

East Asia

Natural Resources and Land Use

Objectives

1. Learn about East Asia's major natural resources.
2. Find out how the people of East Asia use land to produce food.

Key Terms

∞ Developing Country

∞ Developed Country

∞ Terrace

∞ Double-Cropping

Developing Country

A country that
has low industrial
production and
little modern
technology.



Developed Country

A country with many industries and a well-developed economy.



← Developing Country

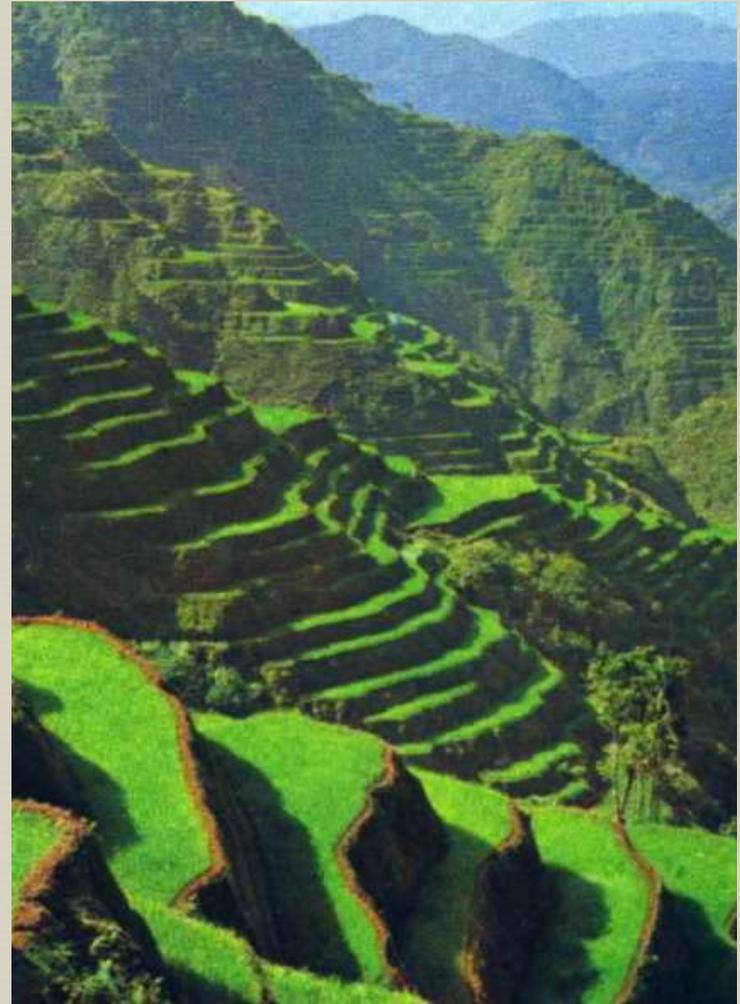
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Developed Country →

Terrac e

A level
area in a
hillside.



Double-Cropping

To grow two
or more
crops on the
same land.



Natural Resources and Land Use

- ❧ Natural resources are materials found in nature including fertile land, minerals, water, and forests.
- ❧ Natural resources can be used to produce all sorts of goods, from cars to sweatshirts.
- ❧ To improve their economies, governments have to decide how to use the land and the natural resources they contain.

East Asia's Natural Resources



- ∞ East Asia has natural resources that can be used to produce energy, such as coal, oil, and water for hydroelectric power.
- ∞ Other resources in East Asia are the raw materials for manufactured goods, such as electronic equipment.
- ∞ The water bodies and fertile land of East Asia area also important resources.

Map Master: Natural Resources

- ☞ phschool.com (Web Code lcp-6113) p. 587
- ☞ 1. What region is shown on this map?
- ☞ 2. What symbol represents hydroelectric power? What symbol represents tin?
- ☞ 3. What resources are found in the western part of East Asia? Are there many resources there, or only a few?
- ☞ 4. Name three resources that are common in East Asia. In what part of the region is each one found?

Mineral Resources in the Two Koreas

- ✧ The two Koreas have limited mineral resources.
- ✧ Coal and iron, which are used in manufacturing, are plentiful in North Korea, but there is little coal or iron in South Korea.
- ✧ The only minerals that are in large supply in the South are tungsten and graphite.
- ✧ Because the two sides are hostile toward one another, they do not share resources.

Mineral Resources and the Two Koreas

- ❧ North Korea is a developing country – one that has low industrial production and little modern technology.
- ❧ South Korea is a developed country – one with many industries and a well-developed economy.
- ❧ Because of its limited resources, South Korea must **import** the iron, crude oil, and chemicals it needs for its industries.
- ❧ Nevertheless, South Korea has one of East Asia's richest economies.

North and South Korea



Mineral Resources in Japan



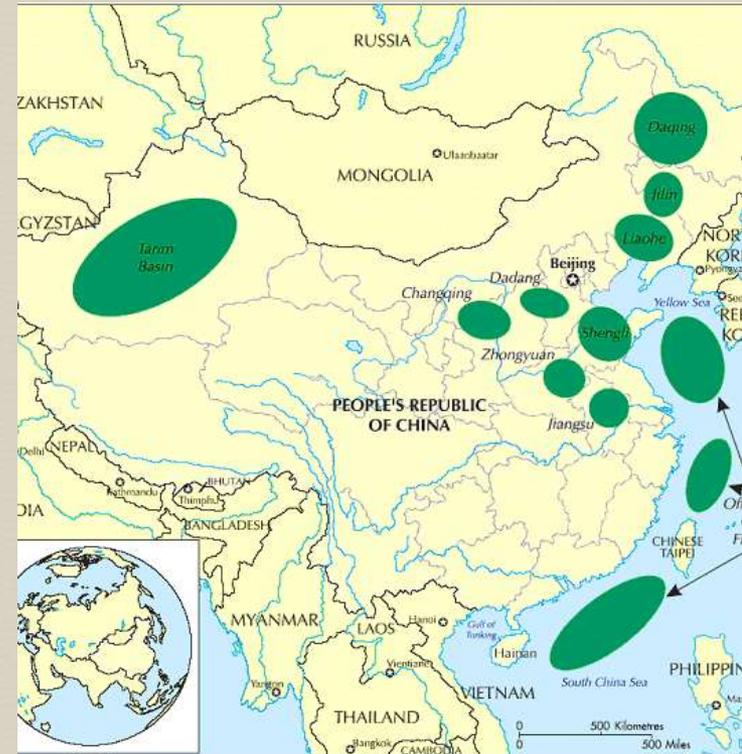
- ✧ Although Japan is a modern industrial society, it has few mineral resources.
- ✧ Japan is the world's largest importer of coal, natural gas, and oil.
- ✧ It also imports about 95% of the iron ore, tin, and copper that it needs to run its major industries.

Mineral Resources in China



- ☞ China has a large supply of mineral resources.
- ☞ For more than 2,000 years, the Chinese have mined copper, tin, and iron.
- ☞ China has one of the world's largest supplies of coal, which is the most important mineral resource.
- ☞ China also makes good use of its oil deposits, but also exports a small amount of oil.

Mineral Resources in China



Water for Energy Production



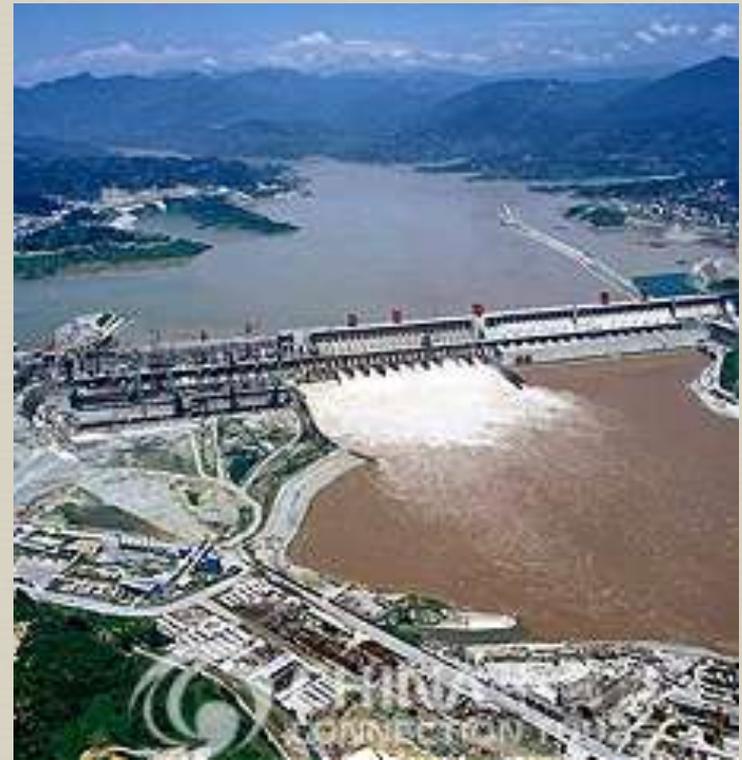
- ❧ The rugged mountains, heavy rainfall, and swiftly flowing rivers of East Asia are perfect for producing hydroelectricity.
- ❧ Using the power of East Asia's rivers is important to the region's development, but building the dams to collect water is costly.
- ❧ When flowing water is used to produce electricity, it is called hydroelectricity.

Water for Energy Production



- ❧ In 2004, China produced about 20% of its electricity from hydroelectric power.
- ❧ The Chinese government expects this figure to increase when China finishes building the Tree Gorges Dam across the Chang River.
- ❧ The Dam will be 1.5 miles wide and more than 600 feet high.

