CHAPTER 28

Southeast Asia

1 GEOGRAPHY

Physical Geography of Southeast Asia

2 FOCUS ON

The Mainland Countries

3 FOCUS ON

Indonesia and the Philippines

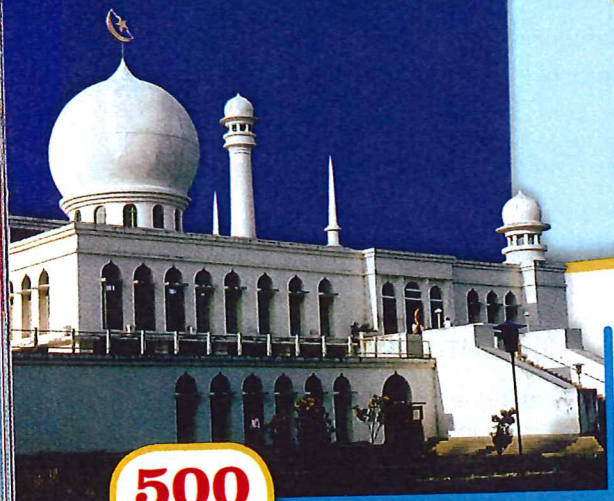
ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How can Southeast Asian nations establish stable governments and economies?

CONNECT Geography & History

Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. What two island chains are part of Southeast Asia?
2. Which Southeast Asian country was once known as Siam?



500

History

500s A people known as the Khmers establish an empire on the mainland peninsula.

Culture

◀ **1300s** Muslim traders bring Islam to Indonesia. (Mosque in Jakarta)

