

CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

THE
PASSPORT PROJECT
MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT WORKBOOK

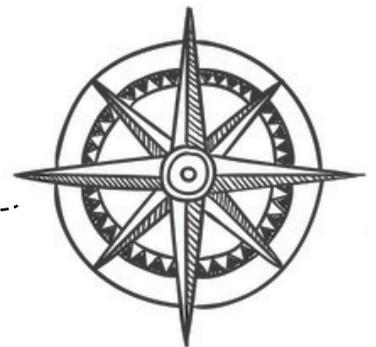
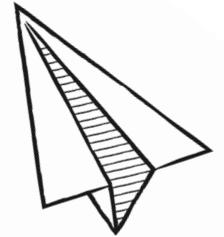
Jane Garrett



INNOVATIVE
LEARNING PRESS

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Chapter One: Planet Earth	19
Chapter Two: US & Canada	33
Chapter Three: Latin America	61
Chapter Four: Europe & Russia	8
Chapter Five: N. Africa & Southwest Asia	101
Chapter Six: Africa- South of the Sahara	117
Chapter Seven: Asia Pacific	131
Chapter Eight: Oceania, Australia, & Antarctica	147
Bonus Materials & Answer Key	163



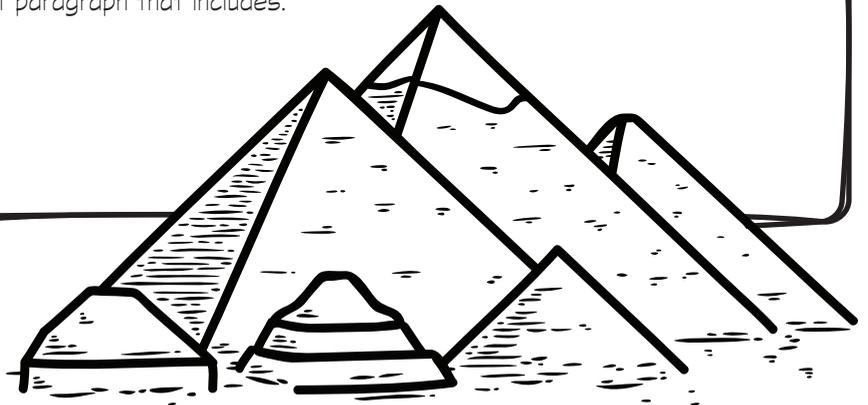
The following activities are designed to supplement the learning throughout this workbook and may be used with some or all of the units. They provide additional practice, enrichment, and hands-on engagement with the concepts students are studying. Teachers and parents may choose the activities that best support their learning goals and classroom needs.

Long ago, people created a list called the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, which included amazing structures like the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Over time, most of those ancient wonders were destroyed by earthquakes, fires, or natural decay. Because of this, and because the world has discovered many incredible landmarks since then, people decided to create a new list. In 2007, a worldwide vote was held to choose the New 7 Wonders of the World. The winners were the Great Wall of China, Petra, the Colosseum, Machu Picchu, Chichén Itzá, the Taj Mahal, and Christ the Redeemer. These places represent different civilizations and show how creative and skilled people have been throughout history.

*Choose one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. Your job is to recreate it using craft materials such as cardboard, paper, clay, LEGOs, recycled items, or anything else you can safely use.

When your model is finished, write a short paragraph that includes:

- Where your wonder is located
- Who built it
- 3-5 interesting facts about it



License plates were invented in the early 1900s, when automobiles started becoming popular. At first, cars did not have any kind of identification. As more cars appeared on the roads, governments realized they needed a way to identify vehicles and their owners. In 1901, the US state of New York became the first place to require license plates. Early plates were often homemade—people painted their initials or numbers onto metal, leather, or even wood.

Over time, states and countries began making official metal plates with unique numbers and letters for each vehicle. This system made it easier to keep records, enforce laws, and manage traffic.

