

Geography of Asia

- Asia is a huge continent!
- It has great vegetation in both physical and cultural geography.
- Asia contains:
 - Lots of mountain ranges
 - Many important rivers
 - Numerous island groups
 - Two major deserts
 - And vast expanses of land

Russia

- Russia is the only country in the world to be part of two separate continents!



Mountain Ranges

- Asia's mountain ranges include:
 - the Himalayas, which divide the Indian Subcontinent from the rest of Asia.
 - The Eastern and Western Ghats of India.
 - The Altai Mountains of Mongolia.

The Grandest Feature of Asia

- Perhaps the grandest feature of Asia is the huge Himalayan Range.
- The Himalayas, which stretch 1,500 miles are the highest mountains in the world!

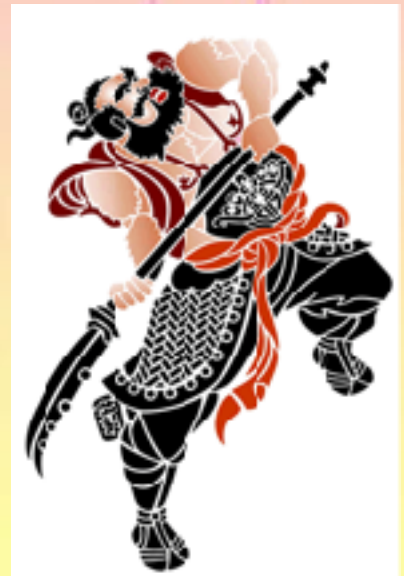


Mt. Everest

- Nine of the world's tallest mountains over 26,000 feet in elevation are found in this range including Mt. Everest, the world's tallest mountain, at almost 30,000 feet.



- The Himalayas contain great mineral wealth, with the largest deposits in the region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- This part of the Subcontinent is highly prized and has been fought over between Pakistan and India, with China also taking its share.



Deserts

- Asia's deserts are the Gobi in China and Mongolia and the Takla Makan of China.



Rivers

- **Important rivers include:**
- The Huang He and the Chiang Jiang in China (some sources refer to these as the Yellow River and the Yangtze)
- The Indus and the Ganges in India
- The Brahmaputra in China and India
- And the Mekong in Southeast Asia.



- Asia's rivers offer lush, fertile valleys where people have lived since ancient times!

Asia's Population



- The largest concentration of people in Asia lives in China and India, the most populated countries in the world.
- 1/5 of the world's population lives in China, but most people live in the eastern half of the country.

Why Do Most People Live in the Eastern Half?

1. Eastern China is rich in resources.
2. It has arable land.
3. & it receives sufficient rainfall for farming.



- Agriculture is important not only as a means of livelihood but also for feeding the huge population!



- Many people throughout Asia live on small family farms and survive on subsistence agriculture which is often threatened by natural disasters that plague Asia.



The Monsoons

- Southern and Southeast Asia have tropical monsoons that bring heavy rains for months at a time.
- People in this region depend upon this seasonal rainfall for their crops and water supply.



- Yet often they receive either too little or not enough, and droughts and famines result.



- Other parts of Asia have tropical, temperate, or arid climates.



- Tropical climates have warm or hot temperatures year-round with fairly consistent amounts of rainfall.
- Temperate climates have four seasons, with hot summers and cold winters.
- Places with arid climates receive little rainfall, though temperatures can vary.



Archipelago

- Several archipelagoes lie off of Asia's coasts including Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and the Maldives.

