

# UNIT

# 8

## East Asia and Southeast Asia

### Why It Matters:

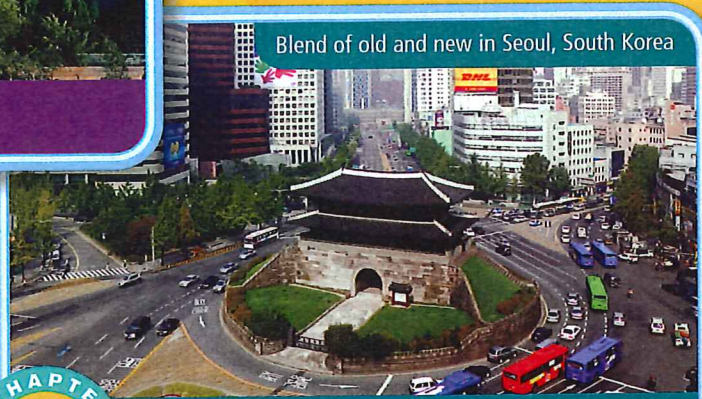
East Asia is home to several countries that are important members of the world economy. The nations of Southeast Asia are working hard to strengthen their economies. In the coming decades, both regions are expected to have a strong voice in world affairs.



Forbidden City in Beijing

CHAPTER  
25

China



Blend of old and new in Seoul, South Korea

CHAPTER  
26

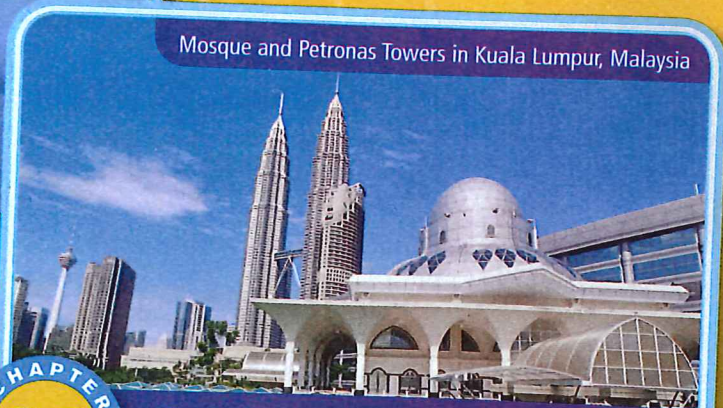
The Korean Peninsula

Floating Shinto gate near Hiroshima



CHAPTER  
27

Japan



Mosque and Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

CHAPTER  
28

Southeast Asia

Use the Unit Atlas to learn about the geography of East Asia and Southeast Asia. As you study the maps in the atlas, notice geographic patterns and specific details about the two regions. Answer the questions on each map in your notebook.

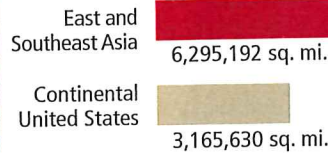
As you study the graphs on this page, compare the landmass, population, rivers, and mountains of East Asia and Southeast Asia with those of the United States. Then jot down the answers to the following questions in your notebook.

## Comparing Data

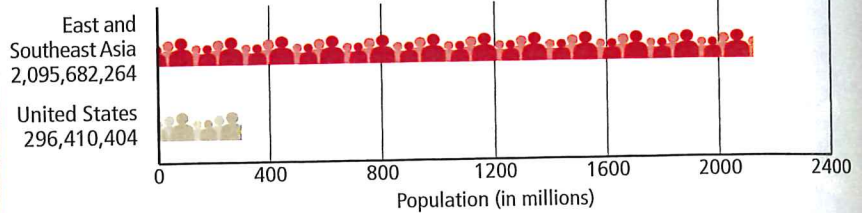
1. Compare the landmass and population of East Asia and Southeast Asia with those of the United States. Based on these data, which region do you think has a higher population density? Why?
2. What is the second longest river shown here? Which East Asian mountain is taller than Mount McKinley?

