

# Guided Reading Activity

**networks**

## Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Siberian Russia

### Lesson 2 *History of the Regions*

**Essential Question:** How do governments change?

#### Siberia

**Directions:** As you read the section, fill in the blanks with important dates in the history of the region.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Nomads migrated into southern Siberia from central and east Asia.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Invaders from China drove groups north onto central Siberian plateau.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Russia controlled Siberia to the Pacific Ocean.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trans-Siberian Railroad was built across the region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Russian czar was overthrown and Communists took control of Russia, but were resisted by Siberian leaders.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Communists took control of Siberia, and it became part of the Soviet Union.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Labor camps called gulags were formed across Siberia. The Communist government sent criminals and members of the opposition to Siberia to the gulags as punishment.

#### Central Asia

**Directions:** Use your textbook to decide if each statement is true or false. Write *T* or *F* in the blank. If a statement is false, rewrite it correctly.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The countries of Central Asia have been conquered again and again by outside empires interested in controlling the Silk Road.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In the early 100s, the Arab conquest of Central Asia brought Islam to the region.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A Central Asian conqueror named Timur took over the region in the mid-1300s.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Under Timur's rule, the city of Samargand was the capital of the empire and a cultural city of scholars and artists.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Czar Peter the Great began expanding the Russian Empire into Central Asia because he wanted control of the Silk Road.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. During the Russian Revolution in 1917 most of Central Asia sided with the Communists.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Communist forces had regained control of the region by 1920.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Soviet rule of Central Asia had some positive impacts on the region, including improvements in power generation and irrigation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Soviet rule also had negative impacts, such as forcing farmers and nomadic herders to work on collective farms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Central Asian regions became independent countries.



# Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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### The Caucasus

**Directions:** Use your textbook to help you number these key events from the Caucasus region's history 1–10 in the order they happened.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan became independent states for a short time after the Russian Revolution.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The region was conquered by the Mongols and became part of Timur's Central Asian empire.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Muslim conquerors brought Islam to the Caucasus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan declared independence once again after the Soviet Union dissolved.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Georgia and Armenia became two of the earliest countries to convert to Christianity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Georgia and Armenia turned to Russia for protection from their Muslim rulers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The independent countries of the Caucasus regions struggled with economic changes, ethnic tensions, and border conflicts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Ottomans and Persians competed for control of the region for 300 years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Soviet Union took over the regions and created three Soviet republics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Russia took over most of the region, ultimately taking control of Armenia after World War I.