Chapter 13
The New Eastern Europe

To learn more about the people and places of eastern Europe, view The World and Its People Chapter 13 video.

Chapter Overview Visit The World and Its People Web site at twp.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 13—Chapter Overviews to preview information about eastern Europe.
**Compare-Contrast** Make the following foldable to help you compare and contrast what you learn about western Europe and eastern Europe.

**Step 1** Fold a sheet of paper in half from side to side.

**Step 2** Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.

**Step 3** Unfold and cut the top layer only along both folds.

**Step 4** Label as shown.

---

**Reading and Writing** Before you read Chapter 13, record what you learned about western Europe in Chapter 12 under the “Western Europe” tab of your foldable. As you read Chapter 13, write what you learn about eastern Europe under the correct tab. Then list ways these two regions are similar under the middle tab.

---

**From Communism to Democracy**

Since the fall of communism, the countries of eastern Europe have continued to change. The formation of new democratic governments has led to closer ties with other free nations in Europe. The economic influence of eastern Europe grows as the region becomes a new market for western goods. The changes are not occurring smoothly, however, and many challenges have to be met.
Along the southern shores of the Baltic Sea lie Poland and the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Although they are neighboring countries, they have distinct histories and cultures.

Poland

Poland is one of the largest countries in Europe. About the size of New Mexico, Poland lies on the huge North European Plain. This plain stretches from France to Russia. Rivers such as the Vistula (VIHSH•chuh•luhn) and the Oder flow through Poland’s flat lowlands. Many Polish people live in this fertile central region.

North toward the Baltic Sea, you find lakes, forests, and bogs, or low swampy lands. In the south, the Carpathian (kahr•PAY•thee•uhn) Mountains stretch along Poland’s border with Slovakia. Poland’s location and lack of mountains on its eastern and western borders have made the country an easy target for invading armies.

368 CHAPTER 13
Warm winds blowing across Europe from the Atlantic Ocean bring year-round mild weather to western Poland. Cooler weather can be found in eastern Poland. It has cool summers and cold winters.

**A Changing Economy**  In the past, Poland was a communist state, or a country in which the government has strong control over the economy and society. The Polish government decided what, how, and for whom goods would be produced. In 1989 Poland started moving toward a market economy. The change has been difficult. In their communist state, workers had jobs for life, even if business was slow. Today businesses lay off workers if they cannot afford to keep a large staff. Poland is adjusting to meet economic challenges. Many people have started businesses, and Poles no longer suffer from shortages of goods.

Poland is dotted with thousands of small farms, on which about 25 percent of Poles work. Polish farmers grow more potatoes and rye than farmers in any other European country. Other crops include wheat,
sugar beets, fruits, and vegetables. Some farmers raise cattle, pigs, and chickens.

Most mining and manufacturing take place in central and southern Poland. Coal mining is one of Poland’s major industries. The mountains also hold copper, zinc, and lead. Petroleum and natural gas are found here as well. The country produces hydroelectric power, or electric power produced by moving water.

Polish factories process foods and make machinery, transportation equipment, and chemicals. The city of Gdansk (guh•DAHNSK), a Baltic seaport, is an important shipbuilding center. Under Communist rule, Polish factories caused some of the worst water and air pollution in Europe. Since 1989 there has been a decline in heavy industry and the government is more concerned with the environment. Still, problems continue because Polish factories rely on burning coal. Factory smoke causes acid rain, or rain containing chemicals that pollute water, air, and land.

Struggle for Freedom Founded in the A.D. 900s, Poland was a powerful kingdom during the Middle Ages. By the 1800s, it had fallen victim to stronger neighbors—Germany, Russia, and Austria. In 1939 German troops overran western Poland, starting World War II. Poles suffered greatly during the war. Warsaw, the capital, was bombed to ashes. Some 6 million European Jews and 6 million others were murdered in brutal prison camps set up by the Germans in Poland and elsewhere. After the war, the Soviet Union swallowed up lands in eastern Poland. In exchange, the Poles gained western areas belonging to defeated Germany.

In 1947 a communist government came to power in Poland. Resisting its rule, workers and farmers in 1980 formed Solidarity, a labor group that struggled peacefully for democratic change. The communist government finally allowed free elections in 1989, and a new democratic government was formed. A year later, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa (LEHK vah•LEHN•suh) was elected Poland’s first democratic president. Today Poland is a democratic republic, or government headed by elected leaders. Drawing closer to western Europe, Poland joined the European Union in 2004.

