

## Moving Through the World

Faced with an environment that makes farming difficult, the people of the Sichuan Basin came up with an answer—they decided to modify their environment. The people of Tibet chose another answer. They adapted to their environment by developing other means of getting food—herding yaks. But sometimes people are unable to modify or adapt. In these cases, people may choose to move to a different environment.

### Kinds of Movement

People move to other areas for a variety of reasons. One type of movement is only temporary. You, for example, travel to and from school every day. Many adults are daily commuters, going to and from their work. This type of

movement happens over and over in a cycle. Thus, it's called cyclic movement.

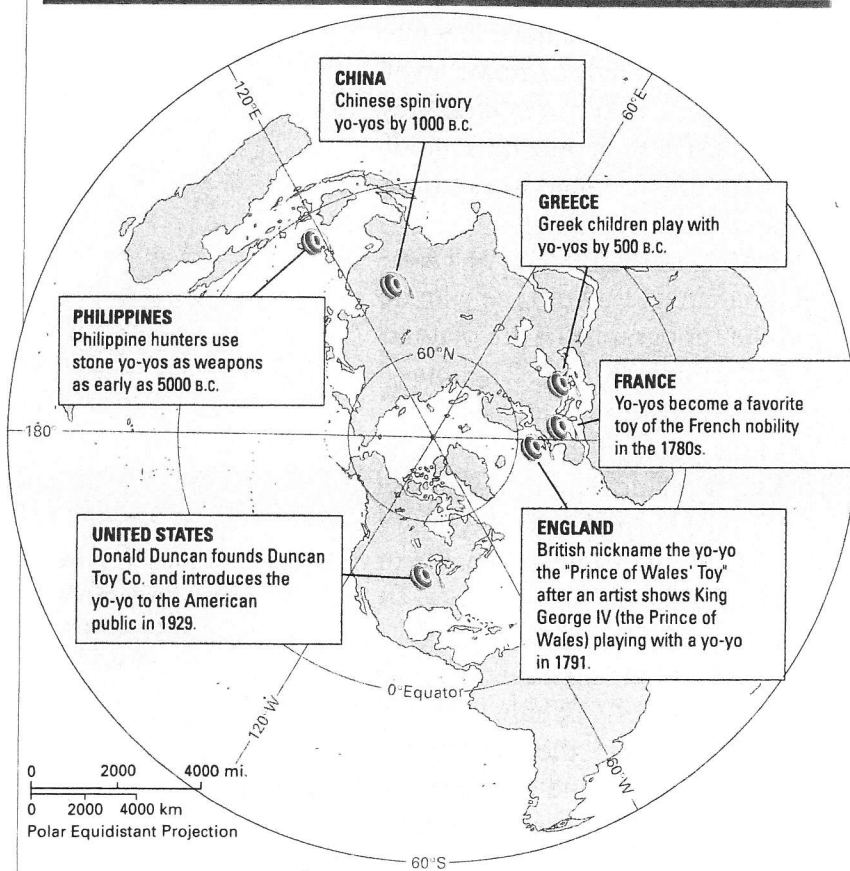
A second type of movement is periodic. It's when you move to a new place and stay for a period of time. For example, you might spend summer vacations at camp. But, eventually, you return home.

Periodic movement is a part of life for the Mongols and Kozakhs of northern China. These people herd sheep and goats. They move often, whenever their herds have eaten all the grass in a place. They move periodically, never staying permanently in one place.

A third type of movement is called migration. When people migrate, they leave their homeland to live permanently in another place. Your ancestors probably migrated to the United States. Archaeological evidence shows that people first migrated to the Americas from Asia between 20,000 and 40,000 years ago, across the Bering Strait.

▼ This world map is centered on the North Pole. Compare it to the world political map on pages 502 and 503 in the Atlas. What differences do you notice?

### The Yo-yo Around the World



### One Effect of Movement

Whenever people move from place to place, they discover new ideas, values, languages, and inventions. Sometimes they adopt elements of a new culture, changing them if necessary to fit their own needs. **Diffusion** is the spread of the ideas, values, and inventions of one culture into another culture.

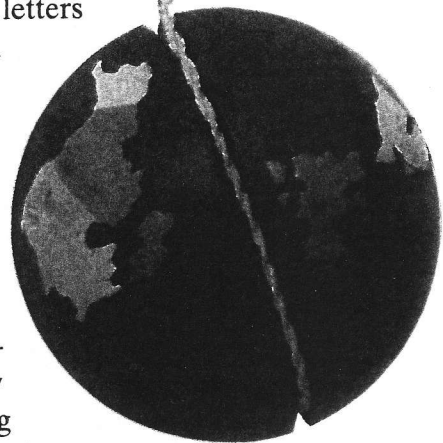
The spread of the yo-yo is one example of diffusion. You've probably played with a yo-yo at one time or another. But did you know that the yo-yo has a worldwide reputation? At left is a map that

shows the cultures where the yo-yo has appeared over the years. As the yo-yo moved from culture to culture, it changed. In prehistoric times, Philippine hunters used stone yo-yos as weapons. Later, the Chinese used ivory yo-yos as toys. Many centuries later, the yo-yo became a fad among the French nobility, who called the yo-yo *l'emigrette* or "the migrant." Inspired by the Philippine yo-yo, American inventor Donald Duncan began producing yo-yos in the 1920s. Duncan introduced the first plastic yo-yo in 1957. In its diffusion, the yo-yo has changed from a weapon to a toy and from stone to plastic.

The story of the alphabet is another case of diffusion. About 4,000 years ago, the Phoenicians (*fih NIHSH uhns*), who lived in what is now Lebanon, developed an alphabet. When Phoenician merchants traded with the Greeks, the alphabet traveled to many Greek-speaking areas. Through exploration, trade, and war, the

Greeks carried the alphabet even farther, eventually to the Italian peninsula. There, the Romans dropped several letters and gave the rest of the letters Latin names. When Roman soldiers marched into Britain, their alphabet went with them. Over time, this alphabet was transported to the New World. The alphabet in use today by English-speaking peoples is known as the Roman alphabet. You can learn more about it and other common alphabets on pages 488 and 489 in the Minipedia.

All cultures owe much to other cultures. For example, people played a game similar to modern football 5,000 years ago in Egypt. What examples of cultural diffusion can you see in your daily life—in your music, food, and clothes? ■



▲ The word yo-yo means "to return" in Tagalog, a Philippine language.

■ Why do large groups of people sometimes move from their homeland?