



## Main Idea

India is trying to develop its resources to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population.

## Terms to Know

- subcontinent
- monsoon
- green revolution
- jute
- cottage industry
- pesticide
- caste
- reincarnation

## Reading Strategy

Create a chart like this one. Then fill in at least two key facts about India under each category.

India	
Land	Economy
History	Religion

# India—Past and Present



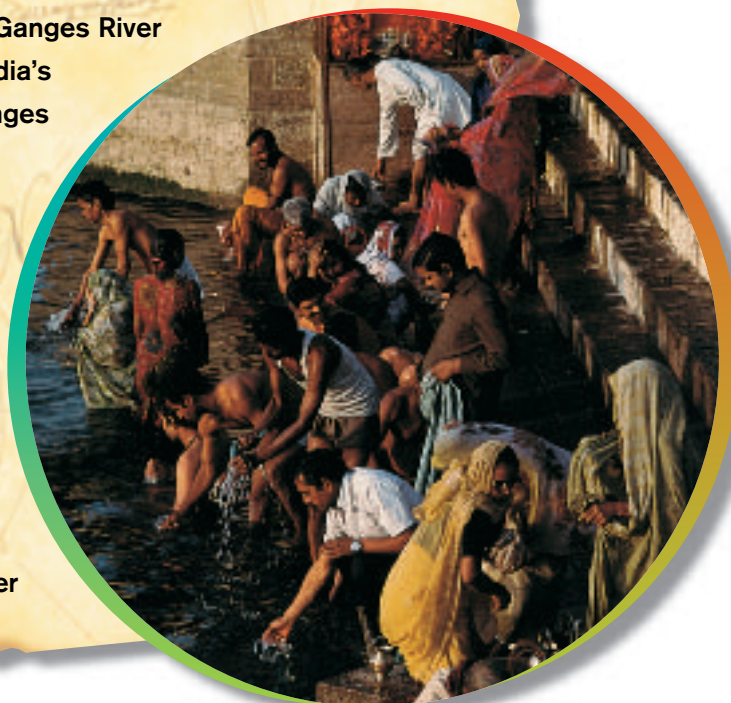
## Exploring our World

Stone steps lead to the Ganges River

at this village in India. India's Hindus consider the Ganges River to be a holy river.

Millions of Hindus from all areas of India come to pray and bathe in its waters every year.

People also use the river to do their laundry. In addition, industries dump waste into it. Today there is grave concern that the holy river is seriously polluted.



**I**ndia and several other countries—Pakistan, Bangladesh (BAHNG•gluh•DEHSH), Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives—make up the South Asian subcontinent. A **subcontinent** is a large landmass that is part of another continent but distinct from it.

### India's Land and Economy

Two huge walls of mountains—the **Karakoram** (KAH•rah•KOHR•ahm) **Range** and the **Himalaya** (HIH•muh•LAY•uh)—form India's northern border and separate South Asia from the rest of Asia. (See the map on page 479.) The tallest mountains in the world, the Himalaya's snowcapped peaks average more than 5 miles (8 km) in height. Edging India's southern coasts are the **Eastern Ghats** and the **Western Ghats**. In central India, the **Satpura Range** divides the country.

North of the Satpura lies the vast **Ganges Plain**. It boasts some of the most fertile soil in the country and holds about 40 percent of India's



people. The **Ganges River** flows through the Ganges Plain to the **Bay of Bengal**. South of the Satpura Range lies the **Deccan Plateau**. Forests, farmland, and rich deposits of minerals make it a valuable region.

Most of India is warm or hot all year. The Himalaya block cold northern air from sweeping south into the country. **Monsoons**, or seasonal winds that blow steadily from the same direction for months, also influence the climate. During the rainy season (June through September), southern monsoon winds bring moist air from the Indian Ocean. The map on page 464 shows monsoon patterns for summer and winter.

**The Green Revolution** Today India produces most of the food it needs. In the past, it was very different. The world's worst recorded food disaster, known as the Bengal Famine, occurred in 1943 when the United Kingdom ruled India. An estimated 4 million people died of starvation that year alone. When India won its independence in 1947, government officials turned their attention to improving India's farm output.

The **green revolution** was an effort to use modern techniques and science to increase production of food.

The government built dams to collect monsoon rains. The dams stored the water and spread it out through irrigation ditches during the dry season. Farmers could then plant more than one crop each year. New, stronger strains of wheat, rice, and corn were also developed that could withstand diseases and droughts and produce more grains.

India's farmers today raise a variety of crops, including rice, wheat, cotton, tea, sugarcane, and jute. **Jute** is a plant fiber used for making rope, burlap bags, and carpet backing. India is the world's second-largest rice producer, after China.

**Industry** Huge factories in India's cities turn out cotton textiles and produce iron and steel. Oil and sugar refineries loom over many urban skylines. Recently, many American computer companies have opened offices in India. Mining is another major industry. India has rich deposits of coal, iron ore, manganese, and bauxite. Its major exports are gems and jewelry.

Many Indian products are manufactured in cottage industries. A **cottage industry** is a home- or village-based industry in which family members, including children, supply their own equipment to make goods. Items produced in cottage industries include cotton cloth, silk cloth, rugs, leather products, and metalware.

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC On Location**



**Two Views of India**

The growing middle class lives comfortably in India's suburbs (above), but the poor in India's cities must struggle to survive (above left).

**Human/Environment Interaction**  
How would the green revolution benefit India's people?



▲ This statue represents Siva, one of Hinduism's many deities.

**Environmental Challenges** India's economic growth has created challenges to its environment. Thousands of acres of forests have been cleared for farming. Both water and land have been polluted from industrial wastes and **pesticides**, or chemicals used to kill insects that destroy crops. Burning coal is also harmful. The Ganges River is considered by many experts to be one of the world's most polluted rivers.

All of these developments have played a part in destroying animal habitats. India's elephants, lions, tigers, leopards, monkeys, and panthers have been greatly reduced in number. The government has set up more than 350 national parks and preserves to save these animals.

✓ **Reading Check** How has economic growth hurt India's environment?

