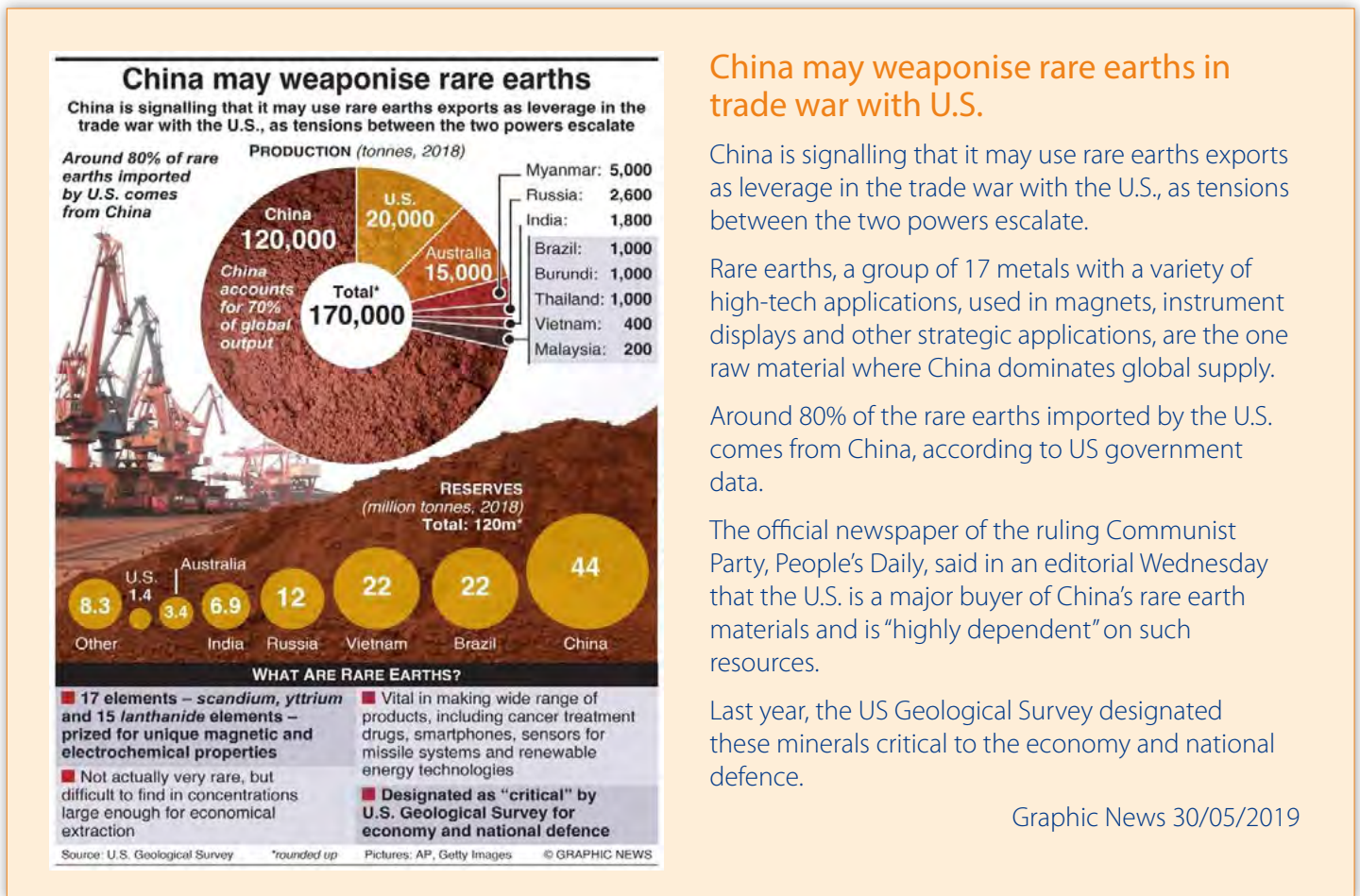


STAGE 6 SKILLS: NATURAL RESOURCE USE

CHINA MAY WEAPONISE RARE EARTHS



China may weaponise rare earths in trade war with U.S.

China is signalling that it may use rare earths exports as leverage in the trade war with the U.S., as tensions between the two powers escalate.

Rare earths, a group of 17 metals with a variety of high-tech applications, used in magnets, instrument displays and other strategic applications, are the one raw material where China dominates global supply.

Around 80% of the rare earths imported by the U.S. comes from China, according to US government data.

The official newspaper of the ruling Communist Party, People's Daily, said in an editorial Wednesday that the U.S. is a major buyer of China's rare earth materials and is "highly dependent" on such resources.

Last year, the US Geological Survey designated these minerals critical to the economy and national defence.

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ACTIVITIES

Refer to the article 'Rare Earth Elements' AND the infographic 'China may weaponise rare earths' to complete the following activities.

1. Calculate Myanmar's proportion (%) of total Rare Earth production.
2. Calculate Vietnam's share of global Rare Earth reserves as a %
3. Calculate the total % of REE production based in Asia.
4. China, USA and Japan are the major consumers of REE. Suggest reasons for this pattern of consumption. HINT: Consider the uses of REES.
5. Describe the spatial distribution of REE production and consumption on a global scale.
6. Create an infographic that incorporates information from the article Case Study: Rare Earth Elements. Choose your own digital tool. Include a map, photograph, graph and fact boxes in your infographic.

Skills activities created by Lorraine Chaffer using Graphic News infographics.