

Global Interdependence

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

To understand that all countries are interdependent

READING STRATEGY

Create a table like the one below. Fill in the raw materials from each region of the world used to make a pencil.

NORTH AMERICA	
SOUTH AMERICA	
EUROPE	
AFRICA	
ASIA	

How would you like to have thousands of people all over the world working for you? You do—right this minute. In fact, even while you sleep, people around the world are working in mines and factories and on farms to produce things you need. As you read this, ships and planes are crossing the oceans to bring these things to you.

You may be feeling rather special by now. But you needn't be. The fact is that all people, all over the world, work for each other. We all depend on others for things we cannot make for ourselves. We are all interdependent.

The Global Pencil

One example of how interdependent we all are may be in your hand right now. Or perhaps it is in your pocket, or your desk, or your notebook.

It takes the efforts of thousands of people from as many as 20 different countries and states to make one little pencil. You can imagine how many people it must take to make something like a car or a television set!

The roar of the chain stops as the cedar tree starts to fall. Much of the wood for pencils comes from trees in Oregon. The chain saw may have been made in Japan. The gasoline to run it started out as crude oil. Perhaps the oil came from Texas. But chances are good that the oil came from several places, such as Mexico, Alaska, Saudi Arabia, or the North Sea, located off the coast of the United Kingdom.

The logs are loaded onto a truck. The truck may have been made in Michigan. However, it could have been put together in a plant just across the border from the United States in Canada. And, of course, the trucks run on fuel made from crude oil.

The logs may be taken to a sawmill in California. The logs are sawed into small pieces before being sent to the factory in Pennsylvania. It is in Pennsylvania that the other parts that make up a pencil are added.

The “lead” in pencils is not really lead at all. Pencil lead is a mixture of several things. Graphite comes from mines in Sri Lanka. It takes the work of miners and dock workers in Sri Lanka to put the graphite on a ship built in Japan. The ship owner lives in France. The ship company that operates the ship does business from Liberia. The graphite is mixed with clay from Mississippi and wax from Mexico.



People and equipment are involved in shipping many items at a container port in Limassol, Cyprus.

For many people the most useful part of a pencil is the eraser. The rubber in the eraser likely came from Malaysia. The gritty stuff in the eraser that wears the pencil marks off the paper is pumice. Pumice comes from volcanoes in Italy. The piece of metal that holds the eraser in place is made of brass. Brass is made of zinc and copper. Zinc comes mainly from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Ireland. The copper may have come from Bolivia, Chile, or Zambia.

The pencil is almost finished. But first it must be painted. One of the main things that goes into

