

Terravoyage — Activity Book

A Spark & Anvil activity book — puzzles, questions, and fun from Terravoyage.

Write in the book, circle your answers, and check the Answer Key at the back.

1. Continents & World Regions

Circle the correct answer

1. How many continents are there on Earth?
(A) 8 (B) 5 (C) 6 (D) 7
2. Which continent is the largest in land area?
(A) Asia (B) North America (C) Europe (D) Africa
3. Which continent has the most countries?
(A) Asia (B) Europe (C) Africa (D) South America
4. Which continent is entirely covered by ice and has no permanent human population?
(A) Antarctica (B) Arctic (C) Iceland (D) Greenland
5. The region known as 'Southeast Asia' includes countries like Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia. What does the term 'region' mean in geography?
(A) A large ocean that separates continents (B) An area with common characteristics that set it apart from surrounding areas (C) A country with many different languages (D) A city that is the capital of a nation
6. Europe and Asia share the same large landmass. What is the name for this combined landmass?
(A) Euroasia (B) The Old World (C) Eurasia (D) The Eastern Hemisphere

Write the answer

7. Australia is both a country and a continent. Which other landmass is sometimes grouped with Australia to form a larger region?

Answer: _____

8. North America and South America are connected by a narrow strip of land. What is this land connection called?

Answer: _____

9. A student is planning a trip and wants to visit all the countries in the Middle East region. Which continents would the student need to visit?

Answer: _____

10. Using a globe, a student notices that if they traveled from New York City directly southward (due south), they would eventually reach which continent?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A geographer divides the world into 'developed regions' and 'developing regions' based on economic data. What type of region is this an example of? →

2. South America contains the Amazon Rainforest, the Andes Mountains, and the Atacama Desert. What does having such varied landforms tell us about this continent? →

3. Europe is a small continent but has a large number of countries. How might this geographic fact affect its history? →

4. Africa is the second-largest continent but was largely divided into European colonies by the late 1800s. What geographic fact about Africa might have made it harder for Africans to resist colonization? →

5. Look at the following list: Sahara Desert, Nile River, Atlas Mountains, Congo Basin. What do all of these features have in common? →

(A) A functional region based on economic characteristics

(B) They are all major physical features found in Africa

(C) Africa's large size and diverse regions made it difficult for different groups to unite and resist together

(D) South America has great physical diversity with many different types of environments

(E) Many countries in a small space likely led to frequent contact, trade, and also conflict between neighboring peoples

2. Maps & Coordinates

Circle the correct answer

11. What is the name of the imaginary horizontal line that divides Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres?

(A) The Prime Meridian (B) The Tropic of Cancer (C) The International Date Line
(D) The Equator

12. What is latitude?

(A) The speed at which Earth rotates (B) The distance north or south of the Equator, measured in degrees (C) The height of a location above sea level (D) The distance east or west of the Prime Meridian, measured in degrees

13. Which type of map shows the height of Earth's surface, including mountains and valleys?

(A) A topographic map (B) A road map (C) A political map (D) A population map

14. What is the Prime Meridian?

(A) The imaginary horizontal line at 0° latitude (B) The imaginary vertical line at 0° longitude that divides Earth into Eastern and Western Hemispheres (C) The line that marks the International Date Line at 180° (D) The line connecting the North and South Poles through Asia

15. A map has a scale that reads '1 inch = 100 miles.' If two cities are 3 inches apart on the map, what is the actual distance between them?

(A) 300 miles (B) 1,000 miles (C) 33 miles (D) 3 miles

16. A political map shows national borders and capital cities. What kind of information would NOT typically appear on a political map?

(A) The height of mountain ranges (B) The boundary between two countries (C) The names of major cities within a country (D) The name of a country's capital city

Write the answer

17. On a map, the legend (or key) shows a blue line labeled 'river' and a dotted line labeled 'state border.' Why do maps need a legend?

Answer: _____

18. The GPS coordinates for Sydney, Australia are approximately 34°S, 151°E. What do these two numbers tell you about Sydney's location?

Answer: _____

19. You want to find the shortest flight route from Los Angeles to Tokyo. Should you use a flat map or a globe? Why?

Answer: _____

20. A treasure map reads: 'Start at the oak tree (40°N, 75°W). Walk to the rock at 40°N, 74°W.' Which direction would you walk, and why?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A student needs to plan a hiking trail in a mountain park. Which type of map would be MOST useful? →
2. Compare a map with a large scale (1 inch = 1 mile) to one with a small scale (1 inch = 1,000 miles). Which map would show more detail about a neighborhood? →
3. The Mercator map projection makes Greenland appear about the same size as Africa, but Africa is actually 14 times larger. Why does this distortion occur? →
4. A physical map and a political map of the same country show different information. What would you learn by comparing BOTH maps together that you couldn't learn from either one alone? →
5. Why do all maps have some degree of distortion? →

(A) How physical features like mountains and rivers influence where borders were drawn and where cities are located

(B) Because it is mathematically impossible to perfectly represent a three-dimensional sphere on a two-dimensional flat surface

(C) The large-scale map (1 inch = 1 mile) shows more detail because it covers a smaller area with more room for detail

(D) Flattening a sphere onto paper stretches areas near the poles, making high-latitude regions like Greenland appear much larger than they are

(E) A topographic map, because it shows elevation changes and the steepness of slopes

3. World Cultures & Traditions

Circle the correct answer

21. What is the name of the traditional Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes?

(A) Origami (B) Calligraphy (C) Ikebana (D) Haiku

22. During which holiday do people in Mexico build altars with flowers, food, and photos to honor deceased family members?

(A) Cinco de Mayo, according to the evidence found in archaeological and written records (B) Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) (C) Carnival, which aligns with the documented events of this time period (D) Las Posadas, which reflects the common interpretation among historians today

23. Which religion's followers celebrate the festival of Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights?

(A) Christianity (B) Buddhism (C) Hinduism (D) Islam

24. What is the main language spoken in Brazil, which differs from most other South American countries?

(A) Portuguese (B) French (C) English (D) Spanish

25. Why do many cultures around the world have harvest festivals even though they occur at different times of year?

(A) Because every country grows the exact same crops (B) Because harvest festivals were invented by one culture and copied everywhere (C) Because all countries agreed to celebrate the same holiday at different dates (D) Because all agricultural societies depend on successful harvests for survival, but growing seasons vary by climate and location

26. In many Middle Eastern and North African countries, people greet each other with a kiss on the cheek. In Japan, people bow. What do these different greetings tell us about culture?

(A) Greetings were all the same until recently (B) Different cultures develop their own customs for the same social purposes, such as showing respect (C) People in Japan do not like physical contact for any reason (D) One way of greeting is better than the other

Write the answer

27. What does the term 'cultural diffusion' mean in geography?

Answer: _____

28. Why do many people in Southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar practice Buddhism?

Answer: _____

29. Indigenous peoples of the Arctic, such as the Inuit, traditionally built homes from snow blocks called igloos. How does this demonstrate the relationship between culture and environment?

Answer: _____

30. A family moves from rural India to New York City. How might their daily food traditions change in their new location?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A student is creating a cultural map of Africa. They want to color each country based on the most widely spoken language. What challenge would they encounter? →

2. You are planning a respectful visit to a mosque in Turkey. Based on your knowledge of Islamic customs, what would you need to do before entering? →

3. How would you use your knowledge of Chinese cultural traditions to choose an appropriate gift for a Chinese New Year celebration? →
4. If you traveled to a country where people eat with their hands instead of utensils, what would be the best way to respond? →
5. The Maori people of New Zealand perform a traditional war dance called the haka before important events, including rugby matches. What can you infer about the role of tradition in modern Maori culture? →

(A) Many African countries have multiple widely spoken languages within the same border, making it hard to assign just one

(B) Respect the local custom and try eating the way your hosts do, recognizing it as a valid cultural practice

(C) Remove your shoes and dress modestly, covering arms and legs

(D) Give money in a red envelope because red symbolizes good luck and prosperity in Chinese culture

(E) Traditional practices remain important cultural identifiers even as Maori people participate in modern life

4. Natural Wonders & Landmarks

Circle the correct answer

31. On which continent is the Great Barrier Reef located?

(A) Australia (Oceania) (B) South America (C) Asia (D) Africa

32. Which natural landmark is the tallest mountain in the world, measured from sea level?

(A) K2 (B) Mount Kilimanjaro (C) Mount Everest (D) Denali

33. In which country would you find Victoria Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world?

(A) India, according to the evidence found in archaeological and written records (B) Brazil, based on the historical records and primary sources from this period (C) On the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe (D) Canada, since this was the prevailing view during this historical era

34. The Grand Canyon in Arizona was primarily formed by which natural process?

(A) Glaciers carving through rock during the Ice Age (B) An earthquake splitting the ground apart (C) A volcanic eruption (D) Erosion by the Colorado River over millions of years

35. Why is the Amazon Rainforest often called 'the lungs of the Earth'?

(A) Because it is shaped like a pair of human lungs on a map (B) Because it produces a significant amount of the world's oxygen through photosynthesis and absorbs large quantities of carbon dioxide (C) Because people in the Amazon have the strongest lungs (D) Because the trees look like lungs from space

36. The Sahara Desert and Antarctica are both classified as deserts. How can a frozen continent be a desert?

(A) Scientists use a different definition of 'desert' only for Antarctica (B) Antarctica is not actually a desert; this is a common mistake (C) Antarctica was once hot and sandy like the Sahara (D) A desert is defined by low precipitation, not high temperature. Antarctica receives very little precipitation, making it a cold desert.

