

Module 3: Classical Civilizations and Religious Traditions

Topic 3 Content: China's Geography

Introduction



The image shows a screenshot of an interactive educational interface. On the left, a white information popup box is overlaid on a map of China. The popup has a title 'Introduction' and an information icon (a lowercase 'i' in a circle). The text inside the popup reads: 'The geography of China meant that Classical Chinese civilization was somewhat isolated from the rest of the world; however, its location also meant that it was an important center of trade. The civilization of Classical China was centered around the Huang He Valley. Click on each of the place markers to learn more about the unique physical features of China.' Below this text, it says 'Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.' The background is a topographic map of China with several red location pins placed across the country. The map shows the terrain, including the Huang He Valley and the surrounding mountains and rivers.

The geography of China meant that Classical Chinese civilization was somewhat isolated from the rest of the world; however, its location also meant that it was an important center of trade. The civilization of Classical China was centered around the Huang He Valley. Click on each of the place markers to learn more about the unique physical features of China.

Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.

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Huang He River (Yellow River)



The Huang He River runs for over 2,900 miles from Mongolia through China and ends at the Yellow Sea. It is called the "Yellow River" because the loess soil that it carries downstream is yellow in color. It is known as the "Cradle of Chinese Civilization" because its riverbed provided fertile soil for ancient Chinese civilization.

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Yangtze River



The Yangtze River is almost 4,000 miles long. It flows from the Tibetan Plateau into the East China Sea. The river and fertile land surrounding it have been important to China for agriculture, transportation, and power.

