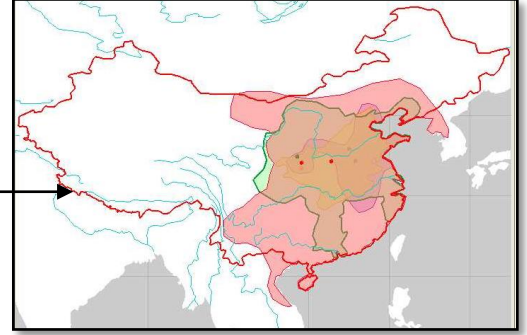


Geography of China

China is the third largest country in the world with an area of almost 3.7 million square miles and a population of about 1.2 billion people.¹ Ancient China was not nearly this size, but it was a large and powerful nation. The map to the right shows modern China outlined in red, with Ancient China represented by the shaded areas. The Chinese often refer to the shaded area as “Inner China” and the areas to the north and west as “Outer China.”² We will focus on the ancient area known as Inner China.



The Geography of Inner China – a Land of Rivers.

Inner China is a land of rolling hills, river valleys, and plains. Rivers flow through this area from the west. They provide water for **irrigation**, and floods from these rivers enrich the soil. China’s rivers flooded each spring, bringing fresh, fertile topsoil to the land. China’s first farming villages developed along its rivers. Inner China has two main regions. The northern region is the *North China Plain*. It is made of soil deposits from the *Huang He River*, which flows to the Yellow Sea. The Chinese people call the Huang He “China’s Sorrow” because its floods could be very **destructive**. Early Chinese people built **dikes** to help control flooding.³ Northern China has only a brief summer monsoon. There is not much rain at other times of year and the people depend on rivers to survive. The southern region is the *Chang Jiang River Basin*. This region has a very different climate. The Chang Jiang Basins are warm and wet, with **monsoons** that bring heavy rains from March to September. Light rain falls here the rest of the year, making it better farmland than the drier and cooler North China Plain. Much of china’s rice crop is grown in this area. The *Xi River* flows through the southern part of Inner China to the South China Sea.



Bodies of Water

Along China’s eastern coast line are three important seas. To the far north is the *Yellow Sea*. It lies between China and the Korean Peninsula. Near 30°N and surrounding the island now known as Taiwan is the *East China Sea*. Finally, to the south, where the Xi River flows, the *South China Sea* lies between China and the Philippine Islands⁴.

Landforms

China shares a border with India that was created by the natural barrier of the *Himalaya Mountains*, the tallest mountains in the world. China’s other important mountain range, the *Altay Mountains* are found much farther north, near the current nation of Mongolia. Also found along China’s northern border is the Gobi Desert. It marked the North West edge of ancient China, lying at approximately 40°N, 110°E.



A. Label the map: Read the article above and pay careful attention to the description of the places written in **bold text and italics**. Use the descriptions to help you decide where to write each name on the map on the back of this page. There are 10 places described - be sure to label all 10 of them on the map.

