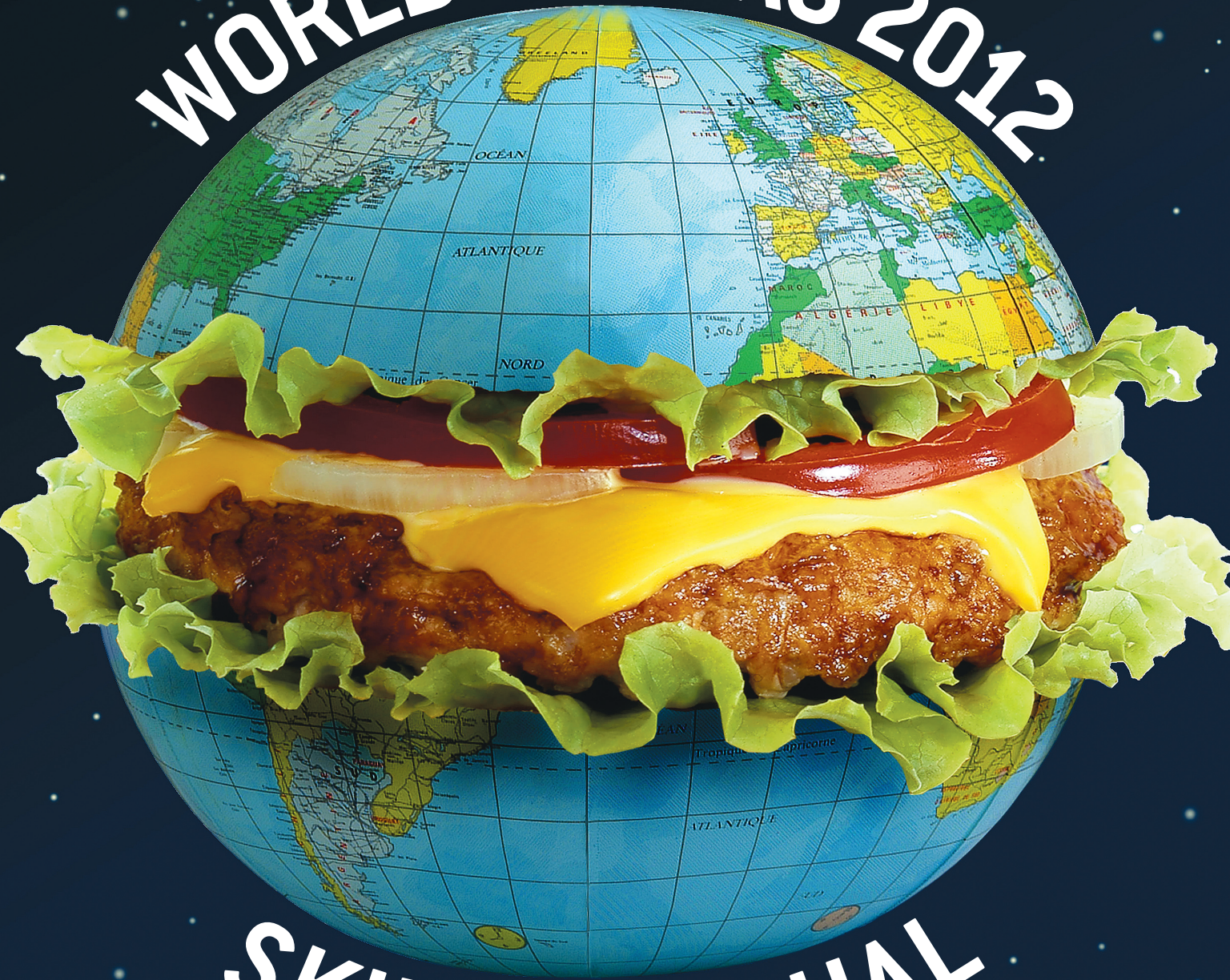


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WORLD AFFAIRS 2012



SKILLS MANUAL



Name: _____



JS Atlas

SKILLS MANUAL 2012



Map of North America

FAST FACTS

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

Population: About 546 million people. It ranks fourth among the continents, after Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Location: Includes Greenland,