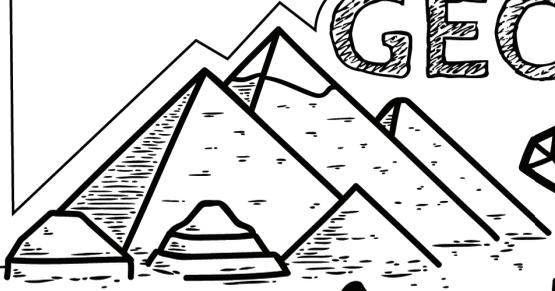
*Design a license plate for any region using symbols, icons, colors, etc that represent that country.

Movement



REGION

5 Themes of GEOGRAPHY



LOCATION



Human & Environment Interaction



PLACE



Climate and Resources

Vocabulary:

1. Climate
2. Hurricane
3. Supercell
4. Agriculture
5. Conservation

Climate has a major influence on cultural geography, shaping how societies develop, the activities people choose, and the kinds of buildings and cities they create. Where you live affects what you wear, how you travel, what sports you play, and even what foods you eat. In hot regions, people build homes that stay cool and spend more time outdoors in the evenings, while in cold regions, homes are designed to keep heat inside and daily routines adjust to snow and ice. Weather conditions also affect everyday life — whether people are swimming at the beach, shoveling snow from a driveway, or dealing with storms that interrupt electricity and internet service. In many ways, climate acts like a constant influence on human life, shaping decisions people make every day.

Here are several ways in which climate affects cultural geography:

Settlement Patterns: The climate of a region often determines where people choose to settle. In colder climates, you might find communities clustered around heat sources or bodies of water, while in warmer climates, settlements may be more dispersed.

Cultural Practices: Climate can shape cultural practices, traditions, and daily routines. Festivals, clothing styles, and even food preferences can be influenced by a region's climate.

Architecture: Climate influences architectural styles and building materials. For example, societies in hot climates might develop architecture that maximizes airflow and provides shade, while those in cold climates may focus on insulation and efficient heating.

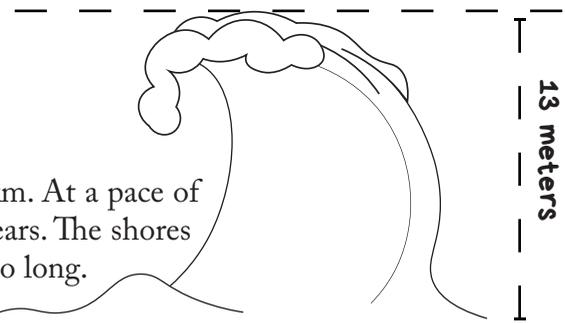
Transportation and Infrastructure: Harsh climates can impact transportation and infrastructure development. For example, societies in areas prone to heavy snowfall may develop specialized transportation and infrastructure to accommodate winter conditions.

Canada



There are millions of lakes in Canada. In fact, Canada has more lakes (by area) than any other country in the world. They're often big, too, with 563 lakes larger than 100 square km. Translated into American math, that's 38.6 square miles, or 1,076,390,600 square feet. That's right, over 500 lakes that are over a **billion square feet each!**

The Bay of Fundy in eastern Canada has the highest tides in the world. The waves there are more than 13 m (42 ft) high.



Canada boasts the **longest coastline** in the world at 243,000 km. At a pace of about 20 km each day, walking along the coast would take 33 years. The shores of **52,455 islands** are a big part of what makes the coastline so long.

