

SECTION
2

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

India's larger neighbors have developed their own distinct cultures and identities.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Some of India's smaller neighbors have also developed in distinctive and unique ways.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

constitutional monarchy a government in which the powers of the king or queen are limited by the constitution

ecotourism travel to unique environments by people who take care to preserve them in their natural state

plantation agriculture the use of large farms to raise cash crops

REVIEW

subsistence farming agriculture that produces just enough to feed the farmer's family with little left over to sell

archipelago (AHR•kuh•PEHL•uh•GOH) group of islands

tsunami (tsu•NAH•mee) very large, destructive ocean waves caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption



Visual Vocabulary archipelago

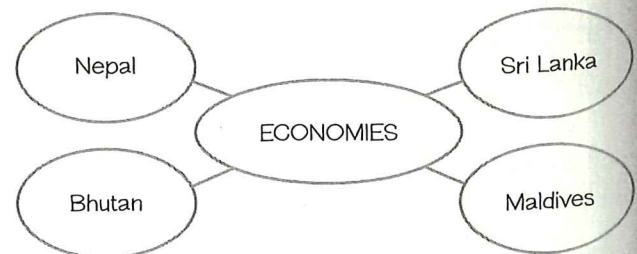
▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the outer ovals to organize important details about the economies of the mountain kingdoms and island nations.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R7

CATEGORIZE



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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Mountain Kingdoms and Island Nations

Connecting to Your World

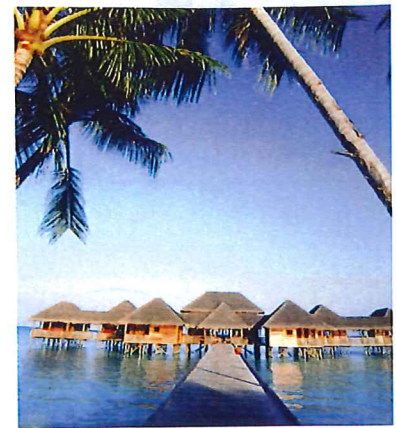
Imagine seeing a travel poster that shows a village of small stone houses built in a high valley among jagged, snowy mountains. Now, imagine a poster of a low-lying island with palm trees, sandy beaches, and lagoons. These two images will help you to understand the different types of countries you will learn about in this section.



Nepal and Bhutan

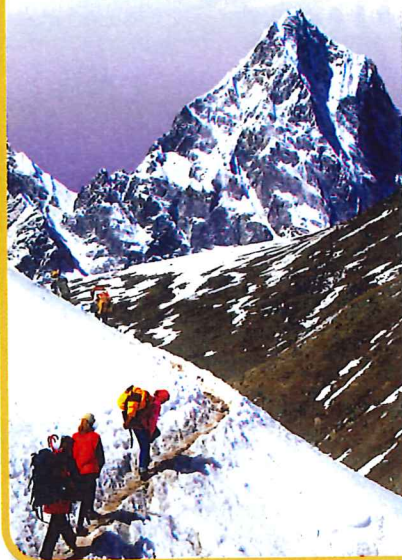
KEY QUESTION What are some of the main economic activities of the two countries?

Nepal and Bhutan are two landlocked kingdoms in the Himalayas. Because travel in the mountains is difficult, both countries are isolated. Few links to the outside world existed before the 1960s. However, Nepal and Bhutan have always been influenced by India and China.



Island Nation A holiday resort in the Maldives

Mountain Kingdom Village of Jharkot in Nepal




A number of the highest mountains in the world are found in the Himalayas within the borders of Nepal. At left, climbers trek through the snow on a path near Mount Everest in Nepal.

Highest Mountain Peaks in the Himalayas	
Cho-Yo	26,906 feet
Everest	29,029 feet
Kanchenjunga	28,169 feet
Lhotse	27,940 feet
Makalu	27,766 feet

Source: www.welcomenepal.com

Activity

Make a Bar Graph

1. On a piece of notebook paper, rearrange the list of five mountains in order of height, with the tallest first.
2. Draw the horizontal axis of your graph. Along that axis, write the names of the five mountains from tallest to shortest.
3. Draw the vertical axis of your graph. Along that axis, mark intervals of 1,000 feet up to 30,000. 
4. Choose a different colored pencil for each mountain. Make a bar to indicate height. Use the vertical axis to determine the correct height of the bar.

Government Nepal is a **constitutional monarchy**, in which a constitution limits the ruler's power. In recent years, Communist rebels have led uprisings against Nepal's government. In fighting the rebels, the king dissolved the government and began to rule alone. But early in 2006, protests forced him to restore democratic government.

