

# The Cultural Geography of Southeast Asia



## CHAPTER FOCUS

### Geographic Setting

The culture region of Southeast Asia lies on the trade route from the Western nations to China and the East. As a result, the region has attracted traders and colonizers throughout history.



### Geographic Themes

#### *Section 1 Population Patterns*

**PLACE** Most of Southeast Asia's peoples live in rural areas.

#### *Section 2 History and Government*

**MOVEMENT** The region's resources have long attracted foreigners.

#### *Section 3 Cultures and Lifestyles*

**REGION** The cultures of Southeast Asia reflect great ethnic diversity.

▲ **Photograph:** Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia

# Population Patterns

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Discover . . .

- where people live in Southeast Asia.
- the major factors affecting population distribution in Southeast Asia.

### Key Terms

- arable land
- primate city

### Identify and Locate

Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Singapore

LUANG PRABANG, LAOS

SAYBAYDEE! FROM MY HOME I CAN SEE THE BEAUTIFUL OLD TEMPLE ON TOP OF PHOU SI MOUNTAIN. BELOW THE MOUNTAIN IS THE OLD ROYAL PALACE THAT IS NOW THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. MANY PEOPLE COME TO LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS ON DISPLAY THERE.  
BOUN SINGRATHSOMBOUN



**B**oun Singrathsomboun describes the rich cultural heritage of Laos, a landlocked country in mainland Southeast Asia. About 512 million people, about 9 percent of the world's population, live in the Southeast Asia culture region. The population of the region is growing rapidly and will likely double in about 42 years. This growth will present special challenges for the countries of the region.

### PLACE

## Population Growth

Southeast Asia's population is divided among 10 countries. Brunei, the country with the smallest population in the region, has about 300,000 people. By contrast more than 207 million people live in Indonesia, one of the most populous countries in the world. Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, and Myanmar all have between 47 million and 79 million

people. Malaysia has about 22 million people, and the other nations—Cambodia, Laos, and Singapore—have fewer than 12 million.

## Population Density

The majority of people in Southeast Asia live either in the river valley lowlands or on the coastal plains. A ready supply of water, fertile land, adequate transportation, and job availability are factors that have contributed to this concentration of people. In general the highlands and mountains have fewer people than the lowlands, and rural areas have fewer people than the cities.

The population density of the region varies widely. The overall density in Indonesia is 294 people per square mile (114 people per sq. km), and the island of Java is one of the most densely populated islands in the world. Singapore, the country with the least area, also has the greatest population density—more than 16,415 people per square mile (6,338 people per sq. km).



## SOUTHEAST ASIA: URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION (SELECTED COUNTRIES)

Country	Percent Urban	Percent Rural	Annual Urban Growth %	Annual Rural Growth %
Indonesia	37	63	4.5	0.1
Malaysia	57	43	3.9	0.8
Thailand	31	69	2.2	0.6
Vietnam	20	80	1.7	2.1
Philippines	47	53	4.2	0.0
Myanmar	25	75	2.7	1.4
Cambodia	14	86	5.9	2.1
Laos	19	81	5.7	2.4

Source: *United Nations Statistical Yearbook*



### CHART STUDY

Most nations of Southeast Asia are predominantly rural, but are rapidly becoming urban nations as more people move to the region's cities. *Which nation has the highest annual urban growth rate? Which nation has the highest percentage of urban population?*

## Population Growth Rate

For a long time, the population growth rate was lower in Cambodia than in any other nation in the region. Between 1975 and 1979, Cambodia lost 38 percent of its population as a result of starvation, torture, and executions by the Communist Khmer Rouge government that was ruling the country. It has only recently approached its population figure of 11 million. Malaysia, on the other hand, has one of the highest growth rates in the region—2.1 percent, due in part to efforts of the government to increase the population from the current figure of 22 million to 70 million by 2095. The other countries in the region have a growth rate between 1.1 percent and 2.8 percent.

The Indonesian government in recent years has tried to encourage Indonesians in heavily populated areas to limit the size of

their families. This effort has met with some success, but Indonesia's population continues to increase by almost 2 million people a year. The Singapore government has also carried out a campaign to slow population growth. One measure was to cut government child-care payments to parents having three or more children. By the mid-1990s, these efforts had steadily reduced the birthrate.

### PLACE

## Rural and Urban Populations

The mainland countries of Southeast Asia have a higher percentage of **arable land**, land suitable for growing crops, than the island countries. Therefore, in mainland Southeast Asia, about 65 percent of the population





### Geographic Themes

#### Region: Sumatra, Indonesia

The great majority of Indonesians are farmers who live in small towns or rural villages. How does Indonesia's population compare with that of other island Southeast Asian countries?

is rural and works in agriculture. On Southeast Asian islands, the rural population ranges from 0 percent in urbanized Singapore to 86 percent in Cambodia.