## India's History and People

About 4,000 years ago, the first Indian civilization built well-planned cities along the **Indus River** valley in present-day Pakistan. In the 1500s B.C., warriors known as Aryans (AR•ee•uhns) entered the subcontinent from Central Asia. They set up kingdoms in northern India. Aryan beliefs gradually blended with the practices of the local people to form the religion of Hinduism.

Over time, Hinduism organized India's society into groups called castes. A **caste** is a social class based on a person's ancestry. Under such a system, people are born into a particular caste, which determines the jobs they can hold and whom they can marry. The caste system still influences Indian life, although laws now forbid unfair treatment of "lower" castes.

About 80 percent of India's people today are Hindus. Hindus honor many gods and goddesses, including Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver, and Siva the Destroyer. Hinduism teaches that after the body dies, the soul is reborn, often in an animal or human form. This process, called **reincarnation**, is repeated until the soul

## EXPLORING CULTURE

### Clothing

What is more comfortable than a pair of well-worn blue jeans? Denim—the strong blue cotton fabric—is part of modern life. Blue-dyed textiles (fabrics) are nothing new, however. They were being produced in India as long ago as 2700 B.C. Ancient Indians were among the first in the world to master techniques for dyeing cotton and other types of fabric. Using more than 300 different plants, Indian textile makers created brilliant fabric dyes. They also discovered how to make dyes permanent, so they would not wash out.

**Looking Closer** Look at the Country Profiles on pages 466–468. Which countries' main export is cotton, textiles, or clothing?





## Leaders of India

Indira Gandhi (left), Mohandas Gandhi (center), and Jawaharlal Nehru (right) were instrumental in bringing democracy to India.

**History** Which country ruled India before it won its independence?

reaches perfection. For this reason, many Hindus believe it is wrong to kill any living creature. Cows are viewed as sacred and roam freely.

Buddhism started in India about 500 B.C. but largely declined there by 300 B.C. The religion of Islam has had much more influence on India's history. In the A.D. 700s, Muslims from Southwest Asia brought Islam to India. In the 1500s, they founded the Mogul Empire and ruled India for 200 years.

Today India's 140 million followers of Islam form one of the world's largest Muslim populations. Other religions include Christianity, Sikhism (SEE•KIH•zuhm), Buddhism, and Jainism (JY•NIH•zuhm). Conflict sometimes occurs among members of India's different religious groups. The Sikhs, who practice Sikhism, believe in one God as Christians and Muslims do, yet Sikhs also have other beliefs similar to Hindus. Many Sikhs would like to form their own country.

Religion has influenced the arts of India. Ancient Hindu builders constructed temples with hundreds of statues. Hindu writers composed stories about deities. Among Muslim achievements are large mosques, palaces, and forts. One of the finest Muslim buildings in India is the Taj Mahal. Turn to page 477 to learn more about this building.

**Independence** The British were the last of India's conquerors, ruling from the 1700s to the mid-1900s. They built roads, railroads, and sea-ports. They also made large profits from the plantations, mines, and factories they set up. An Indian leader named Mohandas Gandhi led a nonviolent movement to free India from Britain's rule. His efforts brought India independence from the United Kingdom in 1947.

Before independence, the British government had decided to divide India into two countries—one Hindu (India) and one Muslim (East and West Pakistan). After independence, millions of Hindus fled toward India. Muslims migrated toward Pakistan. Violence resulted from these mass migrations, and more than a million people were killed.



**Government** India has 25 states and 7 territories. **New Delhi** was built specifically to be the country's capital. India is a representative democracy. The head of state is a president, whose duties are mainly ceremonial. The real power lies with the prime minister. The first prime minister of India was Jawaharlal Nehru, who was elected in 1947. His daughter, Indira Gandhi, was also prime minister. She led India almost continually from 1966 until her assassination in 1984.

**Daily Life** More than 1 billion people call India their home. The country has 18 official languages, of which Hindi is the most widely used. English is often spoken in business and government, however. About 70 percent of the people live in rural villages. The government has been working to provide villagers with electricity, drinking water, better schools, and paved roads. Still, many villagers move to cities to find jobs and a better standard of living.

India's cities are very crowded. Bicycles, carts, animals, and people fill the streets. **Mumbai** (formerly Bombay), **Delhi**, **Calcutta**, and **Chennai** each have more than 5 million people and are growing rapidly. Modern high-rise buildings tower over slum areas where many live in deep poverty. In 1979 the well-known missionary Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to help the poor in Calcutta.

One of the most popular holidays is Diwali (dee•VAH•lee), the Festival of Lights. It is a Hindu celebration marking the coming of winter and the victory of good over evil. Indians also like watching movies. India's movie industry turns out more films than Hollywood.

**Reading Check** What percentage of India's people live in rural villages?

**Section**  
**1**

**Assessment**

**Defining Terms**

1. **Define** subcontinent, monsoon, green revolution, jute, cottage industry, pesticide, caste, reincarnation.

**Recalling Facts**

2. **Location** What two mountain ranges form India's northern border?
3. **Culture** What is the most widely followed religion in India?
4. **History** Which Indian leader led a movement that brought India its independence in 1947?

**Critical Thinking**

5. **Understanding Cause and Effect** How do monsoon winds affect India's climate?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** What challenges do you think the caste system caused?

**Graphic Organizer**

7. **Organizing Information** India is becoming a more modern country but still has many traditional ways. Create a chart like this one. Then list both modern and traditional aspects of India.

Modern Aspects	Traditional Aspects



**Applying Social Studies Skills**

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the population density map on page 487. Where are the most densely populated areas of India?

# Making Connections

ART

SCIENCE

CULTURE

TECHNOLOGY

## The Taj Mahal

Considered one of the world's most beautiful buildings, the Taj Mahal was built by the Muslim emperor Shah Jahan of India. He had it built to house the grave of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. She died in 1631 shortly after giving birth to their fourteenth child.



▲ The Taj Mahal, Agra, India

### Background

While they were married, Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan were constant companions. The empress went everywhere with her husband, even on military expeditions. She encouraged her husband to perform great acts of charity toward the poor. This earned her the love and admiration of the Indian people.