Bhutan's monarchy has traditionally been a powerful one, with the monarch choosing the members of the legislature. However, in 2001, the king asked a commission to write a constitution, which was finished in 2005.

Developing Economies Both Nepal and Bhutan are poor countries that rely on agriculture. In each country, the southern region near the Indian border has fertile lowlands that are mostly used for **subsistence farming**. The main crops are rice and wheat. Nepal also produces herbs and spices, while Bhutan produces rice, corn, cattle, and yaks. Both countries export hydroelectricity, generated by their fast-flowing mountain rivers. India is their main trading partner. In addition, both of the kingdoms benefit from tourism. Every year, climbers go to Nepal to try to reach the top of Mount Everest and other tall peaks. Bhutan promotes **ecotourism**, which occurs when people travel to unique environments but take care to preserve them.

Culture and Religion Each of the mountain kingdoms has a mixed population. The official language of Nepal is Nepali, which half the people speak. But Nepal is also home to ethnic groups that speak other languages. The two largest groups of Bhutan are the Bhote and the Nepalese. The official language is Dzongkha (DZAHNG•kah).

Fun Facts!

THUNDER DRAGON

The flag of Bhutan features a dragon, and in the Bhutanese language, the country is called "Land of the Thunder Dragon." Traditionally, the Bhutanese have believed the sound of thunder echoing through the mountains is the voice of dragons roaring.



India has influenced the cultures of both countries, especially their religions. Nepal is officially a Hindu country, but it also has a Buddhist minority of about 10 percent. Siddhartha Gautama, founder of Buddhism, was born in Nepal, and many Nepalese Hindus combine Buddhist practices with their Hindu faith. Bhutan, on the other hand, is a mostly Buddhist country with a Hindu minority of 25 percent. Nepal has many Hindu temples and Buddhist shrines, while Bhutan has Buddhist monasteries.

MAKE GENERALIZATIONS Describe the main economic activities of Nepal and Bhutan.



Sri Lanka and the Maldives

KEY QUESTION What do Sri Lanka and the Maldives have in common?

Two of India's neighbors are island nations that are physically quite different from each other. Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) has one main island just 20 miles off the southeast coast of India. The Maldives is an **archipelago** of about 1,200 small islands that stretch over a distance of about 500 miles.

History, Culture, and Government People from India settled Sri Lanka more than 2,000 years ago. The Sinhalese, whose ancestors came from northern India, make up 74 percent of the population. Most Sinhalese are Buddhist. The next largest group is the Tamils, who originally came from southern India and who are mostly Hindu.

Starting in the 1500s, Sri Lanka was controlled by Europeans—first the Portuguese, then the Dutch, then the British. Sri Lanka gained independence in 1948 and set up a parliamentary government. Ethnic conflict is a serious problem there. Because the Sinhalese run the government, the Tamils believe that they are denied opportunities. A group called the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam is fighting for a separate Tamil state in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Civil war began in 1983 and continued until a cease-fire was signed in 2002. Since then, violence has resumed.



CONNECT Geography & Culture

- Region** What other country besides India is mostly Hindu?
- Region** What is the predominant religion in Bhutan?



Gone Fishing Stilt fishermen fish for sardines at high tide off a beach north of Weligama, Sri Lanka.

Most Maldivians are related culturally to the Sinhalese of Sri Lanka. However, the Maldivians are Muslim because traders brought Islam to the islands. In 1968, the country became an independent republic.

Economics of Plantations and Tourism The economy of Sri Lanka is based mainly on farming. The coastal areas have fertile plains that support **plantation agriculture**, or the growing of cash crops on estates. Sri Lanka is one of the world's leading producers of tea.

The geography of the Maldives affects its economy. Most of the islands are very small and rise no more than six feet above the ocean. The economy depends on fishing and tourism, as people visit for the lagoons, beaches, and warm climate.

Both nations suffered damage from the 2004 **tsunami**. Sri Lanka lost two-thirds of its fishing fleet and 99,000 homes. The Maldives were swamped, and property was destroyed. Tourism declined. Some geographers think that the Maldives may be in danger from global warming, a rise in world temperatures caused by pollution. If the polar ice caps melt, the oceans might rise and cover the Maldives.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST Explain what Sri Lanka and the Maldives have in common.

ONLINE QUIZ
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Section 2 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

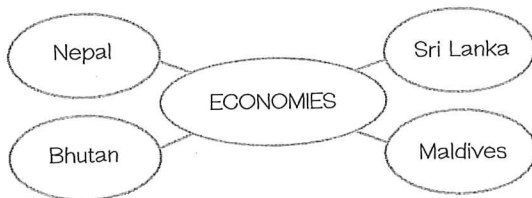
- ecotourism
- archipelago
- plantation agriculture

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Categorize

 Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

What are the main economic activities of Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives?