Daily Life About 38.6 million people live in Poland. Almost all are ethnic Poles who belong to a larger ethnic group called Slavs. They speak Polish, which is a Slavic language. Poland is more rural than
nations in other parts of Europe. About one-third of the people live in the countryside. As Poland’s economy changes, more people are moving to cities such as Warsaw and Kraków.

Poles feel a deep loyalty to their country. Religion unites Poles as well. Most are Roman Catholic, and religion has a strong influence on daily life. The Polish people were very proud in 1978 when Karol Wojtyla (voy•TEE•wah) was named pope, or head of the Roman Catholic Church. Taking the name John Paul II, he was the first Pole to become pope.

**Reading Check** What two beliefs or attitudes unite the Polish people?

## The Baltic Republics

The small Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania lie on the shores of the Baltic Sea. For much of their history, the Baltic republics were under Russian control. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania became independent. All three countries still have large Russian minority populations. Most people in Estonia and Latvia are Protestants, while Roman Catholics make up the majority in Lithuania.

The Baltic republics are located on poor, swampy land. Even so, their well-developed economies are based mainly on dairy farming, beef production, fishing, and shipbuilding. In recent years, increased trade and industry have raised standards of living in this region.

**Reading Check** Which two major religions are practiced in the Baltic republics?

### Defining Terms

1. Define **bog**, **communist state**, **acid rain**, **pope**.

### Recalling Facts

2. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why does pollution continue to be a problem in Poland?
3. **Economics** Why is Gdańsk important?
4. **Region** Which three countries are considered the Baltic republics?

### Graphic Organizer

5. **Organizing Information** On a time line like this one, label five important events and their dates in Poland’s history.

### Critical Thinking

6. **Understanding Cause and Effect** Which of Poland’s physical features has made it an easy target for invading armies? Why?
7. **Making Comparisons** What is the difference in job security under a communist state and a free market economy?

### Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Refer to the political map on page 369. The Vistula River empties into what body of water? Now turn to the population density map on page 384. What is the population density of the area surrounding Kraków?
In the center of eastern Europe are Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. All three countries became communist under Soviet control after World War II. In 1989 they all became independent democracies with free market economies.

Hungary—Land of the Magyars

Hungary, almost the size of Indiana, is landlocked, meaning that its land does not border a sea or an ocean. Hungary depends on the mighty Danube River for trade and transportation. Its vast waters flow 1,776 miles (2,858 km) before emptying into the Black Sea.

The Hungarian Plain runs through eastern Hungary. This vast lowland area has excellent soil for farming and grazing animals. The Danube River separates the plain from Transdanubia, a region in western Hungary. Rolling hills, forests, and lakes are found there. Many Hungarians vacation near Lake Balaton—one of Europe’s largest lakes.

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is often called “the city of a hundred spires” because of its many church steeples. You won’t hear just religious music here, however. Musical contributions range from classical to punk. More recently, the Czech Republic has become a leading European center of jazz.

Terms to Know

- landlocked
- nomad
- spa
- privatize

Country | Past | Present
--- | --- | ---
Hungary | | |
Czech Republic | | |
Slovakia | | |

Guide to Reading

Main Idea

Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia are changing to free market economies.

Terms to Know

- landlocked
- nomad
- spa
- privatize

Reading Strategy

Fill in a chart like the one below with facts about the past and present of Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.
The Carpathian Mountains rise in northern Hungary. In this scenic area, you can wander through thick forests, find strange rock formations, and explore underground caves.

**The Economy** Hungary’s farmers grow corn, sugar beets, wheat, and potatoes in the country’s rich soil. Grapes, used to make wine, are also grown here. Hungary’s natural resources include coal, petroleum, and natural gas. Foods, beverages, and tobacco products are manufactured along with machines, chemicals, and metals. Service industries, such as financial services and tourism, also thrive.

**The Hungarians** Magyars came to the Danube area from Central Asia about 1,000 years ago. They were **nomads**, or people who move from place to place, often with herds of animals. The Magyars were skilled horse riders who used the grassy plains to feed their animals. Eventually they set up a large kingdom and adopted Christianity.

Beginning in the 1500s, the Ottoman Turks and later the Austrians ruled most or all of Hungary. In 1867 Hungary and Austria became partners in a large empire. After being defeated in World War I, Hungary lost territory and became the landlocked nation it is today.