After his wife's death, Shah Jahan ordered the construction of the finest monument ever built. A team of architects, sculptors, calligraphers, and master builders participated in the design. More than 20,000 laborers and skilled craft workers

from India, Persia, the Ottoman Empire, and Europe worked together to build the monument. For 22 years they worked to complete the Taj Mahal, which holds a tomb, mosque, rest house, elaborate garden, and arched gateway.

### The Mausoleum

The central part of the Taj Mahal is the domed marble mausoleum, or tomb, built on a square marble platform. The central dome is 213 feet (65 m) tall, and four smaller domed chambers surround it. A high minaret, or tower, marks each corner of the platform.

Inside the central chamber, delicately carved marble screens enclose the caskets of Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan. He was buried next to his wife after his death in 1666. Following Islamic tradition, the caskets face east toward Makkah, the holy city of Islam.

The white marble from which the mausoleum is built seems to change color throughout the day as it reflects light from the sun and moon. Detailed flower patterns are carved into the marble walls and inlaid with colorful gemstones. Verses from Islamic religious writings are etched in calligraphy into the stone archways.

## Making the Connection

1. Who is buried in the Taj Mahal?
2. Who built the Taj Mahal and how long did it take?
3. **Understanding Cause and Effect** How did Shah Jahan's feelings for his wife affect the grave site he built for her?



## Guide to Reading

## Main Idea

Once a single nation, Pakistan and Bangladesh today are separate countries that border India on the west and east.

## Terms to Know

- tributary
- delta
- cyclone

## Reading Strategy

Draw a diagram like this one. In the outer ovals, write statements that are true of each country under the headings. Where the ovals overlap, write statements that are true of both countries.

Pakistan

Bangladesh

# Pakistan and Bangladesh



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## Exploring our World

Sorting apricots—what a sweet and sticky job! More than 20 kinds of apricots grow in a remote region of Pakistan. Every family here grows at least one apricot tree as well as other crops. The apricots are dried on rooftops, and then workers carefully check and sort them. After that, they are sold to a distributor, who ships them to local and foreign markets.



**T**wo countries in South Asia—**Pakistan** and **Bangladesh**—are largely Muslim. Although they share the same religion, the two countries have very different cultures and languages.

For many centuries, Pakistan and Bangladesh were part of India. In 1947 they separated from largely Hindu India and together formed one Muslim country called Pakistan. The western area was called West Pakistan, and the eastern area, East Pakistan. Cultural and political differences between the two led to a violent conflict in 1971. When the war ended, West Pakistan kept the name of Pakistan. East Pakistan became a separate new country called Bangladesh.

### Pakistan

Pakistan is about twice the size of California. The country also claims **Kashmir**, a mostly Muslim territory on the northern border of India and Pakistan. Kashmir is currently divided between Pakistan and

India. Both countries want to control the entire region, mainly for its vast water resources. This dispute over Kashmir has sparked three wars between Pakistan and India. In fact, the conflict threatens the rest of the world because both Pakistan and India have nuclear weapons.

Towering mountains occupy most of northern and western Pakistan. The world's second-highest peak, **K2**, rises 28,250 feet (8,611 m) in the Karakoram Range. Another range, the **Hindu Kush**, lies in the far north. Several passes cut through its rugged peaks. The best known is the **Khyber Pass**. For centuries, it has been used by people traveling through South Asia from the north.

Plains in eastern Pakistan are rich in fertile soil deposited by rivers. The major river system running through these plains is the **Indus River** and its tributaries. A **tributary** is a small river that flows into a larger one. West of the Indus River valley, the land rises to form a mostly dry plateau. Another vast barren area—the **Great Indian Desert**—lies east of the Indus River valley and reaches into India.

**Pakistan's Economy** Pakistan has fertile land and enough energy resources to meet its needs. About half of the people are farmers. A







## Teen Scene

### School's Out!

Adil Husain is on his way home from middle school. In Pakistan, public schooling ends after grade 10. After grade 10, Adil must decide whether to go to intermediate college (grades 11 and 12) and then the university. Like most Pakistanis, Adil is Muslim. He prays when he hears the call from the mosque. Afterward, he wants to start a game of cricket with his friends. "It's a lot like American baseball where teams of 11 players bat in innings and try to score runs. Our rules and equipment are different, though. You should try it!"



large irrigation system helps them grow crops such as sugarcane, wheat, rice, and cotton. Cotton and textiles are the country's main exports. Other important industries include cement, fertilizer, food processing, and chemicals. Many people make metalware, pottery, and carpets in cottage industries. Pakistan's economy is struggling, however, because of frequent changes of government.

**The Pakistanis** Since independence, Pakistan has had many changes of government. Some of these governments and officials were elected, including a female prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. In other cases, the army seized power from an elected government. The most recent army takeover occurred in 1999, and military leaders still control the country.

About 97 percent of Pakistanis are Muslims. The influence of Islam is seen in large, domed mosques and people bowed in prayer at certain times of the day. Among the major languages are Punjabi and Sindhi. The official language, Urdu, is the first language of only 9 percent of the people. English is widely spoken in government.

Almost 70 percent of Pakistan's people live in rural villages. Most follow traditional customs and live in small homes of clay or sun-dried mud. Pakistanis live in large cities as well. **Karachi**, a seaport on the Arabian Sea, is a sprawling urban area. It has traditional outdoor markets, modern shops, and hotels. In the far north lies **Islamabad**, the capital. The government built this well-planned, modern city to draw people inland from crowded coastal areas. Most people in Pakistan's cities are factory workers, shopkeepers, and craft workers who live in crowded neighborhoods. Wealthier city dwellers live in modern homes.

 **Reading Check** What are Pakistan's main exports?

## Bangladesh

Bangladesh, about the size of Wisconsin, is nearly surrounded by India. Although Bangladesh is a Muslim country like Pakistan, it shares many cultural features with eastern India.

