Assignment #1: Read the following piece of text.

**China’s Geography**

_Essential Question: How did China’s geography influence its relationship with the rest of the world?_

China’s geographic features played a huge role in the development of civilizations within China and also in China’s relationships with the rest of the world. Like early civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India, the first civilizations in China began in river valleys.

The Huang He (HWAHNG HUH) or Yellow River flows across China for more than 2,900 miles. It gets its name from the rich yellow soil it carries. South of the Yellow River is the Chang Jiang (CHAHNG JYAHNG) River or the Yangtze River. The Yangtze River is even longer than the Yellow River. It flows for about 3,400 miles east across central China where it empties into the Pacific Ocean. It was in the valleys of these two rivers that the Chinese built their first civilizations.

Although China has rich soil along its rivers, only a little more than one-tenth of its land can be farmed. This is because mountains and deserts cover most of the land. The towering Himalaya Mountains close off China to the southwest. The smaller ranges of the Kunlun and the Tien Shan help to form China’s western border. The Kunlun Mountains are north of the Himalaya. The Tien Shan are north of the Kunlun Shan.

China is also home to two deserts. The Taklimakan Desert is located along China’s western border. It is located between the Kunlun and Tien Shan mountain ranges. The Taklimakan Desert also known as the “Sea of Death” is the world’s second largest desert. It offers poisonous snakes, frequent sand storms,
extremely hot daytime temperatures, freezing nighttime temperatures, and intense water shortages. The Gobi Desert is a vast, cold, and rocky desert. It is one of the driest places on Earth. It is located in the north and spreads east.

China is bordered on the east by the Pacific Ocean. These geographic features have shaped much of China’s history. They served as a “wall” around the Chinese, separating them from most of the rest of the world. This isolation allowed the Chinese to develop a unique way of life that lasted into modern times.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What do civilizations such as Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China have in common when it comes to geography?

2. How did the Yellow (Huang He) River get its’ name?

3. List two facts about the Yangtze (Chang Jiang) River.

4. Why can only a small portion of China’s land be farmed?

5. What is the Taklimakan Desert’s nickname and why is it called that?

6. List two facts about the Gobi Desert.

7. The last sentence states, “This isolation allowed the Chinese to develop a unique way of life that lasted into modern times.” What does the term isolation mean?

   A. Very cold
   B. A way of life
   C. Alone, by itself
   D. A part of a person’s culture.
Assignment #2: Creating a Primary Source Document

Remember a primary source is information that was created at the same time as an event occurred or was written by a person directly involved in the event, such as a diary, autobiography, or letter.

Over the next weeks, you will be asked to write a diary/journal entry once a week about “Life during the Great Pandemic of 2020.” You will write about what’s going on in the news as it relates to the Coronavirus, how your parent’s/guardian’s lives are impacted, how your life is impacted, and your feelings about what is going on.

For your first diary/journal entry, tell us about yourself. You may want to talk about things such as where you live, who lives with you, what your parents/guardians do for a living, your hobbies, etc. Next, tell us about what has been going on in your world these past 3 weeks. Why are you at home and not at school? How has your life changed? Be sure to include as many specific details as possible.

___________________________ (Date)