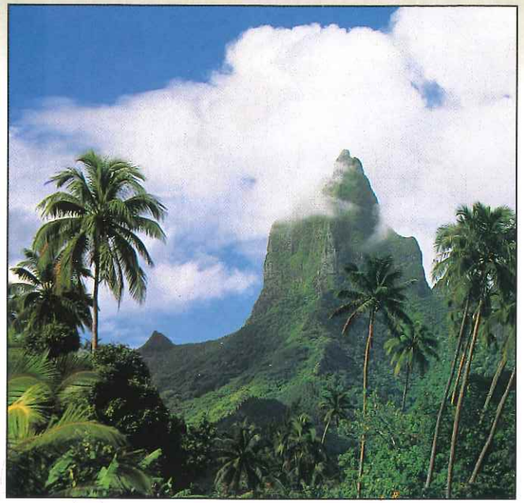
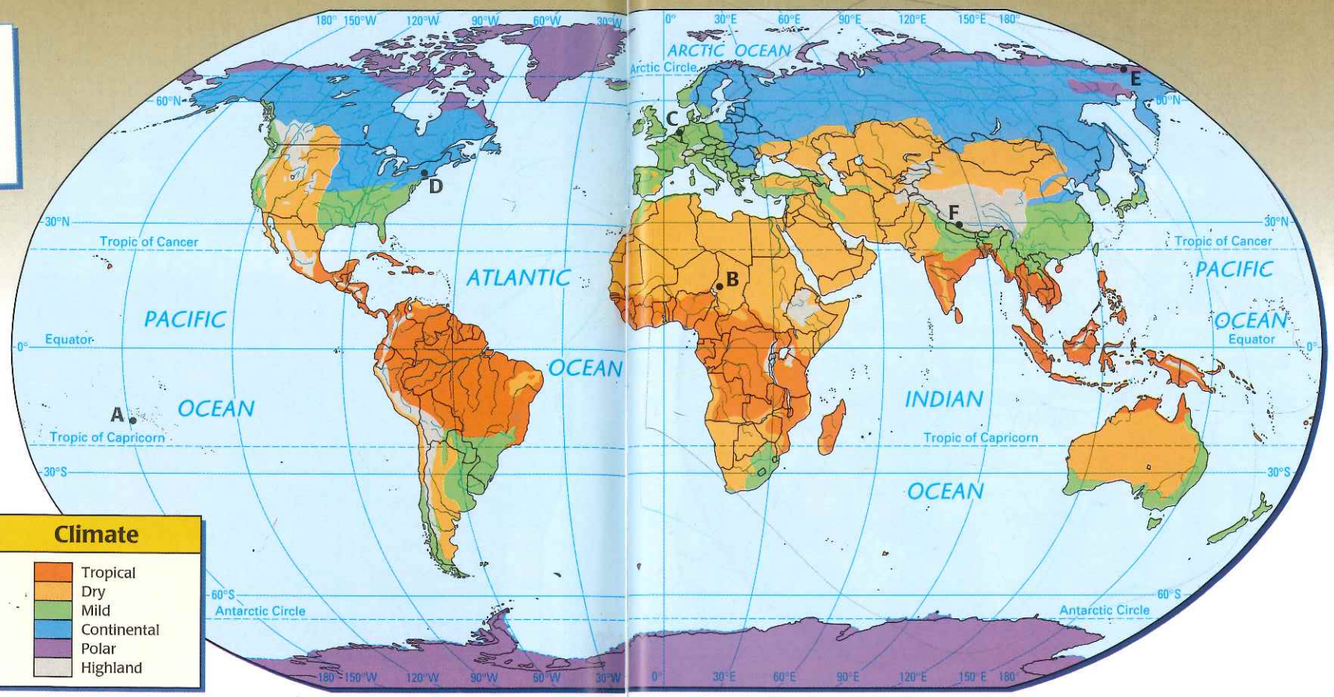
Understanding the World

Climate

- Climate strongly affects where and how people live.
- Latitude, distance from the ocean, and elevation determine a region's climate.