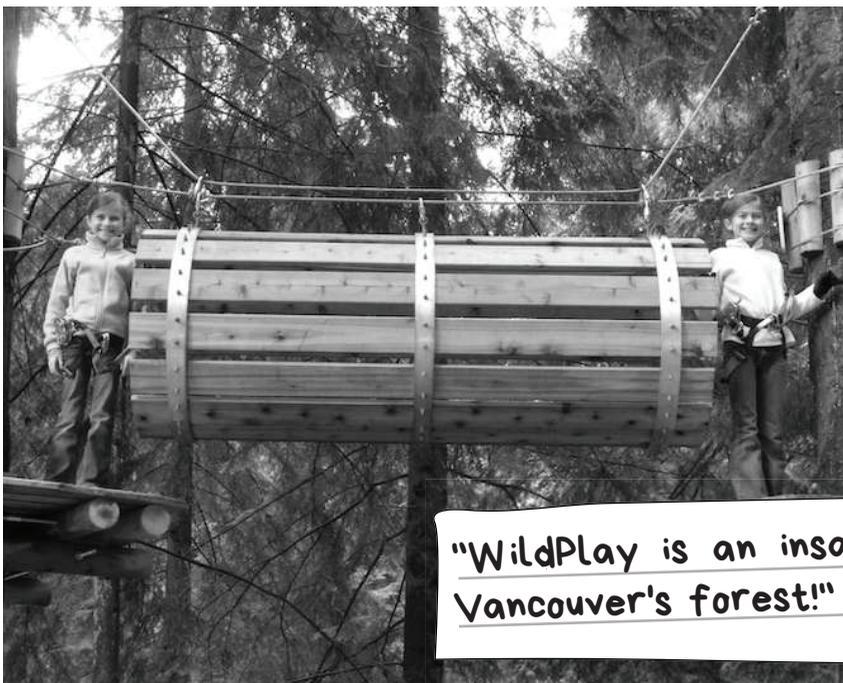


About 1.4 million Canadians self-identify as belonging to the Indigenous or Aboriginal people, among them First Nation people, Métis, and Inuit.

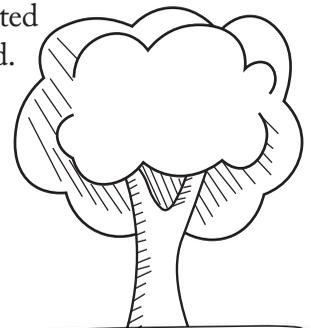
There are more than 2,800 hockey rinks in Canada. However, almost twice as many kids under the age of 14 play soccer, rather than hockey. Ice hockey remains the second-most practiced sport in Canada among people over 15 years of age.

Canada is the third-largest oil reserve holder in the world after Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. They are also the seventh-largest producer of oil.

The Trans-Canada Highway is said to be the longest national highway in the world.



About half of Canada's landmass is covered by forest. There are about 180 tree species in Canada, and timber is among the country's main exports. Canada is the third most forested country in the world.



"WildPlay is an insanely fun ropes course in Vancouver's forest!" ~Delaney

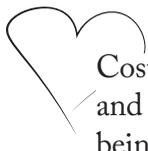


The Amazon rainforest has the greatest biodiversity in the world, with hundreds of animal species, over 40,000 plant species, and 2.5 million insect species. Here are a few of the most dangerous:

Poison dart frogs in the Amazon are so toxic that some Indigenous groups historically used their skin secretions to poison hunting darts. One frog can contain enough toxin to kill several adult humans—yet it's harmless in captivity because its diet changes.

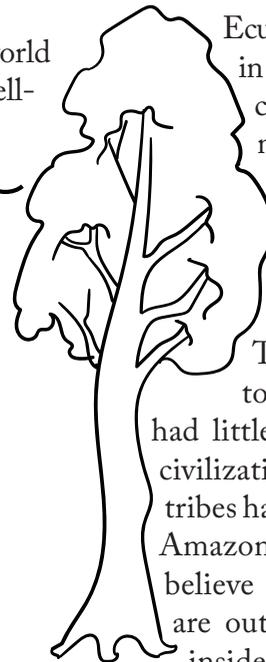
The bullet ant has one of the most painful insect stings in the world. The pain has been described as “being shot,” and some Amazon tribes include intentional bullet ant stings as part of coming-of-age rituals.