If you saw Bangladesh for the first time, one word might come to mind—water. Two major rivers—the **Brahmaputra** (BRAHM•uh•POO•truh) and the **Ganges**—flow through the lush, low plains that cover most of Bangladesh. These two rivers unite with a third, smaller river before entering the Bay of Bengal. The combined rivers form the world's largest delta. A **delta** is a soil deposit located at the mouth of a river. In Bangladesh's delta area, the rivers constantly shift course, creating many thin fingers of land. The people depend on the rivers for transportation and for farming.

Bangladesh has tropical and subtropical climates. As in India, the monsoons affect Bangladesh. Raging floods often drown Bangladesh's low, flat land. Water also runs down from deforested slopes upriver in northern India. Together, these violent flows of water cause thousands of deaths and leave millions of people without homes. When the monsoons end, cyclones may strike Bangladesh. A **cyclone** is an intense tropical storm system with high winds and heavy rains. Cyclones, in

turn, can be followed by deadly tidal waves that surge from the Bay of Bengal. As deadly as the monsoons and cyclones can be, problems also occur if the rains come too late. When this happens, crops often fail and there is widespread hunger.

**A Farming Economy** Most people of Bangladesh earn their living by farming. Rice is the most important crop. The fertile soil and plentiful water make it possible for rice to be grown and harvested three times a year. Other crops include sugarcane, jute, and wheat. Cash crops of tea grow in hilly regions in the east. Despite good growing conditions, Bangladesh cannot grow enough food for its people. Its farmers have few modern tools and use outdated farming methods. In addition, the disastrous floods can drown crops and cause food shortages.

Bangladesh has an important clothing industry. It exports large amounts of manufactured clothing to other countries. You may even be wearing clothes that were made in Bangladesh.

**The People** With about 146.7 million people, Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. It is also one of the poorest countries. About 75 percent of the people live in rural areas. Because of floods, people in rural Bangladesh have to build their houses on platforms. Many people have moved to crowded urban areas to find work in factories. Their most common choice is **Dhaka** (DA•kuh), Bangladesh's capital and major port.

Most of Bangladesh's people speak Bengali. About 83 percent of the people are Muslim, and most of the rest are Hindus. Muslim influences are strong in the country's art, literature, and music.

**Reading Check** What is an important industry in Bangladesh?

# Believe It! or Not!

## Ship Breakers

On a beach near Karachi, Pakistan, ship breakers haul an old cargo vessel to shore. Their next task? The men will use hammers, crowbars, and wrenches to pull the ship apart. They will then sell the pipes, chains, port-holes, steel plates, and other reusable parts. The work is exhausting, but in this poor country, it is a way to make a living.



## Section 2

# Assessment

### Defining Terms

1. **Define** tributary, delta, cyclone.

### Recalling Facts

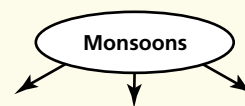
2. **Region** What region has been the source of conflict between Pakistan and India?
3. **History** Why has the Khyber Pass been important?
4. **Movement** Why was Islamabad built inland?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Information** Why can rice be grown three times a year in Bangladesh?
6. **Drawing Conclusions** Why are Pakistan's and Bangladesh's economies struggling?

### Graphic Organizer

7. **Organizing Information** Draw a diagram like this one. At the ends of the arrows, list three effects on Bangladesh caused by summer monsoon rains.



### Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the physical map on page 479. Which rivers have deltas in Bangladesh?

# Social Studies Skill

## Reading a Circle Graph

Have you ever watched someone serve pieces of pie? When the pie is cut evenly, everybody gets the same size slice. If one slice is cut a little larger, however, someone else gets a smaller piece.

### Learning the Skill

A **circle graph** is like a sliced pie. Often it is even called a pie chart. In a circle graph, the complete circle represents a whole group—or 100 percent. The circle is divided into “slices,” or wedge-shaped sections representing parts of the whole.

To read a circle graph, follow these steps:

- Read the title of the circle graph to find out what the subject is.
- Study the labels or the key to see what each “slice” represents.
- Compare the sizes of the circle slices.

### Practicing the Skill

Look at the graph below to answer the following questions.

1. What is the subject of the circle graph?
2. Which religion in South Asia has the most followers?
3. What percentage practice Islam?
4. What is the combined percentage of Buddhist and Christian followers?

### Applying the Skill

Quiz at least 10 friends about the capitals of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Create a circle graph showing what percentage knew (a) all three capitals, (b) two capitals, (c) one capital, or (d) no capitals.

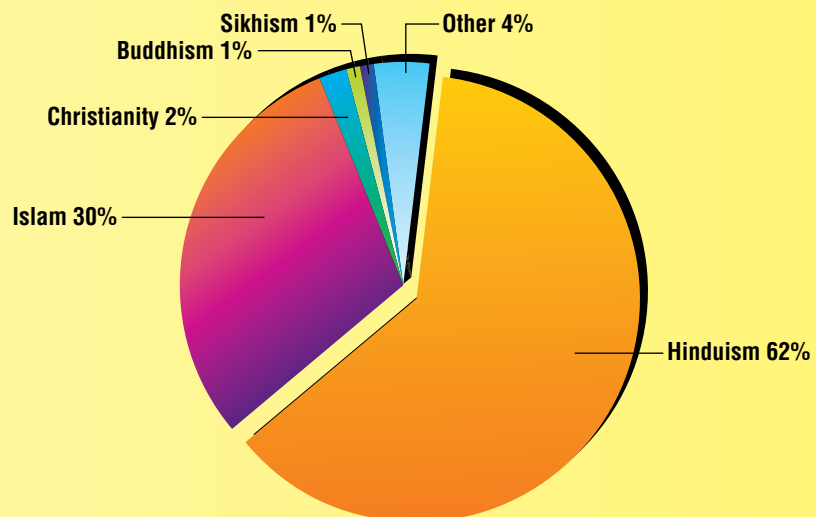
GO TO

Practice key skills with **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 1.**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

### Religions of South Asia

RELIGION	NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS
Hinduism	875,000,000
Islam	423,000,000
Christianity	26,500,000
Buddhism	22,400,000
Sikhism	20,000,000
Other	50,000,000



Source: *The World Factbook*, 2003.