About 90 percent of Hungary’s 10.1 million people are descended from the Magyars. Almost all speak the Hungarian language. About two-thirds are Roman Catholic, while another one-fourth is Protestant. **Budapest** (BOO-duh-PETH), the capital and largest city, is called “the Paris of eastern Europe.” It is actually two cities divided by the Danube River. On the western bank lies the old city of Buda, full of beautiful churches and palaces. Bridges link this older settlement to the newer city of Pest, which has factories and tall, modern buildings.

**Reading Check** What river is important to Hungary, and why?

---

**On Location**

**Budapest, Hungary**

Hungary’s capital extends along both banks of the Danube River.

**Place** Which two physical regions does the Danube River separate?
The Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is also a landlocked country. Many areas are known for their natural beauty. In the mountains to the north and south, you can hike trails and visit spas, or health resorts with hot mineral springs. The Czechs enjoy a high standard of living compared to other eastern Europeans. Large fertile areas make the Czech Republic a major agricultural producer. Manufacturing forms the backbone of the country’s economy, however. Factories make machinery, vehicles, metals, and textiles. Minerals include limestone, coal, and kaolin, a fine clay used for pottery.

Prague, the capital, is a center of service industries, tourism, and high-tech companies. Although manufacturing provides consumer products, many factories are old, inefficient, and harmful to the environment. The Czechs are trying to modernize their factories and move toward nuclear energy.

The Czechs Slavic groups settled in the Czech region in the A.D. 400s and 500s. By 900 the Czechs had adopted Christianity and formed a kingdom called Bohemia. It became part of the Austrian Empire, which ruled from the 1500s until 1918. In that year, the Czechs and their Slovak neighbors formed Czechoslovakia, which came under Soviet rule. In 1993 the Czechs and Slovaks agreed to split into the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia. Today the Czech Republic is a parliamentary democracy with a president and a prime minister.

Two-thirds of the 10.2 million Czechs live in cities, many in crowded apartment buildings. The country is famous for the splendor of its historic buildings and monuments. The Czechs have also produced great literature, including plays written by the Czech Republic’s first president.

Looking Closer What would you consider the national dish of the United States?
Slovakia

The Carpathian Mountains tower over the northern region of Slovakia. They are rich in iron ore, lead, zinc, and copper. Factories use these minerals to produce iron and steel products. Under communist rule, factories were built for heavy industry. Although communism is now gone, the push to develop industries continues. Workers also make cement, plastics, textiles, and processed foods. Rugged peaks, thick forests, and blue lakes make this area a popular vacation spot. Further south, vineyards and farms spread across fertile lowlands. Farmers grow barley, corn, potatoes, sugar beets, and grapes.

Slovakia has had difficulty changing to a free market economy. After the fall of communism, Slovak leaders set out to privatize businesses. This means that factory ownership transfers from the government to individual citizens. Some government officials acted corruptly, giving advantages to themselves or to their friends. This made few foreign companies willing to start new businesses here. Slovak factories also suffer from outdated technology, which contributes to pollution.

The Slovaks have a language and culture different from the Czechs. Most Slovaks are Roman Catholics. Nearly 60 percent of Slovakia’s 5.4 million people live in modern towns and cities. Bratislava, a port on the Danube, is Slovakia’s capital and largest city. Tourists visit village festivals to see people dress in traditional clothes and to hear musicians play folk music on shepherds’ flutes and bagpipes.

Reading Check

What contributes to pollution in Slovakia?

Defining Terms

1. Define landlocked, nomad, spa, privatize.

Recalling Facts

2. Culture To what ethnic group do most Hungarians belong?

3. Geography What are three of the Czech Republic’s natural resources?

4. Economics Why has Slovakia had difficulty changing to a free market economy?

Critical Thinking

5. Analyzing Information Why do the Czechs have a high standard of living?

6. Understanding Cause and Effect Why do you think the Magyars settled in the Danube area?

Graphic Organizer

7. Organizing Information Draw a diagram like the one below. Then add at least two facts under the headings in each outer oval.

Applying Social Studies Skills

8. Analyzing Maps Turn to the political map on page 369. What countries border Hungary to the north? To the east?
Effective note taking involves more than just writing facts in short phrases. It involves breaking up information into meaningful parts so that it can be remembered.