Electric eels in the Amazon can produce shocks of up to 860 volts, enough to stun prey—or a human—at a distance. They sometimes leap out of the water to deliver stronger shocks to threats.



Costa Rica is one of the happiest countries in the world and often tops happiness indexes that emphasize well-being and sustainability.

In Venezuela, a unique meteorological phenomenon called “Catatumbo lightning” occurs. At the point where the Catatumbo River meets Lake Maracaibo, lightning can strike the lake continuously for up to 10 hours at a time. The phenomenon lasts for approximately 160 days.



Ecuador was the first country in the world to give nature constitutional rights. As a result, nature can be defended in court.

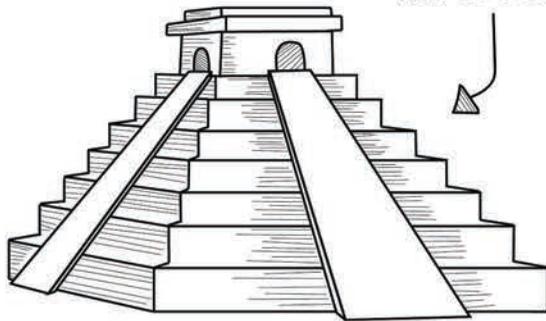
The Amazon forest is home to Indigenous tribes that have had little to no contact with modern civilization. Some of these Indigenous tribes have been discovered deep in the Amazon rainforest. And researchers believe that 77 uncontacted tribes are out there, dwelling even deeper inside the forest.

Regions and Resources

Latin America is a large and culturally rich region of the world. It is commonly divided into four major areas: Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, and South America. Each of these regions has its own geography, history, and cultural traditions.

Cultural Regions of Latin America

Complete the following activities:



Add some color!

This temple- El Castillo- belonged to the _____ people who settled in Mexico long before European explorers set foot there.

Circle all seven countries that make up Central America!

Chile

Panama

Venezuela

Mexico

Peru

Belize

Honduras

Brazil

Nicaragua

Costa Rica

El Salvador

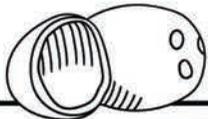
Columbia

Uruguay

Guatemala

Cuba

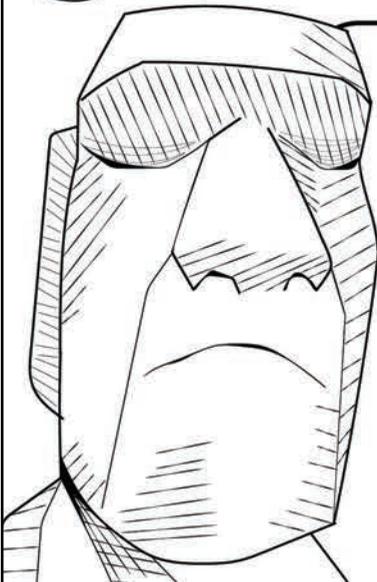
If you were to visit, what aspect of the Caribbean's culture would most interest you?



Research a landmark that interests you and fill in the blanks!

If I visited South America, I would visit _____
Landmark
 which is located in _____.
Country

_____ really highlights the cultural
Landmark
 influence of _____ on South America!
Cultural group



The Louvre: A hoarder's paradise for priceless relics with over 380,000 objects. Even if you spent only 30 seconds on each piece in the Louvre, it would take you 35 days straight to see it all. Also, there is another Louvre in Lens, France. But more crazy is the third Louvre. By 2017, another Louvre came along, this time, in Abu Dhabi. France and the United Arab Emirates embarked on an agreement to use some artwork. But using the famous Louvre name cost \$520 million alone

A

Wales has a town with the longest name on record. Try pronouncing "Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch." It might look like someone dropped something on their keyboard, but it's a real name, and it means "cave." The name is 58 letters long, making it the longest name of any town in Europe, but you can call it Llanfairpwll, or Llanfair PG for short.

