

# GOBI DESERT



## CartoCraze!

**Expanded Map Workshops**

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# DESERT

The surface of a desert can be formed of sand, ice, small stones or large rocks.

The definition of a desert is that it receives less than 10 inches of precipitation a year: that precipitation can be either rain or snow.

Deserts are the driest places on Earth. Even though we tend to think of deserts as torrid sand covered locations, these geographic areas can also be bitterly cold.

Humans have always found it challenging to live in desert environments, and have lived at the outer edges of many deserts where agriculture and raising of animals is possible. Often people who live in arid areas are forced to be nomads, moving from place to place to take advantage of seasonal weather. A surprising number of plants and animals have adapted to the harsh inhospitable conditions of both hot and cold deserts.

# DESERT TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

These terms and their definitions will help you to understand some of the aspect of desert areas.

**DESERT** A region that receives very low amounts of precipitation.

**HOT DESERT** A region with very high temperatures, a great deal of evaporation of moisture, and often high winds, conditions that are inhospitable for life.

## COLD DESERTS

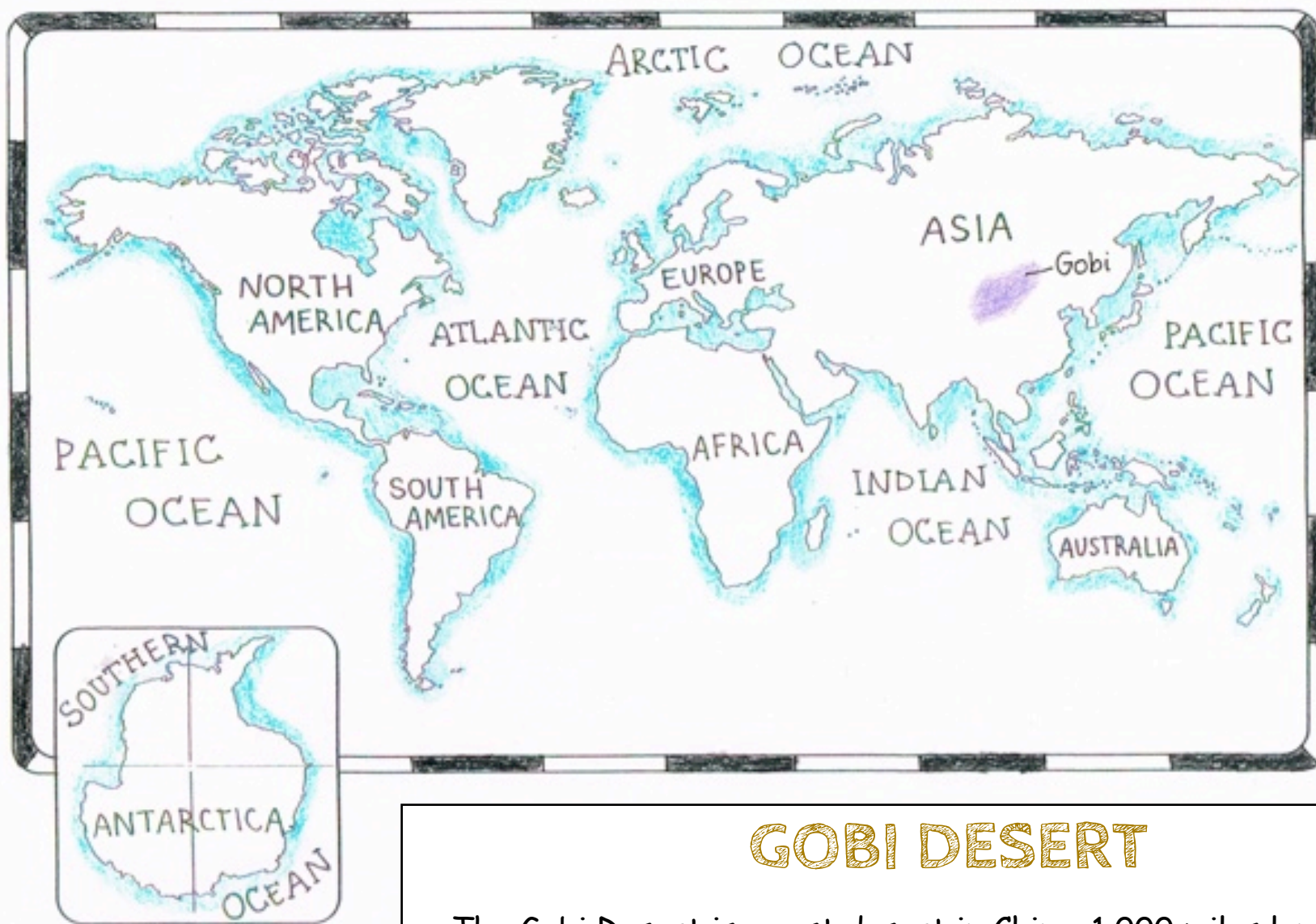
1. A **COLD DESERT** region is often separated from the ocean or body of water by a mountain range which blocks weather systems that produce moisture. The area beyond the mountain range remains very dry. Often this is called a "Rain Shadow" and can affect cold as well as hot deserts.
2. A **POLAR DESERT** has moisture carried away by high winds and there are snow dunes instead of sand dunes.

**SAND** Small dry particles of minerals and rock that are part of many hot deserts which form dunes.

**DUNE** Masses of sand or snow that are moved and shaped by weather, wind and gravity.

The following presentation is an introduction to the GOBI DESERT, one of Earth's great deserts, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of its surrounding area.





## GOBI DESERT

The Gobi Desert is a vast desert in China, 1,000 miles long east to west and 600 miles from north to south. The name of the desert is a Mongolian word meaning "a place without water." This fifth largest desert in the world is situated in central ASIA, in southeast Mongolia and northern China. Unlike many deserts, this one is not sandy but primarily rock. Remains of ancient people from the Neolithic and Paleolithic ages have been found in the rock and stone of the Gobi, as well as fossils of ancient dinosaurs.