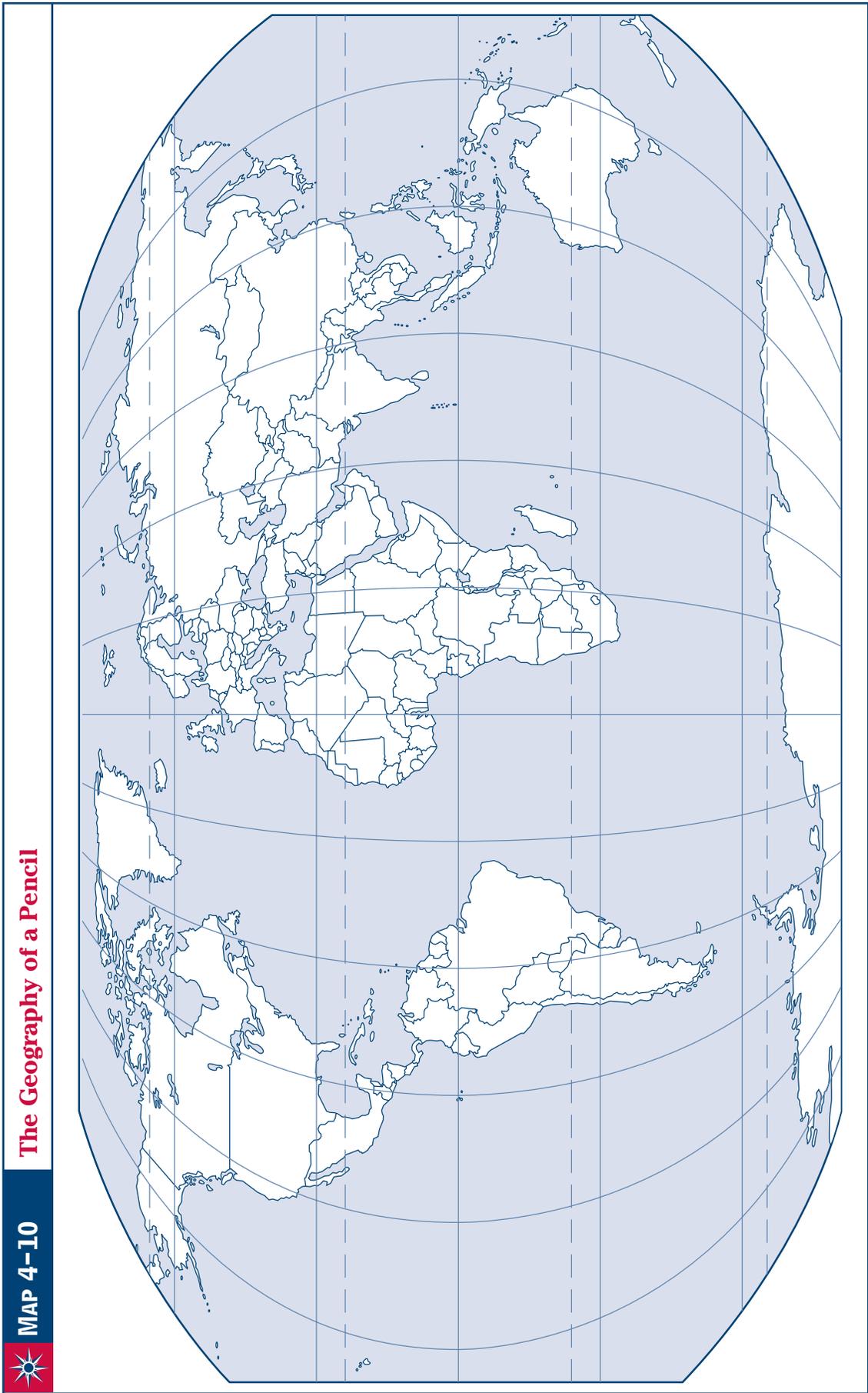
the paint is castor oil. Farmers in Africa grow the castor bean plants from which the oil is made. After the pencil is painted, the name of the maker is stamped on it. The black paint used to stamp the name of the pencil maker has carbon black from the far north of Texas in it.

Now the pencil is finished, but it must still be sent to you. Hundreds of other people are involved in shipping and selling the pencil after it leaves the factory. People in any one of the 50 states could have played a part in bringing you the pencil you use every day.

Using Your Skills

A PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Read the description above of how a pencil is made. The underlined words tell you what goes into a pencil, or where work on pencils is done. Write each word in the correct location on **Map 4-10: The Geography of a Pencil**.



MAP 4-10
The Geography of a Pencil

Human Systems

A REVIEWING KEY TERMS

Write the correct term from the box in each sentence.

balance of trade	life expectancy	imports
urbanization	demographic transition	trade
population density	migration	refugees
transportation	interdependence	exports

1. Moving people and goods from place to place is called _____.
2. _____ is the buying and selling of goods.
3. People relying on each other is called _____.
4. _____ describes how long the average person will live.
5. The permanent flow of people from place to place is _____.
6. A country _____ the goods it needs from other countries.
7. The goods a country sells to other countries are called _____.
8. Countries that export goods worth more than the goods they import are said to have a favorable _____.
9. _____ flee their countries because of danger or persecution.
10. _____ is the number of people living in a unit area of land.
11. The _____ is a model used to explain the population history of a country.
12. The movement of people to cities is called _____.