Chapter 6: Central Asia, Answer Key

Chapter Opener
Page 138-139

MAP ZONE

1. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan border the Caspian Sea on the eastern coast.
2. Because of its proximity and shared border with Russia, Kazakhstan most likely is the most influenced by Russia.

Section 1-
page 141

MAP ZONE

1. The mountains rise along the eastern border of the region.
2. Answers will vary. Students may choose to reference the idea that the region is landlocked in their explanation. Alternate answers are acceptable, but students should appropriately refer to the section material and the map on page 141 in their explanation of how the region's location and physical features may have affected it over the years.

The mountains present many challenges to this region. Among these challenges are travel and communication difficulties that have contributed to the region's isolation. Tectonic activity also causes frequent earthquakes.

Page 142

MAP ZONE

1. Most of Central Asia's oil is located on the coast of the Caspian Sea, in Kazakhstan, as well as in Turkmenistan.
2. Answers will vary. Student answers may be similar to, but are not limited to the idea that many places are ideal for commercial farming because they are located near rivers, which provide water, hydropower, and good soil for growing crops.

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Page 142

It is hard for plants to grow in much of Central Asia because the climate is harsh and dry. Extreme temperature ranges and limited rainfall make it difficult for plant life to survive or thrive.

Page 143

Answers may vary. Student lists may include, but are not limited to, the following types of natural resources in Central Asia: oil, natural gas, coal and other minerals such as gold, silver, copper, zinc, uranium, and lead.

Page 145

Because Central Asia has been somewhat of a crossroads for traders and invaders for hundreds of years, many groups of people influenced Central Asia. Among these groups are traders from Europe and China, such as Turkic-speaking nomads from northern Asia, Arabs, Mongols, various tribal peoples (Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Turkmens) and finally, Russians.

Page 146

Answers will vary. Students should articulately suggest how a yurt might be easier to move than another type of house with appropriate references to the image on page 146.

Page 147

MAP ZONE

1. In the largest area, Kazakh is spoken.
2. For the most part, language regions are similar to political boundaries, with the exception of southern Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan which have overlapping language areas.

Page 147

MAP ZONE
Answers will vary. Students may reference climate or cultural tradition in their explanation of why the men in the photos wear different hats. Other explanations are acceptable, as long as students can justify their responses.

Russian and Soviet rule each influenced culture in Central Asia. When the Russians conquered Central Asia, they established Russian as the official language of business and government. Russians also introduced the Cyrillic alphabet and the practices and beliefs of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Soviets removed many aspects of the Muslim culture, closing or destroying buildings.

Section 3-

Page 150
Answers will vary. Students may suggest that an education may provide more opportunities for a better future.

Page 151
Answers will vary. Student answers may include but are not limited to the idea that carpets are a good fit for a nomadic way of life because they are portable, serve many functions and can serve as an identifier according to each unique design and pattern.

Page 152
In Kyrgyzstan, the economic focus on farming has led to a reliance on the fertile soil and plentiful rainfall, while in Tajikistan, the economy is reliant on cotton farming but only a small percentage of land is arable.

Page 152, continued
Answers will vary. Students should articulately explain what they think could be done to improve the environment in Central Asia. Students may choose to reference the "old factory" and the pollution shown in the photo. This region faces many environmental challenges. Among them are the shrinking of the Aral Sea, the damage caused by Soviet military practices, and the overuse of chemicals to increase crop production.

Page 154-155

1. The Aral Sea was approximately three times as wide in 1977 as it is now.
2. The shrinking of the sea affects towns that were once on its shore without access to water.

Page 156

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

Practice

1. According to the map scales, the 2nd map shows a larger area.
2. On the Bishkek map, 1 inch represents 1,000 feet while on the Kyrgyzstan map 1 inch represents 200 miles.
3. It is a little over 1,000 feet from Dubovy Park to Victory Square.

Apply
(students should reference the map on page 138-139 for this assignment)

1. Each inch represents 200 miles and 300 kilometers.
2. The Caspian Sea measures approximately 700 miles from north to south.
3. Turkmenistan is approximately 500 miles from the Persian Gulf.