# CREATURES IN THE SAND!

Photo: Velociraptor, Wyoming Dinosaur Center, [Creative Commons](#)

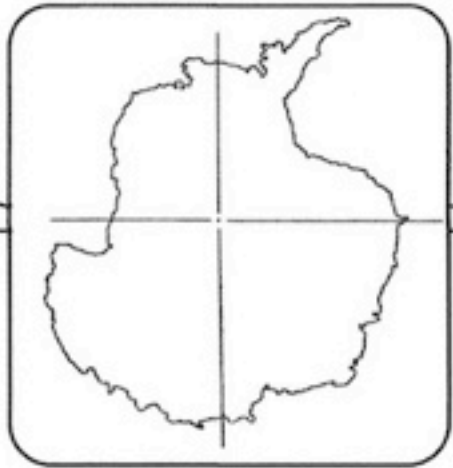
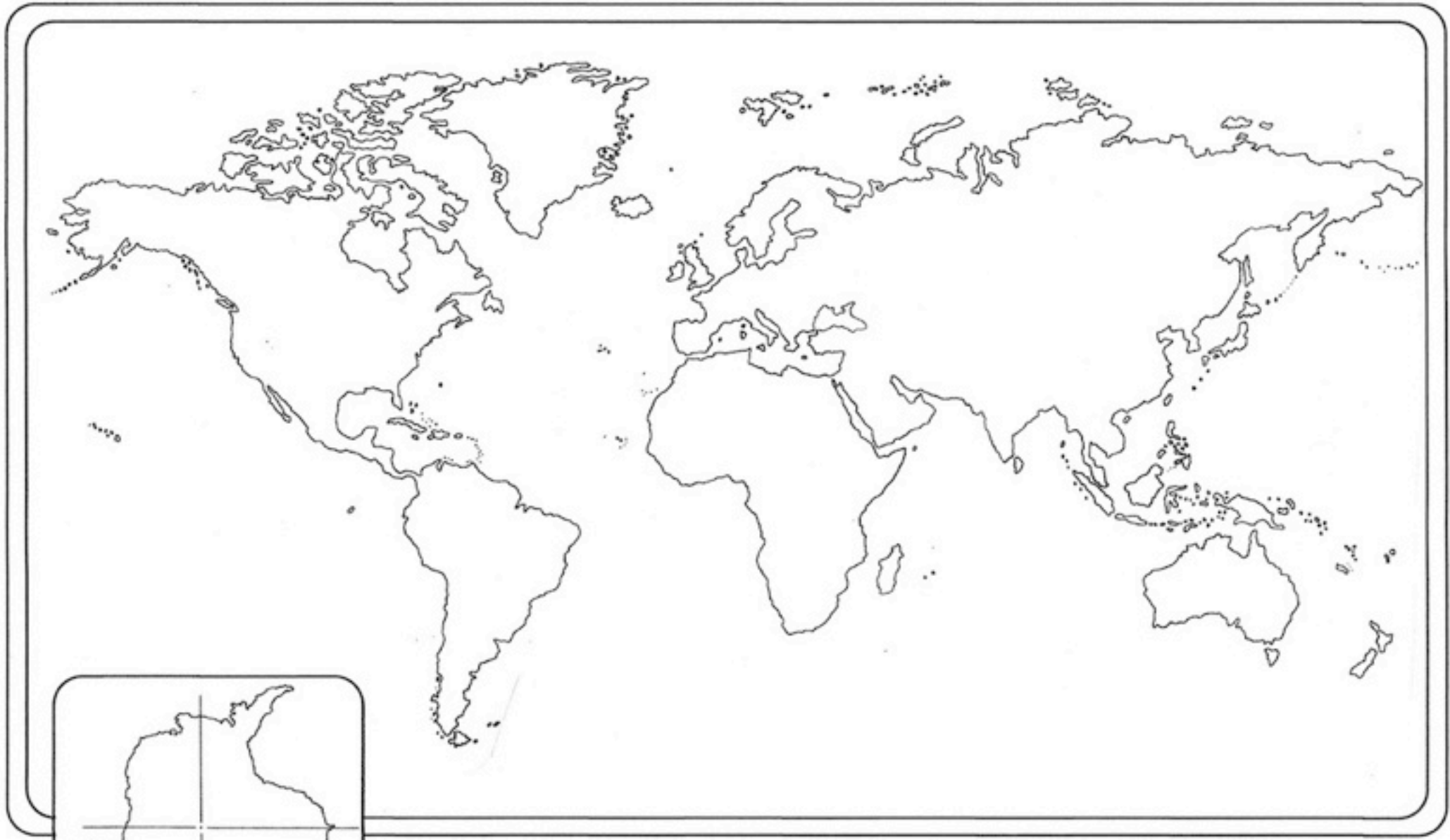


The Gobi is known for the dinosaur remains that have been found there.

Fossilized remains of the **Velociraptor dinosaur** have been discovered by archaeologists, as well as other kinds of prehistoric animals. This prehistoric creature lived over 70 million years ago in what is called the **Cretaceous period**.

What was the earth like during the time when the Velociraptor lived?  
What kind of terrain was there, and what were the flora and fauna?  
Was the GOBI desert even a **DESERT** in Cretaceous period?





