**Geography – Human & Physical**

Throughout history, geographic features have influenced the development of civilizations and regions. Geographic features have both promoted and limited interactions with other civilizations and regions.

**Select two different geographic features and for each**

* Discuss how this geographic feature influenced the development of a specific civilization or region
* Discuss how this geographic feature promoted and/or limited the interaction of this civilization or region with another civilization or region

Location of Japan

* Archipelago – chain of islands
* Located in the pacific ocean on the Ring of Fire
  + Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes
  + Developed Shintoism – religion based on the idea that spirits exist in nature and that it must be respected
* Very little natural resources
  + After industrialization during the Meiji Restoration
    - Became imperialistic in order to gain access to these resources
    - Created an empire in the Pacific Ocean
* Little arable land
  + Utilized terrace faming in order to increase the amount of land suitable for farming
    - Dug flat plots of land into the side of a hill or mountain

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* Borrow elements of culture from China through Korea which functioned as a land bridge
  + Cultural borrowing while still maintaining their own unique culture
    - Calligraphic writing system
    - Chinese bureaucracy – levels of government and departments to organize government
    - Zen Buddhism – combined traditional Buddhist ideas with the Japanese Shinto philosophy
  + Mongols were unable to invade Japan due to their location

Nile River

* Located in Northeast Africa
* Middle of the Sahara Desert 🡪 largest in the world
* Nile was necessary for survival
  + Egypt was the ‘Gift of the Nile’
    - Nile flooded on an annual basis
      * Egyptians able to develop a calendar
        + Knew when to plant and when to harvest 🡪 food surplus
* Job specialization able to develop
  + Mummification, pyramids, hieroglyphics
* Had religious significance
  + At death heart was weighed against the feather of truth
    - Heart lighter went to the West side of the Nile

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* Desirable location in the Mediterranean easy for trade
  + Alexander the Great – Alexandria
    - Flagship city
    - Library
  + Romans incorporated it into their empire
    - Traded grain from Egypt for iron from Europe