

Junior Scholastic®

SKILLS MANUAL 2013

CONTENTS

Dear Teacher,

Welcome to *Junior Scholastic's* World Affairs Skills Manual 2013. 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 15 & 22, 2012, 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



Supplement to *Junior Scholastic*
October 15 & 22, 2012

WORLD AFFAIRS 2013

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

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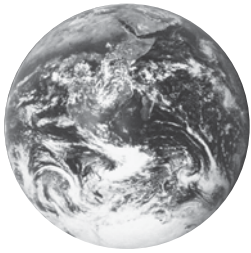
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A skills sheet and discussion
questions based on the
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The reproducible skills sheets on the following pages are based on the maps and facts in the October 15 & 22, 2012, issue of *Junior Scholastic*. Students will need that issue to complete the skills sheets.

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JS Atlas

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Map of North America

<p>FAST FACTS Area: 9.4 million square miles—the third-largest continent, after Asia and Africa. Population: about 551 million people. It ranks fourth among the continents, after Asia, Africa, and Europe. Location: includes Greenland,</p>	<p>Canada, the United States, 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</p>	<p>waterways include Hudson Bay, the five Great Lakes, and the Mississippi and St. Lawrence rivers. Elevation: <i>highest:</i> Mount McKinley (Denali) in Alaska, 20,320 ft above sea level; <i>lowest:</i> Death Valley, California, 282 ft below sea level</p>
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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 that geographical feature or place on the outline map provided.

1. Through which state does the Arctic Circle (66°33'N) pass? _____ *
2. What are the seven countries of Central America (between Mexico and South America)? _____

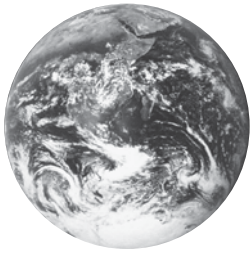
3. Which of the seven was the last to gain independence, and in what year? _____ *
4. Name the national capitals at (a) 23°N, 82°W: _____; (b) 45°N, 76°W: _____;
 (c) 39°N, 77°W: _____; (d) 12°N, 86°W: _____
5. Over which North American countries would you travel if you were to fly from Ellesmere Island, going south along 80°W longitude? _____

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. If more space is needed, write on the back of this page.

When and why was Alaska nicknamed “Seward’s Folly” and “Seward’s Ice Box”? How did the Alaska Gold Rush change people’s perception of it? _____



Name: _____



JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2013



Map of South America

FAST FACTS

Area: 6.9 million square miles, making it the fourth-largest continent

Population: 397 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 that geographical feature or place on the outline map provided.

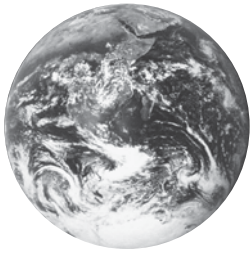
1. The 60°W meridian of longitude crosses which South American countries (north to south)? _____ *
2. Which South American countries are crossed by 0° latitude (west to east)? What is that parallel called? _____
3. What's the name of the mountain range that runs along most of the Pacific coast? _____ *
4. (a) Which language is spoken throughout most of the continent? _____
(b) In which country is Dutch a major language? _____
5. The Paraná River forms partial boundaries of which three countries? _____

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. If more space is needed, write on the back of this page.

What is unusual about the Atacama Desert of northern Chile and southern Peru? _____

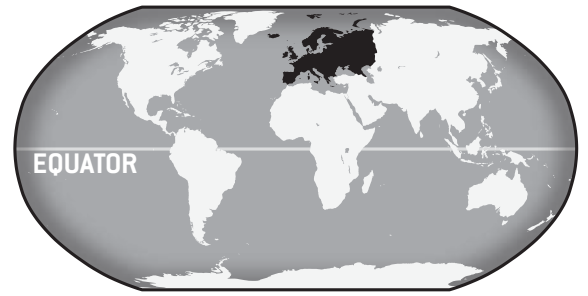


Name: _____



JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2013



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.