CONTENTS



## Section

# 3

### Guide to Reading

#### Main Idea

The other countries of South Asia include mountainous Nepal and Bhutan and the island countries of Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

#### Terms to Know

- dzong
- atoll
- lagoon

#### Reading Strategy

Create a chart like this one. Then write the main economic activities of these countries in South Asia.

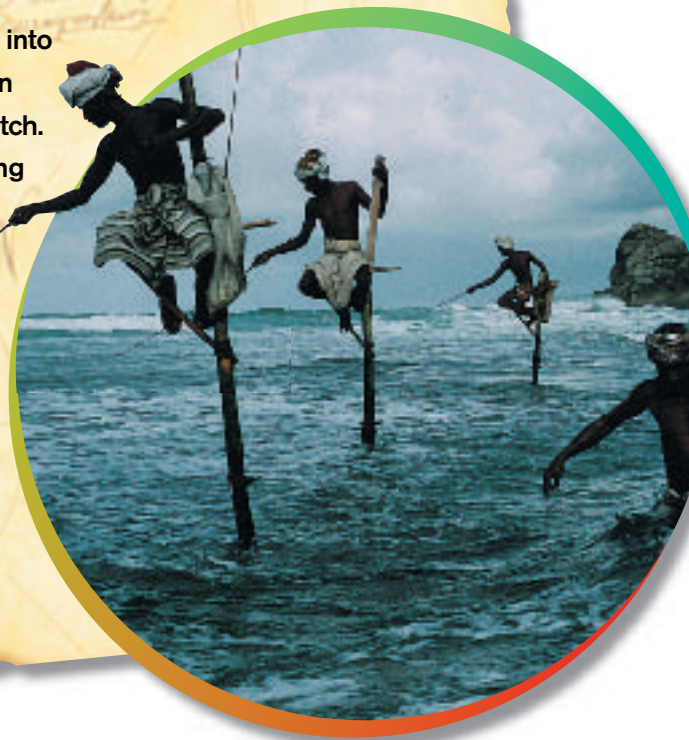
Country	Economic Activities
Nepal	
Bhutan	
Sri Lanka	
Maldives	

# Mountain Kingdoms, Island Republics



## Exploring our World

Perched on poles planted into the ocean floor, Sri Lankan fishers await their next catch. Although Sri Lanka is trying to build a modern economy, traditional work still goes on. Some people gave up fishing when Sri Lanka seemed ready to become a major tourist destination. However, years of ethnic warfare have kept tourists away and slowed the economy.



**O**f the four other countries of South Asia, two are landlocked kingdoms and two are island republics. **Nepal** and **Bhutan** both lie among the towering peaks of the Himalaya. The island countries of **Sri Lanka** and the **Maldives** lie south of India in the Indian Ocean.

### Mountainous Nepal

Nepal—about the size of Arkansas—forms a steep stairway to the world's highest mountain range. The Himalaya, dominating about 80 percent of Nepal's land area, are actually three mountain ranges running side by side. Nepal is home to 8 of the 10 highest mountains in the world. **Mount Everest**, the highest, soars 29,035 feet (8,850 m).

Swift rivers cut through the lower ranges in the south, shaping fertile valleys. A flat, fertile river plain runs along Nepal's southern border with India. The plain includes farmland, swamps, and rain forests. Tigers, elephants, and other wild animals roam these forests.



**Web Activity** Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 16—Student Web Activities** to learn more about Nepal.

Nepal has a humid subtropical climate in the south and a highland climate in the north. Monsoon rains often flood the southern plains area.

Nepal's economy depends almost entirely on farming. Farmers grow rice, sugarcane, wheat, corn, and potatoes to feed their families. Most fields are located on the southern plains or on terraced plots among the lower mountain slopes.

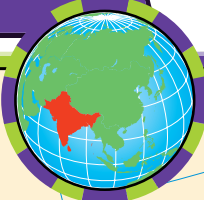
As the population increases, farmers move higher up the slopes. There they clear forests for new fields and use the cut trees for fuel. Stripped of trees, however, the slopes erode very easily. Valleys are often flooded, fields destroyed, and rivers filled with mud.

Nepal was not linked to other countries for centuries. Today, there are roads and air service to India and Pakistan, so trade is not as limited. Herbs, jute, rice, and wheat are exported to India. In return, Nepal imports gasoline, fertilizer, and machinery. Clothing and carpets now make up the country's most valuable exports. Nepal's rugged mountains attract thousands of climbers and hikers each year, creating a growing tourist industry.

**Nepal's People** Nepal has 25.2 million people. Most are related to peoples in northern India and Tibet. One group—the Sherpa—is known for its skill in guiding mountain climbers. About 85 percent of Nepal's people live in rural villages. A growing number live in **Kathmandu**, Nepal's capital and largest city. Nepal is a parliamentary democracy ruled by a prime minister, who is appointed by Nepal's king.




**South Asia: Economic Activity**





The founder of Buddhism, Siddartha Gautama (sihd•DAHR•tuh GAU•tuh•muh), was born in the Kathmandu region about 563 B.C. Raised as a prince, Gautama gave up his wealth and became a holy man in India. Known as the Buddha, or “Enlightened One,” he taught that people could find peace from life’s troubles by living simply, doing good deeds, and meditating. Buddhism later spread to other parts of Asia.

Today Hinduism is Nepal’s official religion, but Buddhism is practiced as well. If you visit Nepal, you will find temples and monuments of both religions scattered throughout the country.

 **Reading Check** What has helped Nepal trade with other countries?

## Bhutan—Land of the Thunder Dragon

East of Nepal lies an even smaller kingdom—Bhutan. Bhutan is about half the size of Indiana. The map on page 484 shows you that a small part of India separates Bhutan from Nepal.

As in Nepal, the Himalaya are the major landform of Bhutan. Violent mountain storms are common and are the basis of Bhutan’s name, which means “land of the thunder dragon.” In the foothills of the Himalaya, the climate is mild. Thick forests cover much of this area. To the south—along Bhutan’s border with India—lies an area of subtropical plains and river valleys.