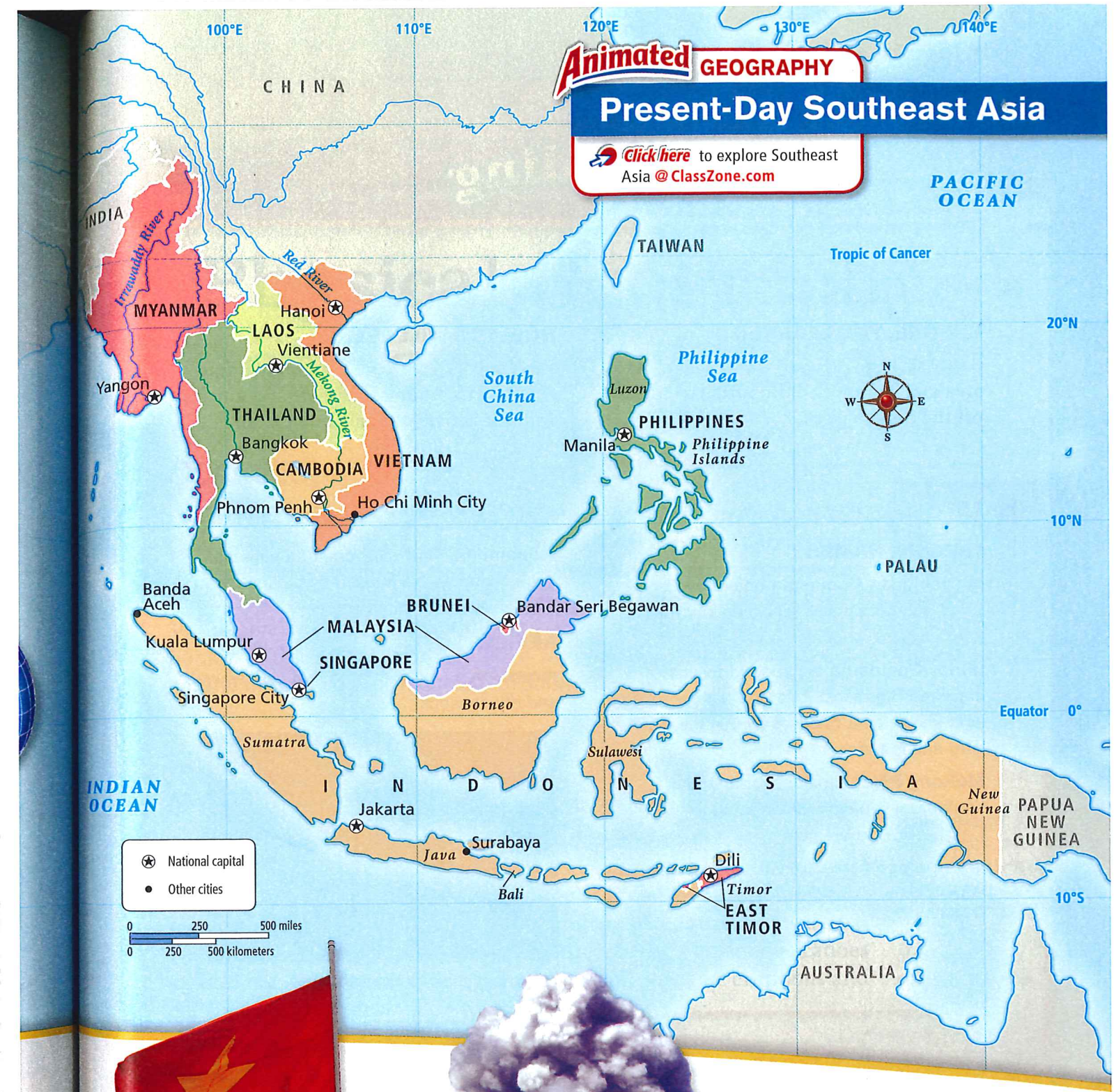
History

1688 Siam, or present-day Thailand, begins to limit relations with Europeans. (King Chulalongkorn of Siam) ▶

Animated GEOGRAPHY

Present-Day Southeast Asia

Click here to explore Southeast Asia @ ClassZone.com



Geography

2004 Devastating tsunamis hit Southeast Asia.

Today

Government

▲ **1975** Vietnam War ends; in time, north and south unite under Communist rule.

Geography

◀ **1991** Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupts.

SECTION 1

Reading for Understanding

Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

East Asia is made up of a vast mainland area and a number of important islands off the eastern coast.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Nearby Southeast Asia is a mountainous region with a tropical climate and much volcanic activity on its many islands.

Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Indochinese Peninsula one of two peninsulas on which mainland Southeast Asia lies; the peninsula is located south of China

Malay Peninsula the second peninsula of mainland Southeast Asia; the narrow strip of land serves as a bridge between the mainland and islands

Mekong River a major river that runs south from southern China through Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam

archipelago (AHR•kuh•PEHL•uh•GOH) a set of closely grouped islands, which sometimes form a curved arc

tsunami (tsu•NAH•mee) one or a series of large ocean waves caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption

REVIEW

monsoon a seasonal wind that causes wet and dry seasons

Visual Vocabulary Malay Archipelago

Reading Strategy

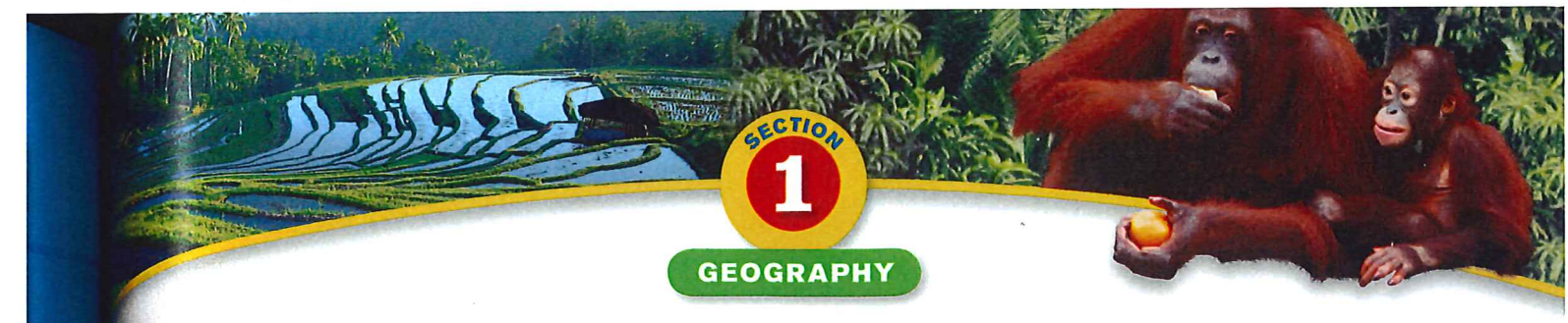
Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to jot down main ideas about Southeast Asia's geographic features, climate, plants, and animals.

Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4

FIND MAIN IDEAS

	MAINLAND	ISLANDS
Geographic Features		
Climate		
Plants and Animals		

GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS
Go to **Interactive Review** @ClassZone.com



SECTION 1

GEOGRAPHY

Physical Geography of Southeast Asia

Connecting to Your World

You may have heard of Mount St. Helens, the volcano that erupted in 1980 in the state of Washington. The blast killed 57 people and sent ash thousands of feet into the air. In 1991, a volcanic eruption that was ten times larger occurred on Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines. More than 300 people died in this eruption, and many thousands more lost their homes. In this section, you will learn why volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters occur frequently in Southeast Asia.

Mainland and Islands

KEY QUESTION What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of Southeast Asia's physical geography?

Southeast Asia has two distinct subregions: the southeastern corner of the Asian mainland and a great number of islands. Both regions have many mountains. Most of the mountains on the islands were formed from volcanoes. Southeast Asia is part of the Ring of Fire, a zone of volcanoes around the rim of the Pacific Ocean. As a result, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes are common.

Island Nation A temple built in the 17th century to honor a Hindu water goddess floats on the water in Bali, one of the islands that makes up Indonesia.

Mekong River The Mekong River is the heart and soul of mainland Southeast Asia. Millions of people rely on the river for farming, fishing, water, and transport. **What does this Vietnamese farmer seem to be using the Mekong for?**

Peninsulas As shown on the map on the opposite page, mainland Southeast Asia lies on two peninsulas. The **Indochinese Peninsula** (A) is located south of China. The **Malay Peninsula** (B) is a narrow strip of land about 700 miles long. It serves as a bridge between the mainland and the islands.

