

NAME: _____

71 Points

Major Official Languages

- 1) Throughout history, how many languages have been in use? _____
- 2) At last _____ of the world's population uses one family group of languages.
- 3) The _____ language group is used by a large percentage of the of the world's population.
- 4) What languages are members of the Indo-European language group? _____

- 5) What is a dialect? _____
- 6) What groups of languages does the Germanic family consist of? _____

- 7) What groups of languages does the Latin-Romance family consist of? _____

- 8) What groups of languages does the Balto-Slavic family consist of? _____

- 9) What groups of languages does the Celtic family consist of? _____

- 10) What groups of languages does the Indo-Iranian family consist of? _____

- 11) What area are the Indo-Iranian languages spoken? _____
- 12) What groups of languages does the Sino-Tibetan family consist of? _____

- 13) What is unique about the Sino-Tibetan language? _____
- 14) What groups of languages does the Afro-Asian family consist of? _____

- 15) Where are the Uralic and Altaic languages mostly spoken? _____
- 16) What groups of languages does the Uralic and Altaic family consist of? _____

- 17) What two languages form a distinct grouping of languages? _____
and _____.
- 18) Where are the Dravidian languages spoken? _____.
- 19) What islands are the Malayo-Polynesian languages spoken on? _____

- 20) Where is the Mon-Khmer language spoken? _____
- 21) How many dialects can be found in black Africa? _____
- 22) What is the most widely spoken language group in Africa? _____
- 23) What language is the *lingua franca* of Eastern Africa? _____
- 24) How many American Indian languages are there? _____
- 25) What language family has had the most influence in North and South
America? _____

NAME: _____

16 Points

Interpreting the Map

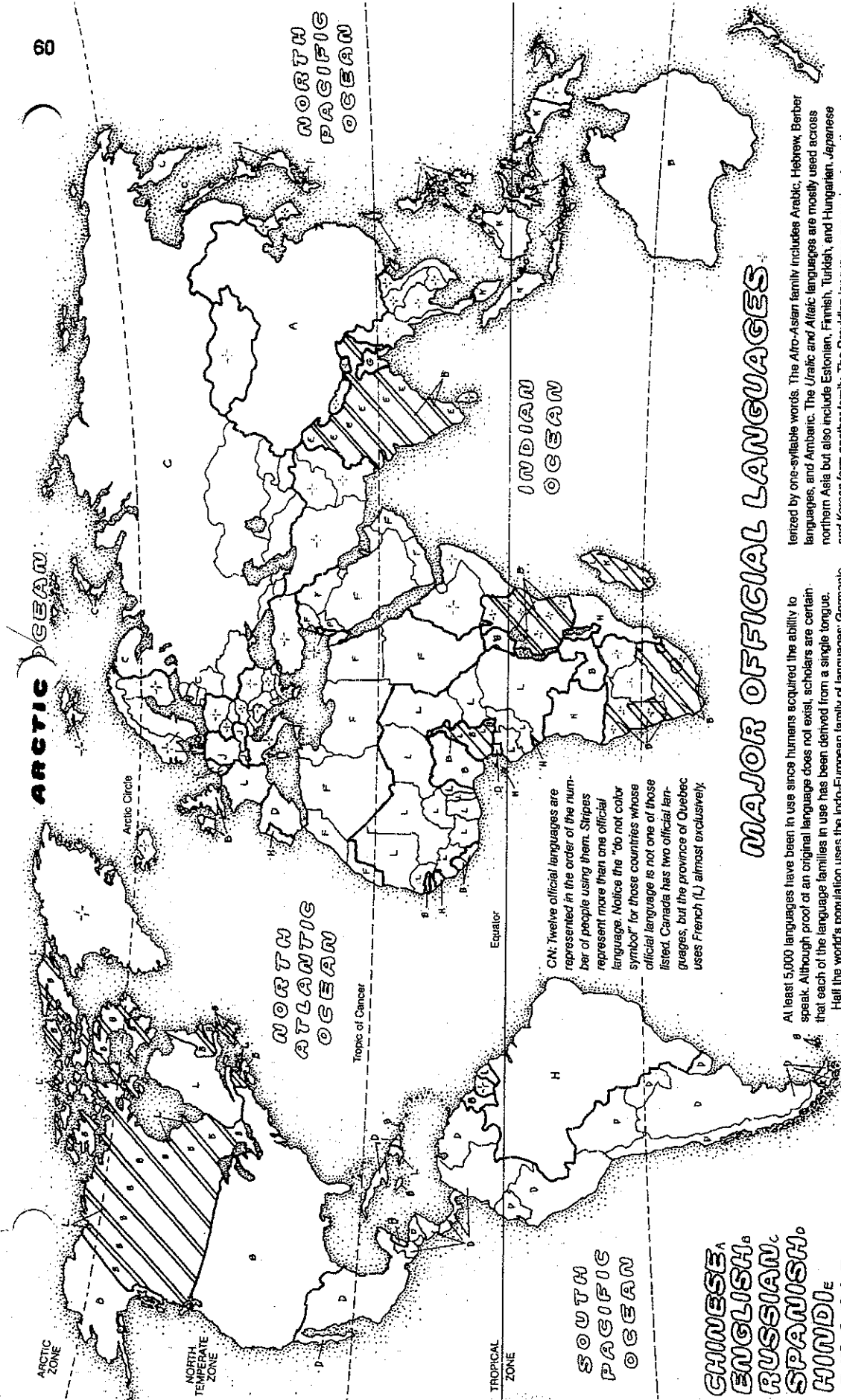
1. What language dominated the United States? _____
2. What two languages dominate Canada? _____
3. Brazil, South America is dominated by _____
4. The entire western spine of South America is dominated by _____
5. North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean are dominated by what language?