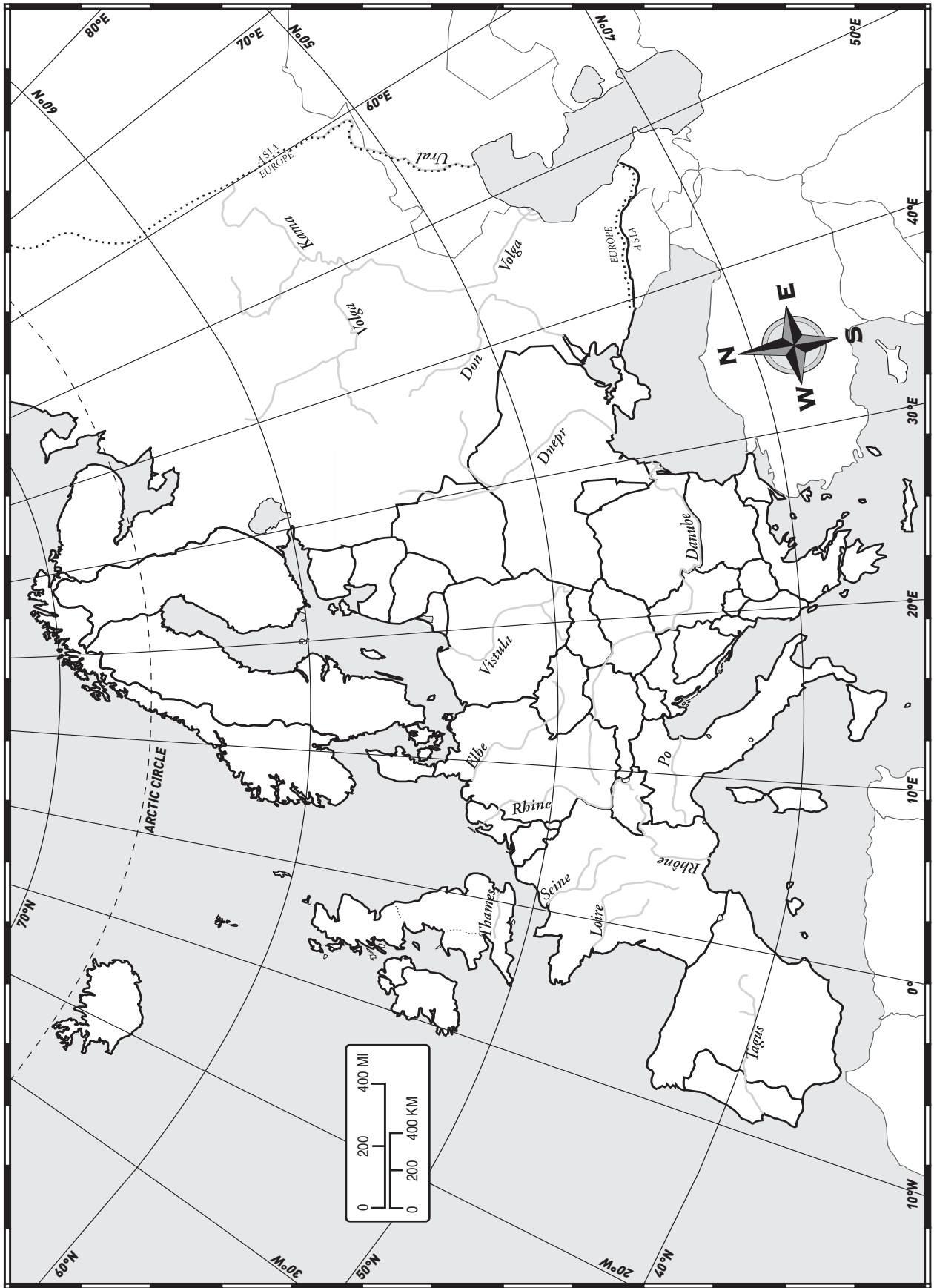
Elevation: Mount Elbrus, Russia (18,510 ft), is the highest peak.

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 the geographical feature(s) or place(s) on the outline map provided.

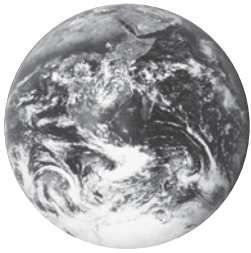
1. Name the bodies of water at (a) 57°N, 2°E: _____; (b) 70°N, 10°E: _____; (c) 43°N, 30°E: _____; (d) 60°N, 20°E: _____
2. Which countries share a border with Poland? _____*
3. Which country is Europe's youngest, having declared independence in 2008? _____
4. What are the names of the two mountain ranges that form part of the boundary between Europe and Asia? _____*
5. Which narrow body of water connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea? _____

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. If more space is needed, write on the back of this page.

What massive efforts were made in London during the past four years as the United Kingdom prepared to host the 2012 Summer Olympics? _____



Name: _____



JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2013



Map of Asia

FAST FACTS

Area: 17.2 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.