KEY IDEAS

- Why did the king of Nepal disband the government and then later restore it?
- What caused the civil war in Sri Lanka?
- Why did the Maldives suffer so much damage from the 2004 tsunami?

CRITICAL THINKING

- Analyze Effects** How do you think the tsunami affected Sri Lanka's economy? Explain.
- Compare** How are the political problems in Nepal and Sri Lanka similar?
- CONNECT to Today** What are some rules that you think visitors might have to follow in ecotourism?
- TECHNOLOGY** **Plan a Multimedia Presentation**
Plan a presentation on the tsunami damage to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Be sure to include photographs, graphs or charts, and quotations or interviews.

CHAPTER SUMMARY



Key Idea 1

Other nations and cultures in the region besides India have managed to develop their own distinct identities.

Key Idea 2

Some of India's smaller neighbors have also developed in distinctive and unique ways.

 For Review and Study Notes, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](#)



NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

- I am a conservative Muslim group that ruled Afghanistan from the mid-1990s until 2002.
_____ **Taliban** _____
- I am a small business in which the workers manufacture items in their homes.

- I am a Muslim holiday in which people fast for a whole month. _____
- I am a system of growing cash crops on large estates. _____
- I am a Communist nation that existed from 1922 to 1991. _____
- I am a series of ocean waves caused by an undersea earthquake or eruption. _____
- I am the practice of visiting a region while taking care to preserve its environment. _____
- I am a group of islands. _____
- I produce just enough to feed a family with little left over to sell. _____
- I refer to a region that has no access to the sea.

archipelago
constitutional monarchy
cottage industry
ecotourism
Green Revolution
landlocked
plantation agriculture
Ramadan
Soviet Union
subsistence farming
Taliban
tsunami

Activities

GeoGame

Use this online map to show what you know about South Asia. Click and drag each place name to its location on the map.

Geo GAME

Present-Day South Asian Neighbors

- Afghanistan
- Bhutan
- the Maldives
- Arabian Sea
- Bay of Bengal

Arabian Sea



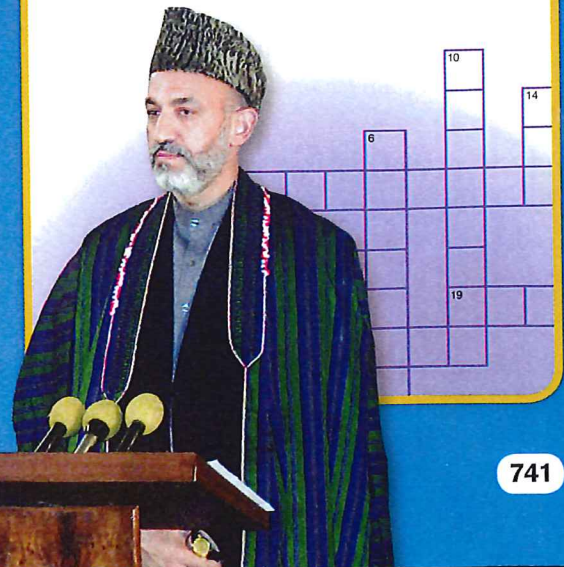
To play the complete game, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](#)

Crossword Puzzle

Complete the online crossword puzzle to test your knowledge of the history and cultures of South Asia.

ACROSS

- first elected president of Afghanistan



VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. subsistence farming
2. archipelago
3. ecotourism
4. constitutional monarchy
5. plantation agriculture
6. Ramadan
7. Taliban



Explain how the terms in each group differ.

8. plantation agriculture and subsistence farming
9. archipelago and landlocked

KEY IDEAS

1 Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh

10. What cultural influence do Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh share?
11. How has Afghanistan's location affected its history?
12. How has the U.S. war on terrorism affected Afghanistan and Pakistan?
13. What natural disasters are common in the region?
14. How does Pakistan meet its agricultural needs?

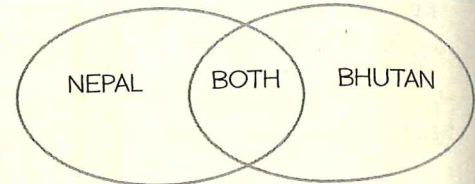
2 Mountain Kingdoms and Island Nations

15. Who are the rebels fighting the Nepalese government?
16. How has the king of Bhutan recently tried to change government?
17. What major influence has India had on Nepal and Bhutan?
18. What is the biggest economic difference between Sri Lanka and the Maldives?
19. What is the goal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam?



CRITICAL THINKING

20. **Compare and Contrast** Create two Venn diagrams. Use one to compare and contrast Nepal and Bhutan. Use the other to compare and contrast Sri Lanka and the Maldives.



