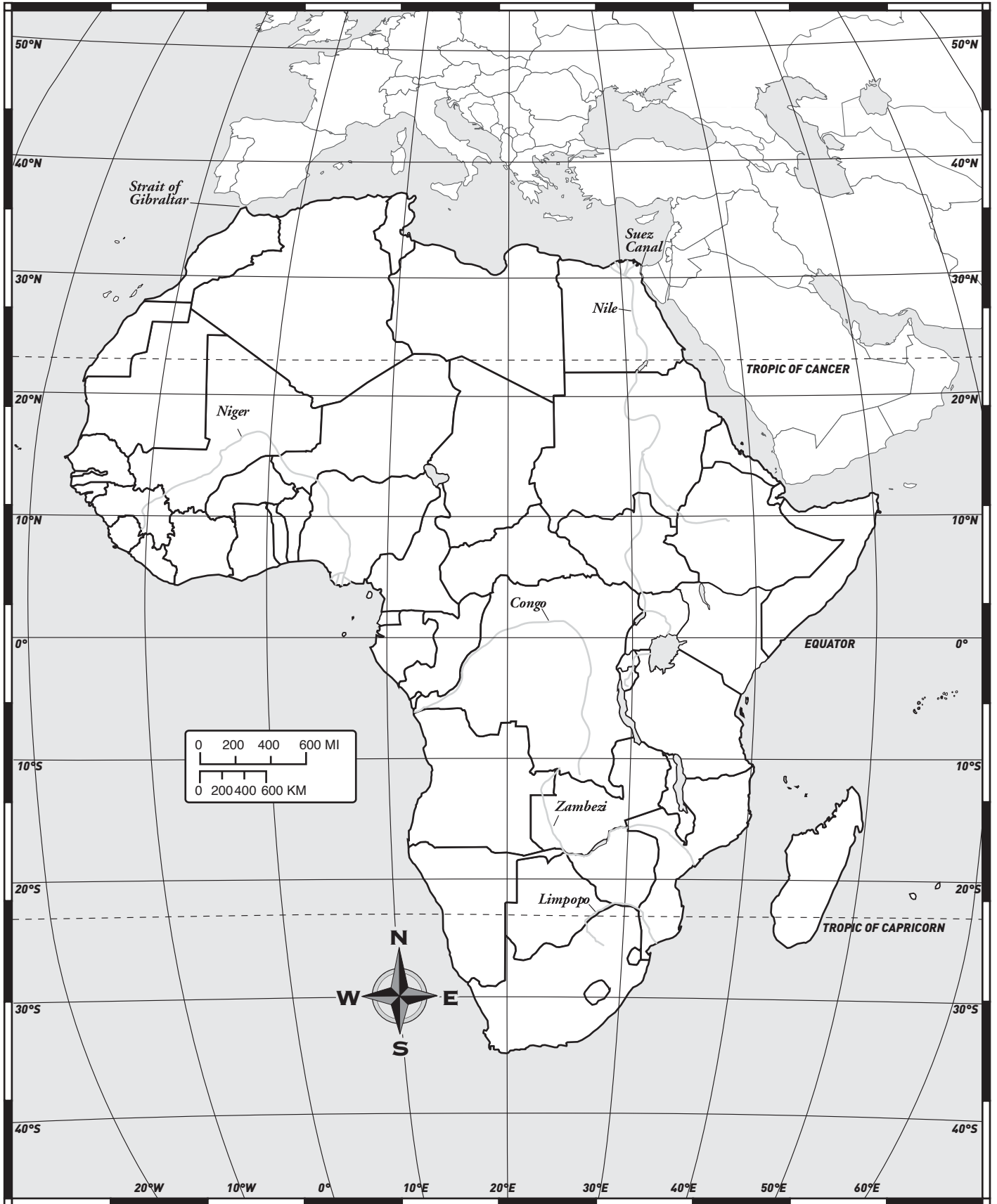
Use the map on p. 24 and the almanac on pp. 25-27 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label those geographic features or places on the outline map provided.

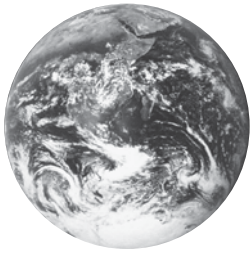
1. Which countries border Lake Victoria? _____ *
2. About how many straight-line miles separate Abuja, Nigeria, from Khartoum, Sudan? _____
3. Which African country has three capitals? Name them. _____

4. Name the countries located at (a) 12°S, 14°E: _____; (b) 12°N, 2°W: _____;
(c) 7°N, 30°E: _____; (d) Which of those countries has the greatest population? _____
5. Through which bodies of water would you travel if you were to sail from Mogadishu, Somalia, to Moroni, Comoros, and then to Libreville, Gabon? _____ *

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. Write your response on the back of this page.