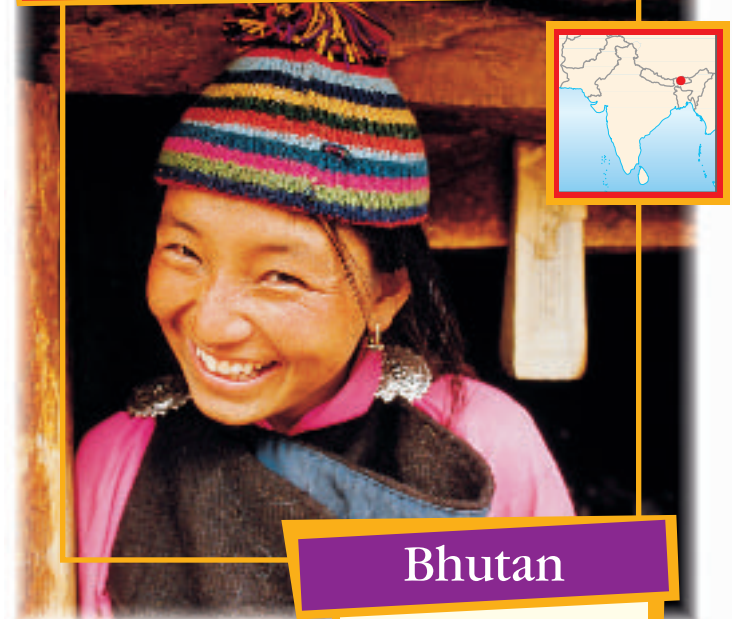
More than 90 percent of Bhutan’s people are subsistence farmers. They live in the fertile mountain valleys and grow the spice cardamom, oranges, rice, corn, and potatoes. People also herd cattle and yaks, which are a type of oxen. Bhutan is trying to develop its economy, but the very high mountains slow progress. Building roads is difficult, and there are no railroads. However, Bhutan has built hydroelectric plants to create electricity from rushing mountain waters. It now exports electricity to India. Tourism is a new industry, but the government limits the number of tourists to protect Bhutan’s cultural traditions.

**Bhutan’s People** Bhutan has about 900,000 people. Most speak the Dzonkha dialect and live in rural villages that dot southern valleys and plains. **Thimphu**, the capital, is located in the southern area.

Bhutan was once called the Hidden Holy Land because of its isolation and its Buddhist religion. In the 1960s, new roads and other connections opened Bhutan to the outside world. Most people remain deeply loyal to Buddhism. In Bhutan, Buddhist centers of prayer and study are called *dzongs*. They have shaped the country’s art and culture.

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

On Location



### Bhutan

This woman makes her living by herding yaks in one of Bhutan’s mountain valleys.

**Economics** What is slowing Bhutan’s economic progress?



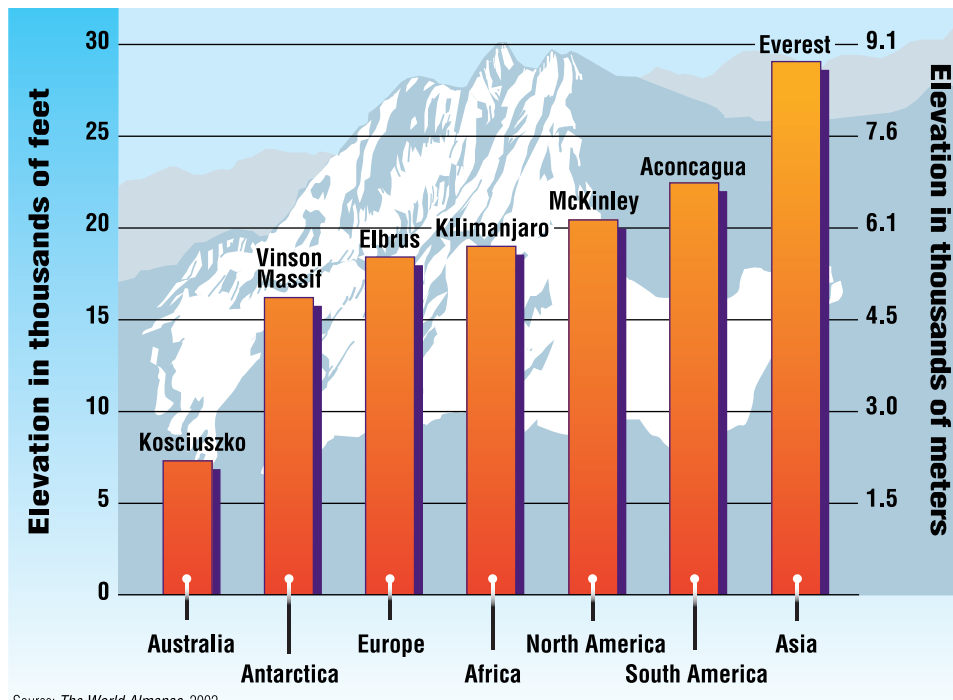
## Highest Mountain on Each Continent



### Analyzing the Graph

Mount Everest is the tallest mountain on the earth.

**Place** What is the tallest mountain in North America?



Source: *The World Almanac*, 2002.

For many years, Bhutan was ruled by strong kings. In 1998 the country began to move toward democracy. At that time, the ruling king agreed to share his power with an elected legislature.

**✓ Reading Check** What is the main religion in Bhutan?

## Sri Lanka—Brilliant Island

Pear-shaped Sri Lanka lies about 20 miles (32 km) off the southeastern coast of India. A little larger than West Virginia, Sri Lanka is a land of white beaches, dense forests, and abundant wildlife. Much of the country along the coast is rolling lowlands. Highlands cover the center. Rivers flow from the highlands, providing irrigation for crops.

The country has tropical climates with wet and dry seasons. Monsoon winds and heavy rains combine with the island's warm temperatures and fertile soil to make Sri Lanka a good place to farm.

Sri Lanka has long been known for its agricultural economy. Many farmers grow rice and other food crops in lowland areas. In the higher elevations, tea, rubber, and coconuts grow on large plantations. The country is one of the world's leading producers of tea and rubber.

The country is also famous for its sapphires, rubies, and other gemstones. Forests contain valuable woods, such as ebony and satinwood, as well as a variety of birds and animals. To protect the wildlife, the government has set aside land for national parks.