The populations of several Southeast Asian countries are undergoing a shift from rural to urban areas. This shift has largely been the result of political conflicts and governmental policies, but economic and educational opportunities available in cities have also been factors.

The cities, however, have suffered from this rapid growth. Bangkok, Thailand, for example, had a population of about 1 million people in 1950. By 1998 the city had an estimated population of 6.5 million. The area of the city has expanded to accommodate the increased population, growing from about 37 square miles (96 sq. km) in 1958 to about 618 square miles (1,601 sq. km) today. Nevertheless it is estimated that more than 1 million residents of Bangkok live in densely populated areas characterized by poverty and poor housing.

In Southeast Asia, there are at least 15 cities with populations of more than 1 million people. The largest cities in the region—except

Bangkok, Thailand, and Hanoi, Vietnam—were first developed as colonial ports by European powers. In nearly every country in the region, the largest city is now a **primate city**—a city that serves as the capital of the country as well as the major port and industrial center.

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

1. **Define** arable land, primate city.
2. **Locating Places** Where do most people in Southeast Asia live?
3. **Movement** What geographic characteristic led to the development of most of Southeast Asia's cities?
4. **Movement** What are two ways in which the population of Southeast Asia is changing?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Analyzing Information** How have government policies in Southeast Asia affected population characteristics?

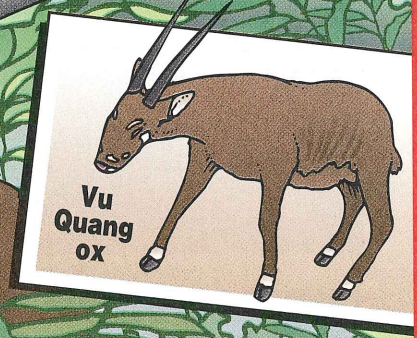


**Where are the world's newest mammals?**

**F**ew humans have ventured into the Vu Quang Nature Reserve in northern Vietnam. Rocky, rainy, and isolated, its 150,000 acres (60,000 ha) of rain forest have escaped the attention of most of the world. In 1992, biologists found skulls of a long-horned creature that they soon learned was a mammal unknown to science.

The Vu Quang ox is a new large mammal genus—the first to be documented in more than 50 years. But this distant relative of sheep and cattle is not the only new mammal to emerge from the war-ravaged region: Reports of two more large mammals have been made since the Vu Quang ox was assigned its Latin name, *Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*. The giant muntjac, a deer with huge canine teeth, also has been confirmed as a new species; another animal called the slow-running deer is still being studied.

The first live specimen of these mysterious, primitive mammals—a Vu Quang ox calf—was captured recently and taken to a botanical garden in Hanoi for observation.



Mountain rain forest in North Central Vietnam

Designed by BILL PITZER



# History and Government

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Discover . . .

- how location influenced the development of empires in Southeast Asia.
- the cultural influences that have affected the people of Southeast Asia.
- the changes that resulted from European and American colonization of Southeast Asia.

### Key Terms

- maritime
- indigenous
- sphere of influence

### Identify and Locate

Strait of Malacca, Sunda Strait, Gulf of Thailand, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Mekong Delta

**M**any empires in early Southeast Asia developed around strategic ports. About 2,000 years ago, ports along the Gulf of Thailand were most important.

Sumatra's Srivijaya Empire (A.D. 600 to A.D. 1400) was one of the region's most powerful **maritime**, or seafaring, powers. It controlled shipping along the Strait of Malacca and through the Sunda Strait. Today Singapore, located on the shortest sea route between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, is one of the world's most prosperous seaports.

Some Southeast Asian empires were land-based and gained their wealth from the fertile soil. The Khmer Empire of Angkor in present-day Cambodia and the Kingdom of Srivijaya in Java grew three to four crops of rice along with other crops each year.

### MOVEMENT

## Outside Influences

Countries outside the region wanted involvement in sea routes between China and the West and in the region's resources of rice, forest products, tin, pearls, gold, and spices.

## South Asia

In the A.D. 100s Indian traders introduced Hinduism and later Buddhism to the **indigenous**, or local, peoples. By the A.D. 1400s, Buddhism was the primary religion in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.

## China

The Chinese began maritime trading routes through Southeast Asia early. The Hong (Red) River valley was dominated by the Chinese from the A.D. 100s to the A.D. 900s.