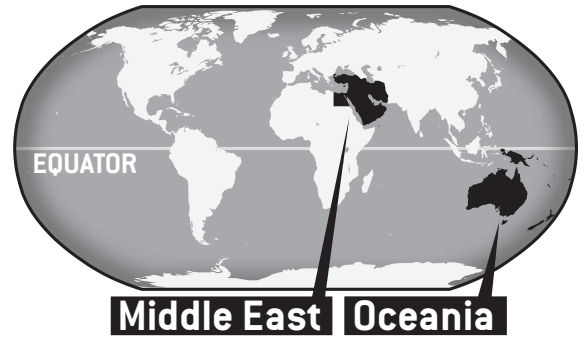
Beginning in 2010, Arab Spring uprisings occurred in several countries in the Middle East, including Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and Syria. Choose one of those countries to research. What major events have taken place there since the protests began?





JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2014



Map of Oceania

<p>FAST FACTS Location: Oceania is a region, not a continent. It includes Australia (the only nation that is</p>	<p>also a continent), New Zealand, and many other island countries and territories spread across a vast area of the Pacific Ocean.</p>	<p>Elevation: <i>Highest:</i> Puncak Jaya, West Papua, Indonesia (16,503 ft); <i>lowest:</i> Lake Eyre, Australia (50 ft below sea level)</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Use the map on p. 23 and almanac on p. 22 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label those geographic features or places on the outline map provided.

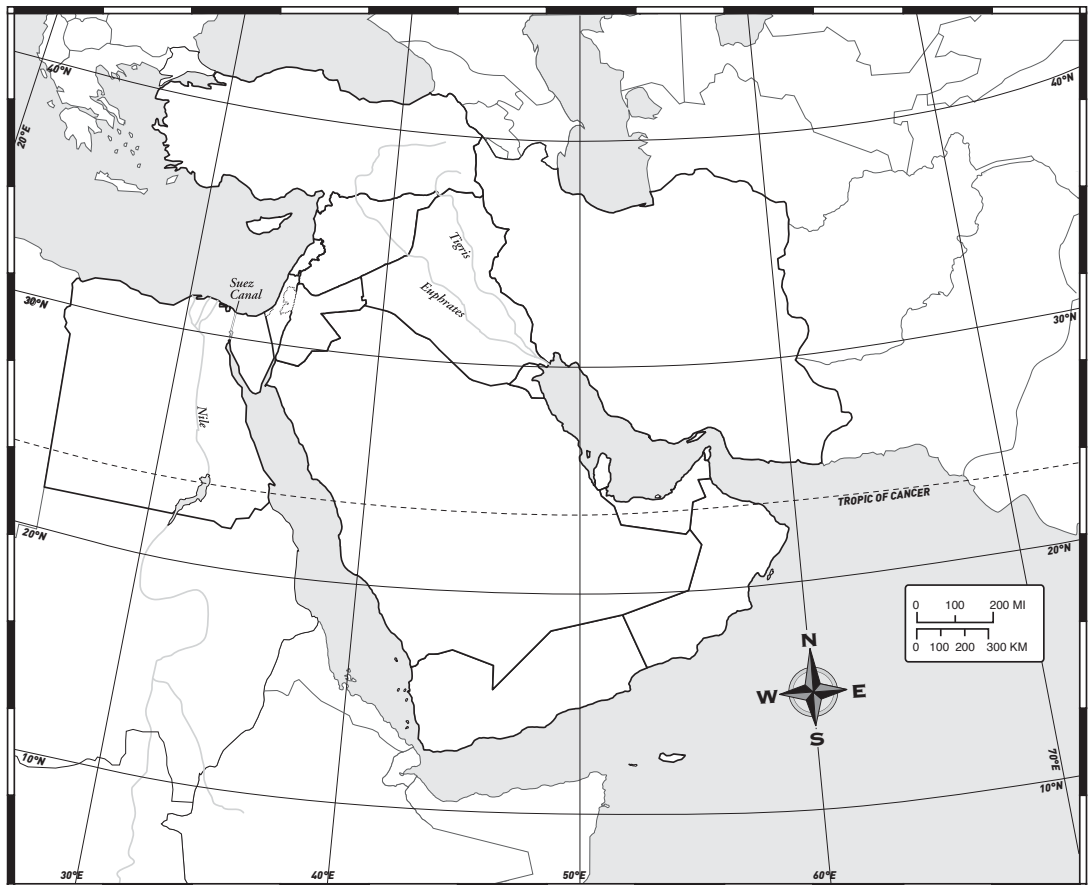
1. Name the island country at 8°S, 144°E and its capital. _____ *
2. In which direction would you travel to get from Suva, Fiji, to Sydney, Australia? _____
3. Which three island territories are governed by the U.S.? _____ *
4. What are the major languages spoken in Kiribati? _____
5. Name the capital of New Zealand and its approximate latitude and longitude. _____

