



### China's Land Use

China's land usage is tied to its geography. Most of western China is desert or mountains. The Himalaya Mountains, which form China's border with the Indian subcontinent, are the highest mountains in the world. In the northwest, the Altai Mountains form China's border with Kazakhstan. Between these two mountain ranges are, from north to south, the Turfan Depression, the Taklamakan Desert, and the Tibetan Highlands. The high altitude and harsh weather make much of western China unsuitable for farming and inhospitable for people. Therefore, much of the land is either unproductive or used for herding. The eastern half of China, known as China Proper, is home to 90% of China's 1.3 billion people and is very fertile. China Proper is divided into North China Proper and South China Proper by the Qin Ling Mountains and by the Yangtze River (Chang Jiang). North China Proper is colder, flatter, and more arid than the south, making it suitable for cultivating wheat and millet. South China Proper's warmer and wetter climate is ideal for rice cultivation.

#### MAP: Question 1

*Is manufacturing more common in eastern or western China? Why?*

#### Question 2

*In which section of China are you more likely to find nomadic herders?*