## Islam

Islam was brought by Arab and Indian traders in the A.D. 1300s. Melaka (Malacca) on the Malay Peninsula grew into a Muslim center and important seaport by the early 1500s.

## The West

Western influence in Southeast Asia lasted until the 1900s. Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and France came to trade, spread Christianity, and claim territory. They spread their **spheres of influence**—agreed-



upon areas of control—over all of Southeast Asia except Thailand.

By the mid-1900s the United Kingdom had claimed what is now Brunei, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Singapore. France ruled present-day Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. The Netherlands colonized the islands of Indonesia, and Spain ruled the Philippine Islands, which were later acquired by the United States.

## Change and Modernization

Westerners expanded tin mining and oil drilling. They also displaced small farms with large rice, rubber, and coffee plantations. They managed these estates using immigrant labor from India and China and imported machinery. Many of the foreign laborers stayed in the region.

The Westerners boosted economic production in the region for their own benefit, not





**FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES**



1. **Region:** What European powers established colonies in Southeast Asia?
2. **Place:** Which area of Southeast Asia was under American rule?
3. **Place:** What was the traditional name of present-day Thailand?
4. **Place:** What present-day countries were parts of French Indochina?

for that of Southeast Asians. In Myanmar's Irrawaddy River valley, about 988,400 acres (400,302 ha) of land were cultivated for rice in 1855. By 1930 there were 9,844,000 acres (4 million ha) of rice under cultivation. In Malaysia, rubber trees were introduced by the British in the early 1800s. By 1939 there were about 3.4 million acres (1.4 million ha) of rubber plantations. The Europeans also built networks of roads and railways to link inland production to overseas trade.

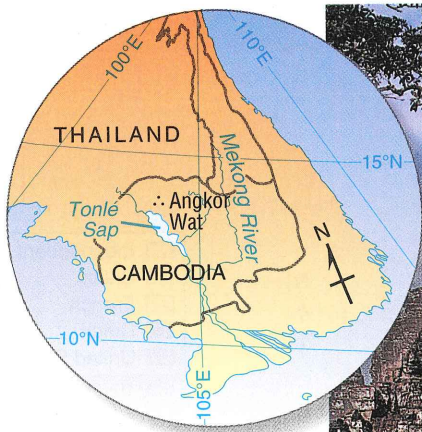
**REGION**

## Independence and Conflicts

During World War II, Japan forced Western nations out of Southeast Asia. After Japan's defeat in 1945, the Western powers tried to regain control. They, however, faced growing Southeast Asian demands for freedom. By 1965, all of the region's peoples had won independence.







### Geographic Themes

#### Place: Angkor Wat

The temple of Angkor Wat, built in the 1100s, is considered one of the finest architectural monuments in Southeast Asia. *In what modern nation is Angkor Wat located?*

## New Nations

After World War II, European powers tried to regain control in Southeast Asia; they too had to face the growing strength of Southeast Asian moves toward independence. All the countries of Southeast Asia are now independent.

Independence, however, did not come without problems. Many countries have suffered ethnic wars, conflicts between Communist and non-Communist groups, and border disputes.

## Governments Today

Three types of government are represented in Southeast Asia today. Indonesia, the Philippines, and Singapore are republics. Brunei, Malaysia, and Thailand are constitutional monarchies. Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar are socialist republics. In May 1993, Cambodia held the first free election in its history. By the end of the year, it had become a constitutional monarchy. Political disputes, however, continue to divide the country.

## SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

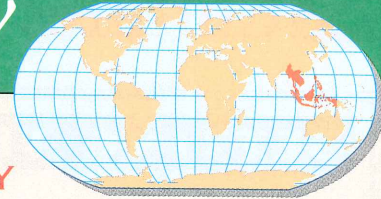
- 1. Define** maritime, indigenous, sphere of influence.
- 2. Locating Places** Which parts of Southeast Asia border on the Sunda Strait? The Strait of Malacca?
- 3. Movement** What outside influences shaped the historical development of Southeast Asia?
- 4. Movement** What major religions were brought to Southeast Asia before World War II?

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Analyzing Information** Why were European nations interested in colonizing Southeast Asia?



# Geography and History



## SINGAPORE: MODEL OF PROSPERITY

As you read, examine how Singapore became an economic leader.

