

Name:

Date:

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Big Geography – Guided Notes

I. The largest context of human history is the _____.

a. ____% of the surface of the earth is water. Human beings, however, are land-dwelling species.

II. We call the biggest land areas _____.

Conventional definition of a continent:

a. Why are Asia and Europe separate continents?

i. Since the nineteenth century, most scholars have accepted the _____ as part of the dividing line between “Europe” and “Asia” as continents.

ii. Another part of the dividing line is the _____ and _____. Both are straits.

b. Why is Europe a continent?

i.

ii.

c. The dividing line between “Europe” and “Asia” is not something that is “_____”.

i. Many geographers have therefore been willing to unite the two regions as a single continent called “_____.”

ii. Africa is not separated by a wide ocean. Sometimes we will see Eurasia and Africa together as a single “_____.” It is called _____.

d. North and South America can also be seen as one continent called “_____”

e. *Traditional Continents*

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

vi.

vii.

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f. Alternative Continents

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.

III. Great Arid Zone

- a. One of the big geographical features of Afroeurasia is the _____ . What is the Great Arid Zone?
- b. Historically, peoples who _____ as a way of life inhabit many parts of the Great Arid Zone. They are _____ , that is, they _____ .
- c. A major theme in world history has been the dynamic relations between _____ and _____ . Nomadic peoples of the Great Arid Zone both _____ and _____ with farming and city-dwelling peoples who lived adjacent to the Great Arid Zone.

IV. The Eleven Seas of Afroeurasia

- a. The Eleven Seas made it easier for people to _____ communicate by water across Afroeurasia.
- b. Merchants _____ from one link in the “chain of seas” to another. That is, a single merchant did not make the trip from one end of the chain to the other.

V. Mountain Chains

- a. Mountains have been barriers to _____. But, passes across them have also served as “_____” of communication.

VI. Major winds and currents of the oceans

- a. Until the coming of steamships in the 19th Century, sailors had to know currents to _____ .
- b. These winds and currents follow large global patterns.

VII. Great Rivers

- a. Rivers have served as _____ between seas and deep interior lands.