DESERTS



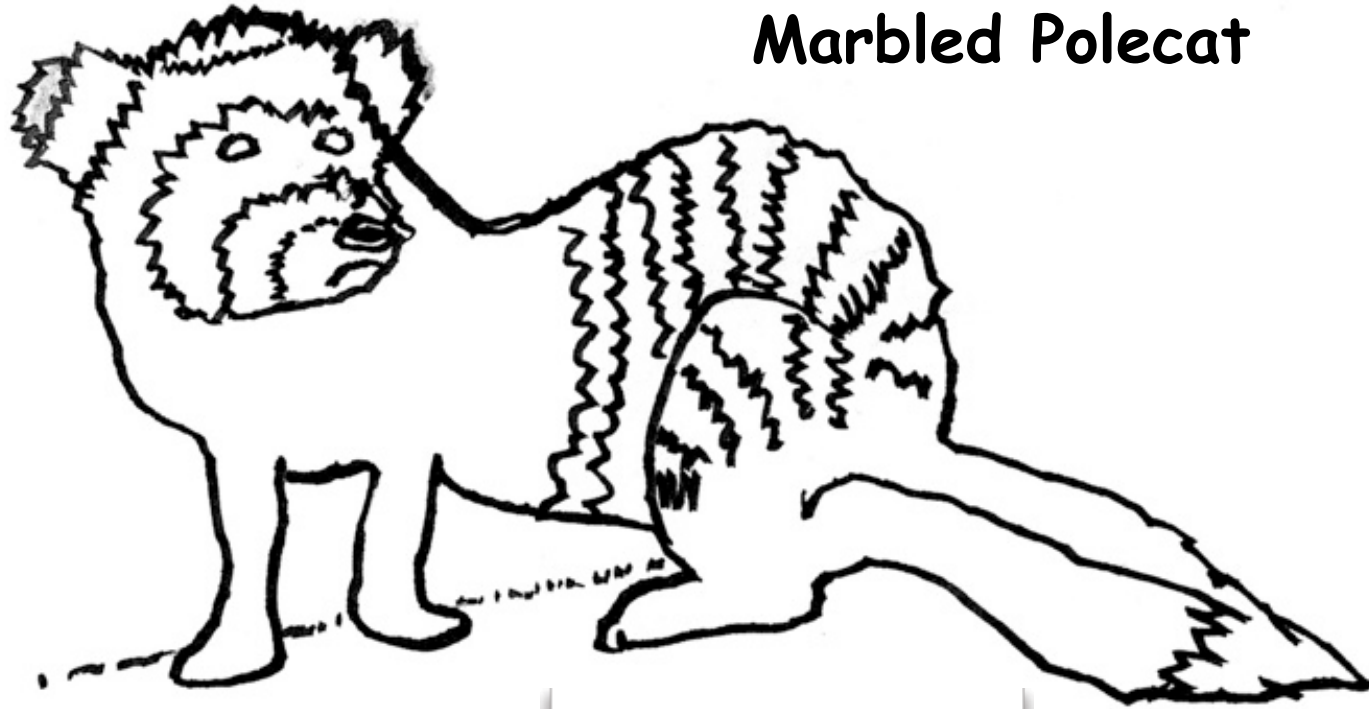
## Marbled Polecat

The marbled polecat is found in the Gobi desert. Contrary to their name, these animals are not cats, but rather are closely related to weasels and otters. Marbled polecats can be distinguished by their dark brown and black hoods, white striped faces, and yellow and brown speckled torsos. They are timid creatures and only come out at night and dawn. Due to their poor eyesight. They rely almost solely on their sense of smell to find prey (including rodents, reptiles, birds and insects). When threatened, it releases a foul smelling secretion from a sac below its tail. These polecats are close to being endangered and steps are being taken to prevent further population decline. Currently, they are protected from being captured, killed, or traded.

**POLECAT  
VOCABULARY**

elusive  
solitary  
paws  
secretions  
aggressive  
carnivore  
litter  
muzzle  
patches  
smelly  
markings  
excavating  
dens  
shrill

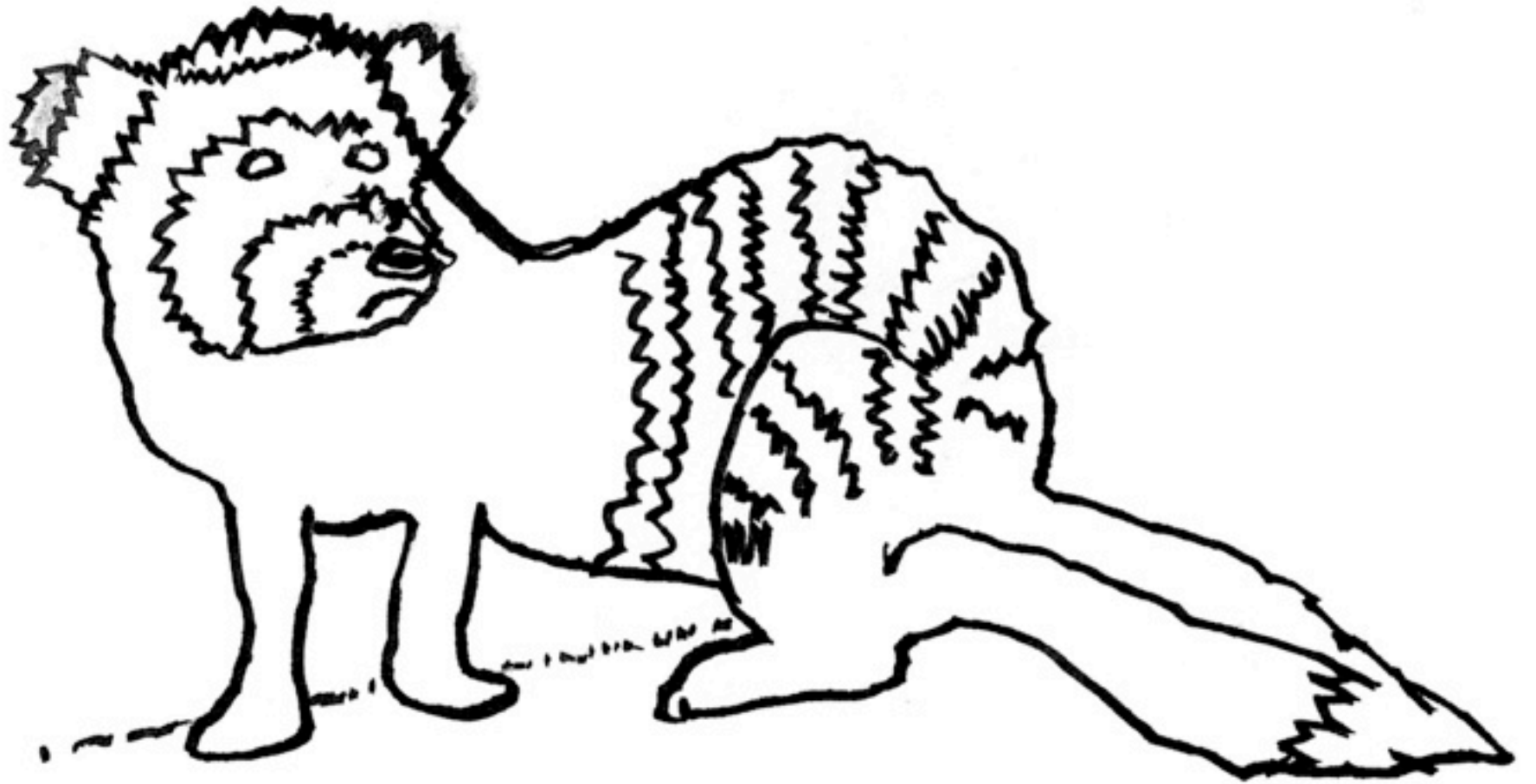
**Marbled Polecat**



**POLECAT SPELLING**

mammal  
limbs  
fur  
shrill  
shriek  
pelt  
grunt  
muzzle  
mottled  
eyesight  
solitary  
hissing  
rumbling

