

SKILLBUILDER

Reading a Population Density Map

►► Defining the Skill

A population density map allows you to compare the population densities of different regions. It shows how many people live in each square mile or square kilometer.

►► Applying the Skill

The map below shows the population density of North Korea, South Korea, and Japan. Use the strategies listed below to help you read the map.

How to Read a Population Density Map

Strategy 1 Read the map key. This key uses color to show population density. Areas with very dense population are purple. Areas with sparse population are pale yellow.

Strategy 2 Look at the map. Find the areas on the map that are most densely populated. Then locate areas that are less densely populated.

Strategy 3 Read the labels on the map. Notice that the major cities of these countries are in very densely populated areas. Look at the islands of Japan and notice which ones are the least populated.

Strategy 4 Summarize the information given in the map. Use the key to help you remember which areas are more densely populated than others.

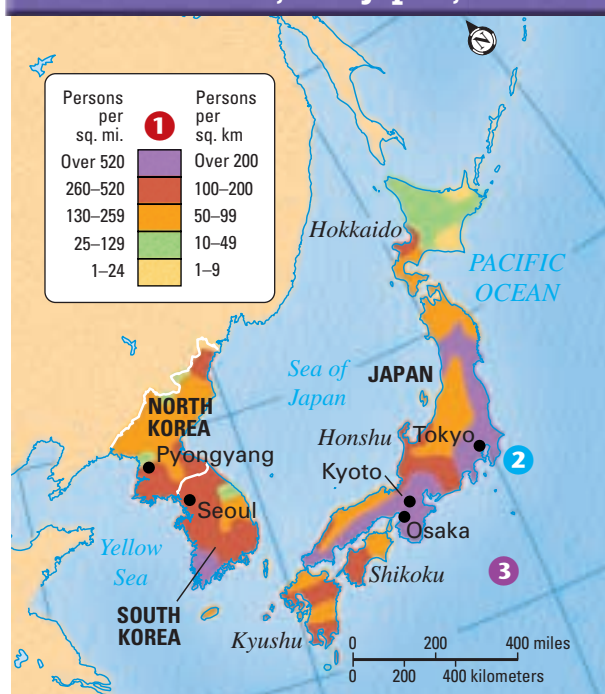
Write a Summary

Write a summary that will help you understand the information given in the map. The paragraph below and to the right summarizes the information from the map.

►► Practicing the Skill

Turn to page 519 in Chapter 17, Section 5, "Culture." Look at the map entitled "Population Density of Japan, 2001" and write a paragraph summarizing what you learned from it.

Population Density of North Korea, South Korea, and Japan, 2001



4 All three of these East Asian countries are densely populated. Japan is the most densely populated of the three. The areas around Japan's cities are more densely populated than those around the cities of the Koreas. In all three countries, the cities are in very densely populated areas, as would be expected. Of the larger islands of Japan, Hokkaido is the least populated. North Korea is slightly less populated than South Korea.