## Comparing Data

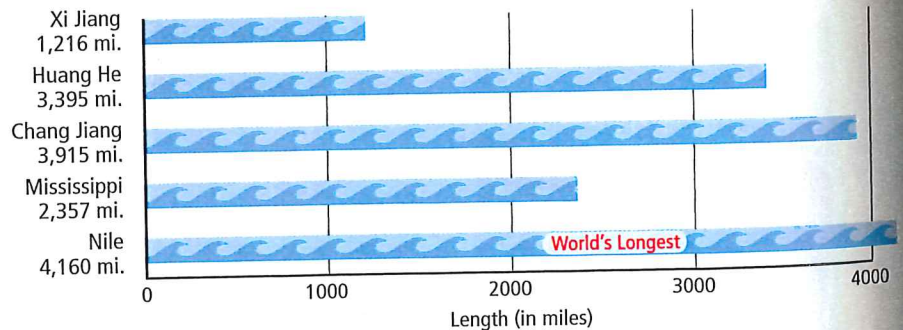
### Landmass



### Population



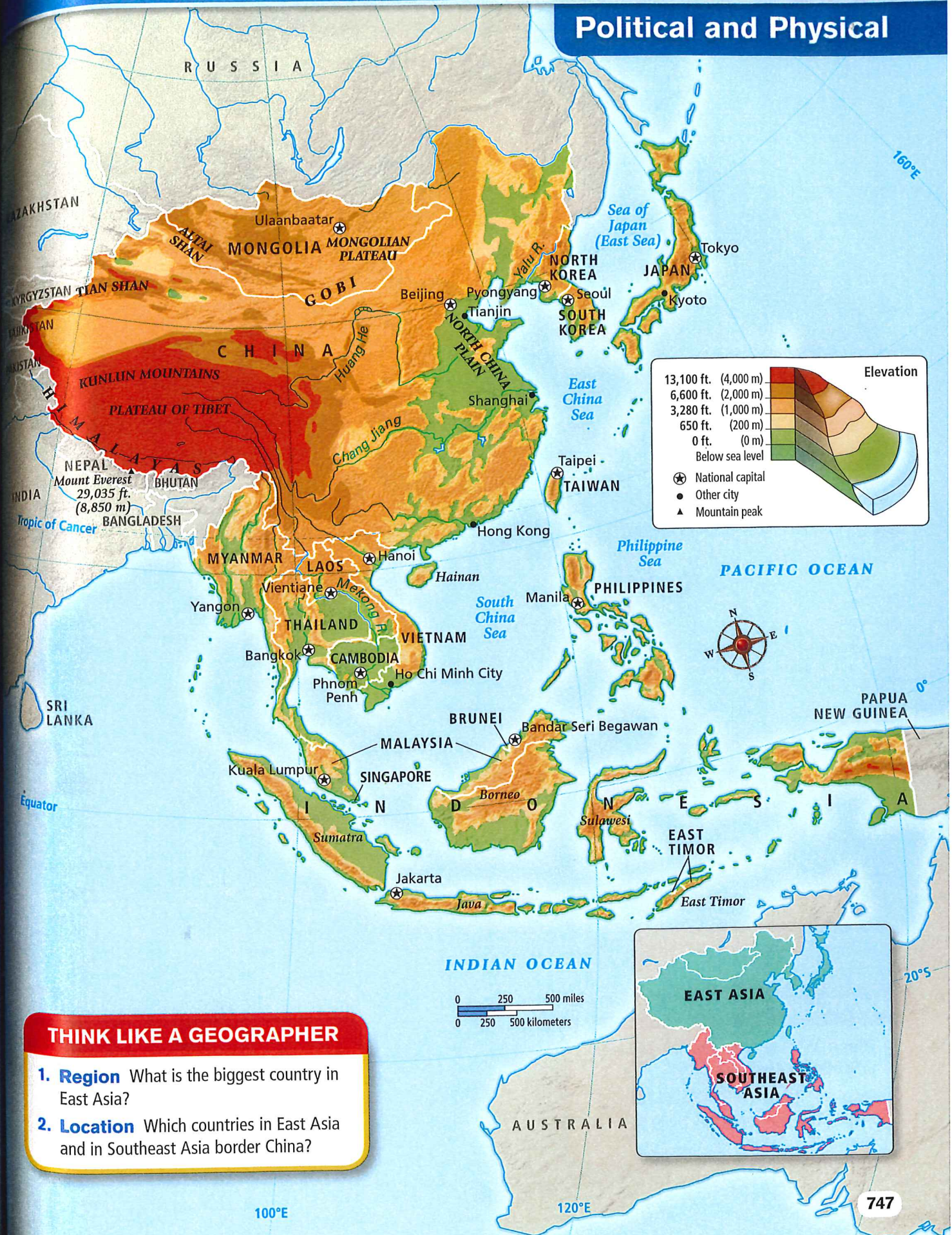
### Rivers



### Mountains



# Political and Physical



## THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

- 1. Region** What is the biggest country in East Asia?
- 2. Location** Which countries in East Asia and in Southeast Asia border China?



**THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER**

- 1. Place** What are the two main climates in Southeast Asia?
- 2. Region** How does East Asia's inland climate compare with that along its coasts?



**Land use**

- Commercial agriculture
- Nomadic herding
- Forestland
- Subsistence agriculture
- Limited agriculture

**Major resources**

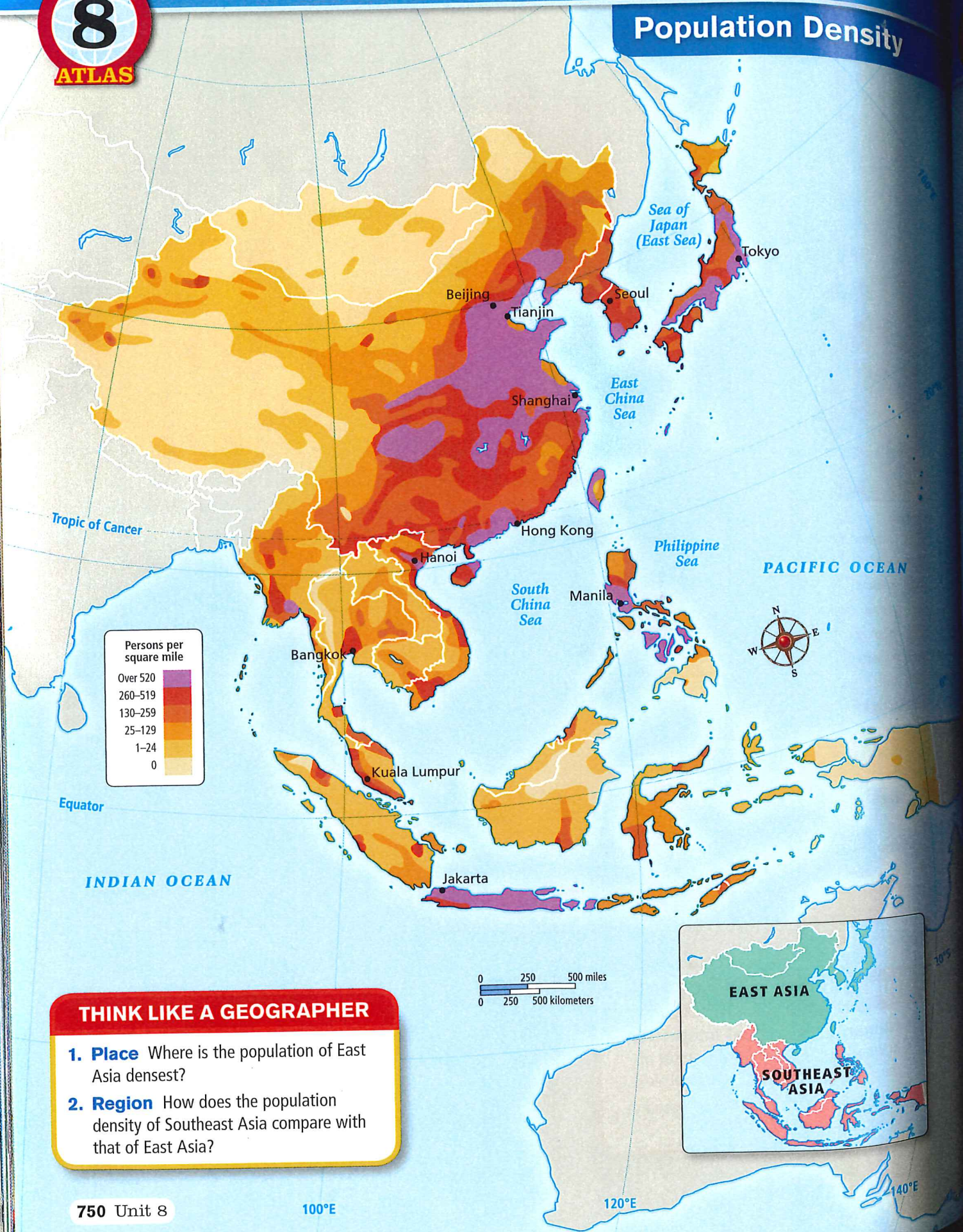
- Coal
- Fishing
- Iron ore
- Natural gas
- Oil
- Timber
- Tin
- Other minerals
- Manufacturing center

**THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER**

- 1. Human-Environment Interaction**  
In what part of East Asia does most of the commercial agriculture take place?
- 2. Place** What is the chief major resource of Southeast Asia?



# Population Density



## THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER

- Place** Where is the population of East Asia densest?
- Region** How does the population density of Southeast Asia compare with that of East Asia?



# Regional Overview

## East Asia and Southeast Asia

The countries of East Asia and Southeast Asia are home to about one-third of all the people on Earth. Many of the countries share cultural traditions and a common historical past.



### GEOGRAPHY

Both East Asia and Southeast Asia consist of a mainland and a number of important islands off their coasts. The regions are rugged, with many high mountain ranges. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes frequently occur in these areas.



### HISTORY

China has played a large role in both regions. In East Asia, China influenced the ancient civilizations of Japan and Korea. Many cultures had an impact on ancient Southeast Asia, including China and India. The region also changed when European colonists began to take control in the 1500s.



### CULTURE

In spite of these historical influences, the countries of East Asia and Southeast Asia have retained their own character. In East Asia, countries such as China and Japan have distinct cultural traditions. Countries such as Indonesia in Southeast Asia are more culturally diverse.



### GOVERNMENT

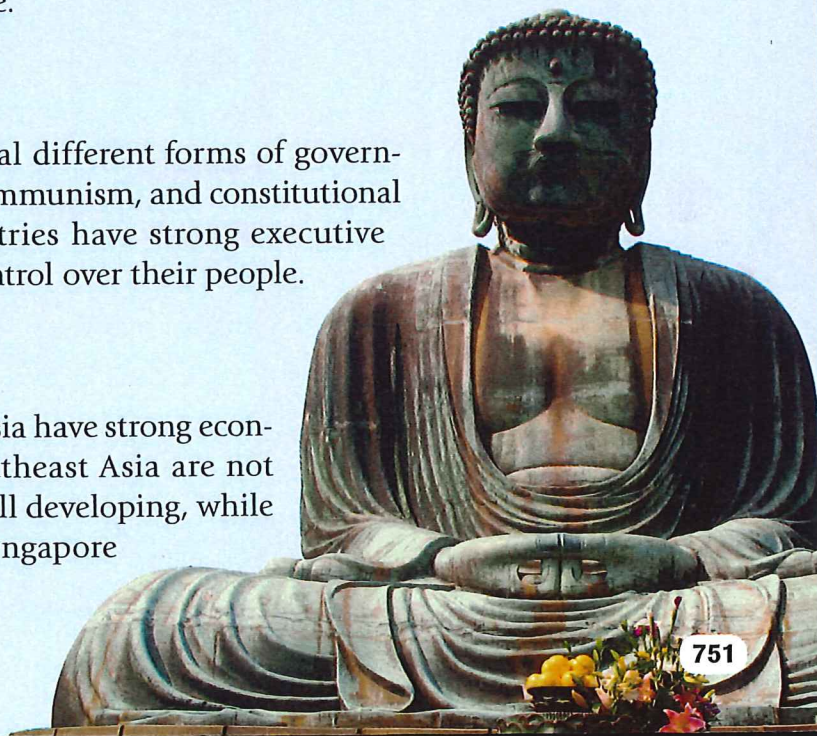
The two regions contain several different forms of government, including democracy, communism, and constitutional monarchy. Many of the countries have strong executive branches that enforce strict control over their people.



### ECONOMICS

Most of the countries of East Asia have strong economies. The economies of Southeast Asia are not quite as powerful. Some are still developing, while others—including those in Singapore and Malaysia—are thriving.

**Great Buddha** The Great Buddha of Kamakura, Japan, is about 40 feet high and was cast in 1252. The statue was originally located inside a temple, which was washed away in a tsunami in the 1400s.



## Unit Writing Project

### Slide Show

Imagine that your family is considering a trip to a country in East Asia or Southeast Asia. Choose the country from this unit that you would most like to visit and prepare a slide show that will convince your family to go there.

### Think About:

- how to convey the country's geography and climate
- what cultural and historical information to include
- what makes this place special

## East Asia and Southeast Asia

As you study these cards, note that Southeast Asia contains one of the smallest countries in the word—Singapore—and East Asia contains one of the largest—China.



### Brunei

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan  
**Total Area:** 2,228 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 374,000

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; food; chemicals  
**Exports:** petroleum; natural gas

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Malay  
**Religion:** Muslim 64%; traditional beliefs 11%; Buddhist 9%; Christian 8%



### Cambodia

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Phnom Penh  
**Total Area:** 69,900 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 14,071,000

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** petroleum products; gold  
**Exports:** clothing; rubber; timber

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Khmer  
**Religion:** Buddhist 85%; Chinese folk-religionist 5%; traditional beliefs 4%



### China

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Beijing  
**Total Area:** 3,705,407 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 1,315,844,000

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; petroleum; plastics  
**Exports:** machinery; clothing; textiles