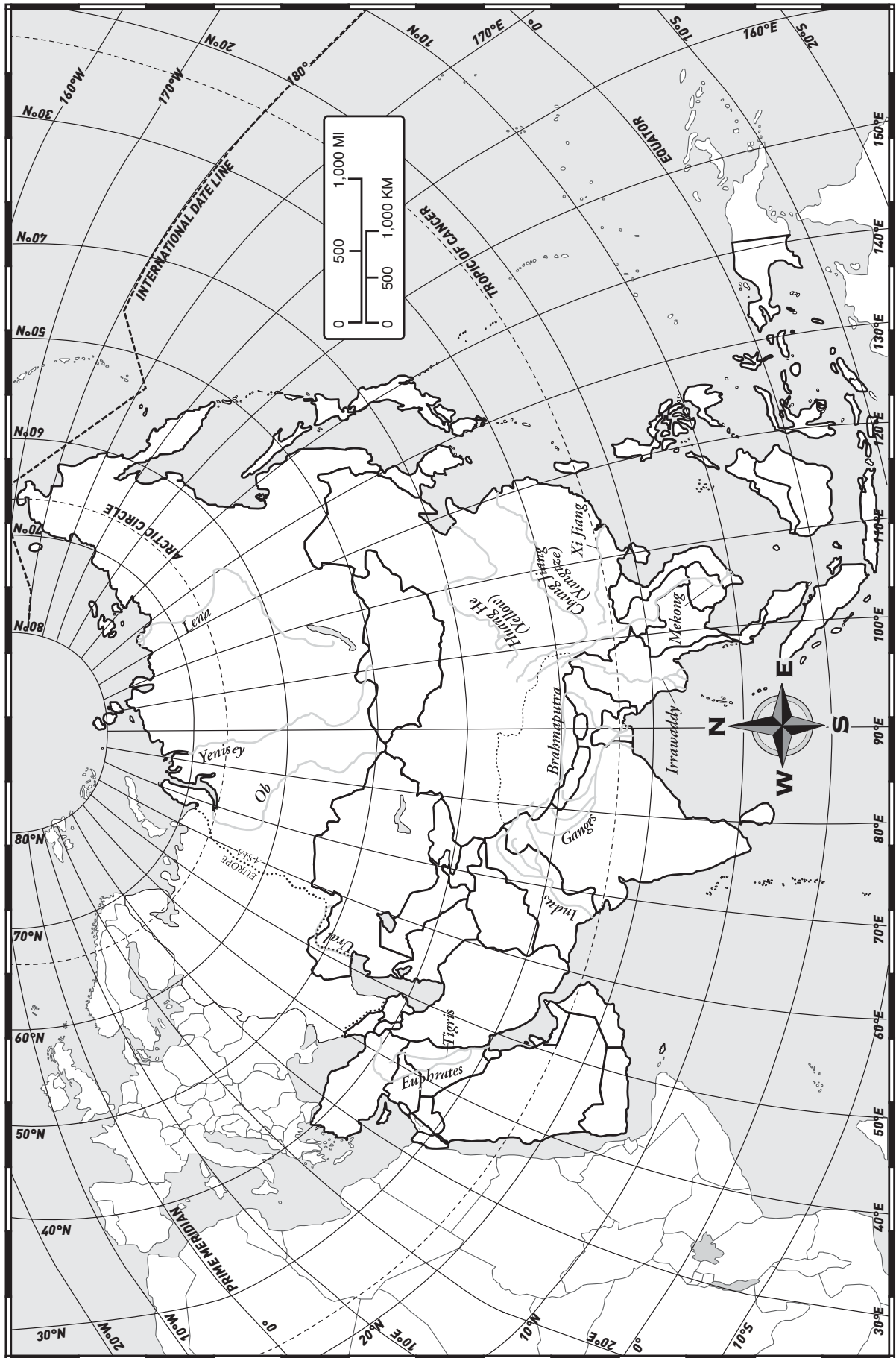
Elevation: *highest (in the world as well as in Asia):* Mount Everest (29,035 ft), on the border of Nepal and China; part of the Himalaya Mountains; *lowest:* the Dead Sea (1,391 ft below sea level), a saltwater lake on the border of Jordan and Israel

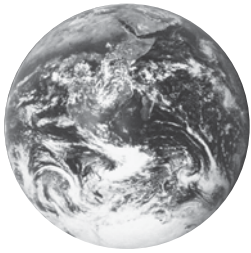
Use the map on pp. 18-19 and the almanac on pp. 20-22 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label that geographical feature or place on the outline map provided.