The Three Gorges Dam

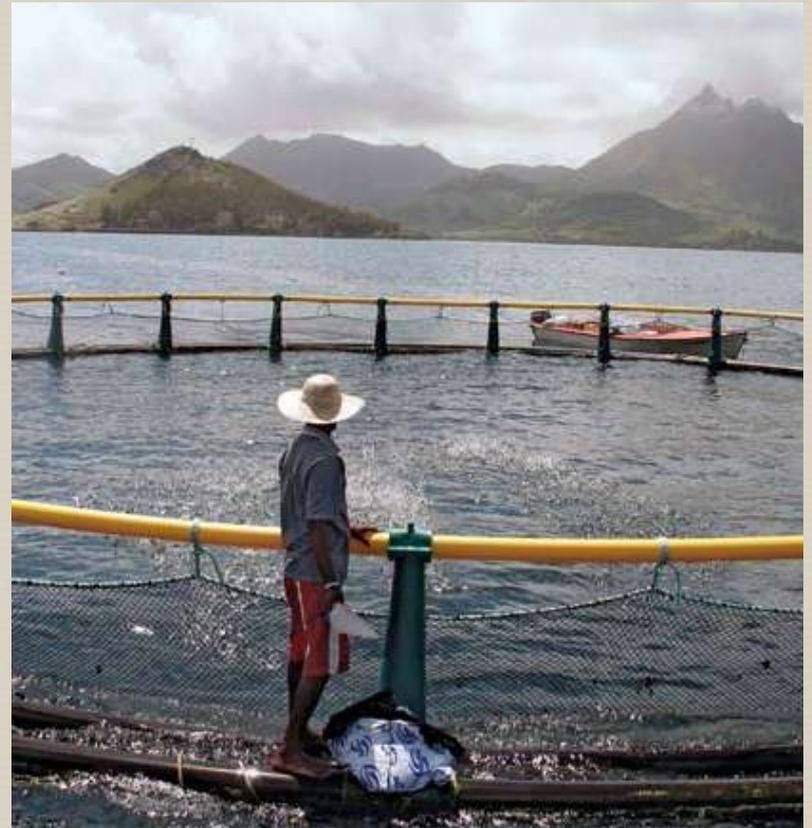


Water for Aquaculture



- ❧ Aquaculture, or fish farming, has been practiced in Asia for centuries.
- ❧ In East Asia, China is the leading aquaculture producer.
- ❧ Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan are also among the top aquaculture producers in the world.
- ❧ Aquaculture includes farm-raised fish, shrimp, oysters, mussels, clams, and seaweed.

Aquaculture



Reading Check 1



- ❧ 1. Based on what you have read, is Japan a developed country or a developing country?
- ❧ 2. Name three natural resources in East Asia that can be used to produce energy.
- ❧ 3. How could a country develop its economy without a large supply of mineral resources?

Using the Land to Produce Food

- ∞ With so many mountains and plateaus, only a small percentage of the land can be cultivated.
- ∞ Only about 14% of China, 12% of Japan, and 14% of North Korea can be farmed.
- ∞ South Korea's 19% is about equal to the percentage of land farmed in the United States.

Terrace Farming

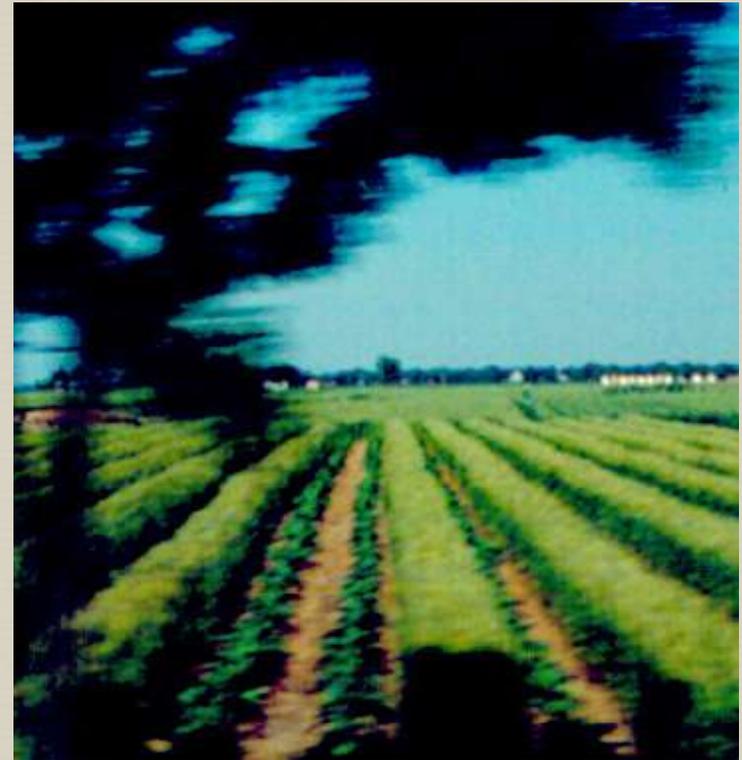
- ✧ In China, Japan, and parts of Korea, farmers cut horizontal steps called terraces into steep hillsides to gain a few precious yards of soil for crops.
- ✧ Farmers even use the land at the sides of roads and railway lines for planting.

Double-Cropping



- ∞ Where climate and soil allow, farmers practice double-cropping, growing two or more crops on the same land in the same season or at the same time.
- ∞ In China, farmers often plant one type of crop between the rows of another crop in order to grow more food.
- ∞ In some parts of southern China, farmers are even able to grow three crops in a year.

Terrace Farming and Double-Cropping



Reading Check 2



- ❧ 1. What two farming techniques do East Asian farmers use to make up for a shortage of farmland?
- ❧ 2. Why might East Asian farmers be interested in learning about faster-growing crops?