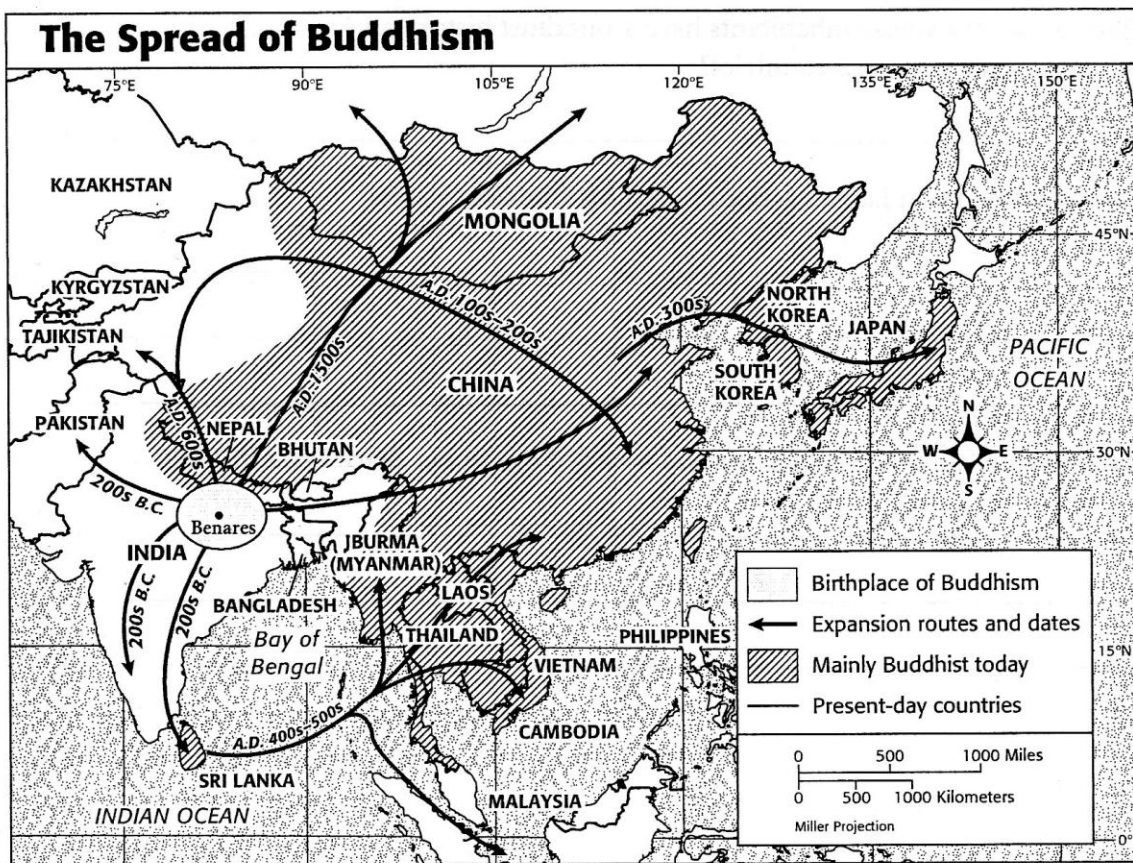


CHAPTER 5

Critical Thinking Activity
Human Geography

Buddhism

Buddhism is a religion and philosophy associated with Eastern and Central Asia. It was founded by Gautama Buddha in the 500s B.C. The Buddha's teachings encourage people to act unselfishly toward others and treat all others fairly and equally. The Buddhist philosophy of peace is based on a reverence for all living things. Study the map below and answer the questions that follow.



1. Where did Buddhism begin?

2. In what century did Buddhism spread to Sri Lanka? In what century did Buddhism spread from China to Korea?

3. Name three Southeast Asian countries that are mainly Buddhist today.

Chapter 5, Critical Thinking Activity, continued

As spiritual and political leader of the Tibetan people, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatzo, leads a life of exile in India. After an uprising against Chinese rule 42 years ago, the Dalai Lama fled, followed by thousands of Tibetans. Over the decades he has opposed the use of violence in his struggle for the liberation of Tibet. The Dalai Lama advocates peaceful solutions based on tolerance and mutual respect. He continues to seek genuine autonomy for his homeland, a land that China considers to be an integral part of its territory. This “simple Buddhist monk,” as the Dalai Lama calls himself, is considered by some to be one of the world’s enduring figures of compassion and struggle against oppression.

4. Tibet, a country whose inhabitants have a Buddhist history and culture, is situated between which two large countries?

5. How does the Dalai Lama’s actions reflect his Buddhist beliefs?

6. Why do you think the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989?