1. At just 115 square miles, what is Asia's smallest country? _____ *
2. Two of Asia's longest rivers flow through eastern China. Name both, along with the body of water each empties into. _____
3. Two Asian countries are considered nuclear threats because of their secret nuclear-development work. Name the one at (a) 34°N, 51°E: _____ * and the one at (b) 40°N, 127°E: _____ *
4. (a) What is the name of the landlocked country at 48°N, 100°E? _____
(b) Name the cold, stony desert that it shares with China. _____
5. Which Asian capitals and countries are located at the following coordinates?
(a) 25°N, 47°E: _____ ; (b) 7°N, 80°E: _____ *

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. If more space is needed, write on the back of this page.

Why is the Suez Canal (see Africa map) an important waterway for the countries of western Asia?





JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2013



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 several

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.

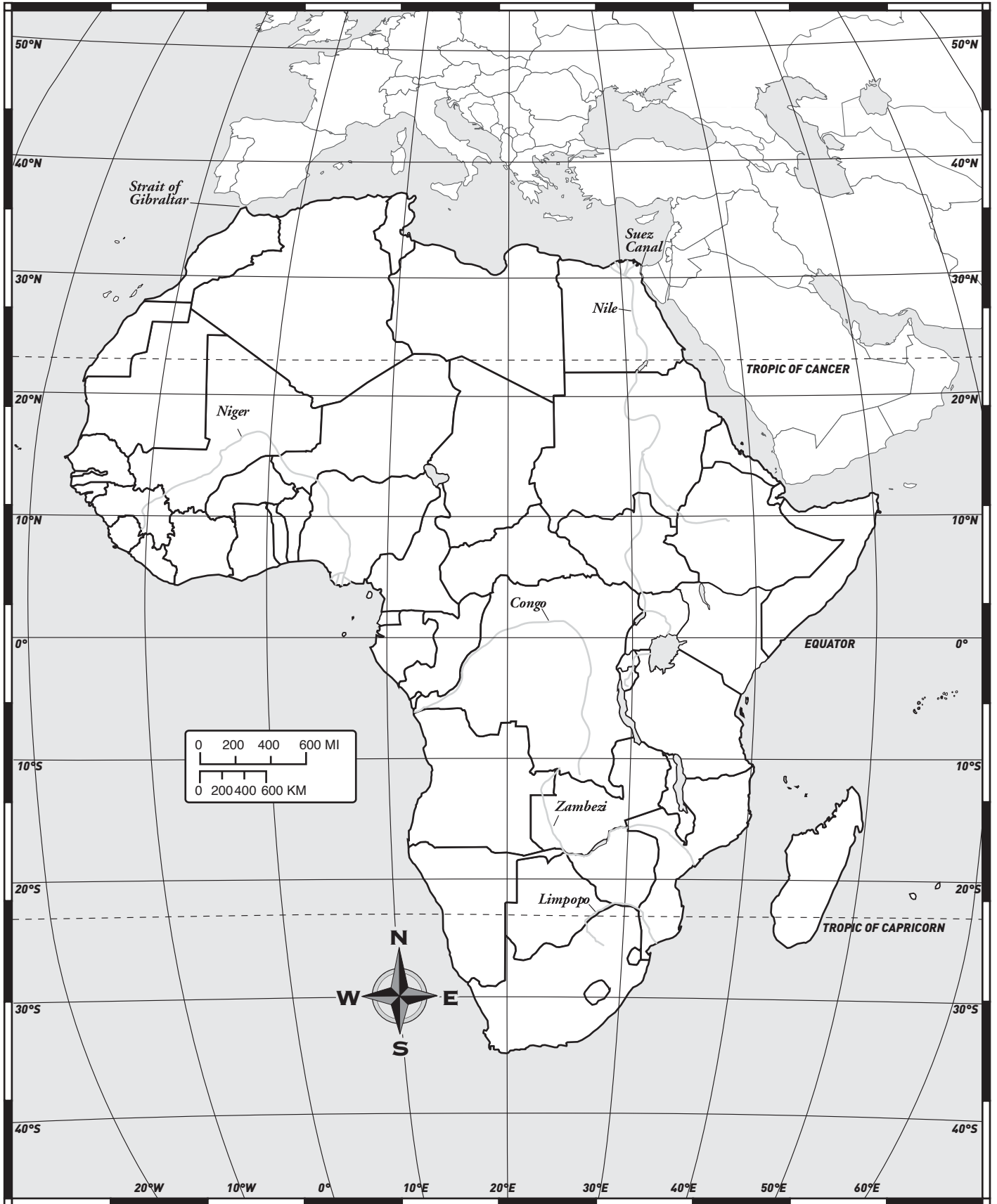
Elevation: *highest:* Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania (19,340 ft); *lowest:* Lake Assal, Djibouti (515 ft below sea level)

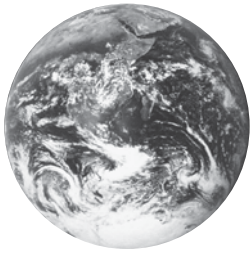
Use the map on p. 24 and the almanac on pp. 25-27 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label that geographical feature or place on the outline map provided.