Learning the Skill

To take good notes, follow these steps:

• Write key points and important facts and figures quickly and neatly. Use abbreviations and phrases.
• Copy words, statements, or diagrams from the board or your research.
• Ask the teacher to repeat important points you do not understand.
• When studying textbook material, organize your notes into an outline or a concept map that links important information.
• For a research report, take notes on cards. Note cards should include the title, author, and page number of sources.

Practicing the Skill

Suppose you are writing a research report on eastern Europe. First, identify main idea questions about this topic, such as “Who has ruled Poland?” or “What economic activities are found in the Czech Republic?” Then research each question.

Using this textbook as a source, read the material on pages 369–370 and 374 and prepare notes as shown below. The first few have been started for you.

Main Idea: What economic activities are found in Poland?
1. Agriculture: potatoes, rye . . .
2. Mining: coal, copper, zinc . . .

Main Idea: What economic activities are found in the Czech Republic?
1.
2.
3.

Applying the Skill

In an encyclopedia or on the Internet, find information about Poland’s coal industry and the environmental consequences of burning coal. Take notes by writing the main idea and supporting facts. Then rewrite the article using only your notes.
Europe’s Balkan Peninsula lies between the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea. The physical map on page 284 shows you that several countries make up this Balkan region. They are Romania, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav republics, and Albania.

**Romania**

Romania sits on the northeastern edge of the Balkan Peninsula. The Carpathian Mountains take up about one-third of the country’s land area. A vast plateau covers central Romania. A coastal region along the Black Sea includes the mouth of the Danube River. Winters can be very cold and foggy, with much snow. Summers are hot and sunny, but rainfall is abundant.

Romania’s economic activities include farming, manufacturing, and mining. The forested mountains and central plateau contain deposits of coal, petroleum, and natural gas. Oil derricks rise in the

Traditional dress, folk music, and dancing enliven outdoor festivals in Romania. Many of these traditions come from the Roma people, who have lived here for centuries. If you expect to see folk dress in Romania’s capital, however, teenagers there might think you are old-fashioned. These teens in Bucharest listen to rock music and watch TV just like you do.

**Guide to Reading**

**Main Idea**

The Balkan countries have suffered greatly from ethnic conflicts and economic setbacks.

**Terms to Know**

- consumer goods
- ethnic cleansing
- refugee
- mosque

**Reading Strategy**

Create a chart like this one. For each Balkan country, choose an event that occurred. Write the cause of the event in the left box. Then write an effect in the right box.
south. Orchards and vineyards stretch along Romania’s western, eastern, and southern borders. Farmers also grow grains, vegetables, and herbs here.

Despite abundant resources, Romania’s economy has been held back by the communist policies of the past. Under communism, Romania’s factories produced steel, chemicals, and machinery. Few consumer goods—clothing, shoes, and other goods that people use—were manufactured. Romania now has a free market economy to supply these goods, but aging factories need to be updated for Romania’s economy to grow. In addition, the country needs to heal an environment widely damaged by air and water pollution.

The Romanians About 56 percent of Romania’s 21.6 million people live in towns and cities. Bucharest, the capital and largest city, has more than 2 million people. What does Romania’s name tell you about its history? If you guessed that the Romans once ruled this region, you are correct. Romania’s history and culture were greatly influenced by the Romans. The Romanian language is closer to French, Italian, and Spanish—all based on Latin—than it is to other eastern European languages. In other ways, the Romanians are more like their Slavic neighbors. Many Romanians are Eastern Orthodox Christians.

Believe It! or Not!

Transylvania
The region of central Romania known as Transylvania was the setting for English author Bram Stoker’s vampire novel Dracula. Recently, a doctor noticed that many myths about vampires matched the symptoms of rabies, including pain from bright lights. He found that rabies had spread through the region at the same time that the vampire tales began.

Bulgaria
Mountainous Bulgaria lies south of Romania. Fertile valleys and plains are tucked among the Balkan Mountains and the Rhodope Mountains, which span most of the country. The coast along the Black Sea has warmer year-round temperatures than the mountainous inland areas.

Bulgaria’s economy relies on both agriculture and manufacturing. Wheat, corn, and sugar beets grow in the fertile valleys. Roses are grown in the central Valley of the Roses. Their sweet-smelling oil is used in perfumes. Manufacturing depends on the country’s deposits of zinc and coal. Factories produce machinery, metals, textiles, and processed foods. Tourism is growing as visitors seek out Bulgaria’s scenic resorts on the Black Sea.