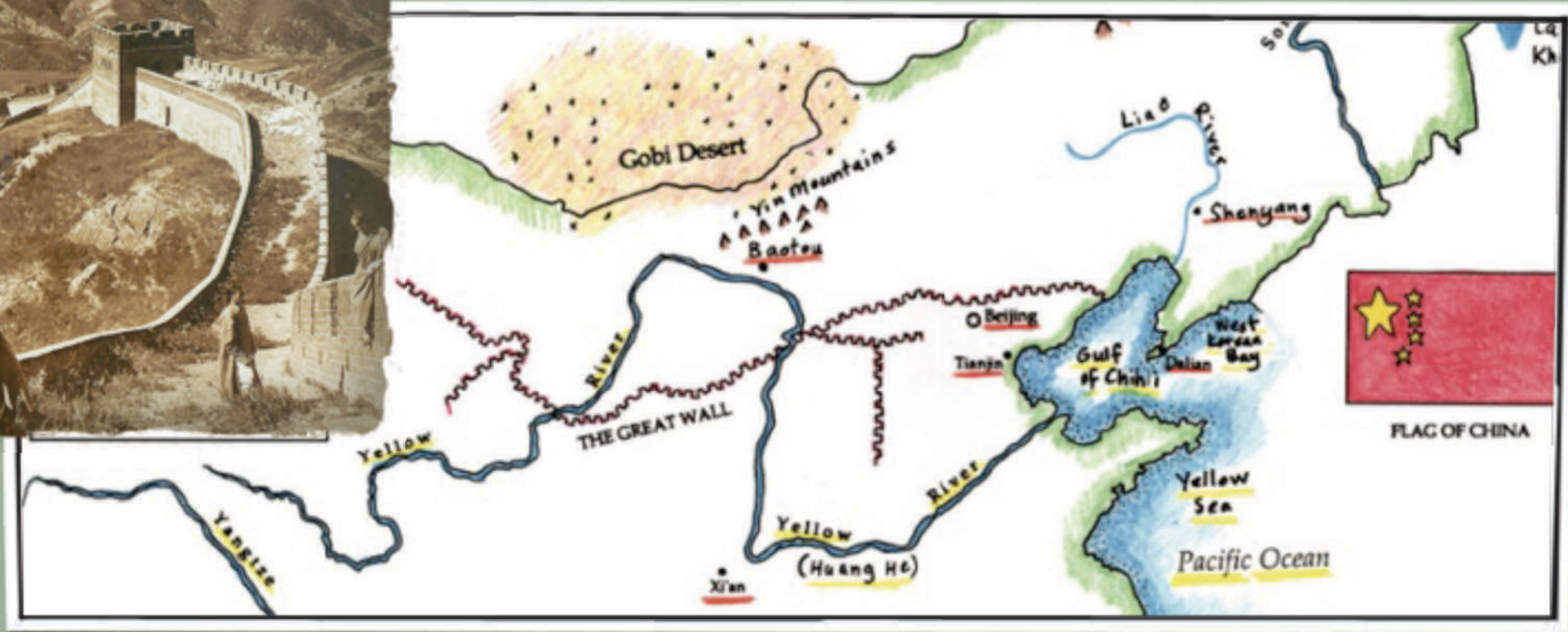




Marbled Polecat

# On The Map!

On this cropped section of our full map of CHINA (see the full map on the last page of this file), you can see the positioning of the Gobi Desert in relation to the great rivers of China and the GREAT WALL.



The Great Wall of China almost looks like a river on this map.

How long is the Great Wall? When was it built? Where does it cross the Yellow River and what cities are at these points?



# SILK ROAD!

This map shows the route traders along the SILK ROADS traveled south of the Taklamakan Desert, and to the south of the Gobi Desert. Do some research to be able to draw in the route traders took north of the Taklamakan Desert, through Mongolia.



Label the SILK ROAD and color RED.

Label these bodies of water and shade with BLUE: Indian Ocean Red Sea Mediterranean

Ganges River Indus River Caspian Sea Yellow River Yangtze River

Mark the city of Chang-an mark with a star and label it.

# DESERT READING!

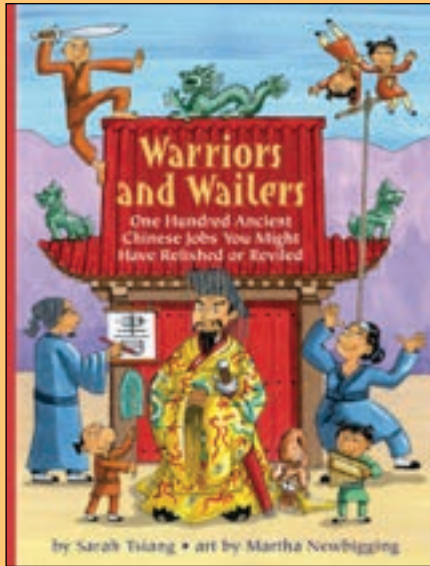


## The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

by Lloyd Alexander

The young adventurer Carlo Chuchio encounters many curious people while seeking hidden treasure on the Road of Golden Dreams in the desert.

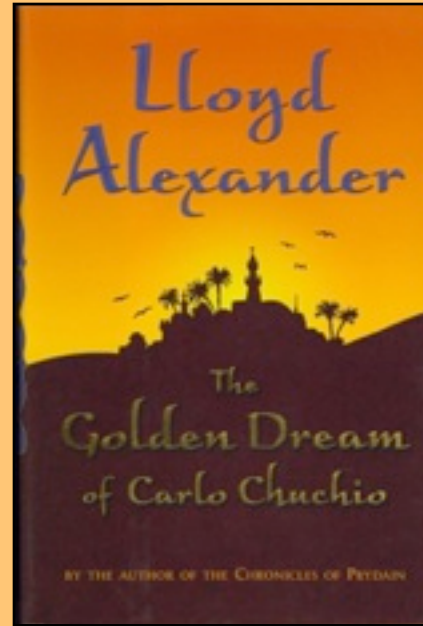
With Baksheesh, the world's worst camel-puller, Carlo leads a caravan through the realm of Keshavar and risks his life for a prize that may not even exist.



