Assessment: Geography and the Early Settlement of China

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. Of all the countries in the world, China has the
   A. largest area.  
   B. most people.  
   C. longest river.  
   D. worst weather.

2. Why did fewer people settle in Outer China than in Inner China?
   A. The land was in larger estates.  
   B. The climate was more extreme.  
   C. The roads were more dangerous.  
   D. The invasions drove farmers away.

3. In Inner China, which natural events improved the soil?
   A. floods  
   B. hurricanes  
   C. sandstorms  
   D. earthquakes

4. Why is the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau called the “Roof of the World”?
   A. It is very high above sea level.  
   B. It has mountains on every side.  
   C. It covers a very large land area.  
   D. It is the source of several rivers.

5. Why did ancient people on the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau herd yaks rather than grow crops?
   A. Yaks found food in thick forests.  
   B. The region was too wet for crops.  
   C. The region was too cold for crops.  
   D. Yaks could be sold in the markets.

6. What made the Taklimakan Desert one of the most dangerous deserts in the world?
   A. bandits and nomadic tribes  
   B. wild animals near the rivers  
   C. sandstorms and shifting dunes  
   D. flash floods after thunderstorms

7. How is the Gobi Desert different from the Taklimakan Desert?
   A. The air grows hot in the daytime.  
   B. Winter is very similar to summer.  
   C. Very little rain falls during a year.  
   D. Pebbles cover much of the surface.

8. How did the natural vegetation of the Northeastern Plain affect the lives of ancient settlers there?
A. Fruit trees attracted settlement around oases.
B. Varieties of plant life encouraged raising crops.
C. Dense woods supported hunting and gathering.
D. Prairie grass provided food for horses and sheep.

9. Several groups of invaders from the Northeastern Plain traveled to Inner China
   A. across the Gobi Desert.
   B. by boat across the ocean.
   C. on frozen rivers in winter.
   D. along a narrow coastal plain.

10. Why is the North China Plain sometimes called the “Land of the Yellow Earth”?
    A. Millet is an important grain on farms in the region.
    B. Limestone silt from the Gobi Desert covers the soil.
    C. Gold has been discovered in the surrounding mountains.
    D. One of the world's muddiest rivers runs through the region.

11. How did the Huang He most influence settlement near its banks?
    A. By flooding dangerously, it kept people at a distance.
    B. By carrying boats of raiders, it drove households away.
    C. By fertilizing the soil, it attracted communities of farmers.
    D. By swarming with fish, it led to the growth of fishing villages.

12. What do the Turfan Depression and the Chang Jiang Basins have in common?
    A. They both have a large amount of rainfall.
    B. They are both used mostly for grazing animals.
    C. They both experience extremes in temperature.
    D. They are both lower than many other parts of China.

13. Because rice requires warm, wet weather, where did the ancient Chinese grow rice?
    A. the North China Plain
    B. the Chang Jiang Basins
    C. the Northeastern Plateau
    D. the Tibet-Qinghai Plateau

14. In ancient times, what limited settlement in the Chang Jiang Basins compared with that in the North China Plain?
    A. Herds had to be moved from place to place.
    B. Crops did not grow well in the harsh climate.
    C. Lack of natural barriers brought attacks from the south.
    D. Rainforest vegetation may have limited the space for farming.
15. What protected Inner China from invasion from the northwest?
   A. wide rivers
   B. grassy plains
   C. barren deserts
   D. high mountains

16. Later in Chinese history, which of these geographical features made governing China as a unified state most difficult?
   A. its large size
   B. its long rivers
   C. its broad plains
   D. its different crops
Applying Social Studies Skills

Use the map and your knowledge of history to answer the questions below. Write the word or phrases in the space provided.

17. The major rivers of ancient China flowed down from what region?

18. What three natural barriers, shown on the map, helped protect Inner China from invasion?

19. What is one factor that may have made east-west travel easier than north-south travel within Inner China in ancient times?
Exploring the Essential Question: How did geography affect life in ancient China?

20. Suppose that you live in ancient China. You want to persuade your family to move to a different region. Fill in the form below to prepare your arguments.

Part I: The Region Where You Live Now
a. Name of region __________________________

b. Description of region (climate, land, vegetation)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

c. How the features of the region affect your family’s life, including how you make your living

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Part II: The Region You Want to Move To
a. Name of region __________________________

b. Description of region (climate, land, vegetation)

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________________________________________________________________________

c. How the features of the region would affect your family’s life, including how you would make your living

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Part III: The Reasons Why You Think Your Family Should Move

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