A **Tropical Climates** Regions in this category are hot all year. Some tropical regions also are rainy all year, while others have dry seasons.

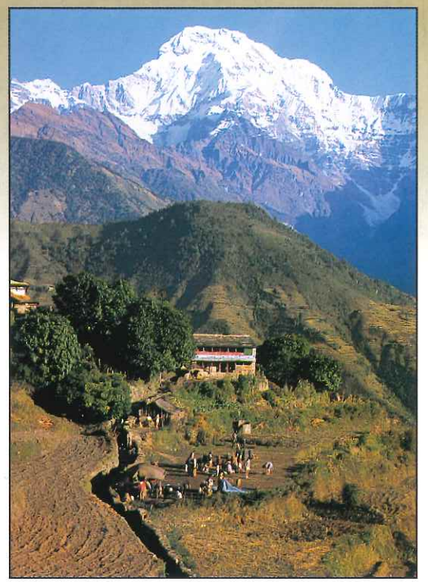


B **Dry Climates** Semi-deserts or *steppes* are dry but get occasional rain. True deserts are very dry all year. Dry regions may be warm to hot all year, or may vary with the seasons.

C **Mild Climates** Regions with mild climates have rainy winters that are mild to cool. Summers vary from warm to hot, and may be dry or wet.

D **Continental Climates** Places in this category have wet summers that are cool in some regions and hot in others. Winters are cold to very cold and snowy to very snowy.

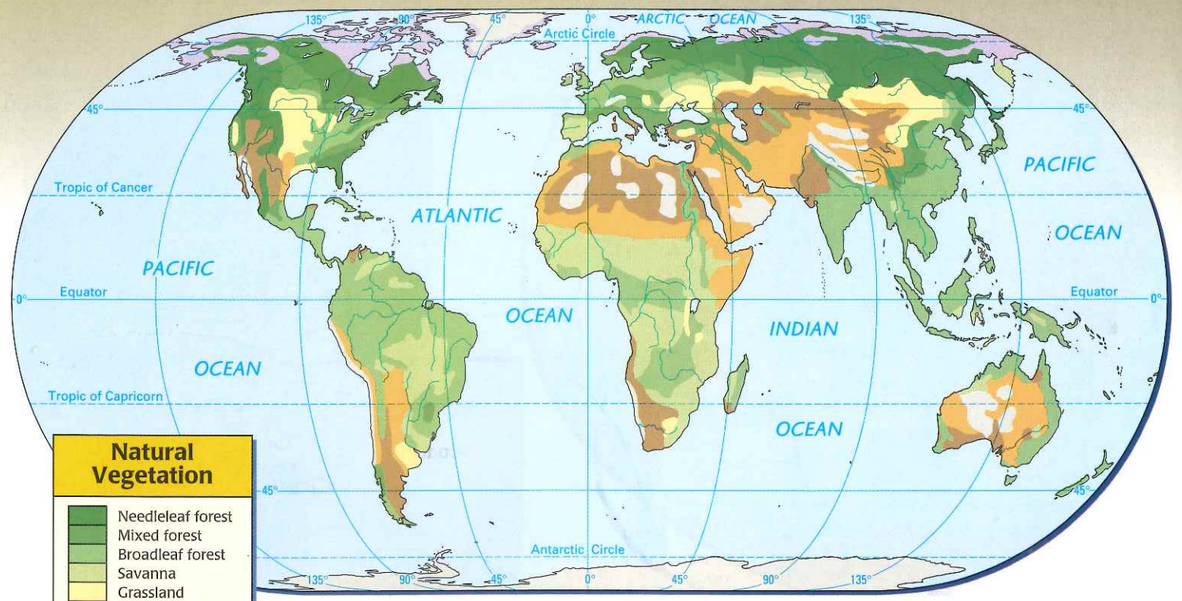
E **Polar Climates** Tundra and ice cap regions have polar climates. They get little snow and even less rain, and are cool to very cold all year.