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Mandarin Chinese  
**Religion:** nonreligious 42%; Chinese folk-religionist 29%; Buddhist 8%; atheist 8%



### East Timor

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Dili  
**Total Area:** 5,794 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 1,040,880

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; construction materials  
**Exports:** coffee; livestock; food; clothing

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Tetum; Portuguese  
**Religion:** Catholic 87%; Protestant 5%; Muslim 3%; traditional beliefs 3%



### Indonesia

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Jakarta  
**Total Area:** 741,100 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 222,781,000

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; petroleum; food  
**Exports:** natural gas; petroleum

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Indonesian  
**Religion:** Muslim 77%; Christian 13%; Hindu 3%; traditional beliefs 3%



### Japan

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Tokyo  
**Total Area:** 145,883 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 128,085,000

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; petroleum; food  
**Exports:** machinery; cars; metals

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Japanese  
**Religion:** Shinto 93%; Buddhism 70% (many practice both); Christian 1%



### Laos

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Vientiane  
**Total Area:** 91,429 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 5,924,000

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** mineral fuels; textiles  
**Exports:** electricity; clothing; wood

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Lao  
**Religion:** Buddhist 49%; traditional beliefs 42%; nonreligious 4%; Christian 2%



### Malaysia

#### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Kuala Lumpur  
**Total Area:** 127,317 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 25,347,000

#### ECONOMY

**Imports:** microcircuits; computers  
**Exports:** transistors; computers

#### CULTURE

**Language:** Malay  
**Religion:** Muslim 60%; Buddhist 19%; Christian 9%; Hindu 6%



# East Asia and Southeast Asia



## Mongolia

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Ulaanbaatar  
**Total Area:** 603,909 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 2,646,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; food; fuels; textiles  
**Exports:** copper concentrate; gold

### CULTURE

**Language:** Khalkha Mongolian  
**Religion:** Tantric Buddhist 96%; Muslim 4%



## Myanmar

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Yangon  
**Total Area:** 261,970 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 50,519,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; chemicals; fuels; food  
**Exports:** food; fuels; wood

### CULTURE

**Language:** Burmese  
**Religion:** Buddhist 73%; traditional beliefs 13%; Christian 8%; Muslim 2%; Hindu 2%



## North Korea

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Pyongyang  
**Total Area:** 46,541 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 22,488,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** food; machinery; fuels; textiles  
**Exports:** animals; textiles; machinery

### CULTURE

**Language:** Korean  
**Religion:** nonreligious 56%; atheist 16%; Ch'ondogyo 13%; traditional beliefs 12%



## Philippines

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Manila  
**Total Area:** 115,831 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 83,054,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** electronics; petroleum; chemicals  
**Exports:** electronics; clothing; food

### CULTURE

**Language:** Filipino; English  
**Religion:** Catholic 81%; Protestant 7%; Muslim 5%; indigenous Christian 4%



## Singapore

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Singapore  
**Total Area:** 267 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 4,326,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** electronics; petroleum; computers  
**Exports:** electronics; computers; chemicals

### CULTURE

**Language:** Chinese; Malay; Tamil; English  
**Religion:** Buddhist 43%; Muslim 15%; Christian 15%; nonreligious 15%; Taoist 9%



## South Korea

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Seoul  
**Total Area:** 38,023 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 47,817,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** electronics; petroleum  
**Exports:** electronics; machinery; chemicals

### CULTURE

**Language:** Korean  
**Religion:** nonreligious 49%; Buddhist 23%; Protestant 20%; Catholic 7%



## Taiwan

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Taipei  
**Total Area:** 13,892 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 22,894,384



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; minerals; chemicals  
**Exports:** machinery; textiles; plastics

### CULTURE

**Language:** Mandarin Chinese  
**Religion:** Buddhist 22%; Taoism 21%; I-kuan Tao 4%; Protestant 2%



## Thailand

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Bangkok  
**Total Area:** 198,457 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 64,233,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; chemicals; petroleum  
**Exports:** food; electronics; chemicals

### CULTURE

**Language:** Thai  
**Religion:** Buddhist 94%; Muslim 5%; Christian 1%



## Vietnam

### GEOGRAPHY

**Capital:** Hanoi  
**Total Area:** 127,244 sq. mi.  
**Population:** 84,238,000



### ECONOMY

**Imports:** machinery; petroleum; fertilizers  
**Exports:** petroleum; clothing; fish

### CULTURE

**Language:** Vietnamese  
**Religion:** Buddhist 67%; Christian 9%; Cao Dai 4%; Hoa Hao 2%

**Laos** Towering limestone cliffs line the Nam Song River in Laos.