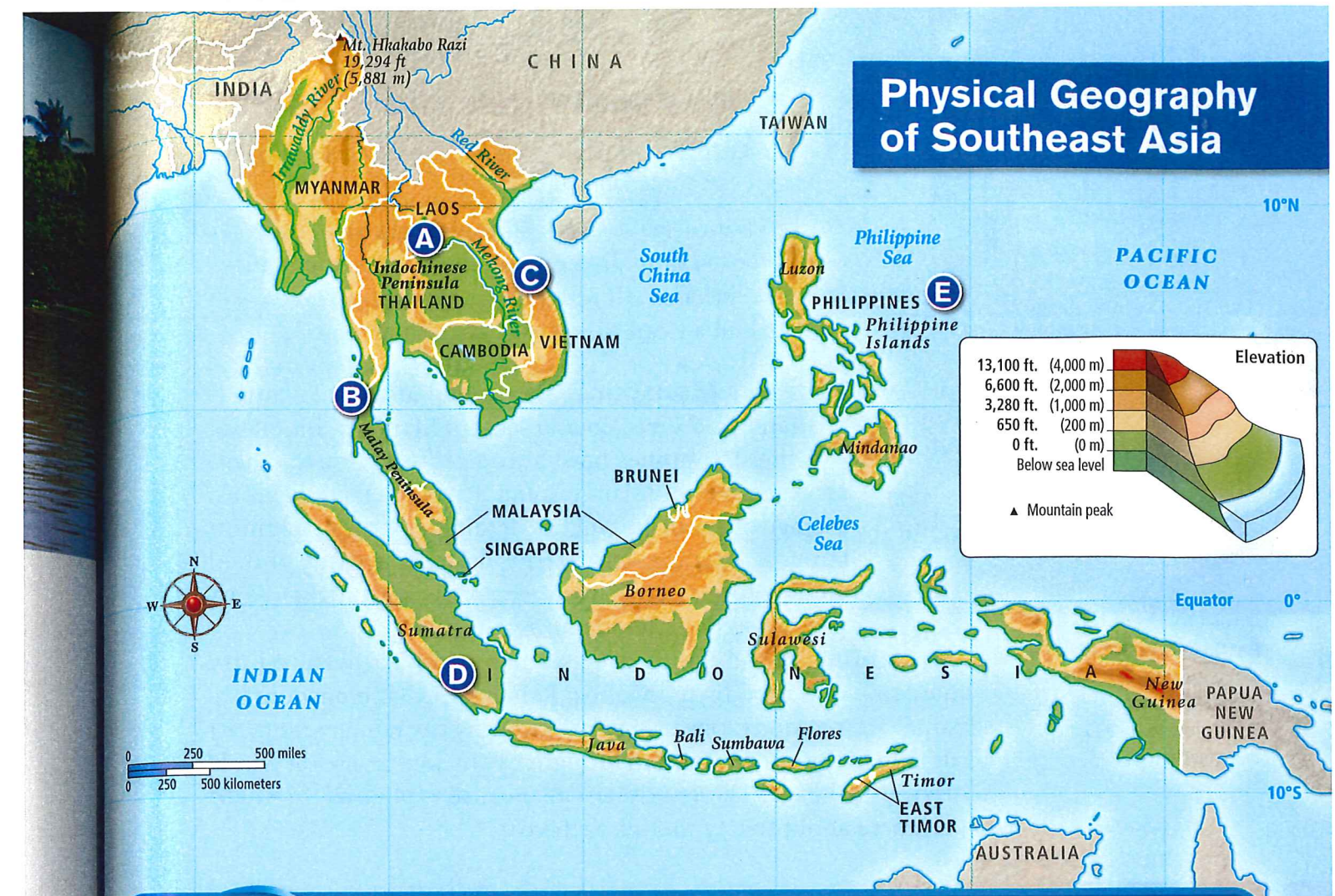
The Indochinese Peninsula has a series of north-south mountain ranges separated by river valleys and lowlands. To the west of these mountains flows one of the world's great rivers—the **Mekong** (C). It runs south for about 2,600 miles from southern China through Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. The river opens onto a wide fertile delta on Vietnam's coast.

Island Chains Most of the islands of Southeast Asia are grouped into archipelagoes. An **archipelago** (AHR•kuh•PEHL•uh•GOH) is a set of closely grouped islands. The largest of these island groups is the Malay Archipelago, which includes Indonesia (D) and the Philippines (E). Indonesia is made up of about 17,500 islands. Java, Sumatra, and Borneo are the most important islands. The Philippines lies to the north of Indonesia. This nation consists of about 7,100 islands. The largest and most important of these islands is Luzon.

Natural Disasters You have already learned about the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991. An even greater disaster occurred on December 26, 2004, when a series of tsunamis hit many parts of Southeast Asia. A **tsunami** (tsu•NAH•mee) is a very large ocean wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption. The Asian tsunami, as the disaster was called, was one of the deadliest in modern history. The tsunamis were caused by an earthquake that released energy equal to about 23,000 atomic bombs.

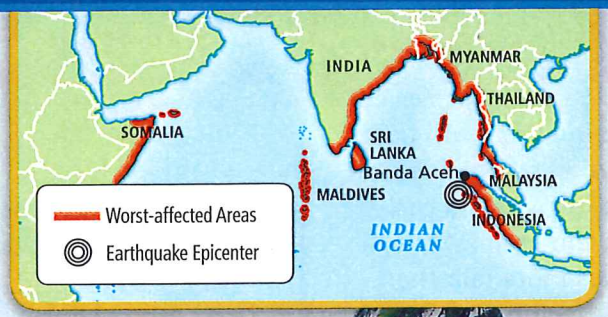
ANALYZE EFFECTS Describe some of the advantages and disadvantages of Southeast Asia's physical geography.