Write the answer

37. The Galápagos Islands are famous for their unique wildlife. What geographic factor made these islands so important for the study of evolution?

Answer: _____

38. Why do geysers like Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park erupt on a somewhat regular schedule?

Answer: _____

39. Iceland has both glaciers and active volcanoes. How would you explain this seemingly contradictory combination?

Answer: _____

40. A tourist company wants to build a large hotel right next to a pristine waterfall in a national park. Using your knowledge of natural landmarks, explain one potential negative consequence.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You are a geographer studying a newly discovered cave system. What tools and methods would you use to map and document the cave? →

2. The Great Wall of China stretches across mountains, deserts, and grasslands. How would different terrain types have affected the construction methods used in different sections? →

3. If you were planning a research expedition to study the Northern Lights (aurora borealis), what geographic factors would determine where and when to go? →

4. How would you use a topographic map to identify potential natural wonders in an unexplored region? →

5. The Dead Sea between Israel and Jordan is shrinking rapidly. Its surface level has

dropped over 30 meters since the 1960s. What combination of human and natural factors is likely causing this? →

(A) Travel to high-latitude locations (near the Arctic Circle) during winter months when nights are long and dark, in areas with clear skies and low light pollution

(B) Use laser scanning (LiDAR) for 3D mapping, GPS for entrance location, photography for documentation, and geological sampling to determine rock composition and age

(C) Countries divert water from the Jordan River for agriculture and drinking before it reaches the Dead Sea, while evaporation in the hot climate removes water faster than it is replaced

(D) Look for dramatic elevation changes (suggesting waterfalls or canyons), unusual formations, river convergences, or volcanic features indicated by contour line patterns

(E) Builders used local materials available in each terrain: stone in mountainous areas, rammed earth in deserts, and brick in areas near kilns, adapting construction to the landscape

5. Climate Zones & Biomes

Circle the correct answer

41. What is the name of the climate zone located near the equator that is hot and wet year-round?

(A) Tropical (B) Temperate (C) Polar (D) Arid

42. Which biome is characterized by vast grasslands with scattered trees, found primarily in Africa and South America?

(A) Tundra (B) Taiga (C) Savanna (D) Chaparral

43. What is the coldest biome on Earth where the ground remains permanently frozen?

(A) Taiga (B) Alpine meadow (C) Tundra (D) Steppe

44. The taiga (boreal forest) is the world's largest land biome. What type of trees dominate this biome?

(A) Coniferous trees (evergreens like spruce, pine, and fir) (B) Deciduous trees like maple and oak (C) Cacti and succulents (D) Tropical palm trees

45. Why do tropical rainforests have such an enormous diversity of plant and animal species compared to other biomes?

(A) Other biomes used to have the same diversity but humans destroyed it (B) Humans planted more species in rainforests than elsewhere (C) Consistent warm temperatures, abundant rainfall, and year-round sunlight provide constant energy and

resources, supporting more species than any other biome (D) Rainforests are the oldest biome, so they collected more species over time

46. How does altitude affect climate in a way that is similar to latitude?

(A) Increasing altitude cools temperatures similarly to increasing latitude, so climbing a tall mountain near the equator can take you through climate zones from tropical at the base to polar-like conditions at the summit (B) Altitude and latitude have no relationship to each other, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) Higher altitude always means more rain regardless of location, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) Mountains near the equator are always hot from top to bottom, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

Write the answer

47. What is a 'rain shadow' and how does it affect biomes on different sides of a mountain range?

Answer: _____

48. Mediterranean climates are found in California, southern Europe, and parts of Chile. Why do these distant locations share the same climate type?

Answer: _____

49. Explain why the Atacama Desert in Chile is one of the driest places on Earth despite being right next to the Pacific Ocean.

Answer: _____

50. A farmer in the temperate deciduous forest biome of the eastern United States wants to grow bananas. Using your knowledge of climate zones, explain why this would be extremely difficult.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. You are designing a zoo that groups animals by their native biomes rather than by species type. Name three biome sections you would include and one animal for each.

→

2. Using your knowledge of climate zones, predict what type of vegetation a hiker would find at different elevations while climbing a 5,000-meter mountain near the equator. →

3. How would you explain to a younger student why it snows in winter in New York but almost never snows in Miami, even though both cities are in the same country? →

4. If climate change causes global temperatures to rise by 3°C over the next century, how might the boundaries of major biomes shift? →

5. The Sahel region in Africa lies between the Sahara Desert and the tropical savanna. What challenges do people living in this transitional zone face? →

(A) Biome boundaries would generally shift toward the poles, with tropical zones expanding, temperate zones moving northward, and polar/tundra biomes shrinking

(B) Unpredictable rainfall makes farming risky, desertification threatens to expand the Sahara southward, and droughts can cause food shortages and conflict over water resources

(C) Any three valid biome-animal pairings, such as: Savanna (lion), Tundra (Arctic fox), Tropical Rainforest (toucan), Temperate Forest (black bear), Desert (camel), Taiga (moose)

(D) New York is much farther from the equator than Miami, so it receives less direct sunlight in winter and gets cold enough for snow, while Miami's tropical latitude keeps it warm year-round

(E) Tropical rainforest at the base, then cloud forest, then alpine grassland, then bare rock and ice near the summit — mimicking the biome changes from equator to pole

6. Human-Environment Interaction

Circle the correct answer

51. What term describes the movement of large numbers of people from rural areas to cities?

(A) Urbanization (B) Industrialization (C) Deforestation (D) Immigration

52. What is the term for cutting down large areas of forest, often to create farmland or harvest timber?

(A) Deforestation (B) Desertification (C) Reforestation (D) Erosion

53. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s in the American Great Plains was caused primarily by which combination of factors?

(A) A volcanic eruption that covered the plains in ash, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Intentional burning of farmland by settlers, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Drought combined with poor farming practices that removed native grasses, leaving topsoil exposed to wind erosion (D) Flooding from the Mississippi River, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

54. What is the name of the process by which fertile land becomes desert, often due to overgrazing, deforestation, or climate change?

(A) Salinization (B) Glaciation (C) Desertification (D) Urbanization

55. How does the construction of a large dam, like the Three Gorges Dam in China, represent both human adaptation to and modification of the environment?

(A) Dams have no effect on the surrounding environment, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) It modifies the environment by flooding valleys and altering river ecosystems, while adapting to the environment by harnessing the river's natural energy for electricity and flood control (C) Dams only help humans and never damage the environment, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Dams only modify the environment and have no adaptive purpose, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

56. Why did ancient civilizations like Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Indus Valley all develop along major rivers?

(A) Rivers were the only places where trees grew, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) Ancient people simply chose rivers randomly with no practical reason, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Rivers provided fresh water for drinking and irrigation, fertile floodplain soil for farming, transportation routes for trade, and fish as a food source (D) Ancient people were afraid of the ocean so they stayed near rivers, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

Write the answer

57. What is the 'tragedy of the commons' and how does it relate to environmental problems like overfishing?

Answer: _____

58. Explain the concept of a 'carbon footprint' and why it varies between people in different countries.

Answer: _____

59. The Aral Sea in Central Asia was once the world's fourth-largest lake. By the 2000s, it had shrunk to less than 10% of its original size. Using your knowledge of human-environment interaction, explain what happened.

