

## East Asia, Australia, and Oceania

### Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn about:

- the geography of East Asia, Australia, and Oceania, and the history of China and Japan
- the government, economy, and culture of East Asia, including modern China and modern Japan
- the history, government, economy, and culture of Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, and Antarctica

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

### Talk About It

Chapter 24: China and Its Neighbors

**Decisions and spending.** Who makes the laws where you live? How does your community spend tax money? Talk with your child about local forms of government.

Chapter 25: Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, and Antarctica

**Melting pots of people.** New Zealand and Australia have very diverse populations. Talk about the various groups that make up your community and discuss ways that people with different backgrounds can share their cultures.

### Make It

**Influence chart.** Talk with your child about how East Asian cultures and products influence your home life. Look at labels on clothing and other items to see which ones come from countries your child studied in this chapter. Help your child prepare a chart that shows the origins of these products.

### Read to Learn More About It

*Blue Fingers: A Ninja's Tale* by Cheryl Aylward Whitesel. Twelve-year-old Koji learns the ways of the Ninjas in this tale of sixteenth-century Japan.

*In Search of the Spirit: The Living National Treasures of Japan* by Sheila Hamanaka. Crafts passed down from ancient to modern times are explored here.

*A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park. This award-winning author tells the story of a twelfth-century Korean orphan as he struggles to prove himself to a pottery master.



### Technology

Check out  
[www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/](http://www.eduplace.com/parents/hmss05/)  
for more information.