Physical Geography of Southeast Asia



CONNECT Geography & History

The 2004 Asian Tsunami On December 26, 2004, a 9.0-magnitude earthquake in the Indian Ocean triggered tsunamis up to 50 feet high. The gigantic waves caused devastating damage in many parts of Indonesia, southern Thailand, Sri Lanka, southern India, and elsewhere. The inset map shows the worst-affected areas. Besides taking more than 200,000 lives, the tsunamis also destroyed thousands of miles of coastline. The image here shows the devastation in Banda Aceh, a city in Sumatra.



CRITICAL THINKING

Draw Conclusions Study the large map above. Why do you think Sumatra and southern Thailand were especially affected by the tsunamis?

90°E 100°E 110°E 120°E 130°E

Rafflesia The Rafflesia, which is native to Indonesia, is the world's largest flower. It can grow to be about three feet across.

Climate, Vegetation, and Wildlife

KEY QUESTION How does Southeast Asia's climate affect its vegetation and wildlife?

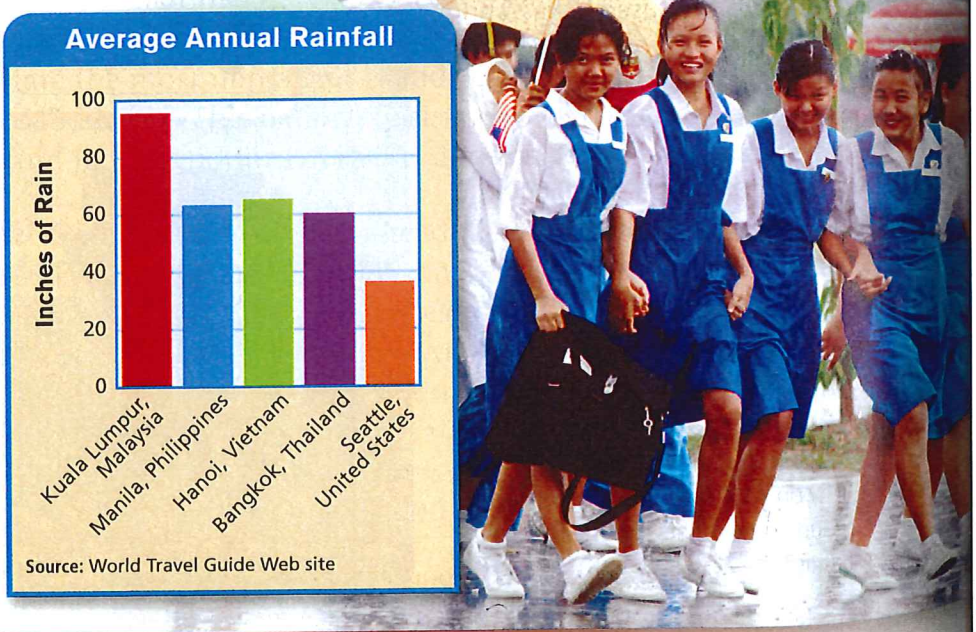
Most of Southeast Asia has a tropical climate characterized by heavy rainfall and generally warm temperatures. Tropical climates fall into two categories: a tropical wet climate and a tropical wet and dry climate.

Rain and Monsoons The coastal areas of Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam and most of Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines have a tropical wet climate. These areas receive abundant rainfall. Parts of Malaysia get an average of about 100 inches of rain per year. In addition, temperatures are very warm, with an average annual temperature of 80°F. However, areas with higher elevation have cooler temperatures.

Much of mainland Southeast Asia has a tropical wet and dry climate that is shaped by monsoons. Remember that **monsoons** are seasonal winds. Monsoons bring dry air during the winter and moist air during the summer. Rainfall brought by the wet monsoon winds is often very heavy. The winds can also cause typhoons. Vietnam experiences about five typhoons each year.