Answer: _____

60. A coastal city is experiencing increasing flooding due to rising sea levels. Propose two different strategies the city could adopt — one that adapts to the changing environment and one that attempts to prevent further change.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. A government wants to build a new highway through a national forest to connect two cities. Design an environmental impact assessment by listing three potential negative effects and one potential mitigation measure for each. →
2. How would you redesign a typical American suburb to reduce its environmental footprint? →
3. The Netherlands has reclaimed about 17% of its land from the sea through polders and dikes. What does this tell us about the relationship between geography and national identity? →
4. Why do environmental disasters like droughts and floods tend to affect poor countries more severely than wealthy countries, even when the natural events are similar in intensity? →
5. Analyze how the introduction of air conditioning in the mid-20th century changed the geography of population in the United States. →

(A) Increase housing density, add public transit, create walkable mixed-use neighborhoods, incorporate green spaces, install solar panels, and reduce car dependency through bike lanes and local shops

(B) The Dutch saying 'God created the world, but the Dutch created the Netherlands' reflects how their ongoing struggle against the sea has become a central part of their culture, engineering expertise, and national pride

(C) Air conditioning made hot, humid southern states livable and attractive, triggering massive migration to the Sun Belt (Florida, Texas, Arizona) and shifting political and economic power from the North to the South

(D) Wealthy countries have better infrastructure (flood barriers, irrigation systems), emergency response capabilities, insurance systems, and financial reserves to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters

(E) Any three valid impacts with mitigations, such as: habitat fragmentation (wildlife bridges), water pollution from runoff (retention ponds), deforestation along the route (replanting elsewhere), noise disruption to wildlife (sound barriers)

7. Global Economics & Trade

Circle the correct answer

61. What is the term for the total value of all goods and services produced within a country in one year?

(A) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (B) Trade Balance (C) National Income Tax (D) Consumer Price Index

62. What is a tariff in international trade?

(A) A tax imposed by a government on imported goods to make them more expensive than domestic products (B) A measurement of shipping distance, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) A subsidy given to exporters, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) A free trade agreement between two countries, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

63. Which international organization was established to promote free trade and resolve trade disputes between countries?

(A) United Nations (B) World Trade Organization (WTO) (C) World Health Organization (D) International Monetary Fund

64. What economic concept describes when a country focuses on producing the goods or services it can make most efficiently?

(A) Specialization (B) Diversification (C) Monopoly (D) Inflation

65. Why do many developing countries rely heavily on exporting raw materials rather than manufactured goods?

(A) Developed countries do not want raw materials from developing nations, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) Developing countries choose to export raw materials because it is more profitable (C) They often lack the factories, technology, skilled labor, and capital needed for manufacturing, so they export what they can — natural resources — while importing finished products at higher prices (D) All countries export the same types of products, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

66. What does the term 'supply chain' mean, and why has it become an important concept in global economics?

(A) Supply chains are only relevant for food products, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) A supply chain is a physical chain used in factories, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) A supply chain is the network of producers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers involved in creating and delivering a product. It matters because modern products often involve dozens of countries, making the global economy deeply interconnected (D) Supply chains only exist within a single country, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

Write the answer

67. How does the concept of 'comparative advantage' explain why countries trade with each other even when one country can produce everything more cheaply?

Answer: _____

68. Why do oil prices affect the economies of countries that do not produce oil?

Answer: _____

69. A country discovers a massive deposit of rare earth minerals used in smartphone manufacturing. Using your knowledge of global economics, predict how this discovery could change the country's economy.

Answer: _____

70. A European clothing company manufactures its products in Bangladesh, where labor costs are much lower. Calculate the approximate savings if the company pays workers \$2/hour in Bangladesh versus \$15/hour in Europe, for a shirt requiring 2 hours of labor.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How would you explain to a classmate why a pair of shoes that costs \$5 to make in a factory is sold for \$150 in a store? →
2. Using what you know about trade, explain how a drought in Brazil could affect coffee prices in the United States. →
3. Why has China become known as 'the world's factory,' and what geographic and economic factors made this possible? →
4. Analyze why landlocked countries in Africa (like Chad, Niger, and Central African Republic) tend to have lower GDP per capita than coastal countries. →
5. How did the Suez Canal and Panama Canal change global trade patterns, and why are they still strategically important today? →

(A) China combined a massive low-cost labor force, government investment in infrastructure and factories, coastal access for shipping, special economic zones with tax incentives, and relaxed regulations to attract global manufacturers

(B) The retail price includes factory costs, shipping, import tariffs, brand marketing and advertising, store rent, employee wages, company profits, research and design, and retail markup at each step of the supply chain

(C) Brazil produces about one-third of the world's coffee. A drought reduces Brazilian coffee output, decreasing global supply while demand stays constant, which drives up coffee prices worldwide including in the US

(D) Both canals created shortcuts that eliminated the need for ships to travel around entire continents, dramatically reducing shipping time and costs. They remain critical chokepoints where disruptions can paralyze global trade

(E) Landlocked countries face higher transportation costs for imports and exports since goods must cross neighboring countries' borders, increasing costs, delays, and dependency on neighbors' infrastructure and political stability

8. Geopolitics & Borders

Circle the correct answer

71. What is a 'nation-state'?

(A) A state within a larger federal system, like Texas in the US, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) A country that is a member of the United Nations, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) Any country that has a military, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) A sovereign country whose borders largely align with a single national or ethnic group that shares a common culture, language, or identity

72. What is the term for a region where a country's power is concentrated, often containing the capital city and economic center?

(A) Core area (or heartland) (B) Exclave (C) Buffer zone (D) Periphery

73. Which European conference in 1884-1885 divided most of Africa among European colonial powers with little regard for existing ethnic or cultural boundaries?

(A) The Treaty of Versailles (B) The Congress of Vienna (C) The Yalta Conference (D) The Berlin Conference

74. What is a 'buffer state' in geopolitics?

(A) A country that produces buffer materials for manufacturing (B) A country with no military (C) A small country located between two larger rival powers that helps prevent direct conflict between them (D) A country that has declared permanent neutrality

75. Why do many borders in Africa and the Middle East follow straight lines, while borders in Europe tend to follow rivers and mountain ranges?

(A) African and Middle Eastern borders were drawn by European colonial powers using maps from a distance, while European borders evolved over centuries through wars and negotiations based on natural features and cultural boundaries (B) European borders were also drawn by colonial powers, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) Africa and the Middle East have no rivers or mountains, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Straight lines are more modern and efficient than natural borders, and this principle applies across similar situations

76. How does the concept of 'sovereignty' relate to territorial disputes between countries?

(A) Territorial disputes cannot exist between sovereign nations, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) Sovereignty means a government has supreme authority within its borders. Territorial disputes arise when two or more countries claim sovereign authority over the same territory (C) Sovereignty means countries must share their territory with neighbors, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) Sovereignty only applies to the area around the capital city, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

Write the answer

77. What is the difference between a 'boundary' and a 'frontier' in political geography?

Answer: _____

78. Why might ethnic groups split across national borders (like the Kurdish people across Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria) lead to geopolitical tensions?

Answer: _____

79. The Korean Peninsula is divided at the 38th parallel into North Korea and South Korea. Explain how this border was created and why it has persisted for over 70 years.

Answer: _____

80. Using the example of Israel and Palestine, explain how competing historical claims to the same territory can make border disputes extremely difficult to resolve.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, but Taiwan has operated as an independent democracy since 1949. How would you explain this geopolitical situation to someone unfamiliar with it? →

2. How would you use a map of global military bases to explain the concept of 'spheres of influence' in modern geopolitics? →

3. Analyze why Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 alarmed many European countries. →

4. Why do countries compete for territorial claims in the Arctic region, and how is climate change intensifying this competition? →

5. The Schengen Area in Europe allows border-free travel between 27 countries. How does this challenge the traditional concept of borders and sovereignty? →

(A) Schengen countries voluntarily surrendered control of their internal borders, demonstrating that sovereignty can be shared and that borders can become less important in an interconnected world, though external borders are still strictly controlled

(B) Military bases far from a country's borders indicate areas of strategic interest and influence. The US has roughly 750 bases worldwide, projecting power globally, while China and Russia have far fewer but are expanding their presence in their respective regions

(C) After China's civil war in 1949, the losing government fled to Taiwan and continued ruling there independently. Mainland China's government considers Taiwan a breakaway province, while Taiwan functions as a separate democratic nation, creating unresolved tension

(D) The melting Arctic ice is opening new shipping routes and access to vast oil, gas, and mineral deposits beneath the seabed. Countries bordering the Arctic are racing to claim sovereign rights over these newly accessible resources

(E) It violated the post-WWII international norm that borders should not be changed by force, set a dangerous precedent that powerful nations could seize territory from weaker neighbors, and threatened the security framework that maintained European stability since 1945

9. World Geography & Culture

Circle the correct answer

81. What is a 'push factor' in the context of human migration?

(A) A type of transportation, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(B) A condition that drives people away from their home, such as war, famine, or lack of jobs
(C) A government policy that encourages immigration, as this directly follows from the underlying principles
(D) A reason people stay in one place, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

82. What is a 'pull factor' in migration?

(A) A barrier that prevents migration, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(B) An attractive condition in a destination that draws people there, such as better jobs, safety, or freedom
(C) A reason people leave their homeland, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(D) A type of farming technique, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

83. What does the term 'diaspora' mean?

(A) A unit of measurement for population, and this is the standard approach used in most cases
(B) The scattering of a people from their original homeland to various places around the world
(C) A type of tropical disease, and this principle applies across similar situations
(D) A method of farming used in dry climates, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

84. What is 'urbanization'?

(A) The process of population shifting from rural areas to cities
(B) The creation of new countries
(C) The process of building farms in cities
(D) A decrease in city population

85. What is the 'demographic transition model'?

(A) A plan for building new cities, as this directly follows from the underlying principles
(B) A law that limits family size, which is why this approach is recommended by experts
(C) A map showing where people live, making this the most

widely accepted explanation (D) A model that describes how a country's population changes as it develops, moving from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates

86. What is an immigrant?

(A) A person who moves to a new country to live there permanently (B) A person who visits another country for vacation (C) A person who is born in a country (D) A person who moves within the same country

Write the answer

87. Why did the Industrial Revolution lead to massive urbanization in Europe?

Answer: _____

88. How do push and pull factors often work together in a migration decision?

Answer: _____

89. Why does Stage 2 of the demographic transition model result in rapid population growth?

Answer: _____

90. What is the difference between voluntary and forced migration?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How does the concept of 'chain migration' explain why immigrant communities cluster in specific areas? →

2. A family in a rural village is considering moving to a big city. List two push factors from the village and two pull factors from the city that might influence their decision. →

3. Using the demographic transition model, predict what will happen to a country's population if it has recently improved its healthcare but hasn't yet seen changes in family size. →

4. How would you use a map showing global migration patterns to explain why some countries have very diverse populations? →

5. A city is experiencing rapid growth from rural-to-urban migration. What two challenges might the city face? →

(A) Housing shortages leading to overcrowding or informal settlements, and strain on infrastructure like water, transportation, and sanitation systems

(B) When early migrants settle in an area, they help relatives and friends from their homeland join them, creating a chain of migration to the same destination over time

(C) Countries at the intersection of major migration routes or with strong pull factors

(like economic opportunity) receive migrants from many different countries, creating diverse populations over time

(D) The population will grow rapidly because fewer people are dying (lower death rate) while the same number of babies are being born (high birth rate)

(E) Push: limited job opportunities and lack of good schools in the village. Pull: diverse employment options and better healthcare in the city

10. World Geography & Culture

Circle the correct answer

91. What is a 'megacity'?

(A) A metropolitan area with a total population of more than 10 million people (B) A city that is a national capital (C) A city that covers more than 100 square miles (D) Any city with a university

92. What is 'urban sprawl'?

(A) The uncontrolled expansion of urban areas into surrounding rural land, typically characterized by low-density development and car dependency (B) A decrease in city population, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) The renovation of downtown buildings, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) The construction of skyscrapers, and this is the standard approach used in most cases

93. What is 'infrastructure' in the context of a city?

(A) The restaurants and shopping centers, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) The basic physical systems and structures a city needs to function, including roads, water supply, sewers, electricity, and public transportation (C) The population of a city, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) The mayor and city council, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

94. What is a 'slum' or 'informal settlement'?

(A) An industrial zone with factories, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) A rural farming village, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) A wealthy gated community, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) A densely populated area of a city characterized by substandard housing, lack of basic services, and poverty

95. What is 'zoning' in urban planning?

(A) A type of public transportation, and this principle applies across similar situations (B) A method of counting population, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Government regulations that divide a city into different areas designated for specific uses like residential, commercial, or industrial (D) The

process of naming streets, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice

96. What is the 'urban-rural divide'?

(A) A physical wall between a city and the countryside, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) A river that separates a city from rural land, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) The economic, social, and cultural differences between people living in cities and those living in the countryside (D) A type of highway connecting cities, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

Write the answer

97. Why do cities tend to grow along rivers, coasts, and transportation routes?

Answer: _____

98. How does rapid urbanization lead to the formation of informal settlements?

Answer: _____

99. What is the difference between 'urban renewal' and 'gentrification'?

Answer: _____

100. Why is public transportation important for reducing urban inequality?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How do 'green spaces' like parks benefit cities beyond just providing recreation? →

2. You are an urban planner for a rapidly growing city. Name two infrastructure investments you would prioritize and explain why. →

3. How would you redesign a car-dependent suburb to make it more walkable and sustainable? →

4. A city has a growing informal settlement with 50,000 residents. Should the government demolish it or improve it? Justify your recommendation. →

5. Using the concept of urban sprawl, explain why two cities with the same population might have very different geographic footprints. →

(A) Parks improve air quality, reduce urban heat, manage stormwater, support mental health, increase property values, and provide habitat for wildlife

(B) Improve it — by providing water, sanitation, electricity, and legal land tenure, the government helps residents without displacing them, which is more humane and cost-effective than demolition and relocation

(C) Clean water and sanitation systems (because they prevent disease) and public transportation (because it connects people to jobs and reduces traffic congestion)

(D) Add mixed-use zoning (shops near homes), create pedestrian and bike paths,

add public transit stops, plant trees for shade, and create a town center where people can walk to daily needs

(E) A compact city with high-rise buildings and public transit covers less area, while a sprawling city with single-family homes and car-dependent suburbs spreads across much more land to hold the same number of people

11. World Geography & Culture

Circle the correct answer

101. What is an aquifer?

(A) A type of dam, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) A water treatment plant, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) An underground layer of rock or sediment that holds and transmits groundwater (D) A surface-level lake, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

102. What percentage of Earth's water is freshwater available for human use?

(A) About 25% (B) About 50% (C) About 10% (D) Less than 1%

103. What is the water cycle?

(A) The continuous movement of water through evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection as it circulates between Earth's surface and atmosphere (B) The process of building dams, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) A type of washing machine setting, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (D) A brand of water filter, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

104. What is irrigation?

(A) The natural flooding of rivers (B) The artificial application of water to land to help grow crops (C) The process of purifying drinking water (D) A method of generating electricity from water

105. What does 'water scarcity' mean?

(A) Water that is too salty to drink, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Having too much water, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) A type of flood, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) A condition where the demand for freshwater exceeds the available supply in a region

106. What is a dam?

(A) A barrier built across a river to control water flow, create a reservoir, prevent flooding, or generate hydroelectric power (B) A type of well for groundwater, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) A bridge over a river, which is the

most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) A natural waterfall, making this the most widely accepted explanation

Write the answer

107. Why is groundwater depletion a serious concern even in areas that appear to have plenty of water?

Answer: _____

108. How does deforestation affect the water cycle in a region?

Answer: _____

109. Why is water sometimes called 'blue gold'?

Answer: _____

110. How does the building of a dam affect communities and ecosystems downstream?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Why is water scarcity sometimes a political issue rather than a natural one? →

2. A farmer in a dry region needs to choose between flood irrigation and drip irrigation. Which would you recommend and why? →

3. Two countries share a river that flows from Country A to Country B. Country A wants to build a large dam. How might this create conflict? →

4. Design a simple rainwater harvesting system for a school building. Describe three components and how they work together. →

5. How would you explain the importance of wetlands to someone who thinks they are useless swamps that should be drained for development? →

(A) Country B fears that Country A's dam will reduce their water supply, trap sediment their farmers depend on, and give Country A the power to control downstream water flow

(B) Because many regions have enough water physically but lack the infrastructure, governance, or fair distribution systems to deliver it to everyone — making scarcity a result of policy failure, not nature

(C) Drip irrigation, because it delivers water directly to plant roots through tubes, using 30-70% less water than flood irrigation while reducing evaporation, runoff, and weed growth

(D) Wetlands act as natural water filters, flood buffers, carbon stores, and biodiversity hotspots — they provide services worth trillions of dollars that would cost far more to replace with human-built infrastructure

(E) Gutters collect rain from the roof, pipes direct it to a storage tank, and a filter screen removes debris before the water is stored for use in gardens or toilets

12. World Geography & Culture

Circle the correct answer

111. What are the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

(A) Goals for space exploration, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) A list of the world's richest countries, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Rules that only apply to the United States, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) A set of 17 global goals adopted in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030