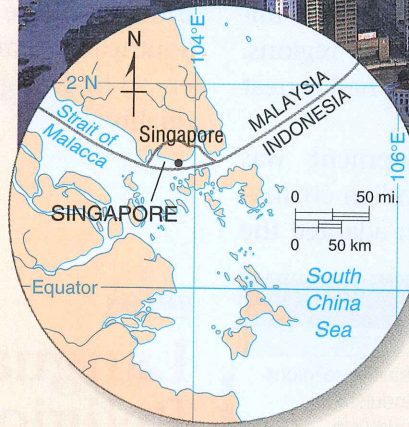
### Trading Center

The city of Singapore surrounds an excellent natural harbor on the southern edge of Singapore Island. Singapore is Southeast Asia's busiest port; in terms of annual tonnage handled, it is also one of the world's largest.

Crowding around the harbor are deep-water facilities for immense oil tankers and cargo ships as well as wharves and docks for local trade. Warehouses stand filled with—or waiting for—thousands of tons of exports and imports. Singapore is a free port: goods can be unloaded, stored, and shipped again without payment of import duties.

Adjoining the docks and port area is the city's commercial and business section. In the towering glass-and-steel skyscrapers are department stores, banks, insurance companies, financial firms—national and international—and Singapore's stock exchange.

To the west of the city, beyond the older shopping and residential areas, is the Jurong industrial park region. Here, more than 800 manufacturing plants produce clothing, textiles, machinery, metals, and electronic, scientific, and transportation equipment.



Singapore is an island nation located off the tip of the Malay Peninsula. Composed of one large island and more than 50 small islands, the country of Singapore has a land area of about 240 square miles (622 sq. km).

### Strict Government

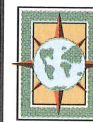
Singapore's government plays a major role in the economy. Although the economy is based on free enterprise, the government exercises strict control over economic and social affairs. The government determines what benefits, such as sick leave and vacation time, employers shall provide for their workers.

In 1965, when Singapore became independent, the government embarked on a crash course of industrialization. The People's Action Party, the ruling political party, drove significant opposing parties underground. A

government licensing system was established for national newspapers and magazines, and laws were established to keep labor unions politically powerless.

### Checking for Understanding

1. What natural feature helped Singapore become an economic center in Southeast Asia?
2. **Place** What is unusual about the relationship between Singapore's economy and its government?



## 3

## SECTION

## Cultures and Lifestyles

## SETTING THE SCENE

## Read to Discover . . .

- how ethnic diversity in Southeast Asia has led to a rich and varied culture.
- the effects of religious beliefs on culture in Southeast Asia.

## Key Terms

- wat
- batik
- longhouse

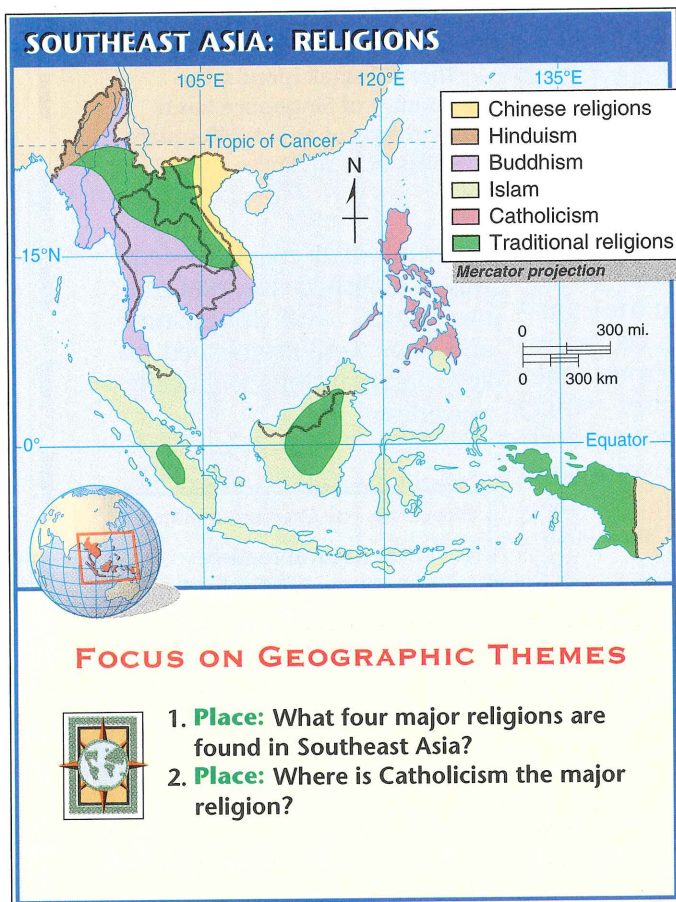
## Identify and Locate

Indochina Peninsula,  
Bangkok, Angkor Wat

**T**he cultures of Southeast Asia reflect migrations by people from other regions. Several major world religions have had a great impact on the region.