- Through which countries would you travel if you were to cross Africa from south to north at 20°E? _____
- Name the desert that spans most of northern Africa. _____
- Name the three oceans and two seas that surround the continent. _____
- Which of Africa's major rivers flows through these countries? **(a)** Sudan and Egypt: _____ ; **(b)** Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria: _____ ; **(c)** Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique: _____ *
- The country whose capital is at 5°N, 32°E is Africa's newest. What is that country's name, capital, and date of independence? _____

BONUS QUESTION: Do some research to find the answer. If more space is needed, write on the back of this page.

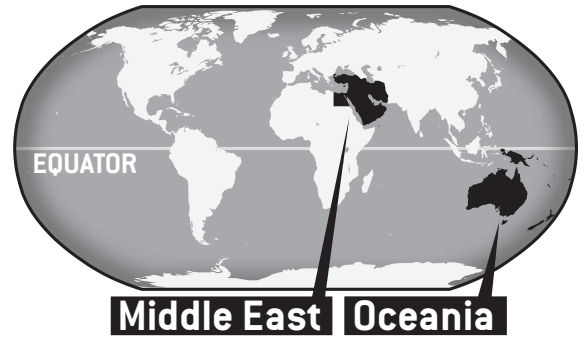
In what ways is the dromedary camel well suited for transportation in northern Africa's desert? _____





JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2013



Map of Oceania

<p>FAST FACTS</p> <p>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>
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Use the map on p. 23 and almanac on p. 22 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label that geographical feature or place on the outline map provided.

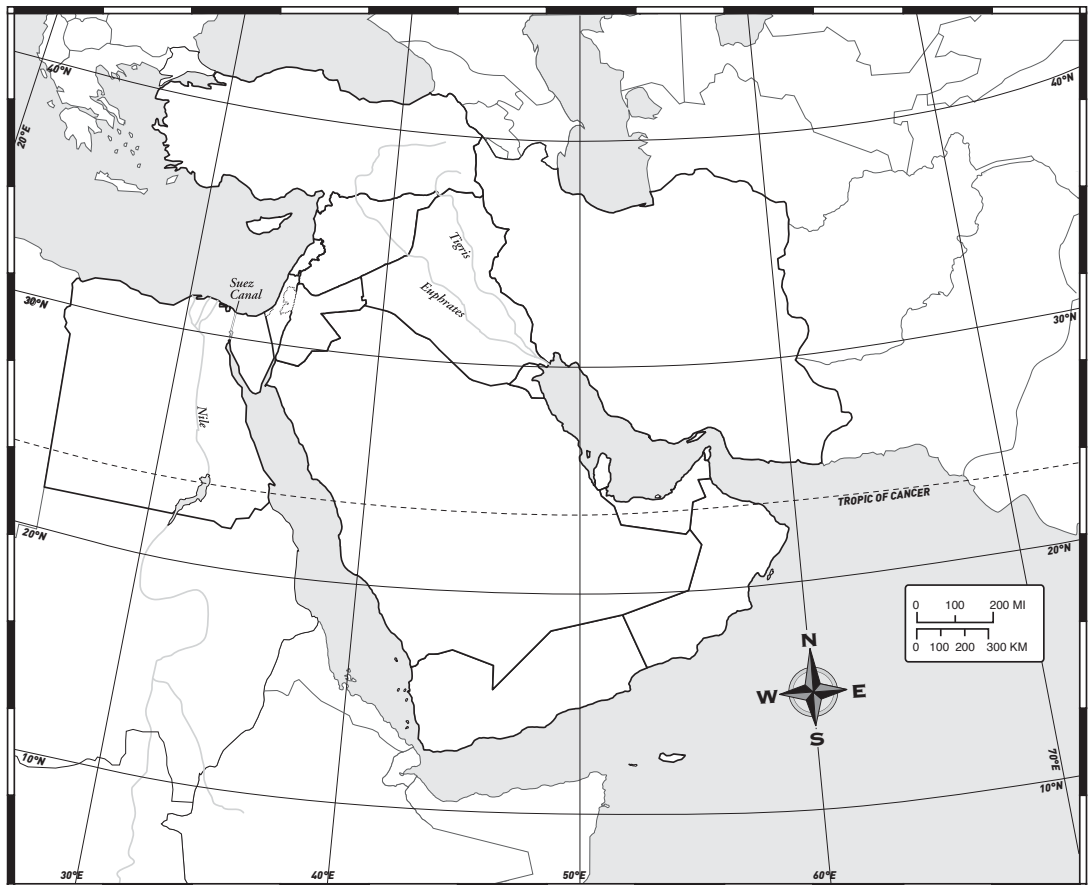
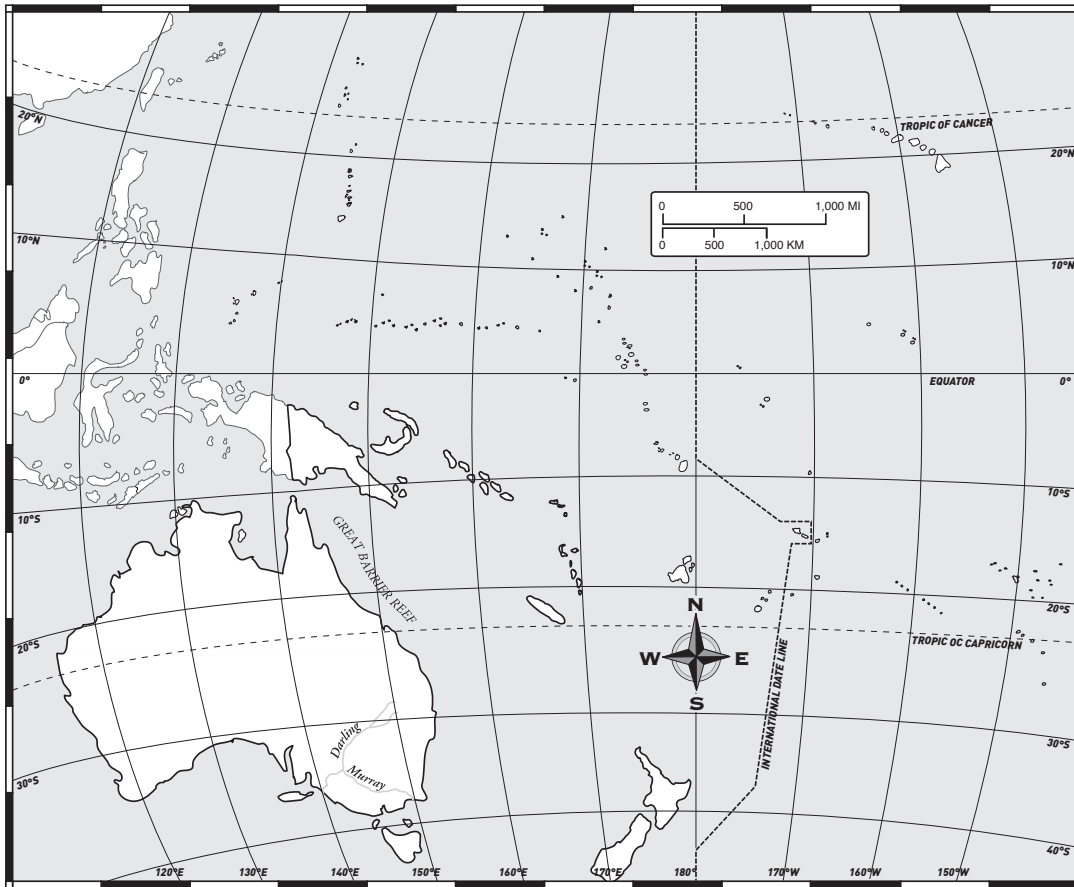
1. Name the island country at 41°S, 172°E and its capital. _____ *
2. Name the three island territories of France between 10°S and 20°S. _____
3. What are the two smallest countries of Oceania? _____ *
4. If you were to fly from Perth, Australia, to Apia, Samoa, in which direction would you travel? _____
5. What are the major languages spoken in Fiji? _____

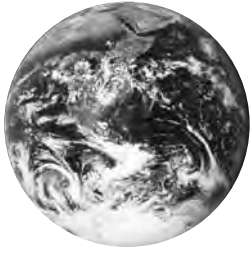
Map of the Middle East

<p>FAST FACTS</p> <p>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>
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Use the map on p. 28 and almanac on p. 29 of the issue to answer these questions. Where you see an asterisk (*), label that geographical feature or place on the outline map provided.