Daily Life Most of Bulgaria’s 7.5 million people trace their ancestry to the Slavs, Turks, and other groups from Central Asia. Most Slavic people use the Cyrillic (suh•RIH•lihk) alphabet, which was first created to write the Slavic language. The Bulgarian language, similar to Russian, is also written in this Cyrillic alphabet. Most Bulgarians are Eastern Orthodox Christians. About 13 percent of the people are Muslims, or followers of the Islamic religion.

Sofia, with over 1 million people, is the capital and largest city. During the summer, Bulgarians join vacationers from other countries at resorts on the Black Sea coast. Here, modern hotels line wide, sandy beaches.

Reading Check To what other languages is Romanian related?

Reading Check What alphabet is used in many Slavic languages?
The former Yugoslav republics used to be one large country called Yugoslavia. In the early 1990s, long-simmering disputes among ethnic groups boiled to the surface and tore the country apart. Five countries eventually emerged: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (HEHRT•seh•GAW•vee•nah), Serbia and Montenegro, and Macedonia, also known as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (or F.Y.R.O.M.).

After the breakup, Serbia and Montenegro kept the name of Yugoslavia. Serbia wanted to control the other former Yugoslav republics and to protect the Serbs living in them. As a result, wars erupted throughout the 1990s. Some countries listed above forced people of other ethnic groups to leave their homes, a policy called ethnic cleansing. Tens of thousands died or were murdered. Thousands more became refugees, or people who flee to another country to escape danger or disaster. These wars left the region badly scarred. By 2002 Serbia’s hope of one Yugoslavia had ended. Serbia and Montenegro formed a looser union and dropped the Yugoslav name.

Slovenia  Slovenia is located in the northwest of the Balkans region. It has rugged mountains and fertile, densely populated valleys. Of all the countries of the old Yugoslavia, Slovenia is the most peaceful and prosperous. With many factories and service industries, it also has the region’s highest standard of living. About 52 percent of the 2 million Slovenians live in towns and cities. Most are Roman Catholic.

Croatia  Croatia spreads along the island-studded coast of the Adriatic Sea. Inland, Croatia has rugged mountains and a fertile plain. Zagreb, the capital and largest city, lies in this inland area. A republic, Croatia supports agriculture as well as industry. Tourists once crowded Croatia’s beautiful Adriatic beaches, but war has since damaged many of these places.

The Croats, a Slavic group, make up 78 percent of Croatia’s 4.3 million people. Another 12 percent are Serbs. Both Croats and Serbs speak the same Serbo-Croatian language, but they use different alphabets. The Croats use the Latin alphabet, the same one that you use for English. The Serbs write with the Cyrillic alphabet. Religion also divides Croats and Serbs. Croats are mainly Roman Catholic, while Serbs are Eastern Orthodox Christians.
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mountainous and poor, the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina has an economy based mainly on crops and livestock. Sarajevo (SAR•uh•YAY•voh), the capital, has the look of an Asian city, with its marketplaces and mosques, or Muslim houses of worship. Many of the Bosnian people are Muslims. Others are Eastern Orthodox Serbs or Roman Catholic Croats. Serbs in the region began a bitter war after Bosnia’s independence in 1992. The Dayton Peace Accords divided Bosnia into two regions under one government in 1995. American soldiers and other troops came as peacekeepers.

Serbia and Montenegro

Since 2002 Serbia and its reluctant partner Montenegro have formed a loose union. In 2003 an agreement was reached to vote for independence in each republic in 2006. The economies of these two republics are based on agriculture and industry. The region’s largest city is Belgrade.

Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.)

Macedonia’s 2.1 million people are a mix of different ethnic groups from the Balkans. In Skopje (SKAW•pyeh), Macedonia’s capital, there is an amazing mix of ancient Christian churches, age-old Turkish markets, and modern shopping centers. Close to Kosovo, Macedonia handled a huge wave of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo who fled Serb forces in 1999.

ZLATA’S DIARY

by Zlata Filipović

Young Zlata Filipović kept a diary about her experiences in Sarajevo.

“BOREDOM!!! SHOOTING!!! SHELLING!!! PEOPLE BEING KILLED!!! DESPAIR!!! HUNGER!!! MISER Y!!! FEAR!!! That’s my life!
The life of an innocent eleven-year-old schoolgirl!!! A schoolgirl without a school. A child without games, without friends, without the sun, without birds, without nature, without fruit, without chocolate or sweets, with just a little powdered milk. In short, a child without a childhood. A wartime child. . . . I once heard that childhood is the most wonderful time of your life. And it is. I loved it, and now an ugly war is taking it all away from me. Why? I feel sad. I feel like crying. I am crying.”