## WARRIORS AND WAILERS: ONE HUNDRED ANCIENT CHINESE JOBS YOU MIGHT HAVE RELISHED OR REVEILED

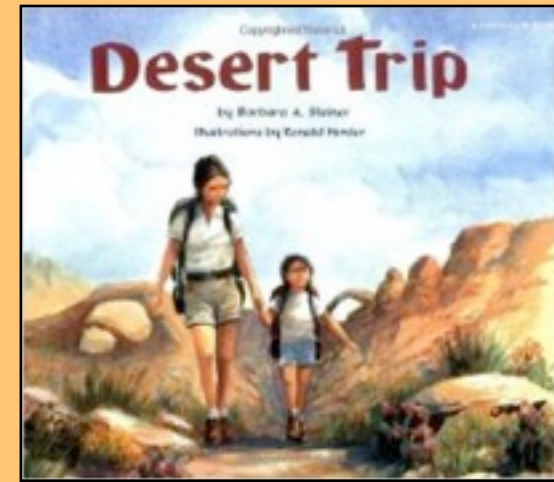
by Sarah Tsiang

A fact-filled introduction, index, and timeline make this book perfect for research projects, while the humorous illustrations keep it fun!

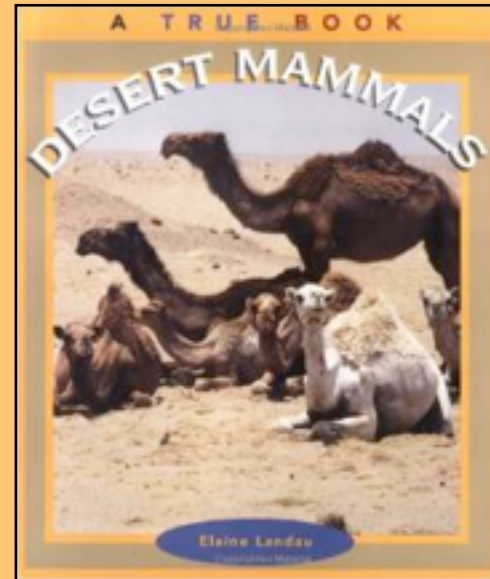


## The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE CHRONICLES OF PEYDARI



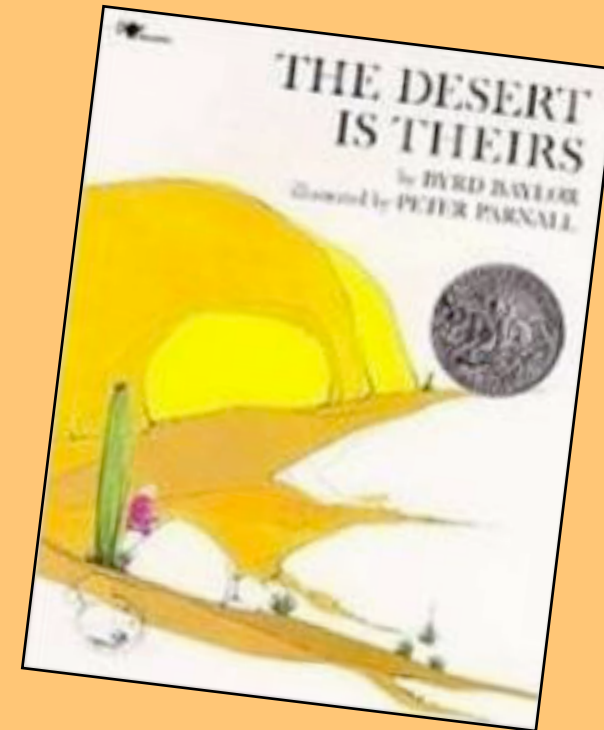
A girl and her mother plan a walking trip through the southwestern desert of the USA.



## DESERT MAMMALS

by Elaine Landau

Students can learn more about all the animals that thrive in desert environments.

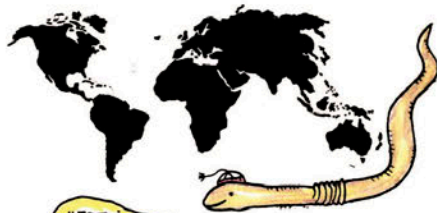


## THE DESERT IS THEIRS

by Byrd Baylor

A prize-winner that describes flora and fauna of the southwestern American desert.

# MAP of the MONTH



WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE?

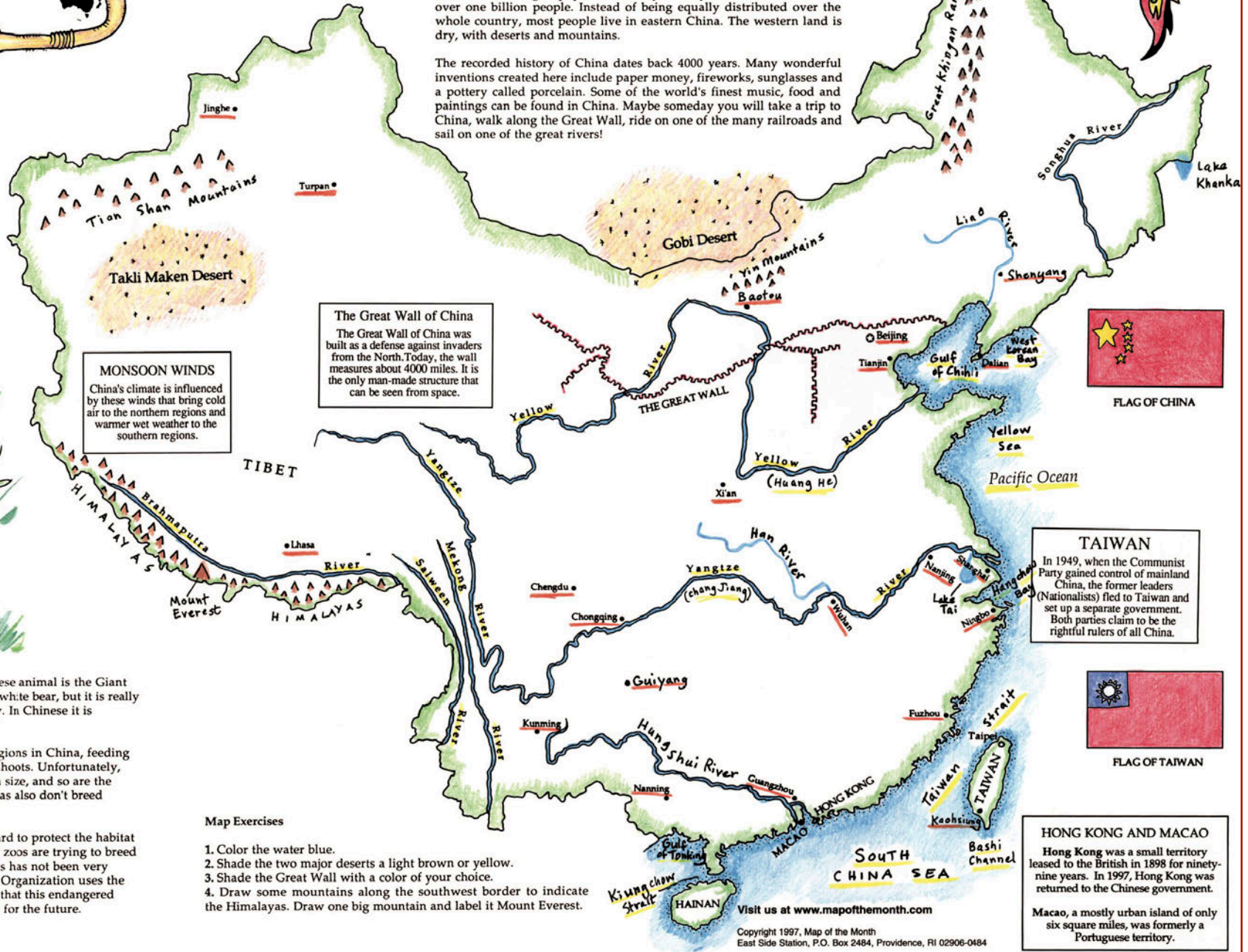
Earthworm was born in 1992, the Year of the Monkey. According to Chinese folklore, this means he is intelligent and full of enthusiasm! With a little research, you can find out what year you were born in, and what that means according to the Chinese animal signs.