X

B

Wales might have the longest town name, but Scandinavia takes the crown for the shortest town names. There are 10 villages across Denmark, Sweden, and Norway that have names just one letter long. Most are named "Å," meaning "small brook or river" in Scandinavian languages, while one village is named "Ö," meaning "island" in Swedish.

Y

C

Z

"I double dog dare you to write the entire name of the hill in New Zealand that holds the Guinness World Record for the longest name. It has 85 letters!" ~Delaney (TPP, pg 237)

Europe Regions

Europe is commonly divided into four main regions, each characterized by distinct geographical, cultural, and historical features. These regions are Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, and Northern Europe.

Western Europe includes countries such as France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg). This region is known for strong economies and a high standard of living. Western Europe has played an important role in world history, especially during the age of exploration and colonization, and it continues to be influential in global politics and trade today.

"Brugge (or Bruges), Belgium is straight out of a fairy tale! We rode bikes to the countryside to see the famous windmills and we got VERY lost on the way back."
~Riley



Unit 5 Review

1. Which statement best describes the Sahara Desert?
 - A. It is mostly sand dunes
 - B. It is mostly rock and gravel
 - C. It is covered in frozen tundra
 - D. It is dense rainforest

2. Which North African country has the highest population and is home to the Great Pyramids?
 - A. Libya
 - B. Algeria
 - C. Egypt
 - D. Sudan

3. Where does the word “mocha” come from?
 - A. A mountain range in Morocco
 - B. A Yemeni port near the Red Sea
 - C. A city in Iraq
 - D. A river in Sudan

4. The Assassins in the video game *Assassin's Creed* are based on a real group called the:
 - A. Hashishiyyin
 - B. Crusaders
 - C. Mongols
 - D. Ottomans

5. Which statement about the Dead Sea is true?
 - A. It is freshwater and safe to drink
 - B. It is a river flowing into the Mediterranean
 - C. It is located entirely in Egypt
 - D. It is a salt lake where people float easily

6. Why is water management so important in this region?
 - A. The region floods every year
 - B. Most rivers are frozen
 - C. Water is scarce and often shared between countries
 - D. The region has too many lakes

FUN FACTS

In South Africa, you are legally allowed to attach flamethrowers to your car in order to deter carjacking. Seriously.



It takes one minute longer to boil an egg in Johannesburg than in Cape Town and Durban. This is because Johannesburg is two thousand meters above sea level, where the air is less dense.

The author of the world-famous Lord of the Rings books, J.R.R. Tolkien, was born in Bloemfontein in 1892. Bloemfontein, also known as Bloem, is the capital and the largest city of the Free State province in South Africa.

From aardvarks to zebras, South Africa is bursting with wonderful wildlife! Although the country accounts for only about **one percent of Earth's land surface**, it's home to almost ten percent of the world's known bird, fish, and plant species, and about six percent of its mammal and reptile species.



"Y'all, an African safari deserves to be at the top of your bucket list! It's AMAZING. We stayed in a tent in South Africa where an armed guard escorted us around the camp because wild animals—elephants, zebras, lions, rhinos, and more—are everywhere! On our first game drive we came upon a pack of hyenas devouring an elephant carcass. One hyena trotted away with an elephant leg clamped between his teeth, like a Milk Bone dog biscuit." Delaney

South Africa moves about 5 centimeters farther away from South America each year due to a subtle continuation of continental drift.

The world's biggest frog is found in Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon. Named the goliath frog, it can grow up to a foot long and weigh up to 8 lb.

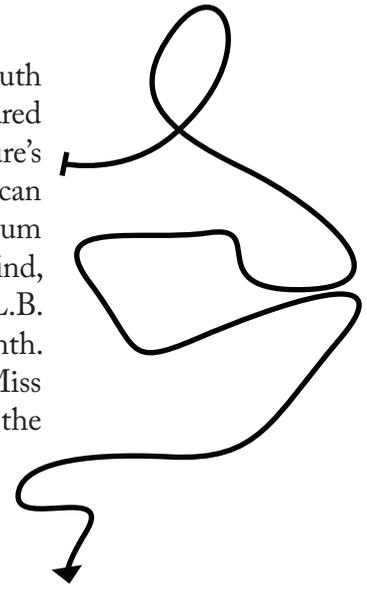


Johannesburg is the world's largest man-made forest, home to over ten million trees that help reduce noise in the city.

Stranger Things

The Not-So-Extinct Fish:

Just days before Christmas in 1938, an unusually large fish was captured at the mouth of the Chalumna River on the east coast of South Africa. The fish was ensnared in a shark gill net by Captain Goosen and his crew. Recognizing the creature's uniqueness, they decided to notify the local museum in the quaint South African town of East London. At that time, the Director of the East London Museum was Miss Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer. Realizing the importance of this find, she promptly contacted the distinguished South African ichthyologist, Dr J.L.B. Smith. The fishermen had caught a species long thought extinct—the Coelacanth. This marked the beginning of an intriguing scientific journey. In homage to Miss Courtenay-Latimer's role in bringing attention to this extraordinary discovery, the Coelacanth was eventually bestowed the scientific name *Latimeria chalumnae*.



The Blue Stone Mystery:

In 1990, a scientist named Angelo Pitoni unearthed a peculiar blue stone from the soil. This mysterious discovery led to a quest for answers as the stone, aptly named the sky-blue stone, puzzled experts around the world. Pieces of the stone were sent to laboratories in Germany, Rome, Utrecht, Geneva, and Tokyo. Surprisingly, none of these labs could identify the stone's origin. What they did agree on was that this unique blue stone was unlike anything seen before and certainly didn't resemble any ordinary rock. The scientists suspected it might be artificial. Through analysis, they found that the stone contained oxygen, sodium, calcium, carbon, and silicon, similar to the composition of human-made materials like stucco or concrete.

The enigma deepened when they discovered that this mysterious stone was only found in soil layers dating back to 12,000 BCE.

This has led scientists to speculate that it might be a creation of an ancient civilization yet to be uncovered.

The sky-blue stone remains a captivating mystery, waiting for further exploration and discovery.

Desert Crop Circles:

The Namib Desert in southern Africa is home to some strange fairy circles that have baffled scientists for years, amid luscious grasses that span 1,100 miles. It is a series of barren rings, between 2 and 15 meters in diameter.

Why is it that these circles exist, and why does grass grow all around them but not in the rings? Scientists are starting to realize that there are two possible theories: plants could be fighting for survival, and smaller plants can't get the water they need and die away at the edges of a patch of grass, creating gaps at regular intervals, while the grasses are competing for water. Other researchers believe that when termites burrow underground, create tunnels, and look for food, they destroy vegetation on the surface. They also fight over territory, resulting in one colony taking out another. Either one of these theories could be correct.

Wildlife Conservation

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to some of the world's most endangered species. Conservation initiatives often involve a combination of national and international organizations, governments, local communities, and non-governmental organizations. Key focus areas include the protection of endangered species, habitat preservation, community engagement, and anti-poaching measures.

Protected areas and national parks are established to safeguard critical habitats and provide safe havens for wildlife. These areas serve as crucial zones for the conservation of iconic species such as elephants, rhinoceroses, lions, and various primates. Community-based conservation projects aim to involve local communities in wildlife management and provide economic incentives for conservation, fostering a sense of stewardship.

Anti-poaching efforts are integral to conservation in the region. Wildlife crime, including poaching for ivory, rhino horns, and bushmeat, poses a significant threat to many species. Poaching is a component of wildlife trafficking (i.e., illegal trade in wildlife). International demand, particularly from Asia, drives poaching and trafficking of certain high-profile African wildlife products, and threatens some species' existence. Conservation organizations work alongside law enforcement agencies to combat illegal wildlife trade, employing technology such as drones and GPS tracking to monitor and protect wildlife.

International partnerships and funding play a crucial role, with organizations like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and various governmental agencies contributing to conservation efforts. Educational programs and ecotourism initiatives further raise awareness and generate revenue for conservation projects.

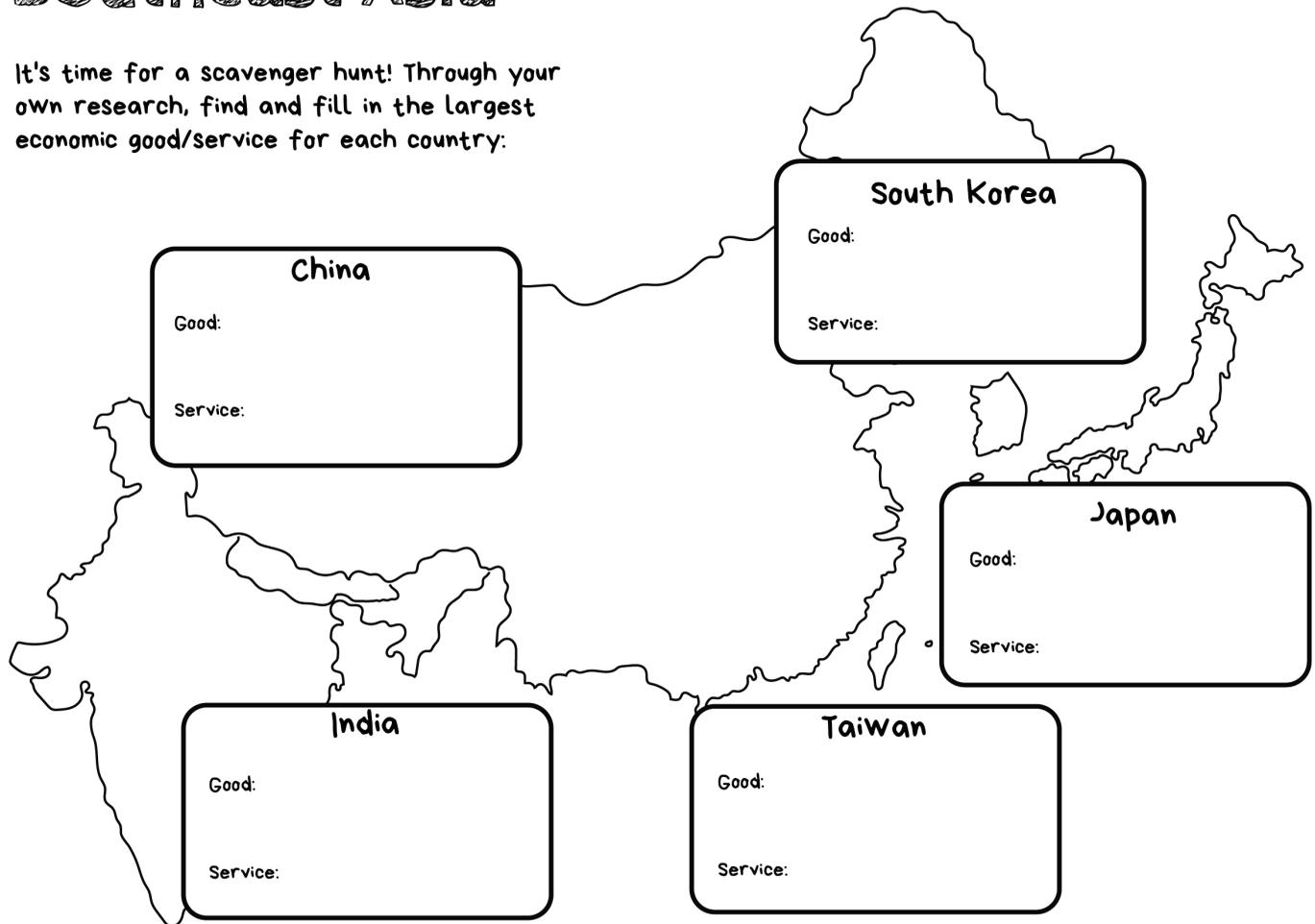
While progress has been made, challenges such as habitat loss and poaching persist. Effective wildlife conservation in Sub-Saharan Africa requires continued collaboration, sustainable development practices, and a holistic approach that considers the needs of both wildlife and local communities.

"Namibia is the second-least-densely-populated country in the world. (Mongolia is first.) What it lacks in human population it makes up for in wildlife and landscapes. You can drive for hours and not see another human being, vehicle, restaurant or gas station. Which means there are no bathrooms for potty stops! The only 'restrooms' were sand dunes. We had to scan the area for wildlife before getting out of the van, so we didn't end up as something's lunch. Due to Namibia's desolation and wild animals roaming around, driving after dark is prohibited by rental car companies. Namibia feels like a different planet." ~Mom



The Largest Economic Goods/Services: Southeast Asia

It's time for a scavenger hunt! Through your own research, find and fill in the largest economic good/service for each country:



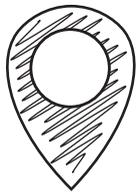
Research the answers to the following questions:

Which of these countries is the leading producer of goods?

Does Japan produce more goods or services?

Which of these countries produces the least amount of goods?

What is the main weakness of Asia's export dependence?



Spotlight on Culture

Martial Arts and the Entertainment Industry:

Martial arts have had a big influence on movies and television around the world. One of the most important ways this happened was through martial arts films, which became popular in the mid-1900s. Famous martial artists such as Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, and Jet Li became international stars. Their movies showed impressive fight scenes, athletic skill, and strong personalities, helping martial arts reach audiences around the world.

These films did more than entertain. They introduced ideas like discipline, respect, and self-control, which are important parts of martial arts. Martial arts movies also influenced fashion, popular phrases, and how action scenes are filmed today.

Martial arts have become an important part of modern action movies. Many Hollywood films now use martial arts moves and training styles, even if they are not traditional martial arts movies. This blending of cultures has helped create new types of action scenes and storytelling that appeal to people from different backgrounds.

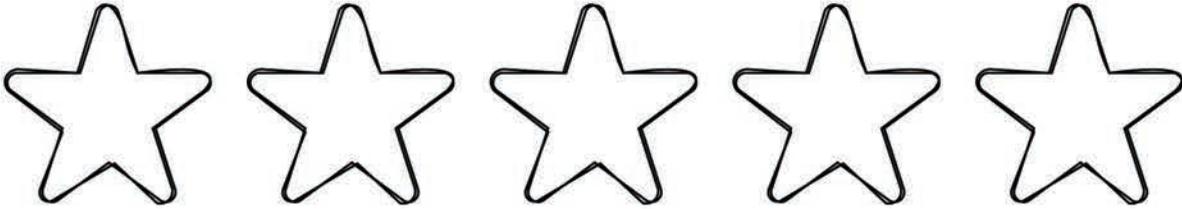
Martial arts have also made their way into television. Many TV shows, both historical and modern, focus on martial arts fighters and their journeys. These shows often highlight training, honor, and personal growth while telling long, detailed stories over multiple episodes.

Overall, martial arts continue to shape entertainment by inspiring filmmakers, actors, and choreographers. Their influence can be seen in movies and TV shows around the world today.

Movie Review

Pick one movie you've seen (or find a new one to watch!) and fill out the review below!

How many stars would you give the film you chose? (Fill in the ones below)



What was your favorite part?

What was your least favorite part?

Sketch your favorite character



Additional Comments:

A large, empty rectangular box with a double-line border, intended for a user to draw or sketch their favorite character from a movie.