Brandenburg

The state of Brandenburg has a population of 2.64 million and is 29,056 square kilometers and is about the size of the state of Maryland. Its capital is Potsdam. Some of the major cities are Cottbus, Brandenburg and Frankfurt an der Oder. The rivers in Brandenburg are the Oder, the Havel and the Spree. There are also several canals in this state. These are Oder-Spreekanal, Rhinkanal, and the Oder-Havelkanal. There are also several lakes such as the Rupinner See, Werbellinsee, Schwielochsee and the Plauersee. Some of the major industries are textiles, machinery, cement, porcelain, farming, forestry, petroleum and coal. Some of the regional dishes are lentil soup and chicken fricassee.

In the textbook on pages 12 and 13 is a picture of Sanssouci Palace that was built between 1745 and 1747. Sanssouci Palace was built by the German architect Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff as a summer residence for the Prussian king Friedrich II (also known as Friedrich der Große). It is located at the foot a hill with a view of Potsdam. It is considered to one of the finest examples of German rococo architecture. On either side of the base are six terraced entrances to the palace are statues of Venus and Mercury. In the Marmorsaal (marble hall), statues of Venus, Urania, and Apollo represent the arts and sciences. French was the language used at the court of King Friedrich II. The name he chose for his palace comes from the French sans souci, which means worry free.

The coat of arms for Brandenburg was originally painted on a knight's shield or armor so that his allies could distinguish him in battle. Over time, the study of the coat of arms (called heraldry) became more elaborate and formalized. The crest of the state of Brandenburg shows a red eagle on a white background. This links the state to the medieval territory Mark Brandenburg. When Brandenburg was a part of Prussia, the eagle was black.

Cottbus is the second largest city in Brandenburg and an important center of chemical and power production. Brandenburg is a city that dates back to the sixth century when it was called Brennabor. It is home of the impressive St. Peter and Paul Cathedral which was built between 1165 and 1240. The city Frankfurt an der Oder is an old trading and university town. Heinrich von Kleist, a famous dramatist, studied there. There is also Frankfurt am Main in the western part of Germany. These cities received their names because of the rivers they were founded on.

Linseneintopf is a lentil stew made with bacon, leeks, carrots, and potatoes and pork sausage. Hühnerfrikasee is a chicken dish made with white asparagus, mushrooms, capers, and meatballs. It is served over rice.

There are three states that border Brandenburg. They are Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen-Anhalt, and Sachsen. Poland also borders it on the east.
In July and August of 1945, at the end of World War II, the world centered its attention on Potsdam, when Churchill (later Atlee) of Great Britain, Stalin of the Soviet Union, and President Truman of the United States negotiated the Potsdam Agreement in the Cecilienhof Palace. Under the Potsdam Agreement Germany was divided into four Besatzungszenonen (occupation zones), one of which was controlled by the U.S. forces.

Schloss Branitz is located 2 kilometers east of Cottbus. This two-story baroque building, dating back to 1772, was renovated around 1850 by architect Gottfried Semper for Hermann Fürst Muskau (1785-1871), who used it as his residence. Today it serves as the Bezirksmuseum.

Friedrich der Großer was born in 1712 in Berlin and died in 1786 in Potsdam. He became the King of Prussia after the death of his father, Friedrich Wilhelm I. in 1740. Friedrich considered himself a servant of the state (erster Diener meines Staates). He loved the arts and encouraged science, philosophy, and freethinking, though only to the extent that it would not overstep his own interests. He led the Prussian army in several wars, including the Seven Years' War. During his reign, Prussia became a major European power. The marble statue on page 15 stands in front of the Östliches Gärtnerhaus on the grounds of Sanssouci. It was sculpted by Joseph Uphues in 1899. The wing of Sanssouci Palace known as the Neue Kammern is a later addition to the palace. It was built by the original architect of Sanssouci, Knobelsdorff in 1747. It was later rebuilt from 1771 to 1775 and became a guesthouse with separate apartments.

Schloss Cecilienhof was completed in 1917 and was occupied by the Hohenzollern royal family until 1945. At the end of World War II, the family fled from Stalin's Red Army but managed to take all the furnishings. In the summer of 1945, this site was chosen for the negotiations of the Potsdam Agreement. The palace had to be refurbished quickly to enable the delegation to live and work there. The Tagesraum with the famous Runder Tisch (the round table at which the delegates worked), as well as the studies that Churchill, Truman and Stalin each occupied, are in their original condition and are open to the public.

The Schiffshebewerk in Niederfinow is an important ship hoist that was built to connect the two rivers Oder and Havel by way of the Oder-Havelkanal. This hoist operates much like an elevator. It lifts the ship in huge water filled trough from one level to another.