Analyzing Primary Sources

Making Inferences What things do you think you would miss the most if war or another tragedy took them from you?
The New Eastern Europe

Albania

Bordering the Adriatic Sea, Albania is slightly smaller than the state of Maryland. Mountains cover most of Albania, contributing to its isolation from neighboring countries. Albania is a very poor nation. Although the country has valuable mineral resources, it lacks the money to mine them. Most Albanians farm—growing corn, grapes, olives, potatoes, sugar beets, and wheat—in mountain valleys.

Almost two-thirds of Albanians live in the countryside. The capital and largest city, Tirana, and its suburbs have a population of about 270,000. Although 3.1 million people live in Albania, another 3.2 million Albanians live in nearby countries. These refugees fled Albania to escape the violence that occurred in the 1990s.

About 70 percent of Albanians are Muslim. The rest are Christian. The Communists that once ruled Albania opposed religion, but Albania’s current democratic government has allowed people to practice their faith. A famous Albanian, the Catholic nun Mother Teresa, served the poor in India.

Reading Check
What is the main religion in Albania?

Defining Terms
1. Define consumer goods, ethnic cleansing, refugee, mosque.

Recalling Facts
2. Place What is the capital of Romania?
3. Economics How are roses used in Bulgaria?
4. Economics Which of the former Yugoslav republics is most prosperous?

Critical Thinking
5. Drawing Conclusions How do you think people in the Balkans feel about the recent changes in their countries?
6. Understanding Cause and Effect What effect did the policy of ethnic cleansing have on the people of Serbia?

Graphic Organizer
7. Organizing Information Create a chart like the one below and complete it by filling in two facts under each country’s name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Romania</th>
<th>Bulgaria</th>
<th>Slovenia</th>
<th>Croatia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Serbia and Montenegro</td>
<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applying Social Studies Skills
8. Analyzing Maps Study the political map on page 369. What countries are found on the east coast of the Adriatic Sea?
Ukrainians have a rich folk art tradition that dates back thousands of years. It includes pottery, textiles, and woodworking. The best-known Ukrainian art form, however, is that of pysanky, or decorated eggs.

**History**

Ukrainian Easter eggs are known worldwide for their beauty and skillful designs. Many of the designs date back to a time when people in the region worshiped a sun god. According to legend, the sun god preferred birds over all other creatures. Birds’ eggs became a symbol of birth and new life, and people believed the eggs could ward off evil and bring good luck. Eggs were decorated with sun symbols and used in ceremonies that marked the beginning of spring.

When Christianity took hold in Ukraine in A.D. 988, the tradition of making decorative eggs continued. The egg came to represent religious rebirth and new life. People decorated eggs in the days before Easter and then gave them as gifts on Easter morning.

**Technique**

The word *pysanky* comes from Ukrainian words meaning “things that are written upon.” This phrase helps explain the wax process used to decorate the eggs. An artist uses a pin or a tool called a *kistka* to “write” a design in hot wax onto the egg. The egg is then dipped into yellow dye, leaving the wax-covered portion of the eggshell white. After removing the egg from the dye, the artist writes with hot wax over another section of the egg. This portion stays yellow as the egg is dipped into a second dye color. The process continues, with the artist adding wax and dipping the egg into a darker and darker color. At the end, the artist removes the wax layers to reveal the multicolored design.

**Making the Connection**

1. What is *pysanky*, and when did it originate?
2. What role does placing wax onto the eggshell play in creating a decorative egg?
3. Drawing Conclusions What purposes, other than entertainment, might folk art accomplish?
Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova once belonged to the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union broke apart in late 1991, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova became independent. Since then, they have struggled to build new economies.

Ukraine

Slightly smaller than Texas, Ukraine is by far the largest eastern European country (excluding Russia). The Carpathian Mountains rise along its southwestern border. Farther east, a vast steppe, or gently rolling, partly wooded plain, makes up the country. Numerous rivers, most of which are too shallow for ships, twist across the steppe. The most important waterway, the Dnieper (NEE•puhr) River, has been made navigable so that ships can carry goods to distant markets. The Crimean Peninsula juts into the Black Sea. Most of Ukraine has cold winters and warm summers.
Rich, dark soil covers nearly two-thirds of Ukraine. Farms are very productive, earning the country the name “breadbasket of Europe.” Farmers grow sugar beets, potatoes, and grains and raise cattle and sheep. Factories make machinery, processed foods, and chemicals.

**The Ukrainians**  Early Slavic groups settled and traded along the rivers of the region. During the A.D. 800s, warriors from Nordic countries united these groups into a large state centered on the city of Kiev (KEE•ihf). A century later, the people of Kiev accepted the Eastern Orthodox faith. They built one of Europe’s most prosperous civilizations. After 300 years of freedom, the people of Kiev were conquered by Mongols, then Lithuanians and Poles, and finally the Russians.

In the 1930s, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin brought Ukraine’s farms under government control. Millions were murdered or starved in the famine that followed. Millions more died when Germans invaded Eastern Europe.
Ukraine during World War II. Finally in 1991, with the decline of Soviet power, Ukraine once again became a free nation.

Ukraine has about 48 million people. Nearly 75 percent are ethnic Ukrainians. About 22 percent are Russians, who live mainly in eastern areas. Most of the people follow the Eastern Orthodox religion and speak Ukrainian, a Slavic language closely related to Russian.

More than 70 percent of the people live in cities. Kiev, the capital, has more than 2.6 million people. Modern Ukrainians, even teenagers, enjoy listening to folk music played on a stringed instrument called a bandura and watching the acrobatic leaps of the hopak dance.

Why is Ukraine called the “breadbasket of Europe”?

Belarus and Moldova

Belarus, slightly smaller than Kansas, is largely lowlands. If you visited Belarus, you would see wide stretches of birch tree groves, vast forested marshlands, and wooden villages surrounded by fields. Summers are cool and wet, and winters are cold.

Farmers grow potatoes, grains, vegetables, sugar beets, and fruits. Factory workers make equipment, chemicals, and construction materials. Food processing is another important industry. In addition to having petroleum and natural gas, Belarus has potash, a mineral used in fertilizer.

Slavic groups first settled the area that is today Belarus in the A.D. 500s. Surrounded by larger countries, Belarus was under foreign rule.
for most of its history. Communist Party leaders still control Belarus’s
government, which is a republic, and have maintained close ties with
Russia. Foreign companies have been unwilling to do business in Belarus,
in part because the country is still linked to Russia’s weak economy.

The 9.9 million people of Belarus are mostly Eastern Orthodox
Slavs. Their Belorussian language is closely related to Russian and
Ukrainian and is written in Cyrillic. Two-thirds of Belarus’s people live
in cities. **Minsk**, the largest city, is the capital.

**Moldova**
Moldova is mostly a rolling, hilly plain sliced by rivers. These
waterways form valleys that hold rich, fertile soil. Due to this
soil and a favorable climate, Moldova can support much agriculture.
Farmers grow sugar beets, grains, potatoes, apples, and tobacco. Some
grow grapes that are used to make wine. Factories turn out processed
foods, machinery, metals, construction materials, and textiles.

Moldova’s flag looks similar to Romania’s flag. Why? Moldova was
once part of Romania. About two-thirds of the people trace their lan-
guage and culture to that country. Moldova’s eastern region, home to
many Russians, Ukrainians, and Turks, has recently sought independ-
ence. After a violent civil war, Russian troops entered the region as
peacekeepers. Despite talks, no lasting settlement has been reached.

Moldova has 4.3 million people. About half live in cities, but much
of Moldova’s culture is still based on a rural way of life. Villagers cele-
brate special occasions with lamb, cornmeal pudding, and goat’s milk
cheese. The main city is the capital, **Chișinău** (KEE•shee•NOW).

**Reading Check**
With what nation does Belarus have close ties?
### Section 1: Poland and the Baltic Republics

**Terms to Know**
- bog
- communist state
- acid rain
- pope

**Main Idea**
Poland and the Baltic republics have undergone many changes to their political and economic systems.

- **Place** Poland is a large country with southern mountains and northern plains.
- **Economics** The change to a free market economy has brought challenges.
- **Culture** The Poles feel deep loyalty to their country and the Catholic Church.
- **Place** The countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania border the Baltic Sea and have recently raised their standards of living.

### Section 2: Hungarians, Czechs, and Slovaks

**Terms to Know**
- landlocked
- nomad
- spa
- privatize

**Main Idea**
Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia are changing to free market economies.

- **Geography** The Danube River separates the fertile Hungarian Plain from Transdanubia’s rolling hills and forests.
- **Economics** The Czech Republic is prosperous but must modernize its factories.
- **Economics** Slovakia has had difficulty moving to a free market economy.