Perhaps the most famous Chinese animal is the Giant Panda. It looks like a black and white bear, but it is really a member of the raccoon family. In Chinese it is xiongmao, or bear-cat.

Pandas live in mountainous regions in China, feeding mostly on bamboo leaves and shoots. Unfortunately, bamboo groves are shrinking in size, and so are the numbers of Giant Pandas. Pandas also don't breed very often.

Environmentalists are trying hard to protect the habitat of this wonderful animal. Some zoos are trying to breed the animals in captivity, but this has not been very successful. The World Wildlife Organization uses the Panda as its symbol, with hope that this endangered animal and others can be saved for the future.



**The Great Wall of China**  
The Great Wall of China was built as a defense against invaders from the North. Today, the wall measures about 4000 miles. It is the only man-made structure that can be seen from space.

**MONSOON WINDS**  
China's climate is influenced by these winds that bring cold air to the northern regions and warmer wet weather to the southern regions.



**TAIWAN**  
In 1949, when the Communist Party gained control of mainland China, the former leaders (Nationalists) fled to Taiwan and set up a separate government. Both parties claim to be the rightful rulers of all China.



**HONG KONG AND MACAO**  
Hong Kong was a small territory leased to the British in 1898 for ninety-nine years. In 1997, Hong Kong was returned to the Chinese government.  
Macao, a mostly urban island of only six square miles, was formerly a Portuguese territory.

**Map Exercises**

1. Color the water blue.
2. Shade the two major deserts a light brown or yellow.
3. Shade the Great Wall with a color of your choice.
4. Draw some mountains along the southwest border to indicate the Himalayas. Draw one big mountain and label it Mount Everest.

Welcome to China! China is a large country in the northeast corner of the continent of Asia. In the east, China is bordered by the East China Sea and the countries of North and South Korea. China is separated from India and Nepal in the southwest by the natural boundary of the Himalayan mountain range. China has many large rivers. The Yangtze, in eastern China, is the third largest river in the world.

China has the largest population of any country in the world. There are over one billion people. Instead of being equally distributed over the whole country, most people live in eastern China. The western land is dry, with deserts and mountains.

The recorded history of China dates back 4000 years. Many wonderful inventions created here include paper money, fireworks, sunglasses and a pottery called porcelain. Some of the world's finest music, food and paintings can be found in China. Maybe someday you will take a trip to China, walk along the Great Wall, ride on one of the many railroads and sail on one of the great rivers!

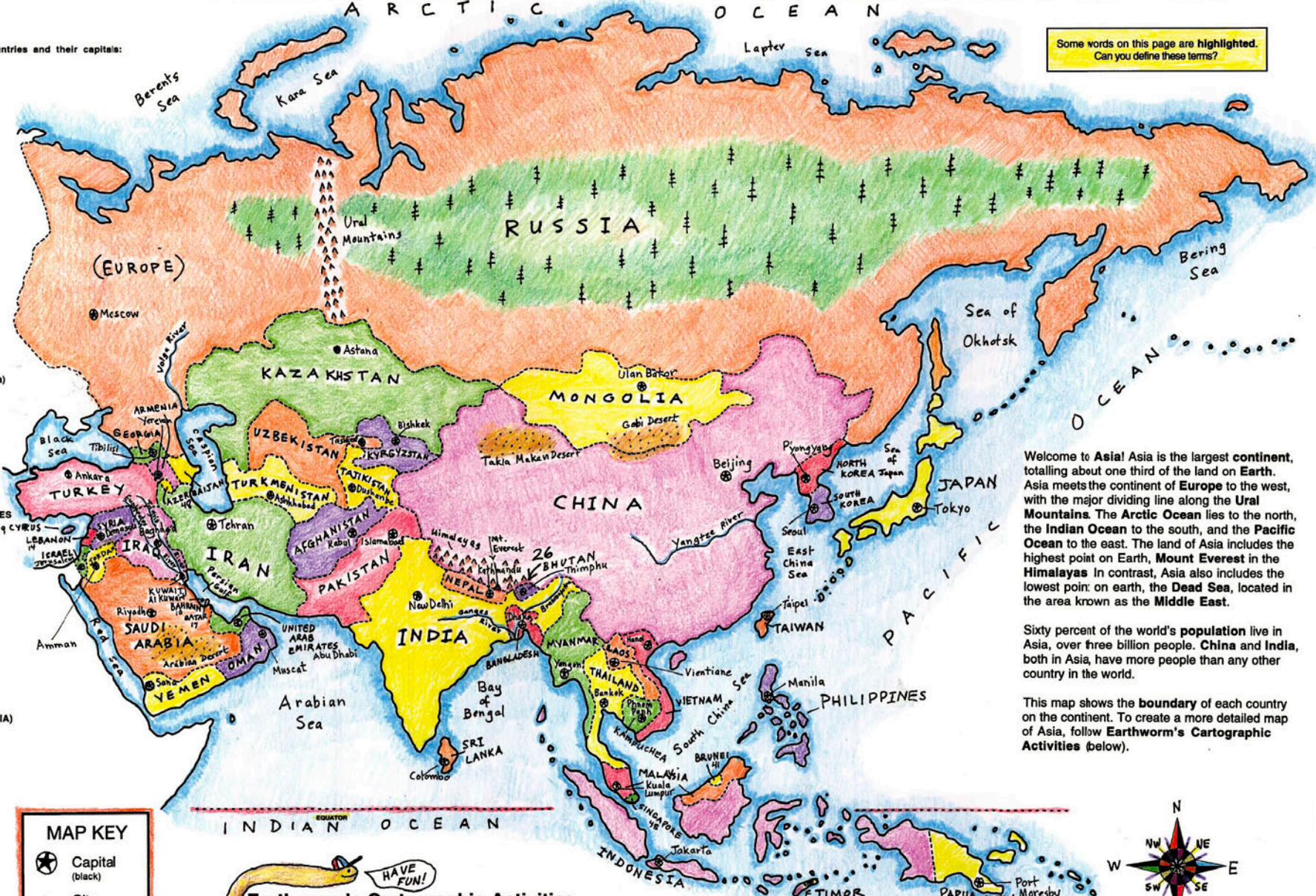
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Here is a list of Asian countries and their capitals:

- 1 RUSSIA  
Moscow
- 2 KAZAKHSTAN  
Astana
- 3 UZBEKISTAN  
Tashkent
- 4 TURKMENISTAN  
Ashkhabad
- 5 KYRGYZSTAN  
Bishkek
- 6 TAJIKISTAN  
Dushanbe
- 7 IRAN  
Tehran
- 8 JORDAN  
Amman
- 9 KUWAIT  
Al Kuwait
- 10 SAUDI ARABIA  
Riyadh
- 11 TURKEY  
Ankara
- 12 LEBANON  
Beirut
- 13 EGYPT (Sinai Peninsula)  
Cairo
- 14 ISRAEL  
Jerusalem
- 15 QATAR  
Doha
- 16 IRAQ  
Bagdad
- 17 CYPRUS  
Nicosia
- 18 SYRIA  
Damascus
- 19 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
Abu Dhabi
- 20 YEMEN  
Sana'
- 21 PAKISTAN  
Islamabad
- 22 NEPAL  
Kathmandu
- 23 INDIA  
New Delhi
- 24 BHUTAN  
Thimphu
- 25 BANGLADESH  
Dhaka
- 26 AFGHANISTAN  
Kabul
- 27 SRI LANKA  
Colombo
- 28 KAMPUCHEA (CAMBODIA)  
Phnom Penh
- 29 MYANMAR  
Yangon
- 30 LAOS  
Vientiane
- 31 THAILAND  
Bangkok
- 32 VIETNAM  
Hanoi
- 33 CHINA  
Beijing
- 34 MONGOLIA  
Ulan Bator
- 35 NORTH KOREA  
Pyongyang
- 36 SOUTH KOREA  
Seoul
- 37 JAPAN  
Tokyo
- 38 TAIWAN  
Taipei
- 39 BRUNEI  
Bandar Seri Begawan
- 40 INDONESIA  
Jakarta
- 41 MALAYSIA  
Kuala Lumpur
- 42 PHILIPPINES  
Manila
- 43 SINGAPORE  
Singapore City
- 44 PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
Port Moresby
- 45 ARMENIA  
Yerevan
- 46 AZERBAIJAN  
Baku
- 47 GEORGIA  
Tbilisi
- 48 EAST TIMOR  
Dili

Some words on this page are highlighted. Can you define these terms?



Welcome to Asia! Asia is the largest continent, totalling about one third of the land on Earth. Asia meets the continent of Europe to the west, with the major dividing line along the Ural Mountains. The Arctic Ocean lies to the north, the Indian Ocean to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The land of Asia includes the highest point on Earth, Mount Everest in the Himalayas. In contrast, Asia also includes the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea, located in the area known as the Middle East.

Sixty percent of the world's population live in Asia, over three billion people. China and India, both in Asia, have more people than any other country in the world.

This map shows the boundary of each country on the continent. To create a more detailed map of Asia, follow Earthworm's Cartographic Activities (below).

**MAP KEY**

- Capital (black)
- City (red or black)
- Mountains (brown or green)
- Desert (light brown)
- Forest (green)
- River (blue)

**Earthworm's Cartographic Activities**

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map of Asia. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Be neat when labeling—use a sharp pencil. Write small, always print. Refer to the Map Key for symbols and suggested colors. Colored pencils work best when drawing in details like mountains or rivers. When filling in areas with color, shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

**Countries** Locate and label countries, referring to the list at left. If the space is too small to fill in the name, use the number assigned to the country. For example, BHUTAN has been labeled 26.

**Capitals and Cities** Locate and label each capital on the map, if space allows. Also, if possible, locate and label other cities in each country.

**Oceans and Seas** With blue, shade along the coastline of the oceans and seas. Label: Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean. With smaller letters, label: Black Sea, Caspian Sea, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, East China Sea, Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk, Bering Sea.

**Major Rivers** Draw in and label the following major rivers: Volga River, Ganges River, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Brahmaputra River, Yangtze River.

**Mountains** Draw in and label these ranges: Himalayas, Ural Mountains. Locate Mount Everest. Add other smaller ranges too.

**Forest** Draw in and label the vast forest of Siberia.

**Desert** With a light brown pencil, shade desert regions on the map: Gobi Desert, Arabian Desert.

**Decoration** To add a decorative touch to your map, color the following: ASIA title, Earthworm (our mascot), Compass Rose.