F **Highland Climates** Local climates vary greatly because of differences in elevation. Distance from the Equator also affects highland climates.

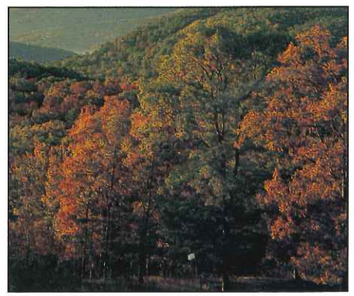
Understanding the World

Natural Vegetation



- Natural vegetation is what would grow if people did not cut trees, plant crops, and build cities.
- Would the region be mainly forest, grassland, or something else?
- In many parts of the world, the natural vegetation is gone.

Needleleaf forest



Broadleaf forest

Savanna

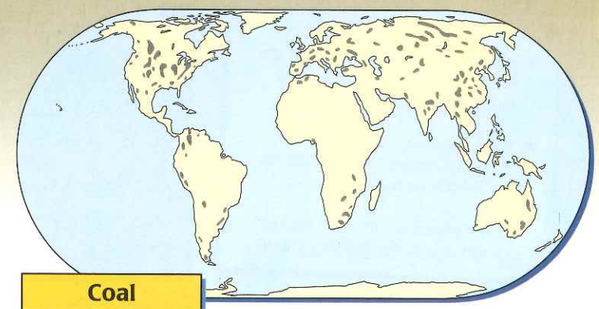
Scrubland

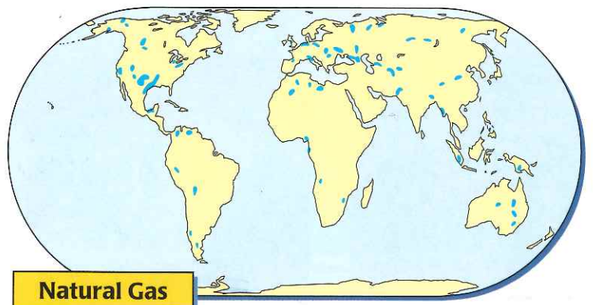
Tundra and heath

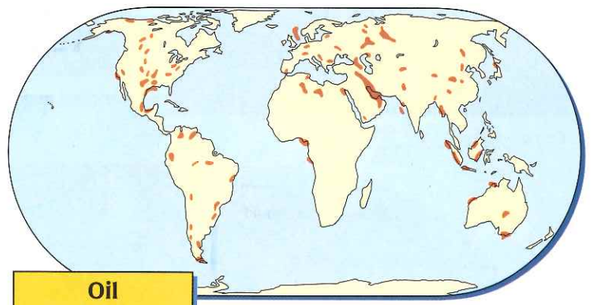
Understanding the World

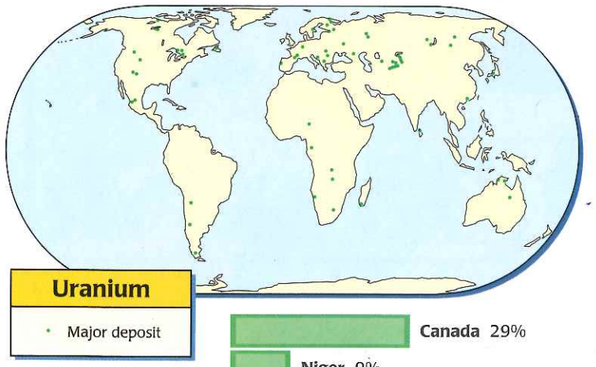
Energy Resources

- Coal, oil, natural gas, and uranium fill most of the world's energy needs.
- All four are *consumable*. Once used, they are gone forever.
- Of the four, coal is the most widespread and cheapest to use.
- Since coal, oil, and natural gas began as ancient plants, they are known as *fossil fuels*.









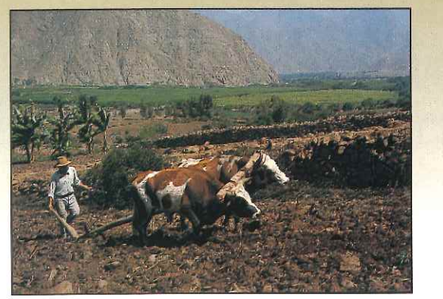
What's the Alternative?

Solar, wind, and water power are *renewable*, meaning they cannot be used up. But they also require just the right location: lots of sun, lots of wind, or a big river.

Understanding the World

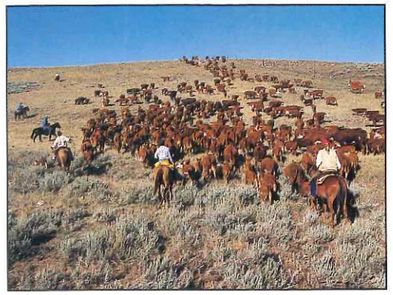
Land Use

- Most crops and livestock, and the herds on ranching and grazing lands, are sold for profit.
- But subsistence farmers and nomadic herders produce little or no extra food to sell.
- Some places are too dry, too cold, or too rugged for growing crops.

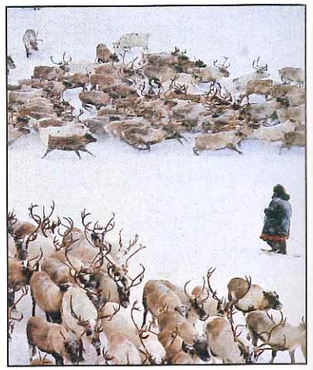


Subsistence farming

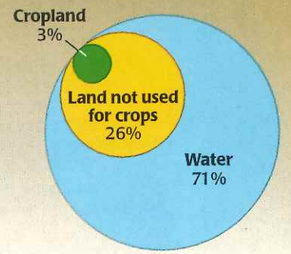
Crops and livestock



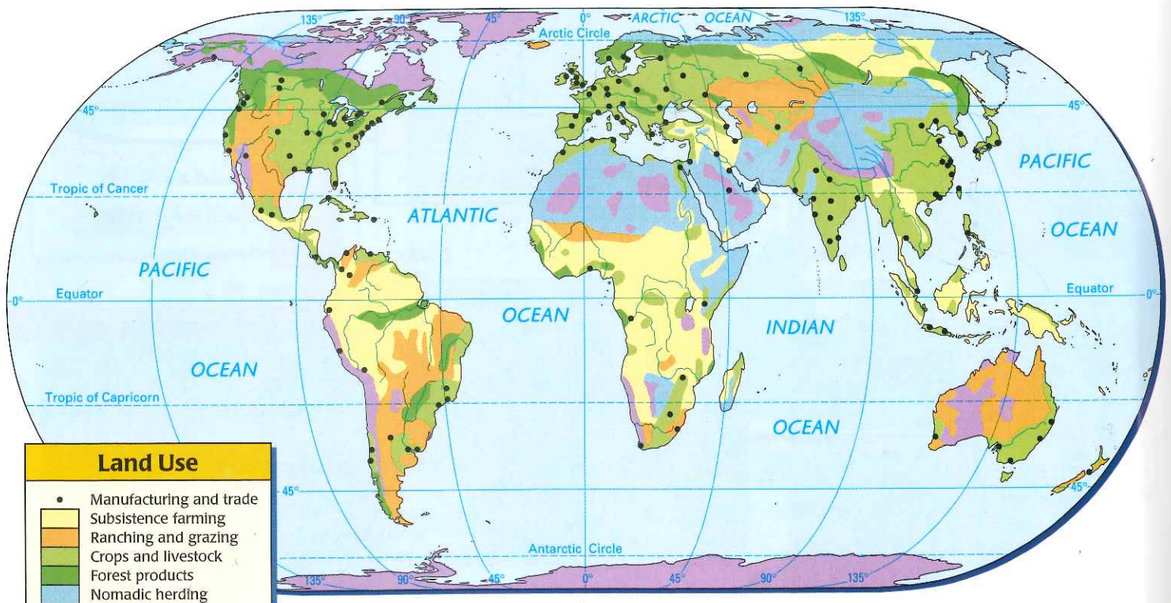
Ranching and grazing



Nomadic herding



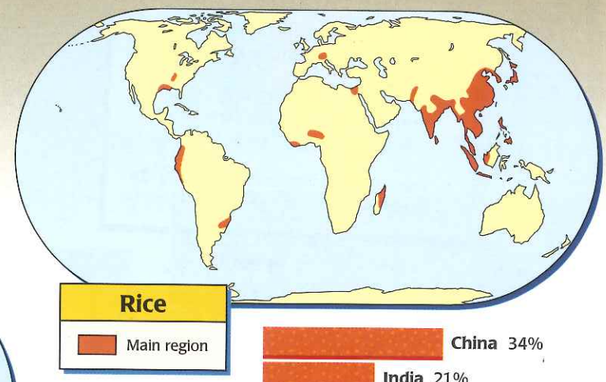
The Earth's Surface

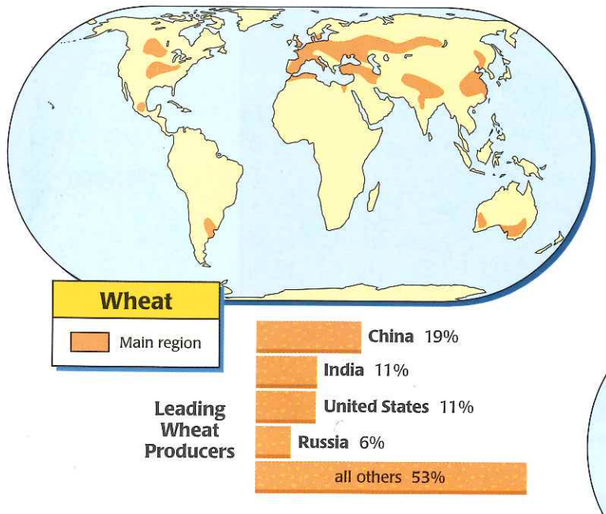


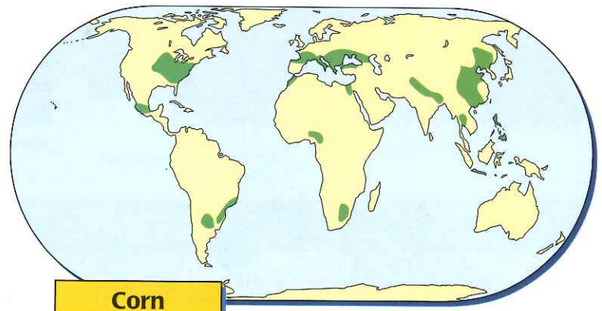
Understanding the World

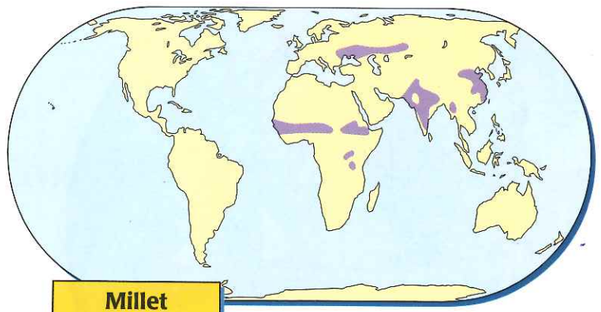
Food Resources

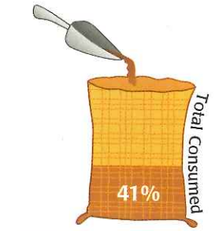
- Four cereal grains, all in the grass family, feed more people than any other kind of food.
- Rice needs much water. Millet needs little.
- Wheat is used for an amazing variety of breads and noodles.
- Corn, also known as *maize*, feeds both people and livestock.











Italy's Wheat Imports

Thailand's Rice Exports