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Taklamakan Desert

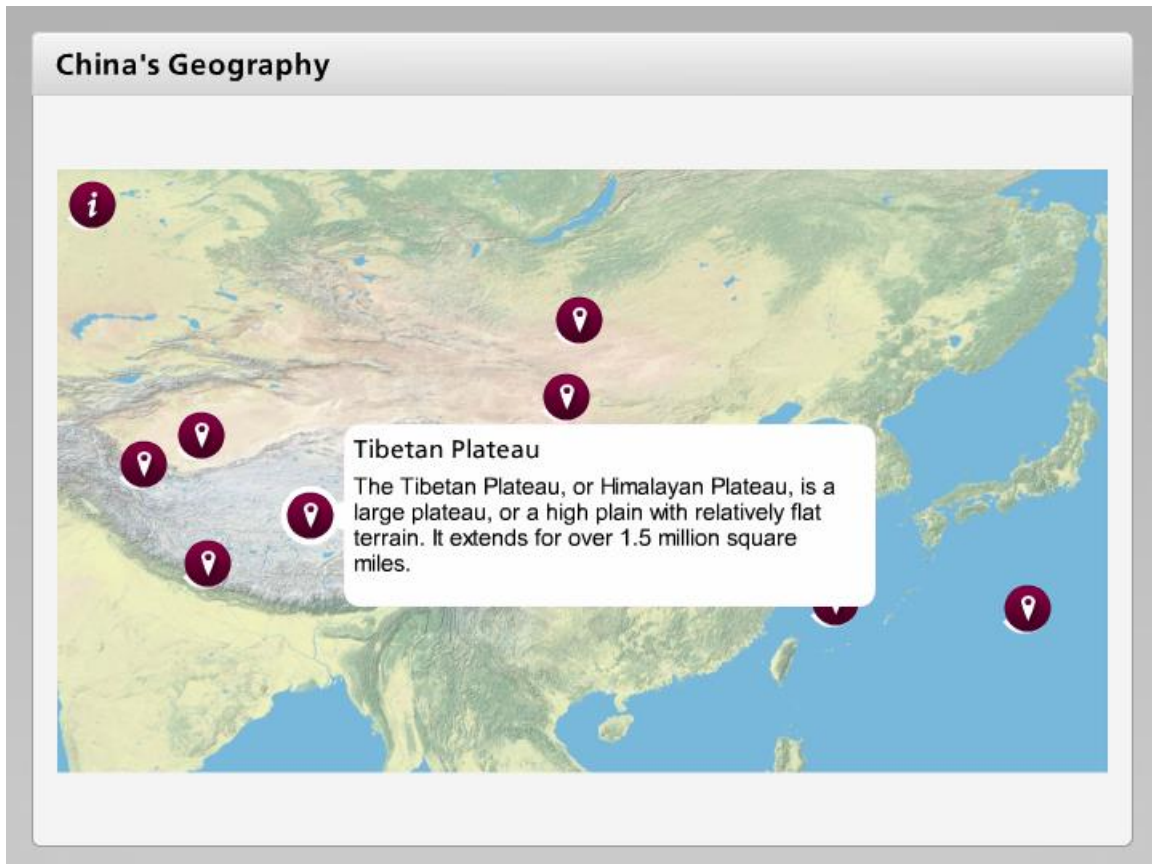


The Taklamakan Desert is located in northwest China and extends for over 130,116 square miles.

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Tibetan Plateau



The Tibetan Plateau, or Himalayan Plateau, is a large plateau, or a high plain with relatively flat terrain. It extends for over 1.5 million square miles.

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Himalayas



The Himalayas are a massive mountain range that extend through Pakistan, Nepal, Tibet, China, Bhutan, and India. They include the highest mountains in the world.

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Mongolia

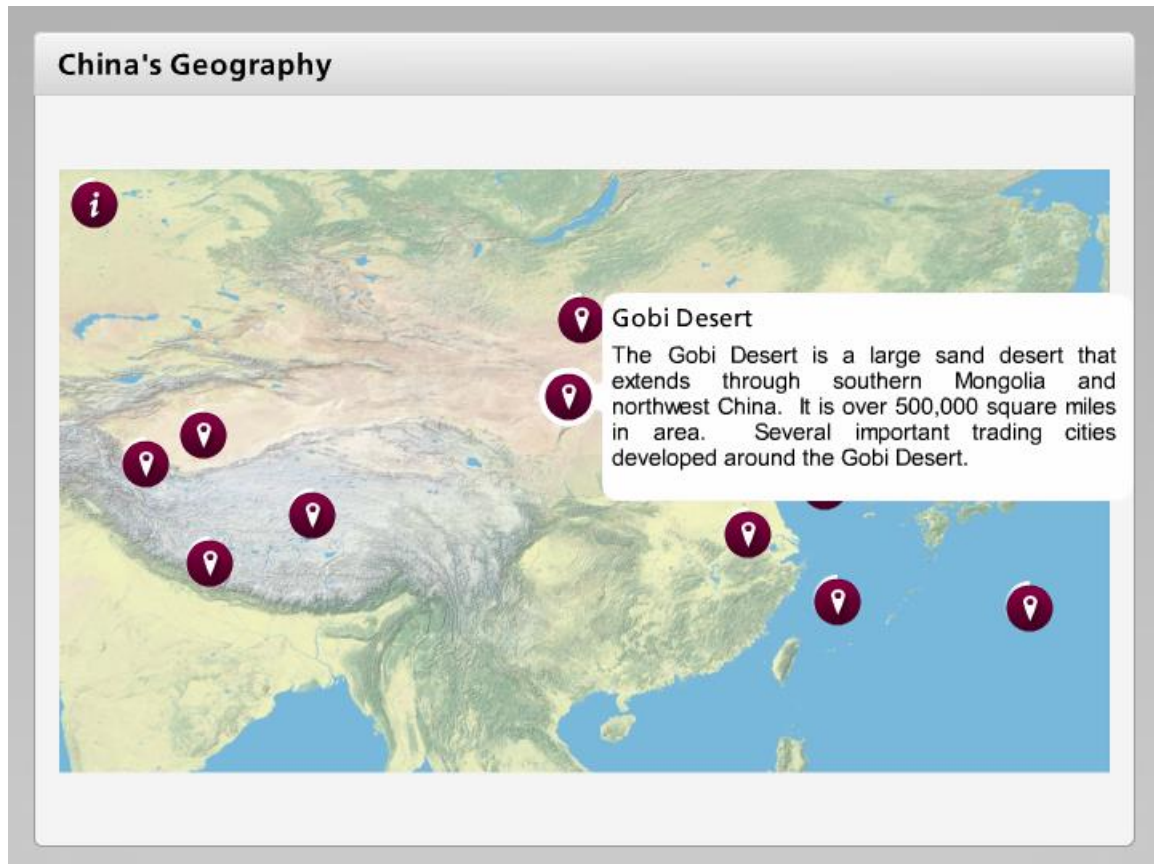


The people of Mongolia live to the north of China and north of the Gobi Desert. China faced conflict and invasion from the Mongol Empire.

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Gobi Desert

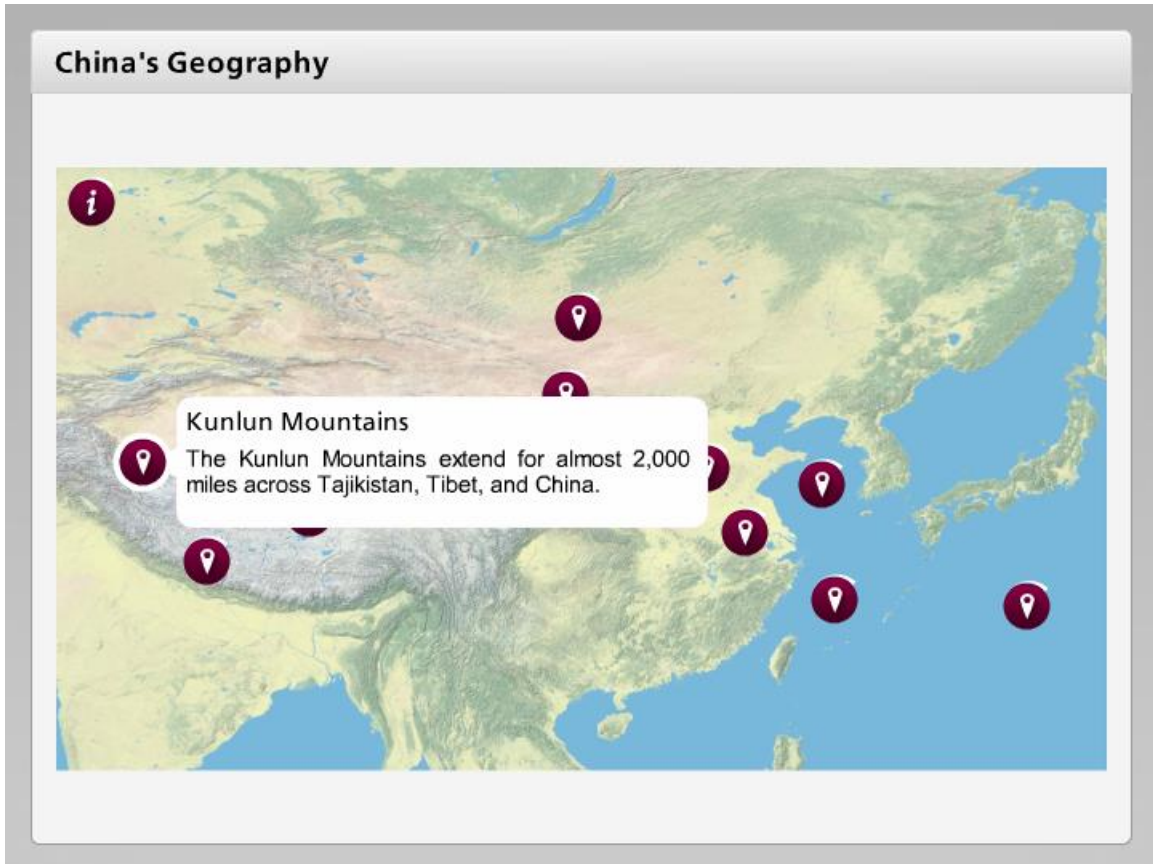


The Gobi Desert is a large sand desert that extends through southern Mongolia and northwest China. It is over 500,000 square miles in area. Several important trading cities developed around the Gobi Desert.

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Kunlun Mountains



The Kunlun Mountains extend for almost 2,000 miles across Tajikistan, Tibet, and China.

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Pacific Ocean



The Pacific Ocean borders China on the east. The habitable areas of China that bordered the Pacific Ocean were important for trade.

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Yellow Sea



The Yellow Sea is located between China and the peninsula of North Korea and South Korea. The surface of the water can appear yellow due to the sand blown in by sand storms in the Gobi Desert.

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East China Sea



The East China Sea is part of the Pacific Ocean. It covers 482,000 square miles and borders China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan.