This Is Asia

The Largest Continent
Asia is Earth’s largest continent. It is home to more than half of the world’s people. Most Asians live near the coast or on islands. Asia has a variety of landforms and features. They include tundra, deserts, plains, steppes, plateaus, and mountains. Asia also has peninsulas, or areas of land nearly surrounded by water. The islands of Japan are an archipelago.

Climate and Natural Resources
Asia has many different climates. It has regions with polar climates and regions with tropical climates. Parts of Asia are affected by monsoons. Asia’s natural resources include lumber, oil, and minerals. Soil and water are used to grow crops.

Before You Read
Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word.
- **tundra** noun, a cold, treeless land area
- **steppe** noun, a large grassy plain
- **peninsula** noun, land nearly surrounded by water
- **archipelago** noun, a large group of islands
- **monsoon** noun, a strong wind that brings heavy rain

After You Read
What kinds of landforms and features can be found in Asia? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.
What are some of Asia’s natural resources? Highlight the sentences that tell the answer.

**SKILL** Reading Maps
Asia has a variety of landforms. Locate and circle a peninsula. Locate and draw a box around an archipelago.