1. Name the three countries with the region's biggest oil reserves, at (a) 24°N, 44°E: _____; (b) 33°N, 44°E: _____; (c) 34°N, 51°E: _____
2. Name the island country south of Turkey and its capital. _____
3. Which countries have a coastline along the Persian Gulf? _____
4. In which direction would you travel from Muscat, Oman, to Jerusalem, Israel? _____
5. Which Middle East countries are along the Mediterranean Sea? _____





JS Almanac

SKILLS MANUAL 2013

Name: _____

The statistical tables that accompany each continent and regional map in the *JS World Affairs 2013* 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)** In which African country is Amharic a major language? _____
- (b)** Which Asian country has a date of origin of 1238, more than 770 years ago? _____
- (c)** What is the name and size of Europe's largest country? _____
- (d)** Which countries of Oceania are ruled in part by traditional chiefs? _____
- (e)** What are the three largest countries in the Americas? _____

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 the Middle East.

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

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

- (d)** If peace, stability, and mutual respect could someday be established among the countries of the Middle East, how would that benefit all the countries in the region? _____

3. A country's date of origin and the languages spoken there give clues about a nation's history. What is the date of origin and major language for each of these countries in North America?

- (a)** Dominican Republic: _____; **(b)** Honduras: _____; **(c)** Mexico: _____
- (d)** Using this information, what can you conclude about their shared history? _____

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

Political System	Title of the Head of Government
(a) Bahrain: _____	_____
(b) North Korea: _____	_____
(c) South Korea: _____	_____
(d) Syria: _____	_____
(e) In which of the above countries are people's rights and freedoms most likely to be limited? Explain.	

- (f) In which country does the legislature make the laws and the people have rights and freedoms that are guaranteed? _____

5. (a) Which color does the map use to indicate that economic information isn't available? _____
- (b) Which African country is in this category? _____
- (c) Why might a country not disclose this information? _____

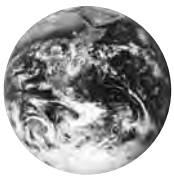
- (d) Which countries of North America and Oceania are in the highest per capita GDP category? _____

- (e) What is South America'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 reasons to support your answers.

1. How might a meeting in 2013 between the president of the United States and Enrique Peña Nieto, Mexico's new president, benefit both leaders and both countries?
2. On July 31, 2012, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton began an 11-day diplomatic trip to nine African countries: Senegal, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, and Benin. What do you think she hoped to accomplish on that trip?
3. Brazil's government has launched a controversial plan to build 21 hydroelectric dams in the Amazon River region. How could the dams benefit Brazil's growing economy? What harm could result from building them?
4. Why have the U.S. and its European allies put an embargo on oil from Iran?
5. On August 6, 2012, the *Curiosity* rover was successfully lowered into a crater on the surface of Mars. Why was this an amazing accomplishment for NASA?



Answers

SKILLS MANUAL 2013

JS Atlas (pp. 2-13)

Map of North America

1. Alaska
2. Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama
3. Belize, in 1981 (from the U.K.)
4. (a) Havana, Cuba; (b) Ottawa, Canada; (c) Washington, D.C., U.S.; (d) Managua, Nicaragua
5. Canada, United States, Cuba, Panama

Bonus Question

In 1867, the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. William Seward, then the U.S. Secretary of State, was a major promoter of the purchase. Many Americans considered it a waste of money, thus the nicknames. But after gold was discovered in Alaska in 1896, sparking a gold rush, many people began to see the Alaska purchase as a good investment.

Map of South America

1. Venezuela, Guyana, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina
2. Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil; the equator
3. Andes Mountains
4. (a) Spanish; (b) Suriname
5. Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina

Bonus Question

The Atacama Desert, which averages less than half an inch of rain a year, is considered the driest place on Earth.

Map of Europe

1. (a) North Sea; (b) Arctic Ocean; (c) Black Sea; (d) Baltic Sea
2. Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia
3. Kosovo
4. Ural Mountains, Caucasus Mountains
5. Strait of Gibraltar

Bonus Question

selecting sites and building the Olympic Park, sports facilities, and Olympic Village (residences for athletes during the Games); ensuring that the airports could handle the arrival and departure of the many athletes and tourists; planning the opening and closing ceremonies; improving public transportation; revitalizing the city of London; ensuring that there would be enough security to prevent terrorist attacks and to keep everyone safe

Map of Asia

1. Maldives
2. Huang He (Yellow River), into the Yellow Sea; Chang Jiang (Yangtze River), into the East China Sea
3. (a) Iran; (b) North Korea
4. (a) Mongolia; (b) Gobi Desert
5. (a) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; (b) Colombo, Sri Lanka

Bonus Question

The 119-mile-long canal provides a direct link between Asia and Europe, eliminating the need for ships to sail around Africa. This facilitates trade—saving time and money by making it quicker and more efficient to transport oil, manufactured goods, and other products.

Map of Africa

1. South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Chad, Libya
2. Sahara Desert
3. *oceans*: Atlantic, Indian, Southern; *seas*: Red, Mediterranean
4. (a) Nile; (b) Niger; (c) Zambezi
5. South Sudan; Juba; 2011

Bonus Question

The dromedary camel has a single hump made of fat that the animal's body can burn as fuel, enabling it to survive long periods of time without food. Its double row of eyelashes, slit-shaped nostrils, and fur-lined ears are protections against sandstorms. Thick pads on the soles of the feet allow it to walk on hot sands. The Sahara has very little vegetation, but if the camel finds thorny plants, its thick lips allow it to safely eat the plants. A camel can drink as much as 30 gallons of water at an oasis, enabling it to survive for long periods without water.

Map of Oceania

1. New Zealand; Wellington
2. Wallis and Fortuna, Tahiti, French Polynesia
3. Nauru (8 sq mi), Tuvalu (10 sq mi)
4. northeast
5. English, Fijian, Hindustani

Map of the Middle East

1. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran
2. Cyprus; Nicosia
3. Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia
4. northwest

5. Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt

JS Almanac (pp. 14-15)

- (a) Ethiopia; (b) Thailand; (c) Russia, 6,601,700 sq mi; (d) Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa; (e) Canada, 3,855,103 sq mi; U.S., 3,678,190 sq mi; Brazil, 3,287,612 sq mi (Only one other country, Argentina, has a landmass that exceeds 1 million sq mi.)
- (a) Iraq—*population*: 33,700,000, *% of pop. under 15*: 43, *literacy rate*: 86/71, *life expectancy*: 66/72, *HDI*: 0.573, *per capita GDP*: \$3,900; (b) Israel—*population*: 7,900,000, *% of pop. under 15*: 28, *literacy rate*: 99/96, *life expectancy*: 80/83, *HDI*: 0.888, *per capita GDP*: \$31,400; (c) Israel's greater literacy, life expectancy and HDI figures indicate a higher standard of living, as does its much larger per capita GDP (stronger economy).
(d) Answers will vary.
- (a) 1844, Spanish; (b) 1821, Spanish; (c) 1810, Spanish; (d) They were part of Spain's New World empire.
- (a) monarchy, king;
(b) Communist one-party state, first secretary; (c) presidential-parliamentary democracy, president; (d) dominant party in transition during civil war, president; (e) North Korea, Syria; in a Communist one-party state or dominant-party system, power tends to be tightly controlled by a single person or small group of people;
(f) South Korea

5. (a) white; (b) South Sudan; (c) In the case of South Sudan, it is a new country and might not have had a chance to compile such data yet. In countries under strict control, leaders may not want their own people or the outside world to know the facts. Other answers acceptable. (d) *North America*: Canada and the U.S., *Oceania*: Australia and New Zealand; (e) Bolivia, \$2,000 to \$4,999

Discussion Questions

- It could help strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico and allow the two presidents to discuss possibilities of increased trade between their countries. It could also give them an opportunity to discuss the problems of guns manufactured in the U.S. flowing into Mexico, Mexican immigrants illegally crossing the border into the U.S., and illegal drugs coming into the U.S. from Mexico.
- To strengthen U.S. ties with the leaders of those countries and increase U.S. trade with them; to urge an end to fighting in some of those countries; to attend National Women's Day events in South Africa and speak out for women's rights and opportunities there and in other African countries; to stress the urgency of controlling malaria, AIDS, the Ebola virus. For more on Secretary Clinton's Africa trip, visit state.gov/secretary/trvl/2012/195788.htm.

- Potential benefits*: creating jobs; producing electricity for manufacturing, transportation, and communications, for residences as well as industries; diverting water for irrigation and to control floods; other answers acceptable. *Potential harm*: damaging the ecosystem of the world's largest and most important rainforest; destroying the natural habitat of rare plants and animals; uprooting families, even whole communities, in the path of the dams; other answers acceptable.
- For many years, the U.S. and its allies have tried to negotiate with Iran and persuade its leaders to stop their nuclear-development program. Iran has refused. With nuclear capabilities, Iran is a serious threat in the Middle East. An embargo on Iranian oil means that the U.S. and countries of the European Union will no longer buy oil from Iran, which cuts off a major source of income for Iran. The embargo's purpose is to get the attention of Iran's leaders and persuade them to halt the nuclear program.
- Answers will vary, but students are likely to cite the success of NASA engineers and scientists in building and programming the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the *Curiosity* rover to achieve their goals of reaching Mars and landing safely. The rover is expected to explore the planet's surface and provide researchers with a wealth of information for years to come.