In the past 20 years, Sri Lanka's economy has become more industrialized. Factories produce textiles, fertilizers, cement, leather products, and wood products for export. New and growing industries

include telecommunications, insurance, and banking. **Colombo**, the capital, is a bustling port on the country's western coast.

**Sri Lanka's People** For centuries, Sri Lanka prospered because of its location on an important ocean route between Africa and Asia. It was a natural stopping place for seagoing traders. Beginning in the 1500s, Sri Lanka—then known as Ceylon—came under the control of European countries. The British ruled the island from 1802 to 1948, when it became independent. In 1972 Ceylon took the name of Sri Lanka, an ancient term meaning “brilliant land.” Today Sri Lanka is a republic with a president who carries out ceremonial duties. Real power is held by a prime minister, who is the head of government.

About 19.3 million people live here. They belong to two major ethnic groups: the Sinhalese (SIHN•huh•LEEZ) and the Tamils (TA•muhlz). Forming about 74 percent of the population, the Sinhalese live in the southern and western parts of the island. They speak Sinhalese and are mostly Buddhist. The Tamils make up about 18 percent of the population. They live in the north and east, speak Tamil, and are Hindus.

Since 1983 the Tamils and the Sinhalese have fought a violent civil war. The minority Tamils claim they have not been treated justly by the



## South Asia: Population Density



Cities	
■	City with more than 5,000,000 people
●	City with 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 people
○	City with 500,000 to 1,000,000 people



**Applying Map Skills**

1. What is the population density of most of Sri Lanka?
2. Which cities in South Asia hold more than 5 million people?

Find NGS online map resources @ [www.nationalgeographic.com/maps](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/maps)

Persons per	
Sq. Mi.	Sq. Km
Uninhabited	Uninhabited
Under 2	Under 1
2–60	1–25
60–125	25–50
125–250	50–100
Over 250	Over 100





majority Sinhalese. They want to set up a separate Tamil nation in northern Sri Lanka. Thousands have lost their lives in the fighting. A cease-fire began in 2001 after nearly two decades of fighting.

**Reading Check** What are the two main ethnic groups in Sri Lanka?

## The Maldives

About 370 miles (595 km) south of India lie the Maldives, made up of about 1,200 coral islands. Many of the islands are atolls. An **atoll** is a low-lying, ring-shaped island that surrounds a lagoon. A **lagoon** is a shallow pool of water near a larger body of water. Only 200 of the islands are inhabited. The climate of the Maldives is warm and humid throughout the year. Monsoons bring plenty of rain.

Most of the Maldives have poor, sandy soil. Only a limited number of crops can grow, including sweet potatoes, grains, and watermelon. In recent years, the Maldives's palm-lined sandy beaches and coral formations have attracted many tourists. As a result, tourism is now the largest industry. Fishing is the second-largest industry.

The first people to arrive in the Maldives came from southern India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) several thousand years ago. Over the years, the islands' position near major sea routes brought traders from many other places. Today about 300,000 people live in the Maldives. Some 60,000 of them make their home in **Male** (MAH•lay), the capital. Most are Muslims. The islands, which came under British rule during the late 1890s, became independent in 1965. The local traditional ruler lost his throne three years later, and the Maldives became a republic.

**Reading Check** What is the main industry in the Maldives?



## Assessment

### Defining Terms

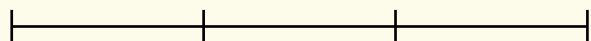
1. **Define** *dzong*, atoll, lagoon.

### Recalling Facts

2. **Economics** What products have recently become Nepal's most valuable exports?
3. **Place** How do Bhutan's people earn a living?
4. **Economics** How has Sri Lanka's economy changed in the past 20 years?

### Graphic Organizer

5. **Organizing Information** List four events from Sri Lanka's history and their dates on a time line like this one.



### Critical Thinking

6. **Summarizing Information** What were the teachings of the Buddha?
7. **Formulating an Opinion** Do you agree with the decision of Bhutan's government to limit tourism? Why or why not?



### Applying Social Studies Skills

8. **Analyzing Maps** Look at the population density map on page 487 and the physical map on page 479. What is the population density of the southern part of Nepal? The northern part? Explain the difference.



## Section 1

## India—Past and Present

## Terms to Know

subcontinent  
monsoon  
green revolution  
jute  
cottage industry  
pesticide  
caste  
reincarnation

## Main Idea

India is trying to develop its resources to meet the needs of its rapidly growing population.

- ✓ **Place** India is the largest country in South Asia in size and population.
- ✓ **Place** The Himalaya and the monsoons affect India's climate.
- ✓ **Economics** India's economy is based on farming and industry.
- ✓ **Culture** India has many languages and religions, but the majority of Indians are Hindus.
- ✓ **Government** India is a representative democracy.

## Section 2

## Pakistan and Bangladesh

## Terms to Know

tributary  
delta  
cyclone

## Main Idea

Once a single nation, Pakistan and Bangladesh today are separate countries that border India on the west and east.

- ✓ **History** Cultural and political differences between Pakistan and Bangladesh led to war and separation in 1971.
- ✓ **Economics** Pakistan has fertile land and energy resources, but its economy is not well developed because of a history of unstable governments.
- ✓ **Location** The Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers form deltas in Bangladesh.
- ✓ **Place** Bangladesh is a densely populated and poor country.

## Section 3

## Mountain Kingdoms, Island Republics

## Terms to Know

dzong  
atoll  
lagoon

## Main Idea

The other countries of South Asia include mountainous Nepal and Bhutan and the island countries of Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

- ✓ **Region** The Himalaya are the major landform of Nepal and Bhutan.
- ✓ **Economics** Most people in Nepal are farmers, but the production of clothing and carpets has gained importance in recent years.
- ✓ **Culture** The Buddhist religion has shaped the art and culture of Bhutan.
- ✓ **Economics** Sri Lanka has industrialized, but agriculture is still important.
- ✓ **Economics** Tourism is the biggest industry in the Maldives.



◀ A teacher and his students have class outdoors on a pleasant day in Bhutan.