The region's artistic development was greatly influenced by the early Indian civilization. Local artists, however, soon adapted the

Indian culture to their own needs. Later, Southeast Asian art continued to be influenced by foreign styles but kept its distinctive quality.



## REGION

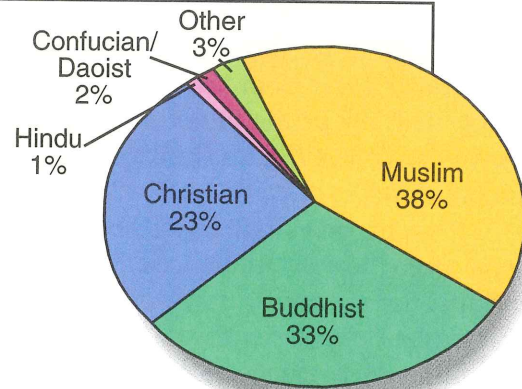
## Languages and Religions

**H**undreds of languages and dialects are spoken in Southeast Asia. These languages stem from three major language families: Malayo-Polynesian, Sino-Tibetan, and Mon-Khmer.

Many of the languages that are spoken in the region are the result of migration and colonization. For example, in the Philippines, Tagalog and English are the official languages. Spanish is also spoken in the Philippines. Chinese, Malay, Tamil, and English are the official languages of Singapore, which reflect the importance of commerce in this tiny island nation. In Malaysia, English is often used in business and daily life. The Malaysian government, however, has taken steps to make Malay the official language, especially in schools and universities. In Vietnamese cities, most people can speak English, French, Chinese, or Russian as well as Vietnamese.

### Southeast Asia: Religions

Muslim	191,900,000
Buddhist	168,000,000
Christian	118,400,000
Confucian/Daoist	12,900,000
Hindu	5,300,000
Other	15,900,000



Source: *Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year, 1998; The World Almanac, 1998*

The people of Southeast Asia practice many different religions. This is the result of the cultural influences of the many peoples who migrated to the region. Buddhism is the major religion of the Indochina Peninsula. Many people who live on the Malay Peninsula and in parts of Indonesia are followers of Islam. Most people who live in the Philippines are Roman Catholics. This religious tradition began when the Philippines came under the control of Spain in the 1500s. A great number of the region's people—mainly those of Chinese ancestry—follow Confucianism or Daoism.

#### REGION

## The Arts

Buddhism and Hinduism have inspired Southeast Asia's art and architecture. Beautiful Indian-style **wats**, or temples, and Chinese-style pagodas are found throughout the region. Some of the greatest ancient structures were built of stone, which was scarce. The temples were often partly coated with a thin, gleaming layer of gold. One of the most famous Hindu temples is Angkor Wat in Cambodia, built by a Khmer king more than 800 years ago. The numerous stone buildings of the temple housed priests as well as libraries. The walls are covered with carvings that described Hindu epics and legends.

Around A.D. 800, a well-known Buddhist shrine called Borobudur was built on the Indonesian island of Java. To build the shrine, 2

million cubic feet (56,000 cu. m) of stone were taken from a riverbed. The stones were carved and decorated with scenes depicting Buddhist beliefs. In the shrine are about 500 smaller shrines, each with a seated Buddha. The hand gestures of each Buddha vary to show different moods. In the city of Pagan, Myanmar, more than 3,000 Buddhist monasteries were built.

## Crafts

The rich cultures of Southeast Asia have produced many fine crafts. The people of Myanmar and Vietnam produce fine lacquerware. Boxes, trays, dishes, and furniture are covered with many layers of resin from Asian sumac trees. Colored powders are used to paint the lacquerware.

The Indonesians and Malaysians make beautiful patterns on cloth by a method known as **batik**. Wax or rice paste is placed on cloth to resist dyes. The cloth is then dyed, and a pattern is formed by the dye's reaching only the uncovered parts of the cloth. Finally, the cloth is boiled to remove the wax.

In the Philippines a delicate cloth is made from pineapple fibers. Throughout Southeast Asia the weaving of palm leaves, bamboo, and other plants produce many goods—such as baskets, mats, and hats—for everyday use.

## Literature

Early literature in Southeast Asia consisted of oral folktales and legends. Indian literature had a great influence on the development of



local writings. Today these writings have a distinct character of their own. For example a well-known story from Java, called “Arjunavivaha,” tells about the life of a Javanese king. This story comes from a similar tale about an Indian thinker.

In recent times writers of Southeast Asia have been heavily influenced by non-Asian writing. Some writers, however, have worked to translate classic Southeast Asian literature into modern language that can be read and understood by more people.

## Music, Dance, and Drama

Traditional folk, religious, and court music remain strong throughout Southeast Asia. Music, dance, and drama are combined to describe legends or historical events. Dancers perform formal traditional dances that often have religious themes. Mostly percussion instruments, such as gongs, drums, and instruments similar to the xylophone are used.

Puppet plays are popular in many parts of Southeast Asia. These plays use local and reli-

gious characters to perform tales. Sometimes a human dancer who imitates a puppet’s movements performs the play.

## REGION

# Lifestyles

Despite the recent growth of large urban centers, most Southeast Asians are farmers who live in small villages. A typical village has about 25 or 30 houses made of bamboo or wood. These houses have tiled, corrugated iron, or tin roofs to keep out the heavy rains that are typical of Southeast Asia. In coastal lowlands the houses are often built on raised platforms supported by wooden poles for protection from insects, animals, and flooding. In some rural areas of Indonesia and Malaysia, the people live in **longhouses**—buildings that house up to 100 people who are usually from several related, or extended, families. In general rural homes lack running water, electricity, and other services found in cities.

Most people in the cities live in traditional houses built of brick or wood. Many people still live in poor conditions, but governments are building housing projects to improve this situation. Some people in the cities live in new high-rise apartments or in single-family houses.

## Varieties of Food and Clothing

Most people in Southeast Asia live on the food they raise themselves. Rice is the staple, usually served with fish, chicken, or vegetables. Various countries have their own specialties. Some use curry and other spices; some cook in coconut milk and oil. Tea, coffee, and coconut-milk drinks are the region’s most popular beverages. Religion also plays an important role in the diet of many Southeast Asians. Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus must obey the different dietary laws of their religions prescribing specific meat they can eat and periods of fasting.

Rural dwellers wear traditional clothing, which often includes loose-fitting shirts and



## Geographic Themes

**Place: Bangkok, Thailand**

Thai classical dancers wear elaborate costumes as they act out traditional stories and religious themes. *What kinds of musical instruments are played in Southeast Asia?*



skirts or pants necessary because of the hot climate. In many of the cities people prefer to dress in Western styles.

## Health and Education

Since achieving their independence, many Southeast Asian countries have enjoyed an improved quality of life. Independence has brought industrialization. Per capita incomes in many areas have risen. Life expectancy and infant survival rates have also increased. The general levels of health in Southeast Asia still vary widely, with Singapore having the best overall health conditions. In Laos and Cambodia, life expectancy is only 53 years as compared to 77 years in Singapore.

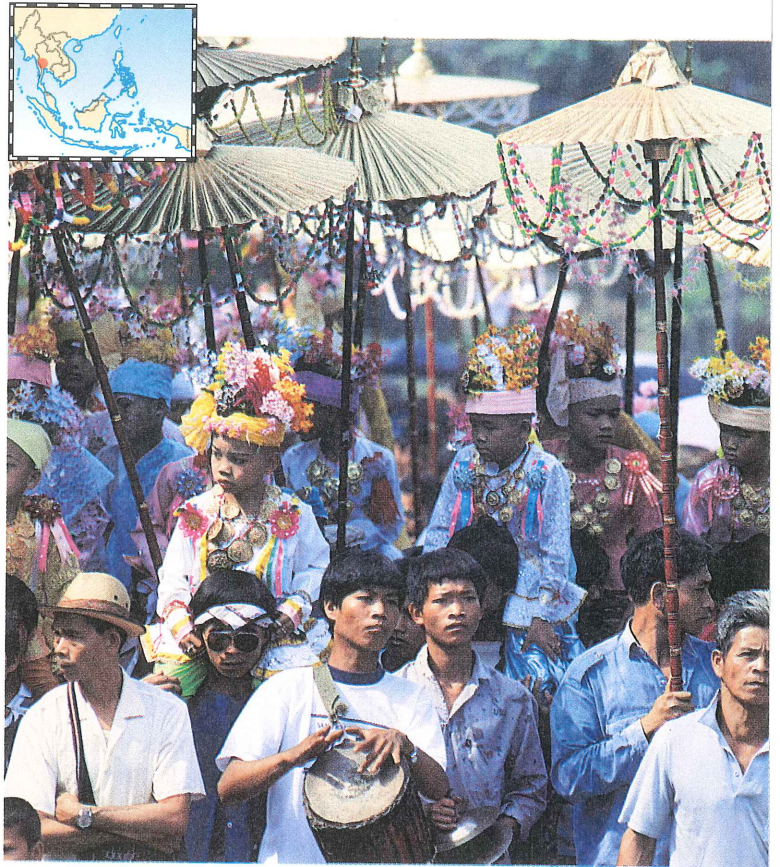
Since 1945 literacy has increased dramatically in the region although education is still limited. Governments continue efforts to make education available to everyone. The average number of years of schooling range from 2 in Cambodia to 8 in Brunei. Thailand has the highest literacy rate in the region (94 percent), while Laos has the lowest (57 percent).