21. **Make Inferences** How was East Pakistan able to win independence from West Pakistan when the latter controlled the army?
22. **Compare and Contrast** How have the recent actions of the kings of Nepal and Bhutan differed?
23. **Connect to Economics** Would subsistence farming or plantation agriculture do more to develop a nation's economy?
24. **Five Themes: Region** What geographic reasons explain why India has been a strong influence on many countries?
25. **Connect Geography & Culture** What is the origin of the cultural differences between the Sinhalese and Tamil peoples?

Answer the

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do the history and cultures of India's neighbors affect the world?

Written Response Write a three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Be sure to give at least three examples of how countries in this region have affected recent world events. Use the rubric to guide your thinking.

Response Rubric

A strong response will:

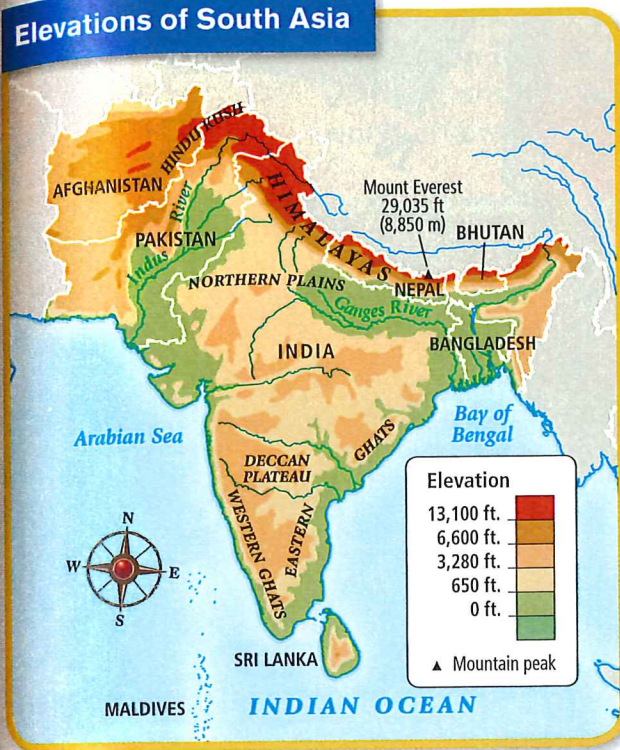
- discuss natural disasters and their impacts
- examine political changes in the region
- analyze the region's role in war against terrorism

- Online Test Practice @ ClassZone.com
- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

PHYSICAL MAP

Use the map to answer questions 1 and 2 on your paper.

Elevations of South Asia



1. Which mountain range includes Mount Everest?

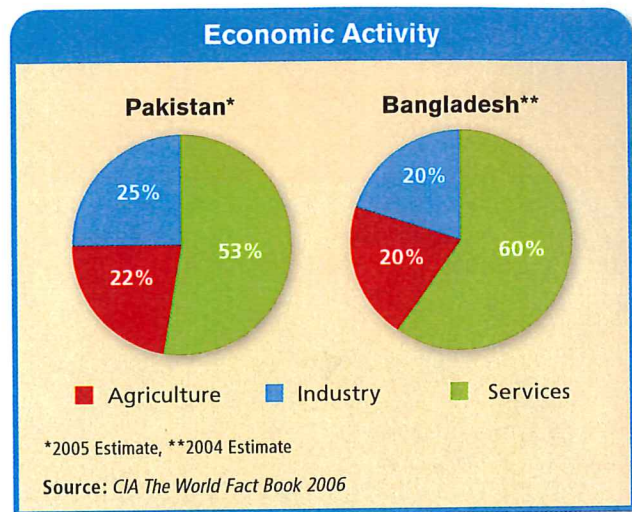
- A. Hindu Kush
- B. Western Ghats
- C. Himalayas
- D. Eastern Ghats

2. Which mainland country in South Asia has overall the lowest elevations?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Nepal
- D. Bhutan

PIE GRAPHS

Examine the pie graphs below. Use the information in the graphs to answer questions 3 and 4 on your paper.



3. Which country is less industrialized?

4. Which economic sector in both countries employs the most people?

GeoActivity

1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-SCIENCE

Using textbooks, encyclopedias, or the Internet, look up information about the possible causes of global warming and what might be done to prevent it. Create a poster that illustrates what individuals can do to deal with global warming.

2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Unit Writing Project Revisit the plan of action that you developed as a lobbyist to support a cause. What other causes would you like to support? Develop a written plan of action for one or two of your favorite causes.

3. MENTAL MAPPING

Create an outline map of South Asia and label the following:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- the Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka