

Overview of Central Asia

1. On the outline map of Central Asia, label the following countries: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, China, Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan.

2. Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan?

a. Which country is the largest in Central Asia (not counting Russia), 9th largest in the world?

b. Which country has the largest population in Central Asia?

c. Which country or countries are land-locked?

d. Which country or countries has a Turkic language as the national language?

e. Which country has the coldest climate? (Hint: Its capital is the second coldest capital city in the world.)

3. What is the main religion in both countries? What is the second most important religion?

4. Which two Asian cultures had the most influence on Central Asian culture?

5-8. Name 3 SPECIFIC ways in which Russian/Soviet rule (from the mid-19th to the late 20th centuries) affected Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. (Consider language, involvement in world affairs, borders, population changes.)

9. How have Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan changed since independence?

10. What political figure has influenced Kazakhstan the most since independence, and what impact has he left on the country?