## Recreation and Celebration

Southeast Asians enjoy a variety of activities in their leisure time. They sometimes mix their social pleasures with daily chores. In large cities, such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, and Singapore, people visit libraries, museums, theaters, parks, restaurants, and nightclubs. In rural areas, visiting neighbors is enjoyed.

People throughout Southeast Asia enjoy sports, such as soccer, basketball, and badminton. Indonesia has produced some world-class badminton players. Traditional sports and pastimes are also popular. The Indonesians practice a combination of dancing and self-defense known as *silat*. The Thai enjoy a form of boxing in which boxers use both feet and hands.

Many public holidays are celebrated and include Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian religious holidays. New Year's Day is also an important holiday throughout Southeast Asia.



### Geographic Themes

#### Place: Thailand

Rural and urban Southeast Asians alike celebrate festivals that include parades and processions. What religions influence celebrations and holidays in Southeast Asia?

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** wat, batik, longhouse.
- 2. Locating Places** Where is the temple of Borobudur located?
- 3. Movement** What country outside Southeast Asia had the most influence on the architecture, literature, dance, and drama in the region?
- 4. Region** What are three recreational activities enjoyed by Southeast Asians?

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Making Comparisons** How does housing and clothing in rural areas of Southeast Asia compare with housing and clothing in urban areas?

# STUDY AND WRITING SKILLS

## Interpreting Primary Sources

If you witness a fire in your neighborhood and write a letter describing this event, you are a **primary source**.


### REVIEWING THE SKILL

**Primary sources** are firsthand or eyewitness accounts of events. These include letters, journals, oral histories, interviews, autobiographies, and photographs. As primary sources, people recount events in their own words, describing details and personal reactions. By making events seem real, primary sources enable us to feel the impact of events on individuals.

When interpreting primary sources, use the following steps:

- Identify the speaker and the speaker's relation to the events described.
- Identify when and where the events took place and when the account was written. If the account was written years later, the speaker may have forgotten some details.
- Separate facts from the speaker's emotions, opinions, and biases.
- Determine what kind of information the document provides and what questions are left unanswered.

### PRACTICING THE SKILL

 In the following interview, a Vietnamese student explains why and how he became involved in the resistance movement. After reading the account, answer the questions that follow.



*In September 1961 I enrolled in the school of science at Saigon University. . . . I started my studies in Saigon with the same enthusiasm I had before. . . . But even though I was so involved in my studies, I was also learning other things in Saigon. I started to come alive politically. I started with a critical view of Ngo Dinh Diem's government because of the arrests and religious favoritism that I knew about in my home province. Now I saw that Saigon had two faces. In one way it was exactly the rich fairyland I had dreamed about, a city of magnificent buildings, luxurious cars, and wealth. But it was also a place where people lived in the most miserable shanties, or just out on the street. Beggars were all over the place. . . .*

*The summer of 1963 was when the conflict between Catholics and Buddhists was most intense. . . . One day . . . I went down to Hai Duc [a Buddhist temple] with a friend of mine. . . . I thought maybe there would be some demonstrations or speeches. . . . But when we got there, nothing was going on. . . . We turned around to leave. Just as we did, three men grabbed us and threw us into a car. . . . It took only a couple of minutes to get to the police station. They searched me and took my wallet and ID. Then they shoved me into a cell by myself.<sup>1</sup>*

1. When and where did these events take place?
2. How did the speaker's observations of Saigon affect his political views?
3. From this account, what conclusions can you draw about the political system in Vietnam in the early 1960s?

For additional practice in interpreting primary sources, see **Practicing Skills** on page 626 of the **Chapter 30 Assessment**.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Interview with Nguyen Cong Hoan, *Portrait of the Enemy*, David Chanoff and Doan Van Toai. Random House, New York, 1986, pp. 17–18.

**1**

SECTION

**Population Patterns**

KEY TERMS

arable land (p. 612)  
primate city (p. 613)

SUMMARY

- The population of Southeast Asia is growing rapidly.
- Although most of Southeast Asia is rural, the number of large, densely populated cities in the region is growing.