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

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

Locate and identify the geographical features of North America that match these descriptions. Where you see an asterisk (), write the name of the country and/or geographical feature on the outline map.*

1. The national capitals at (a) 19°N, 99°W: _____; (b) 18°N, 72°W: _____; (c) 9°N, 80°W: _____
2. U.S. islands that form an archipelago stretching from 163°W to 172°E: _____ *
3. The body of water at 25°N, 95°W, which borders both the U.S. and Mexico: _____ *
4. The three bodies of water along Canada's east coast, between 50°N and 80°N: _____

5. Use the Almanac on pp. 12-13 of the magazine for this question: Name the three largest countries of North America* and the two major languages spoken in each of them: _____

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

Massive flooding occurred along the Mississippi River in the spring of 2011. What caused the flooding, and what major damage resulted from it? What efforts were made to control the floodwaters? _____



Name: _____



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Map of South America

FAST FACTS

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

Population: 396 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.

Locate and identify the geographical features of South America that match these descriptions. Where you see an asterisk (), write the name of the country and/or geographical feature on the outline map.*

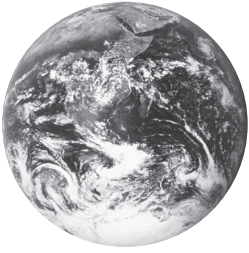
1. The high, rugged mountains that form South America's "western spine"*: _____
2. The national capitals at these locations and their respective countries: (a) 35°S, 58°W: _____; (b) 4°N, 74°W: _____; (c) 34°S, 71°W: _____
3. The sea and the oceans that surround South America: _____ *
4. The country that occupies almost 50 percent of the continent*: _____
5. The three major rivers of South America: _____

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

The Inca civilization is an important part of the history of South America. How long did this civilization flourish? What were some of its accomplishments? When and why did this remarkable civilization come to an end? _____

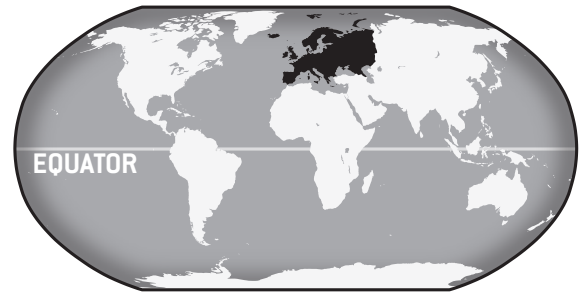


Name: _____



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EUROPE

Map of Europe

FAST FACTS

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

Population: Densely populated, with 739 million people. (This 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 much excellent farmland and is rich in mineral resources. Russia's Volga River, at 2,300 miles, is the continent's longest.

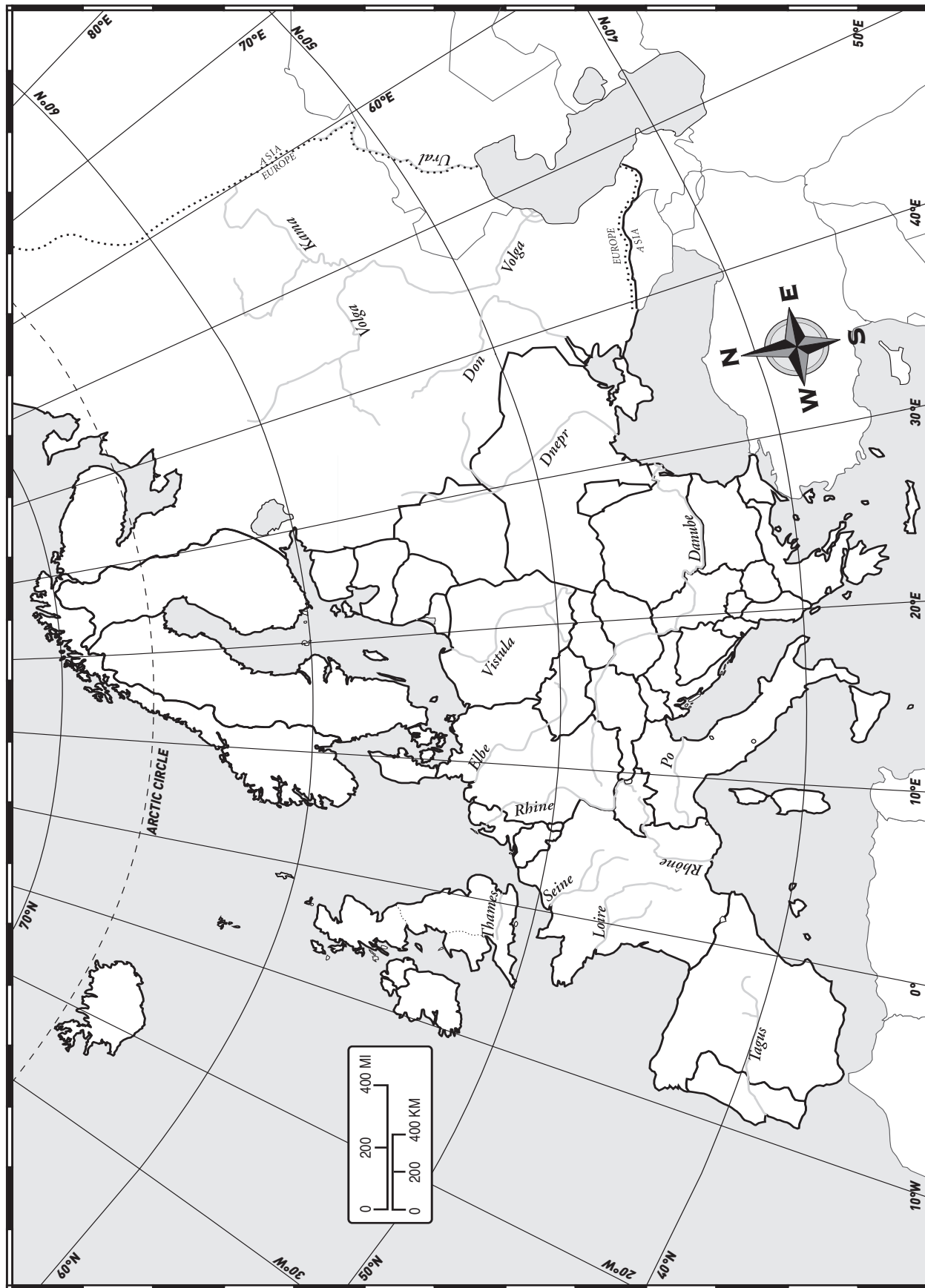
Elevation: Mount Elbrus, Russia (18,510 ft), is the highest peak.

Locate and identify the geographical features of Europe that match these descriptions. Where you see an asterisk (), write the name of the country and/or geographical feature on the outline map.*

1. The countries that share a border with France: _____ *
2. Germany's three major rivers: _____
3. The national capitals at these locations and their respective countries:
(a) 64°N, 22°W: _____; (b) 41°N, 5°W: _____
4. (a) The body of water at 50°N, 0°: _____;
(b) the country to the north of it: _____;
(c) the country to the south of it: _____
5. The mountain range on the border of Switzerland and Italy: _____

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

What was the importance of President and Mrs. Obama's state visit to the United Kingdom in May 2011?

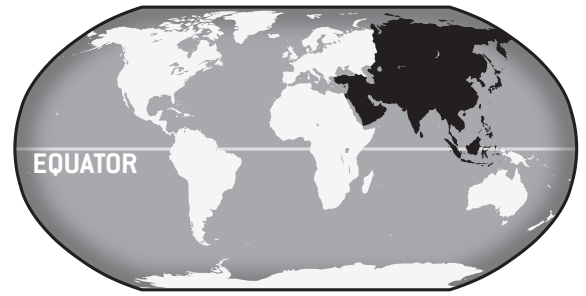


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ASIA

Map of Asia

FAST FACTS

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

Population: 4.2 billion people, three fifths of the world population. This includes Turkey (part of which is 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.