COMPARING Regional Rainfall

In the image shown here, Malaysian schoolgirls walk in the rain. As you can see in the graph, Malaysia receives more rain than any other country in Southeast Asia. Compare the amounts of rainfall received by these Southeast Asian cities with that received by Seattle, one of the rainiest cities in the United States.



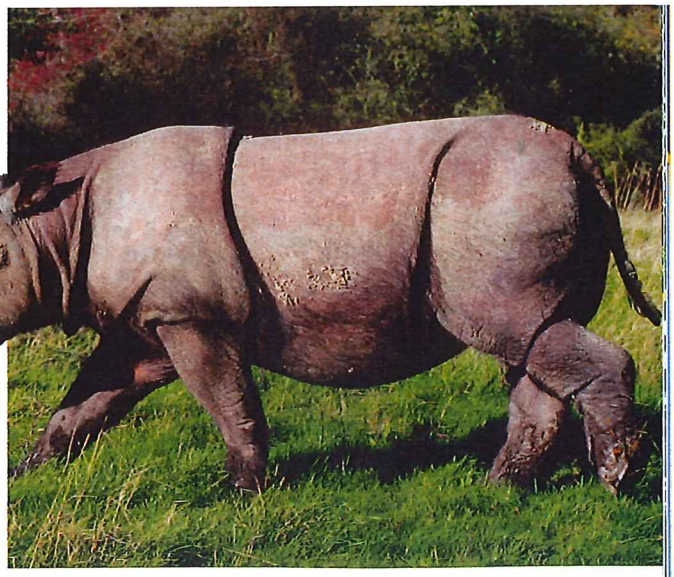
CRITICAL THINKING

Compare and Contrast

Which three cities receive about the same amount of rainfall?

Vegetation and Wildlife Southeast Asia's hot, humid climate supports tropical vegetation. In fact, Southeast Asia has one of the greatest varieties of vegetation on Earth. For example, it has a remarkable number of tree species. Tropical evergreen forests are situated in areas with much rainfall near the equator. Deciduous forests are common in the wet and dry climate zone. Teak, a wood used in shipbuilding and furniture, comes from these forests. Some unusual plants thrive in Southeast Asia. Many of these plants have strong-smelling flowers and fruits.

Southeast Asia also has thousands of varieties of birds and animals, and new species are still being discovered. In 2005, scientists found dozens of new plant and animal species in an isolated forest area of Indonesia. Not even people from nearby villages had ever visited the area. In addition, Southeast Asia is home to such large animals as the rhinoceros, tiger, and elephant. The orangutan is native to Indonesia and Malaysia.



Sumatran Rhinoceros
This small species of rhino has two horns and a coat of coarse hair. Most of these rhinos live in remote mountain areas of Indonesia.

EVALUATE Explain how Southeast Asia's climate affects its vegetation and wildlife.

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to **Interactive Review** @ ClassZone.com

Section 1 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. **Explain the importance of**
   - Indochinese Peninsula
   - Malay Peninsula
   - Mekong River
   - archipelago

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Find Main Ideas** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

   Which Southeast Asian subregion receives more rainfall, the mainland or the islands?

	MAINLAND	ISLANDS
Geographic Features		
Climate		
Plants and Animals		

KEY IDEAS

3. Why are earthquakes and volcanic eruptions common in Southeast Asia?
4. Why is the Mekong an important river?
5. How do monsoons affect the climate of Southeast Asia?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Make Inferences** Based on the geographic features of Indonesia, what might be some of the major economic activities of this nation?
7. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think new species of animals are still being discovered in Southeast Asia?
8. CONNECT to Today What do you think people in Southeast Asia could do to prevent a huge loss of life in the event of another tsunami?
9. TECHNOLOGY **Create a Multimedia Presentation** Create a multimedia presentation that shows how a volcano in the Ring of Fire forms and erupts. Use library and Internet sources. Include descriptions with your visuals.