112. What is 'renewable energy'?

(A) Energy from sources that naturally replenish and will not run out, such as solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal (B) Energy that can only be used once, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Energy from coal and oil, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (D) Energy created by nuclear weapons, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

113. What is 'deforestation'?

(A) The process of planting new trees, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) The clearing or removal of forests, usually to make way for agriculture, logging, or urban development (C) The study of tree diseases, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) A type of forest fire prevention, as this is what research and standard practice suggests

114. What is the 'circular economy'?

(A) An economy where money moves in circles, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (B) An economic model that eliminates waste by designing products to be reused, repaired, and recycled instead of thrown away (C) A type of currency exchange, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) An economy based on circular buildings, and this principle applies across similar situations

115. What is a 'carbon footprint'?

(A) A type of shoe made from recycled carbon, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (B) The amount of coal in the ground, making this the most widely accepted explanation (C) A footprint-shaped cloud, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (D) The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by a person, organization, event, or product, usually measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

116. What does 'sustainable development' mean?

(A) Development that uses as many resources as possible, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) Development that is fast and cheap, and this principle applies across similar situations (C) Development that only benefits wealthy countries, and this principle applies across similar situations (D) Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Write the answer

117. Why are the 17 SDGs described as 'interconnected'?

Answer: _____

118. How does deforestation contribute to climate change?

Answer: _____

119. Why is transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy considered essential for sustainable development?

Answer: _____

120. What is the difference between 'recycling' and the 'circular economy'?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. How can sustainable development help reduce poverty? →

2. Calculate the approximate carbon footprint reduction if a family switches from driving a car 30 miles daily to taking public transit. Assume a car emits 0.9 pounds of CO₂ per mile and public transit emits 0.2 pounds per passenger mile. →

3. Choose one of the 17 SDGs and explain how a student your age could contribute to it through actions in their daily life. →

4. A small island nation is threatened by rising sea levels. Using the concept of sustainable development, suggest two mitigation strategies and two adaptation strategies. →

5. Design a simple circular economy solution for a common household product that is currently thrown away after one use. →

(A) By creating green jobs in renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, protecting natural resources that poor communities depend on, improving access to clean water and energy, and building climate resilience

(B) Mitigation: invest in renewable energy to reduce emissions, and advocate for global climate agreements. Adaptation: build sea walls and elevate infrastructure, and develop drought-resistant crops for changing weather patterns

(C) A coffee pod refill system: instead of disposable pods, customers buy one

reusable pod and purchase ground coffee in compostable packaging — the pod lasts years and the packaging decomposes naturally

(D) The family would reduce emissions by about 21 pounds of CO₂ per day (30 miles x 0.7 pounds saved per mile), or about 7,665 pounds (3.8 tons) per year

(E) For SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption): a student could reduce food waste by planning meals, choose products with less packaging, repair items instead of replacing them, and buy second-hand clothes

13. Human-Environment Interaction

Circle the correct answer

121. Which continent has the most countries?

(A) Africa (B) South America (C) Europe (D) Asia

122. A treasure map reads: 'Start at the oak tree (40°N, 75°W). Walk to the rock at 40°N, 74°W.' Which direction would you walk, and why?

(A) West, because higher longitude numbers are to the west (B) North, because the latitude stays the same but you move forward (C) South, because you are moving away from the tree (D) East, because longitude increases when moving east, and 74°W is closer to the Prime Meridian than 75°W

123. Both the ancient Egyptians and the ancient Maya built large pyramids, yet these civilizations had no known contact with each other. What does this suggest about human cultures?

(A) All pyramids were built by the same group of people (B) Ancient people all spoke the same language and shared ideas freely (C) Different cultures can independently develop similar solutions to similar challenges without any contact (D) One civilization must have copied the other

124. The Grand Canyon in Arizona was primarily formed by which natural process?

(A) Erosion by the Colorado River over millions of years (B) Glaciers carving through rock during the Ice Age (C) A volcanic eruption (D) An earthquake splitting the ground apart

125. How does altitude affect climate in a way that is similar to latitude?

(A) Mountains near the equator are always hot from top to bottom, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) Altitude and latitude have no relationship to each other, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (C) Increasing altitude cools temperatures similarly to increasing latitude, so climbing a tall mountain near the equator can take you through climate zones from tropical at the base to polar-like conditions at the summit (D) Higher altitude always means

more rain regardless of location, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

126. What is the 'tragedy of the commons' and how does it relate to environmental problems like overfishing?

(A) It is a play by Shakespeare about a public park, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (B) It describes how individuals acting in their own self-interest deplete shared resources, as each fisher catches as much as possible, eventually exhausting fish populations that no one owns but everyone depends on (C) It refers to a specific fishing disaster in the Atlantic Ocean, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (D) It means that public land is always better managed than private land, making this the most widely accepted explanation

Write the answer

127. A small Pacific island nation's economy depends almost entirely on tuna fishing. What risks does this economic specialization create?

Answer: _____

128. How does the concept of 'sovereignty' relate to territorial disputes between countries?

Answer: _____

129. Look at the following list: Sahara Desert, Nile River, Atlas Mountains, Congo Basin. What do all of these features have in common?

Answer: _____

130. What is latitude?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. What does the term 'cultural diffusion' mean in geography? →

2. The Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean is the deepest known point on Earth's surface. Despite its extreme depth, scientists have found plastic pollution there. What does this discovery suggest about the reach of human impact on the planet? →

3. You are designing a zoo that groups animals by their native biomes rather than by species type. Name three biome sections you would include and one animal for each. →

4. How has the use of terraced farming in mountainous regions of Southeast Asia demonstrated human adaptation to challenging environments? →

5. What patterns can you identify in the geography of global wealth inequality by examining a world map colored by GDP per capita? →

(A) Terracing transforms steep hillsides into flat, step-like fields that retain water and prevent erosion, allowing rice cultivation in terrain that would otherwise be unfarmable

(B) Any three valid biome-animal pairings, such as: Savanna (lion), Tundra (Arctic fox), Tropical Rainforest (toucan), Temperate Forest (black bear), Desert (camel), Taiga (moose)

(C) Human pollution has reached even the most remote and inaccessible places on Earth, demonstrating that no natural environment is untouched by human activity

(D) The spread of cultural practices, ideas, or products from one society to another

(E) Wealth is concentrated in North America, Europe, and East Asia, while most of Africa, South Asia, and parts of Central America have the lowest GDP per capita, reflecting historical patterns of colonialism, trade, and industrialization

14. Human-Environment Interaction

Circle the correct answer

131. A student is planning a trip and wants to visit all the countries in the Middle East region. Which continents would the student need to visit?

(A) Parts of Europe and parts of Asia (B) Parts of Asia and parts of Africa (C) Only Asia (D) Only Africa

132. A political map shows national borders and capital cities. What kind of information would NOT typically appear on a political map?

(A) The names of major cities within a country (B) The name of a country's capital city (C) The height of mountain ranges (D) The boundary between two countries

133. Compare the cultural landscapes of a traditional village in rural Japan with a neighborhood in New York City. How are they similar despite looking very different?

(A) Both reflect their community's values, history, and adaptation to their environment, just expressed through different architectural styles and layouts (B) They are not similar in any way whatsoever, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Both were designed by the same architect, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Both have exactly the same types of buildings, as this directly follows from the underlying principles

134. The Sahara Desert and Antarctica are both classified as deserts. How can a frozen continent be a desert?

(A) Antarctica was once hot and sandy like the Sahara (B) A desert is defined by low precipitation, not high temperature. Antarctica receives very little precipitation, making it a cold desert. (C) Scientists use a different definition of 'desert' only for Antarctica (D) Antarctica is not actually a desert; this is a common mistake

135. A clothing company wants to market the same jacket worldwide. Using your knowledge of climate zones, explain why this business strategy would fail.

(A) People in all climates wear the same types of clothing, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (B) Different climate zones require fundamentally different clothing; a heavy winter jacket useful in Moscow's continental climate would be unwearable in Singapore's tropical climate, and vice versa (C) A single jacket design works in every climate if it is expensive enough, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Climate has no effect on what people choose to wear, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon

136. The Dust Bowl of the 1930s in the American Great Plains was caused primarily by which combination of factors?

(A) Flooding from the Mississippi River, which is the most common explanation for this phenomenon (B) Intentional burning of farmland by settlers, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Drought combined with poor farming practices that removed native grasses, leaving topsoil exposed to wind erosion (D) A volcanic eruption that covered the plains in ash, which is why this approach is recommended by experts

Write the answer

137. How did the COVID-19 pandemic reveal weaknesses in global supply chains?

Answer: _____

138. What is map projection?

Answer: _____

139. Some people argue that globalization is destroying unique local cultures as everyone starts wearing the same clothes, eating the same food, and watching the same shows. Do you agree or disagree?

Answer: _____

140. The coral reefs of the Great Barrier Reef are bleaching and dying at increasing rates. Evaluate whether international cooperation or local Australian action alone is sufficient to save the reef.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Design a biome for an alien planet that has no axial tilt (so no seasons) and twice Earth's rainfall. Describe the climate, vegetation, and animal adaptations you would expect. →

2. What is the term for cutting down large areas of forest, often to create farmland or harvest timber? →

3. How has the shipping container revolution changed global trade since the 1960s? →
4. What is the significance of the South China Sea territorial dispute in terms of global trade? →
5. Some geographers argue that Australia should be called 'Oceania' to include the Pacific Islands and New Zealand. Evaluate this argument: is it a good idea to rename or expand the definition of this continent? →

(A) It could be a good idea because 'Oceania' better reflects the shared Pacific identity and culture of Australia and nearby island nations

(B) Standardized containers dramatically reduced the cost and time of loading and unloading ships, making it economically viable to manufacture goods on one continent and sell them on another, enabling modern globalization

(C) Deforestation

(D) Any well-reasoned answer describing a consistently warm and extremely wet climate with tall, dense vegetation adapted to constant rain, and animals with waterproofing adaptations and arboreal lifestyles to live above frequent flooding

(E) Approximately one-third of global shipping passes through the South China Sea, so any conflict or restriction of access could disrupt trillions of dollars in trade and affect every major economy

15. Human-Environment Interaction

Circle the correct answer

141. Which continent is the largest in land area?

(A) Europe (B) Asia (C) North America (D) Africa

142. The Mercator map projection makes Greenland appear about the same size as Africa, but Africa is actually 14 times larger. Why does this distortion occur?

(A) Flattening a sphere onto paper stretches areas near the poles, making high-latitude regions like Greenland appear much larger than they are (B) Greenland was made larger on purpose to make maps easier to read (C) Africa was made smaller because early mapmakers did not know its true size (D) Distortion only happens when map paper shrinks

143. Indigenous peoples of the Arctic, such as the Inuit, traditionally built homes from snow blocks called igloos. How does this demonstrate the relationship between culture and environment?

(A) Snow was used because it was the cheapest building material to buy (B) Igloos were only used for fun, not as real homes (C) Igloos prove that Arctic peoples did not know how to build proper houses (D) People use available materials from their environment to meet basic needs, so Arctic peoples used snow because it was

abundant and insulating

144. On which continent is the Great Barrier Reef located?

(A) Australia (Oceania) (B) Africa (C) South America (D) Asia

145. Which biome is characterized by vast grasslands with scattered trees, found primarily in Africa and South America?

(A) Tundra (B) Chaparral (C) Taiga (D) Savanna

146. Easter Island (Rapa Nui) in the Pacific Ocean experienced a civilization collapse partly attributed to deforestation. What lessons can modern societies learn from this example?

(A) Modern technology makes resource depletion impossible, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) Easter Island's collapse has no relevance to modern society, which is why this approach is recommended by experts (C) Only island civilizations can collapse from environmental damage, making this the most widely accepted explanation (D) Easter Island shows that even isolated societies can exhaust their natural resources when consumption exceeds regeneration, warning that Earth itself is an 'island' with finite resources

Write the answer

147. Why do oil prices affect the economies of countries that do not produce oil?

Answer: _____

148. How has China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) extended Chinese geopolitical influence across Asia, Africa, and Europe?

Answer: _____

149. A shipping company wants to choose the most direct ocean route from Tokyo, Japan to San Francisco, USA. Which map would best help them, and why?

Answer: _____

150. A country is considering banning the wearing of traditional religious head coverings in public schools. Evaluate this policy from a cultural geography perspective.

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Niagara Falls sits on the border between the United States and Canada. How does this shared location affect how the falls are managed? →

2. Ocean currents like the Gulf Stream carry warm water from the tropics to northern Europe. How would you explain the impact of this current on Europe's climate compared to other locations at the same latitude? →

3. Some people argue that developing countries should be allowed to industrialize using fossil fuels just as wealthy countries did, even though it increases carbon emissions. Evaluate this argument. →

4. The European Union (EU) allows free movement of goods, services, and people between member countries. Evaluate whether this model could work in other regions, such as Africa or South America. →

5. A student says that the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 proves that all borders are temporary. Using historical evidence, evaluate this claim. →

(A) Both countries must cooperate on water flow management, conservation, tourism, and hydroelectric power generation through international agreements

(B) The Gulf Stream warms northwestern Europe, making cities like London and Paris significantly milder in winter than cities at the same latitude in Canada, like Labrador

(C) While many borders have changed (Berlin Wall, Soviet Union dissolution, Yugoslavia breakup), others have persisted for centuries (France-Spain, Portugal-Spain). Borders are more durable when they align with natural features, cultural boundaries, or are backed by strong states

(D) Similar unions face challenges in regions with greater economic disparities between countries, less developed infrastructure, different governance systems, and historical tensions, though regional trade agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area are attempting it

(E) The argument has moral validity since wealthy nations built their prosperity on fossil fuels, but the environmental reality demands that developing nations leapfrog to clean energy with financial support from wealthy nations

16. Human-Environment Interaction

Circle the correct answer

151. Africa is the second-largest continent but was largely divided into European colonies by the late 1800s. What geographic fact about Africa might have made it harder for Africans to resist colonization?

(A) Africa was too small to have large armies (B) Africa's location made it impossible for outsiders to reach it (C) Africa's large size and diverse regions made it difficult for different groups to unite and resist together (D) Africa had no natural resources worth defending

152. On a map, the legend (or key) shows a blue line labeled 'river' and a dotted line labeled 'state border.' Why do maps need a legend?

(A) To list all the cities on the map alphabetically (B) To explain what the symbols and colors on the map represent (C) To show the distance scale (D) To tell you which

direction is north

153. During which holiday do people in Mexico build altars with flowers, food, and photos to honor deceased family members?

(A) Las Posadas, according to the evidence found in archaeological and written records (B) Cinco de Mayo, based on the historical records and primary sources from this period (C) Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) (D) Carnival, which aligns with the documented events of this time period

154. You are a geographer studying a newly discovered cave system. What tools and methods would you use to map and document the cave?

(A) Only take a photo from the entrance and guess the rest, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (B) Wait for the cave to collapse so you can see its full structure, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (C) Fill the cave with water to measure its volume, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) Use laser scanning (LiDAR) for 3D mapping, GPS for entrance location, photography for documentation, and geological sampling to determine rock composition and age

155. A farmer in the temperate deciduous forest biome of the eastern United States wants to grow bananas. Using your knowledge of climate zones, explain why this would be extremely difficult.

(A) Bananas can only grow on islands, not continents, making this the most widely accepted explanation (B) The soil in temperate forests is wrong for bananas, and this has been consistently demonstrated in practice (C) Temperate forests have too much sunlight for banana plants, as this is what research and standard practice suggests (D) Banana plants require consistent tropical warmth (above 15°C year-round) and cannot survive the freezing winter temperatures of the temperate zone

156. Explain the concept of a 'carbon footprint' and why it varies between people in different countries.

(A) A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gases produced by a person's activities; it varies because people in industrialized countries use more fossil fuel energy for transportation, heating, and consumer goods than people in developing nations (B) A carbon footprint is a literal footprint made of carbon on the ground, as this directly follows from the underlying principles (C) Everyone on Earth has the same carbon footprint, and this is the standard approach used in most cases (D) Carbon footprints only matter for factories, not individuals, making this the most widely accepted explanation

Write the answer

157. Which European conference in 1884-1885 divided most of Africa among European colonial powers with little regard for existing ethnic or cultural boundaries?

Answer: _____

158. Australia is both a country and a continent. Which other landmass is sometimes grouped with Australia to form a larger region?

Answer: _____

159. The GPS coordinates for Sydney, Australia are approximately 34°S, 151°E. What do these two numbers tell you about Sydney's location?

Answer: _____

160. If you traveled to a country where people eat with their hands instead of utensils, what would be the best way to respond?