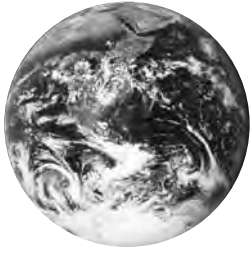
Map of the Middle East

<p>FAST FACTS Location: The Middle East is a region, not a continent. Mostly in Asia, it extends into Africa</p>	<p>(Egypt) and Europe (a small section of Turkey). Islam is the dominant religion in the region except in Israel (Judaism) and in</p>	<p>Cyprus (Christianity). Physical features: Mostly desert. Several countries in the region are major oil producers.</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Use the map on p. 28 and almanac on p. 29 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label those geographic features or places on the outline map provided.

1. Name the major oil-producing countries at (a) 29°N, 41°E: _____ ;
 (b) 34°N, 57°E: _____ ; (c) 23°N, 53°E: _____
2. Which bodies of water are connected by the Strait of Hormuz? _____ *
3. Which countries border Iraq? _____ *
4. In which direction would you travel to get from Ankara, Turkey, to Sanaa, Yemen? _____
5. Which two rivers empty into the Persian Gulf? _____





JS Almanac

SKILLS MANUAL 2014

Name: _____

The statistical tables that accompany the continent and regional map in the *JS World Affairs 2014* issue are a valuable and easy-to-use data bank of interesting and important information about the

world's 196 independent countries. Use them to answer questions 1-4. (*Important tip:* First study the sample entry on p. 3.) To answer question 5, use the Economic Map of the World on pp. 8-9.

1. **(a)** What's the name and size of Asia's smallest country? _____
- (b)** Which three countries in the Americas have the lowest per capita GDP? _____

- (c)** What are the three most-populous countries in Africa? _____
- (d)** Which country of Oceania was the last to gain independence, and in what year did it do so? _____

- (e)** In which European nation(s) is Catalan a major language? _____

2. Population, percent of population under age 15, literacy rate, life expectancy, Human Development Index (HDI), and per capita GDP can be important indicators of a country's problems and needs, level of education, and standard of living. Fill in and compare the data for these two countries in Asia.

	Population	% of Pop. under 15	Literacy rate (% M/F)	Life expectancy (M/F)	HDI	Per capita GDP
(a) North Korea:	_____	_____	____/____	____/____	_____	_____
(b) South Korea:	_____	_____	____/____	____/____	_____	_____

- (c)** What similarities and differences exist between these countries? _____

- (d)** What conclusions can you draw about the standard of living in these countries? _____

3. A country's date of origin and the languages spoken there give clues about a nation's history. What's the date of origin and major language for each of these African countries?
 - (a)** Burkina Faso: _____; **(b)** Chad: _____; **(c)** Madagascar: _____
 - (d)** Using that information, what can you conclude about their shared history? _____

4. Compare these four European countries by filling in each nation’s political system and the title of its head of government. Then answer the questions that follow.

Political System

Title of the Head of Government

- (a) Belarus: _____
- (b) Greece: _____
- (c) Liechtenstein: _____
- (d) Russia: _____

- (e) In which of the above country or countries are people’s rights and freedoms most likely to be limited?

Explain. _____

- (f) In which nation(s) do people most likely have the same rights and freedoms that we have in the U.S.?
- _____

5. (a) Which color does the economic map use to indicate the lowest per capita GDP? _____

- (b) Which Asian countries are in this category? _____
- _____

- (c) Algeria and Namibia are in which per capita GDP category? _____

- (d) Which countries in the Americas are in the highest per capita GDP category? _____
- _____

- (e) What is Europe’s least affluent country? In which category is its per capita GDP? _____
- _____

Discussion Questions

You will need some knowledge of current events to discuss the following topics. Each question is open-ended, meaning that there may not be a clear-cut, correct answer. Choose one of the five questions to discuss in a small group. Give factual evidence to support your answers.

1. A majority of Puerto Ricans—61 percent—recently voted to become the 51st U.S. state. What are some arguments for and against statehood?
2. Brazil will host the World Cup in 2014. How might hosting such a huge event affect Brazil’s economy?
3. Former CIA employee Edward Snowden fled to Russia this summer after he released secret U.S. documents. How might Russia’s decision to protect Snowden affect its relationship with the U.S.?
4. China recently announced plans to move 250 million rural residents to cities and towns. How might the move affect the nation and its people?
5. Several African countries gained independence in the 1950s and ’60s, ending decades of colonial rule. Choose an African country to research. How did colonization affect its culture, language, and form of government? Did colonization change which religions were followed?