# Assessment and Activities



## Using Key Terms

Match the terms in Part A with their definitions in Part B.

### A.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. monsoon          | 6. reincarnation     |
| 2. cyclone          | 7. pesticide         |
| 3. green revolution | 8. caste             |
| 4. jute             | 9. <i>dzong</i>      |
| 5. subcontinent     | 10. cottage industry |

### B.

- social class based on a person's ancestry
- seasonal wind
- family members supply their own equipment to make goods
- large landmass that is part of another continent but distinct from it
- Buddhist center for prayer and study
- chemical used to kill insects
- intense storm system with high winds
- a government effort to use modern farming methods
- the belief that after the body dies, the soul is reborn
- plant fiber used for making rope, burlap bags, and carpet backing



## Reviewing the Main Ideas

### Section 1 India—Past and Present

- Place** What forms a barrier between South Asia and the rest of Asia?
- Place** How do the Himalaya affect India's climate?
- Economics** What kinds of goods are produced by India's cottage industries?
- History** What did Hinduism organize India's society into?

### Section 2 Pakistan and Bangladesh

- Place** What river flows through Pakistan?
- Human/Environment Interaction** What often happens when the rains come too late in Bangladesh?
- Economics** What do most of the people of Bangladesh do for a living?

### Section 3 Mountain Kingdoms, Island Republics

- Place** What is Nepal's capital?
- History** Why was Bhutan once called the Hidden Holy Land?
- History** What is the basis of the civil war in Sri Lanka?
- Location** How did Sri Lanka's location allow it to prosper for many centuries?

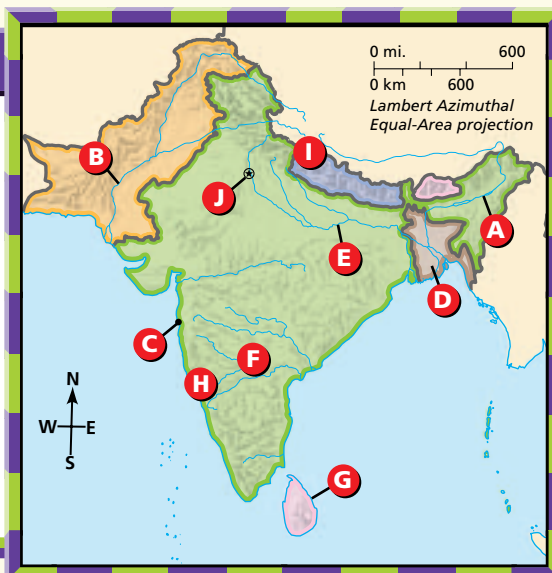
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## South Asia

### Place Location Activity

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with the numbered places listed below.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ganges River      | 6. Himalaya        |
| 2. New Delhi         | 7. Bangladesh      |
| 3. Brahmaputra River | 8. Mumbai          |
| 4. Indus River       | 9. Western Ghats   |
| 5. Sri Lanka         | 10. Deccan Plateau |





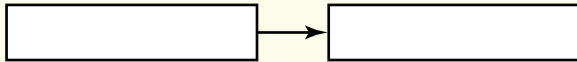
# Social Studies **Online**

**Self-Check Quiz** Visit *The World and Its People* Web site at [twip.glencoe.com](http://twip.glencoe.com) and click on **Chapter 16—Self-Check Quizzes** to prepare for the Chapter Test.



## Critical Thinking

- 22. Identifying Alternatives** In this chapter you read about South Asia, a region with much poverty. What problems do you think a country faces when it has so many poor people? What are some solutions to this poverty?
- 23. Understanding Cause and Effect** Create a diagram like this one. List a physical feature of South Asia in the left-hand box. In the right-hand box, explain how that feature affects people's lives.



## Comparing Regions Activity

- 24. Culture** The Taj Mahal in India is one of the world's most impressive structures. Also impressive are the pyramids in Egypt. Use the information in your textbook to write a paragraph describing each. Include why each was built and compare the reasons.



## Mental Mapping Activity

- 25. Focusing on the Region** Create a simple outline map of South Asia, and then label the following:
- Ganges River
  - Sri Lanka
  - Kashmir
  - Pakistan
  - Nepal
  - Indian Ocean
  - Bhutan
  - Bangladesh
  - Ganges Plain
  - New Delhi



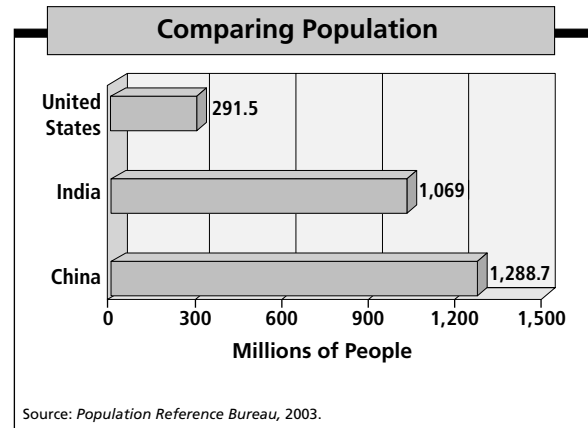
## Technology Skills Activity

- 26. Using the Internet** Use the Internet to research tourism in one of the following countries: Nepal, India, or Sri Lanka. Create a travel brochure about a trip to the country, featuring information on the equipment and clothing that is needed, the availability of guides, costs, and so on.



## Standardized Test Practice

**Directions:** Study the graph below, and then answer the questions that follow.



- How many people live in India?**
  - A 1,069
  - B 1,000,069
  - C 1,069,000,000
  - D 1,069,000,000,000
- About how many more people live in India than in the United States?**
  - F 2.5 times as many
  - G 3.6 times as many
  - H 4.5 times as many
  - J 5.6 times as many

**Test-Taking Tip:** You often need to use math skills in order to understand graphs. Look at the information along the sides and bottom of the graph to find out what the bars on the graph mean. Notice that on the graph above, the numbers represent millions of people. Therefore, you need to multiply the number on each bar by 1,000,000 to get the correct answer.