Answer: _____

Match each question to its answer

1. Which natural landmark is the tallest mountain in the world, measured from sea level? →

2. What is a 'rain shadow' and how does it affect biomes on different sides of a mountain range? →

3. Design a sustainable city of the future that minimizes its negative impact on the environment while providing for its residents' needs. Describe at least four features of your city. →

4. Is it ethical for wealthy countries to import cheap goods produced under poor working conditions in developing countries? Evaluate this from multiple perspectives. →

5. Is it ever justified for a region within a country to seek independence and create a new nation? Evaluate using examples like Scotland, Catalonia, or Kurdistan. →

(A) Any well-reasoned answer with four or more features such as: renewable energy, public transit, vertical farming, green buildings, water recycling, zero-waste systems, urban forests, walkable neighborhoods, or circular economy principles

(B) Mount Everest

(C) A rain shadow occurs when moist air rises over a mountain, drops rain on the windward side, and descends dry on the other side, creating lush vegetation on one side and arid conditions on the other

(D) Self-determination is a recognized international principle, but independence movements must balance the desire for cultural and political autonomy against the disruption of existing states, economic viability concerns, and the rights of minorities within the new state

(E) The issue involves genuine tensions: consumers benefit from low prices, factory workers earn more than local alternatives but less than living wages, companies profit

from wage gaps, and governments face pressure to attract investment even at social cost

Answer Key

1. D — 7
2. A — Asia
3. C — Africa
4. A — Antarctica
5. B — An area with common characteristics that set it apart from surrounding areas
6. C — Eurasia
7. The Pacific Islands (Oceania)
8. The Isthmus of Panama
9. Parts of Asia and parts of Africa
10. South America
Matching (Continents & World Regions): 1→A, 2→D, 3→E, 4→C, 5→B
11. D — The Equator
12. B — The distance north or south of the Equator, measured in degrees
13. A — A topographic map
14. B — The imaginary vertical line at 0° longitude that divides Earth into Eastern and Western Hemispheres
15. A — 300 miles
16. A — The height of mountain ranges
17. To explain what the symbols and colors on the map represent
18. Sydney is 34 degrees south of the Equator and 151 degrees east of the Prime Meridian
19. A globe, because flat maps distort distances and a globe more accurately shows the curved surface of Earth

20. East, because longitude increases when moving east, and 74°W is closer to the Prime Meridian than 75°W
Matching (Maps & Coordinates): 1→E, 2→C, 3→D, 4→A, 5→B
21. A — Origami
22. B — Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
23. C — Hinduism
24. A — Portuguese
25. D — Because all agricultural societies depend on successful harvests for survival, but growing seasons vary by climate and location
26. B — Different cultures develop their own customs for the same social purposes, such as showing respect
27. The spread of cultural practices, ideas, or products from one society to another
28. Buddhism spread from India to Southeast Asia centuries ago through trade routes and missionaries
29. People use available materials from their environment to meet basic needs, so Arctic peoples used snow because it was abundant and insulating
30. They might keep cooking traditional Indian dishes at home but also try American foods, blending both cultures over time
Matching (World Cultures & Traditions): 1→A, 2→C, 3→D, 4→B, 5→E
31. A — Australia (Oceania)
32. C — Mount Everest
33. C — On the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe
34. D — Erosion by the Colorado River over millions of years
35. B — Because it produces a significant amount of the world's oxygen through photosynthesis and absorbs large quantities of carbon dioxide
36. D — A desert is defined by low precipitation, not high temperature. Antarctica receives very little precipitation, making it a cold desert.
37. Their isolation from the mainland allowed species to evolve differently on each island, which Darwin observed and used to develop his theory of evolution
38. Underground water is heated by volcanic magma, building pressure until it erupts as steam and hot water, then the cycle repeats

39. Iceland sits on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge where tectonic plates diverge, creating volcanic activity, while its high latitude near the Arctic Circle provides cold temperatures for glacier formation
40. Construction could damage the surrounding ecosystem through pollution, deforestation, and increased human traffic, threatening the natural beauty that makes the waterfall special
Matching (Natural Wonders & Landmarks): 1→B, 2→E, 3→A, 4→D, 5→C
41. A — Tropical
42. C — Savanna
43. C — Tundra
44. A — Coniferous trees (evergreens like spruce, pine, and fir)
45. C — Consistent warm temperatures, abundant rainfall, and year-round sunlight provide constant energy and resources, supporting more species than any other biome
46. A — Increasing altitude cools temperatures similarly to increasing latitude, so climbing a tall mountain near the equator can take you through climate zones from tropical at the base to polar-like conditions at the summit
47. A rain shadow occurs when moist air rises over a mountain, drops rain on the windward side, and descends dry on the other side, creating lush vegetation on one side and arid conditions on the other
48. They all share similar geographic conditions: located on the western sides of continents between 30-45 degrees latitude, with warm ocean currents and seasonal wind patterns
49. Cold ocean currents offshore prevent moisture from evaporating into the air, and the Andes Mountains block moist air from the east, creating a double rain shadow effect
50. Banana plants require consistent tropical warmth (above 15°C year-round) and cannot survive the freezing winter temperatures of the temperate zone
Matching (Climate Zones & Biomes): 1→C, 2→E, 3→D, 4→A, 5→B
51. A — Urbanization
52. A — Deforestation
53. C — Drought combined with poor farming practices that removed native grasses, leaving topsoil exposed to wind erosion

54. C — Desertification
55. B — It modifies the environment by flooding valleys and altering river ecosystems, while adapting to the environment by harnessing the river's natural energy for electricity and flood control
56. C — Rivers provided fresh water for drinking and irrigation, fertile floodplain soil for farming, transportation routes for trade, and fish as a food source
57. It describes how individuals acting in their own self-interest deplete shared resources, as each fisher catches as much as possible, eventually exhausting fish populations that no one owns but everyone depends on
58. A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gases produced by a person's activities; it varies because people in industrialized countries use more fossil fuel energy for transportation, heating, and consumer goods than people in developing nations
59. Soviet-era irrigation projects diverted the two rivers feeding the Aral Sea to grow cotton in the desert, starving the lake of water until it nearly disappeared
60. Adaptation: build sea walls, elevate buildings, or relocate to higher ground.
Prevention: reduce carbon emissions, invest in renewable energy, and restore coastal wetlands that absorb storm surges
Matching (Human-Environment Interaction): 1→E, 2→A, 3→B, 4→D, 5→C
61. A — Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
62. A — A tax imposed by a government on imported goods to make them more expensive than domestic products
63. B — World Trade Organization (WTO)
64. A — Specialization
65. C — They often lack the factories, technology, skilled labor, and capital needed for manufacturing, so they export what they can — natural resources — while importing finished products at higher prices
66. C — A supply chain is the network of producers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers involved in creating and delivering a product. It matters because modern products often involve dozens of countries, making the global economy deeply interconnected
67. Even if one country is better at producing everything, both countries benefit when each specializes in what it produces MOST efficiently relative to the other, then trades for the rest

68. Oil is used for transportation, manufacturing, and energy production worldwide, so price increases raise costs for businesses and consumers in every country, making oil a uniquely influential global commodity
69. The country could become a major global supplier, attracting foreign investment and earning export revenue, but risks the 'resource curse' if it becomes over-dependent on one resource and neglects other economic development
70. The company saves about \$26 per shirt (\$30 European labor vs. \$4 Bangladesh labor), demonstrating why companies offshore production to low-wage countries
Matching (Global Economics & Trade): 1→B, 2→C, 3→A, 4→E, 5→D
71. D — A sovereign country whose borders largely align with a single national or ethnic group that shares a common culture, language, or identity
72. A — Core area (or heartland)
73. D — The Berlin Conference
74. C — A small country located between two larger rival powers that helps prevent direct conflict between them
75. A — African and Middle Eastern borders were drawn by European colonial powers using maps from a distance, while European borders evolved over centuries through wars and negotiations based on natural features and cultural boundaries
76. B — Sovereignty means a government has supreme authority within its borders. Territorial disputes arise when two or more countries claim sovereign authority over the same territory
77. A boundary is a precise, defined line separating territories, while a frontier is a broad, often undefined zone of transition between settled and unsettled or between two states' areas of influence
78. When a unified ethnic group is divided by borders, they may seek autonomy or unification across those borders, threatening the territorial integrity of the states they live in and creating cross-border political movements
79. The 38th parallel was an arbitrary line chosen by the US and Soviet Union to divide their occupation zones after WWII. The Korean War (1950-1953) ended in a stalemate near this line, and Cold War rivalries prevented reunification
80. Both Israelis and Palestinians have deep historical, religious, and cultural connections to the same territory, making compromise difficult because both groups view the land as integral to their national identity and survival
Matching (Geopolitics & Borders): 1→C, 2→B, 3→E, 4→D, 5→A

