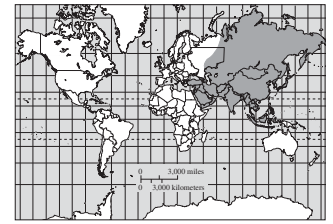


Physical Geography of Asia

Location: Asia is located in the eastern hemisphere. It is east of Europe and Africa and northwest of Australia. It is bordered by the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Arctic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean. Only a small portion of the continent is located below the equator.



Size: Asia is the largest continent in the world. Its area is approximately 17,000,000 square miles (44,000,000 km²), which makes it almost five times larger than the United States. The greatest distance from south to north is about 5,400 miles (8,700 km) and from east to west, 6,000 miles (9,700 km). The highest point on the continent is the summit of Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain at 29,028 feet (8,848 m). The lowest point (also the lowest point in the world) is along the shore of the Dead Sea 1,310 feet (399 m) below sea level.

Climate: The climate of Asia varies greatly because of its great size. In north Asia, winters are long and very cold. In the polar region it is very dry, but in the rest of the region precipitation is medium to heavy. Central and southwest Asia are mostly desert with mild winters, long, hot summers, and little precipitation. Most of eastern Asia has warm or hot summers, cold winters, and a medium amount of precipitation through the year. Southeast Asia is generally hot year-round with much precipitation.

Monsoons are the most important feature of Asia's climate. They are winds that blow down from the cold, dry north each winter and up from the warm, moist south during the summer.

Landforms: Asia is famous for mountains and mountain ranges. Within the Himalayas are the world's highest mountains, including Mount Everest. Other important ranges are the Hindu Kush, Tien Shan, and Zagros.

The largest and most famous desert in Asia is the Gobi. It is the second-largest desert in the world at 500,000 square miles (1,300,000 km²) and is located in Mongolia and northern China. Most of southwest Asia is covered by deserts, including the Rub al Khali on the Arabian Peninsula.

Several major plateaus are found in Asia. For example, the Plateau of Anatolia covers most of Turkey, and the Deccan Plateau is located on the southern peninsula of India. Probably the most famous plateau is a huge, cold, and rocky one north of the Himalayas. This is the Plateau of Tibet.

Many long and important rivers flow from the mountains of Asia. The Tigris, Euphrates, Indus, and Huang He have been famous and important since ancient times. Other well-known rivers are the Mekong in southeast Asia, the Yangtze in China, and the Ganges in India. The Yangtze and Huang He are among the world's ten longest rivers.

Inland bodies of water include the Caspian Sea, the largest lake in the world, and Lake Baykal, the deepest.

Islands are an important feature of Asia, especially in the east and southeast. Borneo, Sumatra, and Honshu are among the ten largest islands in the world.

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Cities of Asia

This map of Asia is labeled with letters that mark the locations of important cities. Match these letters with the correct names. Use the information provided below to help.

- _____ 1. Beijing
- _____ 2. Bombay
- _____ 3. Jerusalem
- _____ 4. Karachi
- _____ 5. Manila
- _____ 6. Novosibirsk
- _____ 7. Seoul
- _____ 8. Shanghai
- _____ 9. Tehran
- _____ 10. Tokyo



1. This city is located on the Huang He in East Asia. It is the capital of the country of China and is one of the most important and historic cities in the world.
2. This city is the largest of South Asia. It is an island city located on the west coast of the Indian subcontinent. This has helped it become one of India's chief ports.
3. Located in Southwest Asia in the country of Israel, this historic city is about 3,000 years old. It is an important religious symbol for Jews, Christians, and Moslems.
4. Located on the coast of the Arabian Sea in South Asia, this is the largest city in Pakistan. It has a population of about five million.
5. Located on the island of Luzon in Southeast Asia, this is the capital and largest city of the Philippines. It is also the chief port and economic center.
6. This city is located in northern Asia in the country of Russia. It lies on the Ob river and is the largest city in Siberia.
7. One of the world's ten largest cities, this is the capital and economic center of the country of South Korea.
8. This is one of the world's five largest cities. It is located in East Asia near the East China Sea on the Huangpu River. It is the largest city and most important industrial center in China.
9. This city is located on a plateau south of the Caspian Sea in southwest Asia. It is the capital and largest city of Iran.
10. This is the capital of Japan and one of the five largest cities in the world. It is located on the island of Honshu. It is one of the world's great manufacturing and trading centers.

Answer Key: 1.F, 2.C, 3.B, 4.I, 5.E, 6.A, 7.H, 8.D, 9.J, 10.G

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Physical Features of Asia

Some major features of Asia are labeled with letters on the map. Match the letters to the names of the features listed below.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Arabian Peninsula | _____ 9. Indochina Peninsula |
| _____ 2. Aral Sea | _____ 10. Indus River |
| _____ 3. Caspian Sea | _____ 11. Lake Baykal |
| _____ 4. Deccan Plateau | _____ 12. Mekong River |
| _____ 5. Ganges River | _____ 13. Persian Gulf |
| _____ 6. Gobi (Desert) | _____ 14. Plateau of Tibet |
| _____ 7. Himalayas | _____ 15. Yellow Sea |
| _____ 8. Huang He (Yellow River) | |



Answer Key: 1.O, 2.D, 3.C, 4.B, 5.J, 6.G, 7.A, 8.E, 9.N, 10.K, 11.H, 12.M, 13.I, 14.L, 15.F

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