# ASIA

Places and Geographic Features

**Map of the Month**

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# WORLD EXPLORERS

## ROUTES OF THE EXPLORERS

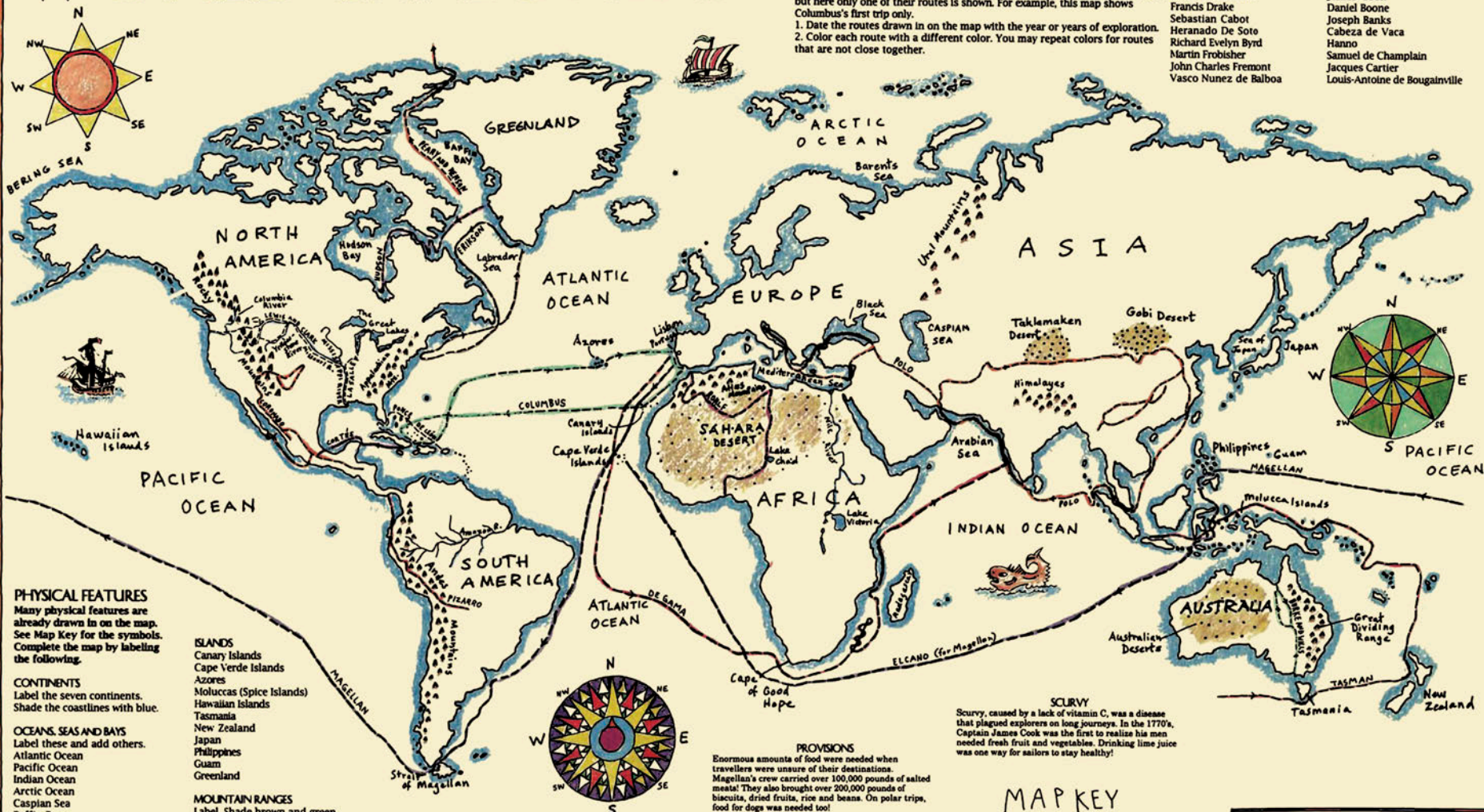
The routes of some explorers have been drawn on this map. The reverse side of this map gives a detailed description of each of the routes shown here. Each route has the explorer's name on it. Some explorers made many voyages, but here only one of their routes is shown. For example, this map shows Columbus's first trip only.

1. Date the routes drawn in on the map with the year or years of exploration.
2. Color each route with a different color. You may repeat colors for routes that are not close together.

## MORE EXPLORERS

Here is a list of other explorers. Research some of them and add their routes to your map.

- Alexander the Great
- Edmund Hillary
- James Cook
- Daniel Boone
- Joseph Banks
- Cabeza de Vaca
- Hanno
- Samuel de Champlain
- Jacques Cartier
- Louis-Antoine de Bougainville



### PHYSICAL FEATURES

Many physical features are already drawn in on the map. See Map Key for the symbols. Complete the map by labeling the following.

**CONTINENTS**  
Label the seven continents. Shade the coastlines with blue.

**OCEANS, SEAS AND BAYS**  
Label these and add others.  
Atlantic Ocean  
Pacific Ocean  
Indian Ocean  
Arctic Ocean  
Caspian Sea  
Baffin Bay  
Hudson Bay  
Barents Sea  
Bering Sea  
Arabian Sea

**LANDMARKS**  
Strait of Magellan  
Cape of Good Hope  
Lisbon, Portugal

**RIVERS AND LAKES**  
Label. Color blue.  
Mississippi  
Amazon  
Columbia  
Nile  
Yellowstone  
Missouri  
Lake Victoria  
The Great Lakes  
Lake Chad

**ISLANDS**  
Canary Islands  
Cape Verde Islands  
Azores  
Moluccas (Spice Islands)  
Hawaiian Islands  
Tasmania  
New Zealand  
Japan  
Philippines  
Guam  
Greenland

**MOUNTAIN RANGES**  
Label. Shade brown and green.  
Rocky Mountains  
Andes Mountains  
Himalayas  
Great Dividing Range  
Ural Mountains  
Atlas Mountains  
Appalachian Mountains

**DESERTS**  
Label. Shade tan or brown.  
Sahara  
Australian  
Gobi  
Taklamakan

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**  
Color the decorative border.  
Color the compass roses.  
Color the illustrations.  
Add other symbols to the MAP KEY, if you wish.

### EARLY MAPS

Early maps were like pictures of what people imagined the world might be. The earliest known map was made in 600 B.C. by the Babylonians. This carved clay tablet had a symbol for Babylon at the center of a circle. The outer edges of the map suggested unknown lands.

The Greeks were the first to make maps that described what the world actually was, rather than based on legend. In 150 A.D. Ptolemy of Alexandria gathered all of the information that was known from Greek and Roman travels and filled in over 8,000 place names. His maps described a huge area, from Britain in the north, to northern Africa in the south, and east to China and Southeast Asia. Often a mapmaker went with expeditions to record the routes and to describe areas of land. Christopher Columbus travelled with his brother, Bartolomeo, a mapmaker.

Some maps had illustrations of sea monsters—travellers were fearful of the unknown! Maps showed exaggerated shapes for lands now known. The contours of lands were often guessed at—California was often drawn as a separate island. Longitude and latitude weren't calculated until 1735 when the chronometer was invented. This clock-like device helped navigators know exactly where they were.

**SCURVY**  
Scurvy, caused by a lack of vitamin C, was a disease that plagued explorers on long journeys. In the 1770's, Captain James Cook was the first to realize his men needed fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinking lime juice was one way for sailors to stay healthy!

### MAP KEY

- MOUNTAIN RANGE
- DESERT
- RIVER, LAKE
- EXPLORERS' ROUTES