### Section 3: Rebuilding the Balkan Countries

**Terms to Know**
- consumer goods
- ethnic cleansing
- refugee
- mosque

**Main Idea**
The Balkan countries have suffered greatly from ethnic conflicts and economic setbacks.

- **Culture** The people of Romania are not related to the Slavic peoples who form the populations of most eastern European countries.
- **History** Ethnic conflicts have torn apart the former Yugoslav republics.
- **Economics** Albania is rich in minerals but is too poor to develop them.

### Section 4: Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova

**Terms to Know**
- steppe
- potash

**Main Idea**
Past ties to Russia have had different effects on the economies and societies of Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova.

- **Geography** Ukraine’s rich soil allows it to grow large amounts of food.
- **Economics** Belarus maintains close economic ties to Russia.
- **Economics** Moldova’s eastern region has tried to seek independence, but even after a civil war, no lasting settlement has been reached.
Chapter 13
Assessment and Activities

Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

A.
1. spa
2. ethnic cleansing
3. acid rain
4. pope
5. steppe
6. landlocked
7. mosque
8. consumer goods
9. refugee
10. potash

B.
- a. head of the Roman Catholic Church
- b. health resort with hot mineral springs
- c. mineral used in fertilizer
- d. having no access to the sea
- e. products made for people to use themselves
- f. Muslim house of worship
- g. rain containing chemical pollutants
- h. forcing people from other ethnic groups to leave their homes
- i. person who must flee to another country to escape danger or disaster
- j. gently rolling, partly wooded plain

Reviewing the Main Ideas

Section 1 Poland and the Baltic Republics
11. Economics What is one of Poland’s most important industries?
12. History What has raised standards of living in the Baltic republics?

Section 2 Hungarians, Czechs, and Slovaks
13. Place What river divides Hungary?
14. Place What is the Czech Republic’s capital?

Section 3 Rebuilding The Balkan Countries
15. Economics What factors are holding back Romania’s economy?
16. Culture What is the main religion of Bulgaria?
17. History What caused Yugoslavia to fall apart?

Section 4 Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova
18. Place What is the capital of Ukraine?
19. Culture To what languages is Belorussian similar?
20. History Why does Moldova’s flag look similar to Romania’s flag?

Eastern Europe

Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

1. Danube River
2. Black Sea
3. Croatia
4. Albania
5. Latvia
6. Hungary
7. Warsaw
8. Carpathian Mountains
9. Baltic Sea
10. Ukraine

Azimuthal Equidistant projection

0 mi. 0 km 300 km

Azimuthal Equidistant projection
Directions: Study the map below, and then answer the question that follows.

Test-Taking Tip: Notice that the question asks you to base your answer on location. Three of the choices are countries in western Europe. You should use the process of elimination to find the correct answer.

Standardized Test Practice

1. Which of the following nations in eastern Europe has applied for membership in the European Union?
   A. Bulgaria
   B. Spain
   C. Ireland
   D. Germany

Test-Taking Tip: Notice that the question asks you to base your answer on location. Three of the choices are countries in western Europe. You should use the process of elimination to find the correct answer.

Critical Thinking

21. Understanding Cause and Effect What has led to the unrest in parts of Serbia and Montenegro?

22. Categorizing Information In a chart like the one below, identify eastern European countries that are succeeding economically and ones that continue to struggle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries That Are Succeeding</th>
<th>Countries That Are Struggling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparing Regions Activity

23. Culture People in eastern Europe have experienced much conflict over ethnic identity. This conflict has produced a large number of refugees from countries such as Bosnia and Croatia. There are large numbers of refugees in parts of Africa due to conflict as well. With a partner, research to find information about refugees in eastern European and African countries. Write a conversation that an eastern European refugee and an African refugee might have.

Mental Mapping Activity

24. Focusing on the Region Create a map of eastern Europe, and then label the following:
   - Poland
   - Albania
   - Czech Republic
   - Serbia & Montenegro
   - Hungary
   - Lithuania
   - Black Sea
   - Danube River
   - Ukraine
   - Adriatic Sea

Technology Skills Activity

25. Building a Database Create a database of eastern European countries. Include fields for capital, size, population, government, and products. After analyzing your database, predict which countries have a good chance of improving their standard of living.