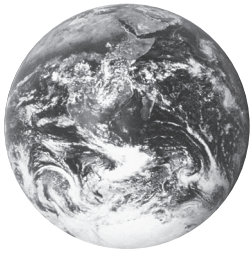
Elevation: *highest (in the world as well as in Asia):* Mount Everest (29,035 ft) on the border of Nepal and China and part of the Himalaya mountains; *lowest:* the Dead Sea (1,385 ft below sea level), a saltwater lake on the border of Jordan and Israel

Locate and identify the geographical features of Asia that match these descriptions. Where you see an asterisk (), write the name of the country and/or geographical feature on the outline map.*

1. The national capital at this location and its country: 34°N, 69°E: _____ *
2. Refer to the Economic Map of the World on pp. 8-9 of the magazine for this question: Of the following six countries of Asia—North Korea, South Korea, Japan, India, China, and Saudi Arabia—which three are the most prosperous? _____
3. (a) The vast desert at 43°N, 110°E, where winters are very cold: _____ *;
(b) the two countries in which this desert is located: _____ *
4. The island countries of Southeast Asia at these locations:
(a) 0°, 115°E: _____; (b) 10°N, 125°E: _____
5. The oceans along Asia: (a) to the north: _____; (b) to the east: _____; (c) to the south: _____ *

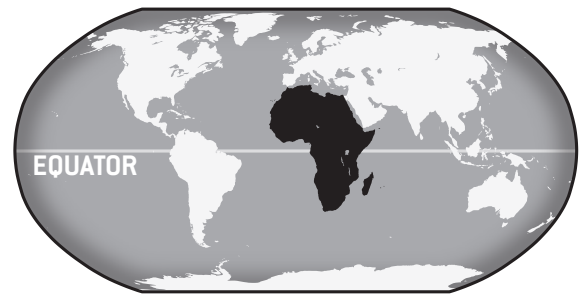
BONUS QUESTION (Do some research to find the answer. If more space is needed, write on the back of this page.)

In March 2011, a powerful earthquake and tsunami struck Japan. What factors made this such a catastrophic event? _____



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AFRICA

Map of Africa

FAST FACTS

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

Population: Just over 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. The world's longest river, 4,160 miles long, 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)

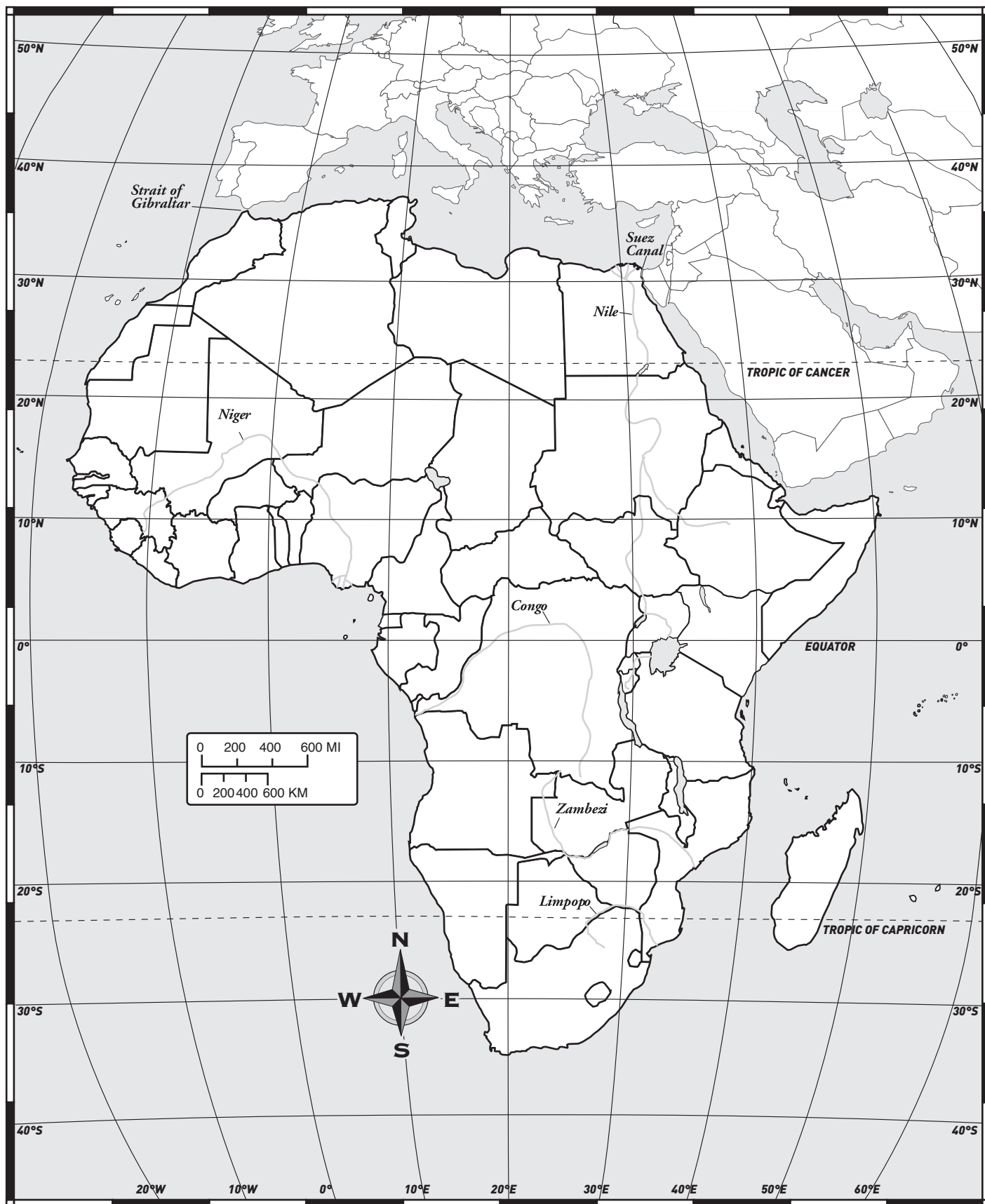
Locate and identify the geographical features of Africa that match these descriptions. Where you see an asterisk (), write the name of the country and/or geographical feature on the outline map.*

1. Direction you would travel if you were to fly from Sudan's capital to Angola's capital: _____
2. Bodies of water through which you would travel if you were to circle Africa by ship, starting at Alexandria, Egypt, heading west, and following the coast: _____
_____ *
3. Countries through which you would travel if you were to cross Africa, from west to east, at 20°N: _____

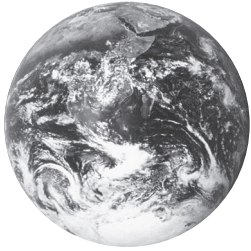
4. Africa's longest river, flowing north for more than 4,100 miles: _____ *
5. The country at 32°S, 20°E, that is a leading exporter of gold and diamonds: _____

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

For years, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has led efforts to eradicate malaria in impoverished nations such as Ethiopia. Why is it important to focus on malaria? _____

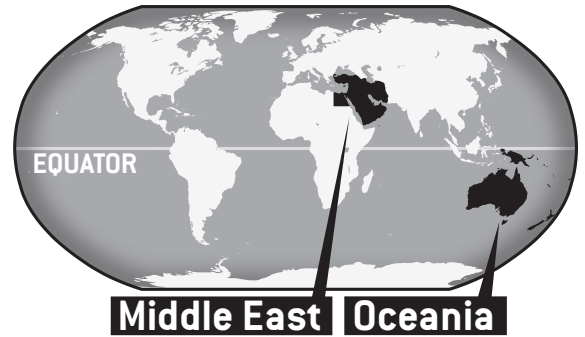


Name: _____



JS Atlas

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Map of Oceania

FAST FACTS

Location: Oceania is a region, not a continent. It includes Australia (the only nation that is

also a continent), New Zealand, and many other island countries and territories spread across a vast area of the Pacific Ocean.

Elevation: *highest:* Puncak Jaya, West Papua, Indonesia (16,503 ft); *lowest:* Lake Eyre, Australia (50 ft below sea level)

Locate and identify the places in Oceania that match the descriptions below. Where you see an asterisk (), write the name of the country or geographical feature on the map.*

1. Three island territories governed by the United States: _____
2. **[a]** The island/country/continent at 20°S, 140°E *: _____; **[b]** its capital _____
3. If you were to fly from Honiara, Solomon Islands, to Suva, Fiji, in which direction would you travel? _____
4. The country at 40°S, 177°E where earthquakes struck in February 2011: _____ *
5. The two oceans of this vast region: _____ *

Map of the Middle East

FAST FACTS

Location: The Middle East is a region, not a continent. Mostly in Asia, it extends into Africa

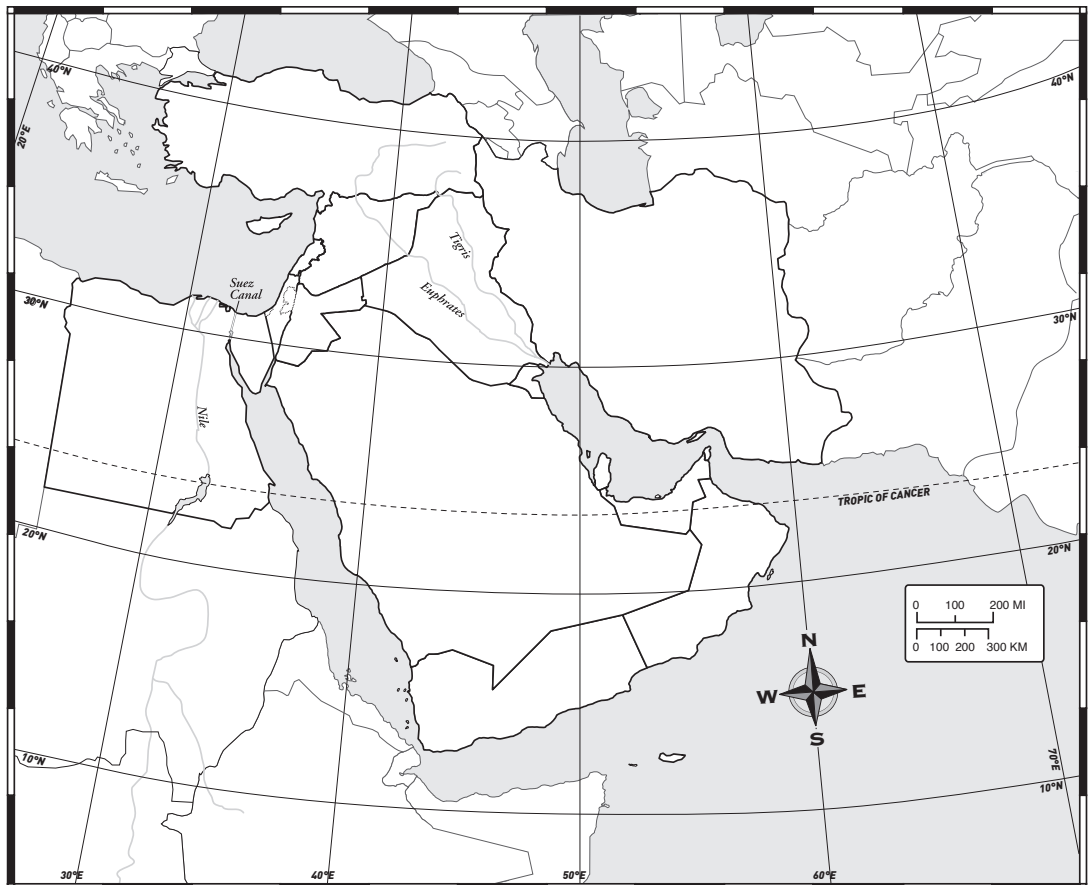
(Egypt) and Europe (a small section of Turkey). Islam is the dominant religion everywhere except Israel (Judaism) and

Cyprus (Christianity).

Physical features: Mostly desert. Several countries in the region are major oil producers.