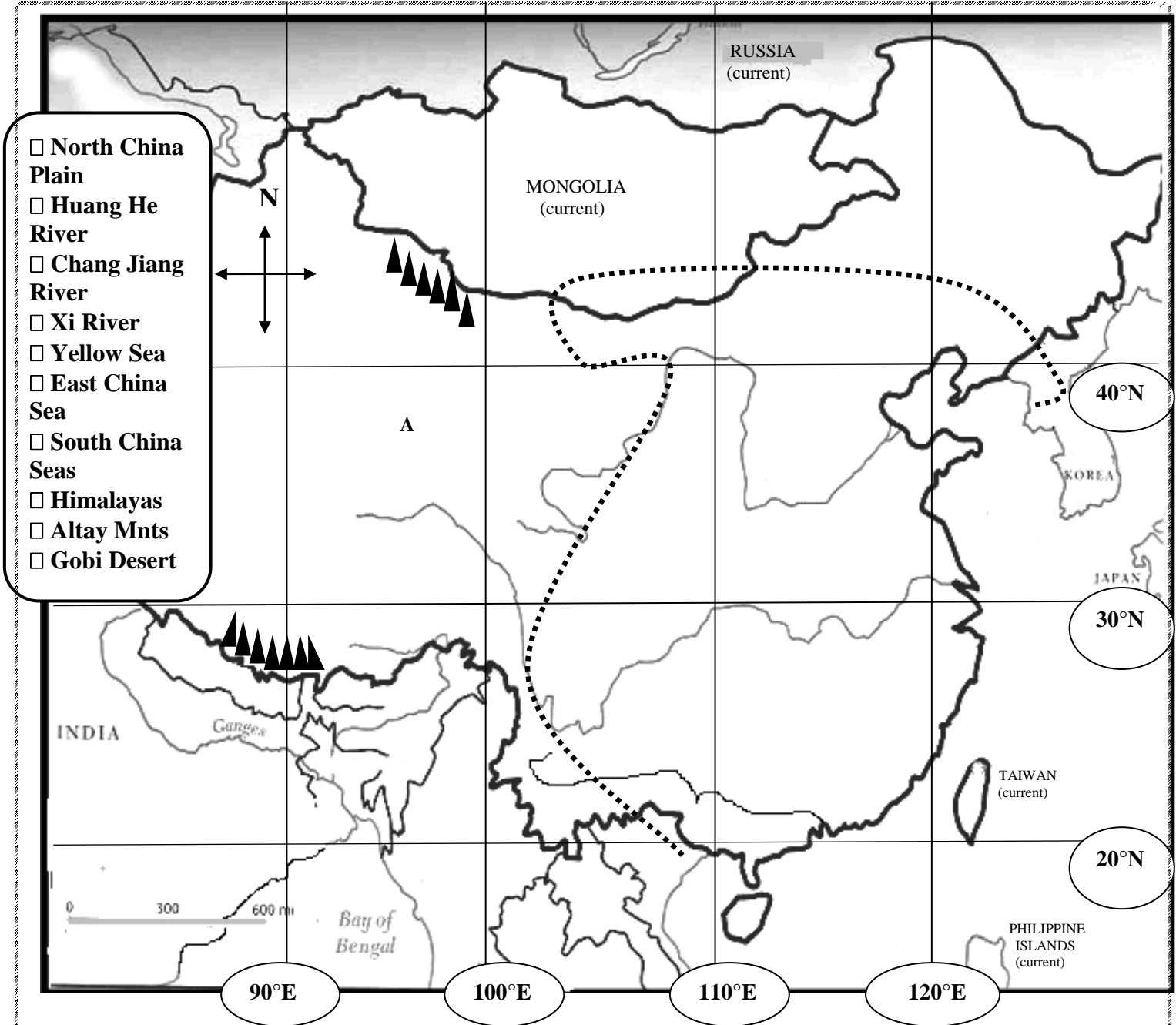
B. Five Themes Chart: There are four phrases that are underlined. Each one is followed by a number from one to four. Place the number in the table to match that sentence or phrase to one of the Five Themes of Geography. One theme will not be used.

Theme	Sentence or phrase from article (use number)
Location	
Place	
Movement	
Region	
HEI	

C. Match a **bold** word from the reading to its synonym.

_____ dikes	a. damaging
_____ monsoons	b. watering of crops
_____ destructive	c. dams
_____ irrigation	d. storms
_____ area	e. size measurement

D. Write one complete sentence to summarize the main idea of the second paragraph .



E. Map questions:

1. On the map above, what does the dotted line represent? _____
2. What is the distance from the mouth of the Xi River to the mouth of the Chang Jiang River? _____ miles
3. What is the distance from the Himalayas to the Altay Mountains? _____ miles
4. Taiwan is (NE, SE, NW, SW) of Mongolia.
5. Russia is (NE, SE, NW, SW) of India
6. Which is the best estimate for the absolute location of the Xi River's mouth? (21°N, 115°E) or (19°N, 115°E)
7. Estimate the absolute location of Japan - _____
8. Estimate the absolute location of Point A - _____
9. Write a complete sentence to describe the relative location of the Philippine Islands - _____