Town on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia

**2**

SECTION

**History and Government**

KEY TERMS

maritime (p. 615)  
indigenous (p. 615)  
sphere of influence (p. 615)

SUMMARY

- Early in its history, Southeast Asia became a zone of contact between East Asia and South Asia.
- All Southeast Asian countries except Thailand were colonized by foreign powers and are now independent.
- The forms of government in Southeast Asia today include constitutional monarchies, republics, and socialist republics.



Ruins of Angkor Wat, Cambodia

**3**

SECTION

**Cultures and Lifestyles**

KEY TERMS

wat (p. 621)  
batik (p. 621)  
longhouse (p. 622)

SUMMARY

- Culture in Southeast Asia reflects earlier migrations by people from other regions as well as regional folk traditions.
- Among the major religions, Buddhism and Hinduism have greatly influenced Southeast Asian art, architecture, drama, and celebrations.
- In spite of rapid population growth, economic development has led to many improvements and brought many challenges.



Festival procession, Thailand





## Reviewing Key Terms

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| arable land (p. 612)  | spheres of influence (p. 615) |
| primate city (p. 613) | wats (p. 621)                 |
| maritime (p. 615)     | batik (p. 621)                |
| indigenous (p. 615)   | longhouses (p. 622)           |

### SECTION 1

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a country's capital as well as its largest city and industrial center.
2. An area suitable for the growing of crops is called \_\_\_\_\_.

### SECTION 2

3. Colonial powers in Southeast Asia established \_\_\_\_\_ to decide who had power in a certain area.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ people are native to the place in which they live.
5. When the Chinese lost their land route to the West, they used a \_\_\_\_\_ route instead.

### SECTION 3

6. \_\_\_\_\_ are religious temples.
7. In some rural areas of Indonesia and Malaysia, people from several related families often live in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Some Southeast Asians make patterns on cloth using a method known as \_\_\_\_\_.

## Reviewing Facts

### SECTION 1

9. What geographic areas in Southeast Asia are the most populous?
10. Which country in Southeast Asia has the largest population? The smallest?

### SECTION 2

11. What was the first foreign influence to reach Southeast Asia?
12. Which Southeast Asian country avoided becoming a colony?

### SECTION 3

13. What is the predominant religion in the Indochina Peninsula?
14. What are some of the distinctive crafts created by the region's peoples?

## Critical Thinking

15. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the island of Java has a high population density?
16. **Analyzing Information** Why would huge plantations make it hard for small farms to compete?



## Geographic Themes

17. **Movement** What factors have influenced many people in Southeast Asia to move from rural to urban areas?
18. **Movement** How did the early empires of Southeast Asia profit from trade?
19. **Place** In what ways do Southeast Asians have a better quality of life?



## Practicing Skills

### Interpreting Primary Sources

Refer to the Interpreting Primary Sources skills feature on page 624.

20. How long after these events was this account written?
21. How do you think the speaker's opinions have affected his account of these events?
22. What kind of information is provided in this account?

## Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the cultural geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 590–591.

23. What Southeast Asian nation was once under American rule?
24. What ethnic group controls most of Malaysia's businesses?

**Projects**

**Individual Activity**

You have learned about elements of the culture of Southeast Asia. Find an example of Southeast Asian culture, such as a painting or a piece of literature from the region, or record someone from Southeast Asia speaking his or her native language. Introduce your find to the rest of your class.

**Cooperative Learning Activity**

Working in a group of four, think about ways in which other cultures have influenced the cultures of Southeast Asia. Then reread the section in the text as well as other reference books and make a list of the evidence. Share your response with other groups and have them share their findings.

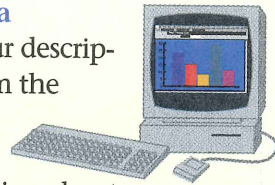
**Writing About Geography**

**Narration** Find a book on Borobudur or Angkor Wat. Imagine that you are the first person to “find” one of these “lost” wonders of the world. Write a vivid description in your journal sharing your first impressions.

**Technology Activity**

**Developing Multimedia**

**Presentations** Use your descriptions of Angkor Wat from the *Writing About Geography* activity above, or search the Internet for information about this “temple of the capital.” Then, using multimedia tools, create a presentation about the elaborate temple and encircling three-mile moat built by the Khmer ruler Suryavarman II. Incorporate images from the Internet in your presentation. Cite all electronic resources used.



**Locating Places**

**SOUTHEAST ASIA: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY**

Match the letters on the map with the places and physical features of Southeast Asia. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Cambodia          | 6. Manila           |
| 2. Bangkok           | 7. Sumatra          |
| 3. Hanoi             | 8. Java             |
| 4. Strait of Malacca | 9. Indian Ocean     |
| 5. Gulf of Thailand  | 10. South China Sea |