Locate and identify the places in the Middle East that match the descriptions below. Where you see an asterisk (), write the name of the country or geographical feature on the map.*

1. The direction in which you would travel from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to Tehran, Iran: _____
2. **[a]** The country at 31°N, 35°E that declared its independence in 1948 as a homeland for the Jewish people and is the only democracy in the Middle East*: _____; **[b]** its capital: _____
3. Major oil-producing countries at these locations: **[a]** 24°N, 54°E*: _____; **[b]** 20°N, 48°E *: _____ *
4. The two seas and three gulfs that border the Arabian Peninsula: _____ *
5. The capital at 30° N, 31° E, and its country: _____





JS Almanac

SKILLS MANUAL 2012

Name: _____

The statistical tables in the World Affairs Annual 2012 are a valuable and easy-to-use data bank of important and interesting information about the world's 196 independent countries. For example, do you know which country in the Middle East is the largest in land size and which is the smallest? Which African country can trace its origins back to 1000 B.C?

In which European country are Lettish, Lithuanian, and Russian the major languages? Which Asian countries are known by more than one name? Use the JS Almanac pages to find out. You can make up your own questions too and quiz your friends. First study the sample entry on p. 4. Then use the data from these tables to answer the questions below.

1. You can get important clues about a country by finding out its year of independence and what languages are spoken there.

(a) For each of the following African countries, fill in the year of independence:

Mali: _____ Niger: _____ Senegal: _____

(b) What is the major language spoken in all three countries? _____

(c) Using this information, what can you conclude about the shared history of these countries? _____

2. Data about a country's 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 prosperity and standard of living. Compare the data for these two countries of Oceania:

	Population	% of Pop. Under 15	Literacy Rate (%, M/F)	Life Expectancy (M/F)	HDI	Per Capita GDP
(a) Australia:	_____	_____	____/____	____/____	_____	_____
(b) New Zealand:	_____	_____	____/____	____/____	_____	_____

(c) Looking at these data, what similarities in and differences between the two countries do you see?

(d) What can you conclude about the standard of living in these countries? _____

3. Now compare China and India:

	Population	% of Pop. Under 15	Literacy rate (%, M/F)	Life Expectancy (M/F)	HDI	Per Capita GDP
(a) China:	_____	_____	___/___	___/___	_____	_____
(b) India:	_____	_____	___/___	___/___	_____	_____
(c) What numbers are particularly notable for both countries?	_____					
(d) What enormous challenges do both China and India face now and in the years ahead?	_____					

4. (a) For the following countries, go to the tables of the Middle East and the column “Political System & Head of Government.”

	Political System	Title of the Head of Government
Oman:	_____	_____
Qatar:	_____	_____
Saudi Arabia:	_____	_____

(b) Do you think that the people of these countries have the same kinds of rights and freedoms we have in the U.S.? Why or why not? _____

5. Use information in the Economic Map of the World (pp. 8-9) and data from the Almanac tables (pp. 10-29) to answer the following questions. Keep in mind that the map is color-coded by per capita GDP (in U.S. dollars).

(a) Brazil and South Africa are in the same economic grouping. What color indicates that group? _____

(b) Use the Almanac tables to find the specific per capita GDP for each of these two countries:

Brazil: _____ South Africa: _____

Discussion Questions

You will need some knowledge of current events to discuss the following topics. These questions are open-ended, so they may not have clear-cut or correct answers. Choose one of the five questions to discuss in a small group. Give factual reasons to support your answers. You may find helpful information in the statistical tables.

1. What goals must government leaders continue to strive for to improve their countries' per capita GDP and standards of living?
2. Why are security and stability in the Persian Gulf vital to the government of the United Arab Emirates?
3. The Arab Spring has been a period of protests and uprisings in many Middle Eastern countries, as people demand more freedoms and democracy from their leaders. (a) What kinds of freedoms are citizens demanding? (b) How have leaders reacted to the demands? (c) What role has digital technology played?
4. Read about a country you would like to visit someday. Choose several places you would like to visit—cities, museums, national parks, etc. Why would you like to visit them? Share your information with the group.
5. Doctors Without Borders is an organization that sends teams of doctors, nurses, and other health experts to poor countries around the world to help in crisis situations. Why is its name appropriate for its cause?