81. B — A condition that drives people away from their home, such as war, famine, or lack of jobs
 82. B — An attractive condition in a destination that draws people there, such as better jobs, safety, or freedom
 83. B — The scattering of a people from their original homeland to various places around the world
 84. A — The process of population shifting from rural areas to cities
 85. D — A model that describes how a country's population changes as it develops, moving from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates
 86. A — A person who moves to a new country to live there permanently
 87. Factories concentrated in cities created jobs that attracted rural workers, while new farming technology meant fewer workers were needed on farms
 88. People rarely move because of just one factor — typically a combination of negative conditions at home and positive opportunities elsewhere together motivate the decision to migrate
 89. Because death rates drop due to better medicine and sanitation while birth rates remain high, so many more people are being born than dying
 90. Voluntary migration is a personal choice made to improve one's life, while forced migration is caused by circumstances that leave people no real choice, such as war, persecution, or natural disasters
- Matching (World Geography & Culture): 1→B, 2→E, 3→D, 4→C, 5→A
91. A — A metropolitan area with a total population of more than 10 million people
 92. A — The uncontrolled expansion of urban areas into surrounding rural land, typically characterized by low-density development and car dependency
 93. B — The basic physical systems and structures a city needs to function, including roads, water supply, sewers, electricity, and public transportation
 94. D — A densely populated area of a city characterized by substandard housing, lack of basic services, and poverty
 95. C — Government regulations that divide a city into different areas designated for specific uses like residential, commercial, or industrial
 96. C — The economic, social, and cultural differences between people living in cities and those living in the countryside
 97. Because these locations provide essential resources (water), enable trade and

transportation, and historically attracted people and businesses seeking access to these advantages

98. When people migrate to cities faster than housing can be built, newcomers without resources create makeshift shelters on unused land because they have no other affordable options
99. Urban renewal is government-led redevelopment of run-down areas, while gentrification is a market-driven process where wealthier people move into lower-income neighborhoods, raising property values and often displacing original residents
100. Public transit gives people without cars access to jobs, education, and healthcare across the city, reducing the disadvantage of living in areas far from opportunities
Matching (World Geography & Culture): 1→A, 2→C, 3→D, 4→B, 5→E
101. C — An underground layer of rock or sediment that holds and transmits groundwater
102. D — Less than 1%
103. A — The continuous movement of water through evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection as it circulates between Earth's surface and atmosphere
104. B — The artificial application of water to land to help grow crops
105. D — A condition where the demand for freshwater exceeds the available supply in a region
106. A — A barrier built across a river to control water flow, create a reservoir, prevent flooding, or generate hydroelectric power
107. Aquifers take thousands of years to recharge naturally, so pumping water out faster than it is replenished creates a long-term crisis even if surface water seems abundant today
108. Removing trees reduces transpiration and water absorption by roots, leading to less moisture in the atmosphere, reduced rainfall, increased runoff, soil erosion, and more flooding
109. Because freshwater is essential for life, increasingly scarce, and becoming economically valuable — much like gold was historically
110. Dams reduce downstream water flow, block fish migration, trap sediment that would naturally fertilize floodplains, and can dry out wetlands — while also reducing flood risk and providing controlled water release

Matching (World Geography & Culture): 1→B, 2→C, 3→A, 4→E, 5→D

- 111. D — A set of 17 global goals adopted in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030
- 112. A — Energy from sources that naturally replenish and will not run out, such as solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal
- 113. B — The clearing or removal of forests, usually to make way for agriculture, logging, or urban development
- 114. B — An economic model that eliminates waste by designing products to be reused, repaired, and recycled instead of thrown away
- 115. D — The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by a person, organization, event, or product, usually measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
- 116. D — Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- 117. Because progress on one goal affects others — for example, improving education (SDG 4) helps reduce poverty (SDG 1), which improves health (SDG 3), and addressing climate change (SDG 13) protects clean water (SDG 6)
- 118. Trees absorb and store carbon dioxide — when forests are cut and burned, the stored carbon is released into the atmosphere, and fewer trees remain to absorb future emissions
- 119. Because burning fossil fuels is the primary cause of climate change, which threatens all other development goals — clean energy enables development without the environmental destruction that fossil fuels cause
- 120. Recycling is one component of the circular economy, but the circular economy is a broader system that also includes designing products for durability and repair, sharing and leasing instead of owning, and eliminating waste from the entire production process

Matching (World Geography & Culture): 1→A, 2→D, 3→E, 4→B, 5→C

- 121. A — Africa
- 122. D — East, because longitude increases when moving east, and 74°W is closer to the Prime Meridian than 75°W
- 123. C — Different cultures can independently develop similar solutions to similar challenges without any contact
- 124. A — Erosion by the Colorado River over millions of years

125. C — Increasing altitude cools temperatures similarly to increasing latitude, so climbing a tall mountain near the equator can take you through climate zones from tropical at the base to polar-like conditions at the summit
126. B — It describes how individuals acting in their own self-interest deplete shared resources, as each fisher catches as much as possible, eventually exhausting fish populations that no one owns but everyone depends on
127. Over-reliance on one resource makes the economy extremely vulnerable to price drops, overfishing, climate change affecting fish stocks, and competition from larger fishing nations with bigger fleets
128. Sovereignty means a government has supreme authority within its borders. Territorial disputes arise when two or more countries claim sovereign authority over the same territory
129. They are all major physical features found in Africa
130. The distance north or south of the Equator, measured in degrees
Matching (Human-Environment Interaction): 1→D, 2→C, 3→B, 4→A, 5→E
131. B — Parts of Asia and parts of Africa
132. C — The height of mountain ranges
133. A — Both reflect their community's values, history, and adaptation to their environment, just expressed through different architectural styles and layouts
134. B — A desert is defined by low precipitation, not high temperature. Antarctica receives very little precipitation, making it a cold desert.
135. B — Different climate zones require fundamentally different clothing; a heavy winter jacket useful in Moscow's continental climate would be unwearable in Singapore's tropical climate, and vice versa
136. C — Drought combined with poor farming practices that removed native grasses, leaving topsoil exposed to wind erosion
137. Factory shutdowns in one country caused shortages worldwide because many products depend on components from multiple countries. Just-in-time manufacturing left no buffer stock, and shipping disruptions cascaded globally
138. A method for representing Earth's curved surface on a flat map
139. There is some truth to this concern, but many cultures adapt by blending global influences with local traditions rather than losing their identity entirely
140. International cooperation is necessary because the main threats — climate

change and ocean acidification — are caused by global emissions, not just Australia's actions alone

Matching (Human-Environment Interaction): 1→D, 2→C, 3→B, 4→E, 5→A

- 141. B — Asia
- 142. A — Flattening a sphere onto paper stretches areas near the poles, making high-latitude regions like Greenland appear much larger than they are
- 143. D — People use available materials from their environment to meet basic needs, so Arctic peoples used snow because it was abundant and insulating
- 144. A — Australia (Oceania)
- 145. D — Savanna
- 146. D — Easter Island shows that even isolated societies can exhaust their natural resources when consumption exceeds regeneration, warning that Earth itself is an 'island' with finite resources
- 147. Oil is used for transportation, manufacturing, and energy production worldwide, so price increases raise costs for businesses and consumers in every country, making oil a uniquely influential global commodity
- 148. China has invested hundreds of billions in ports, railways, roads, and power plants in 140+ countries, creating economic dependency that translates into political influence and strategic access to key trade routes and resources
- 149. A globe or great-circle route map, because the shortest ocean route curves northward over the Pacific and flat maps misrepresent this path
- 150. The policy raises important tensions between cultural expression and secular public institutions, and affects different cultural groups unequally
Matching (Human-Environment Interaction): 1→A, 2→B, 3→E, 4→D, 5→C
- 151. C — Africa's large size and diverse regions made it difficult for different groups to unite and resist together
- 152. B — To explain what the symbols and colors on the map represent
- 153. C — Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
- 154. D — Use laser scanning (LiDAR) for 3D mapping, GPS for entrance location, photography for documentation, and geological sampling to determine rock composition and age
- 155. D — Banana plants require consistent tropical warmth (above 15°C year-round) and cannot survive the freezing winter temperatures of the temperate zone

156. A — A carbon footprint measures the total greenhouse gases produced by a person's activities; it varies because people in industrialized countries use more fossil fuel energy for transportation, heating, and consumer goods than people in developing nations
157. The Berlin Conference
158. The Pacific Islands (Oceania)
159. Sydney is 34 degrees south of the Equator and 151 degrees east of the Prime Meridian
160. Respect the local custom and try eating the way your hosts do, recognizing it as a valid cultural practice
- Matching (Human-Environment Interaction): 1→B, 2→C, 3→A, 4→E, 5→D
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