6. Australia and New Zealand is home to what language? _____
7. A large part of Northern Asia is dominated by the _____ language.
8. The Western and Central Area of Africa are dominated by what language?

9. What four languages dominate Western Europe? _____

10. Looking at the map, what two languages occur the most worldwide?

11. What language covers the most area of the world? _____



MAJOR OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

At least 5,000 languages have been in use since humans acquired the ability to speak. Although proof of an original language does not exist, scholars are certain that each of the language families in use has been derived from a single tongue.

Half the world's population uses the Indo-European family of languages: Germanic, Latin-Romance, Balto-Slavic, Celtic, Indo-Iranian, Greek, Albanian, and Armenian. All but the last three are divided into other languages, along with hundreds of dialects (variations based on regional or social differences). The point at which a dialect becomes a separate language is often unclear. The Germanic languages include English, German, Dutch, and the Scandinavian languages. The Latin-Romance languages, an outgrowth of Latin (imposed by the Roman Empire), include Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian. The Balto-Slavic family includes Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, Serbo-Croatian, Slovenian, Bulgarian, Lithuanian, and Latvian. The Celtic group includes Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton. The Indo-Iranian division includes languages spoken across southern Asia: Farsi (Iran), Pashto (Afghanistan), Urdu (Pakistan), Hindi (India), and Bengali (Bangladesh).

The Sino-Tibetan languages (Chinese, Thai, Burmese, and Tibetan) are all charac-

terized by one-syllable words. The Afro-Asian family includes Arabic, Hebrew, Berber languages, and Amharic. The Uralic and Altaic languages are mostly used across northern Asia but also include Estonian, Finnish, Turkish, and Hungarian. Japanese and Korean form another family. The Dravidian languages are spoken in southern India and Sri Lanka. The Malayo-Polynesian languages are spoken on the islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, including Madagascar, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Hawaii, and New Zealand. The Mon-Khmer family is spoken in southeast Asia. The most widely used of 2,000 languages of black Africa is the Bantu group, which includes Swahili, the lingua franca of eastern Africa. Over 1,000 Amer/Can Indian languages are spoken in isolated parts of the Americas. The map reflects five centuries of European colonialism. The Indo-European languages are the official languages (and the most widely used) in North and South America. European-imposed languages are spoken by only a minority of black Africans but continue to be used as official languages. These languages are the closest thing to a common tongue among the many ethnic groups, and the ruling and business classes have been educated in European languages.

- CHINESE^A
- ENGLISH^B
- RUSSIAN^C
- SPANISH^D
- HINDI^E
- ARABIC^F
- BENGALI^G
- PORTUGUESE^H
- JAPANESE^I
- GERMAN^J
- MALAYO-POLYNESIAN^K
- FRENCH^L

CN: Twelve official languages are represented in the order of the number of people using them. Stripes represent more than one official language. Notice the "do not color symbol" for those countries whose official language is not one of those listed. Canada has two official languages, but the province of Quebec uses French (F) almost exclusively.