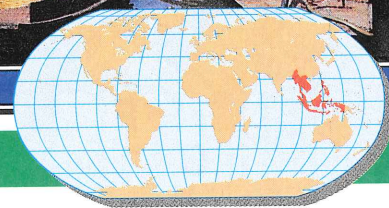
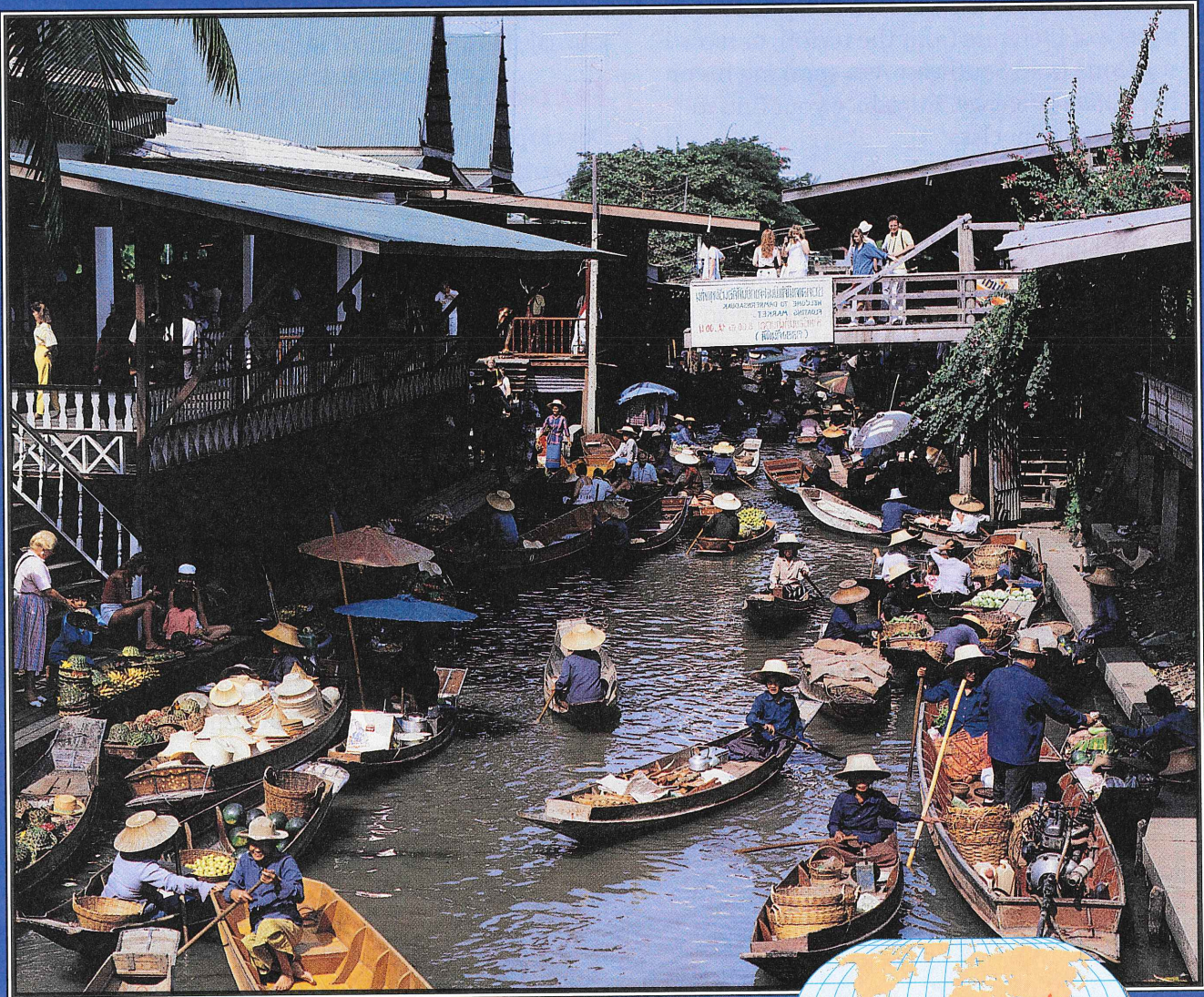


# Southeast Asia Today



## CHAPTER FOCUS

### Geographic Setting

Southeast Asia contains a rich variety of natural resources. The people of the region, however, face many environmental challenges as they develop industrialized economies.

▲ **Photograph:** Floating market in Bangkok, Thailand



### Geographic Themes

#### Section 1 Living in Southeast Asia

**HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** Agriculture is an important part of the economies of Southeast Asia. In addition, about half of the countries depend on expanding industry for economic growth.

#### Section 2 People and Their Environment

**REGION** Environmental hazards such as typhoons, volcanoes, earthquakes, and floods often disrupt daily life and economic productivity in Southeast Asia. Air and water pollution are also affecting the quality of urban life in the region.



# Living in Southeast Asia

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Discover . . .

- the importance of rice cultivation in Southeast Asia.
- how Southeast Asian countries are industrializing their economies.
- the ways in which the countries of Southeast Asia are interdependent.

### Key Terms

- sickle
- cash crop
- interdependent
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- free port

### Identify and Locate

Strait of Malacca, Manila, Chao Phraya River, Bangkok, Mekong River, Jakarta

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

I am helping my father in his business. Due to heavy foreign investment by Americans, Europeans, and Japanese, Malaysia has enjoyed prosperity. Recent economic troubles, however, have brought hard times. My father has had to lay off workers.

Chee Ng



**C**hee Ng lives in Malaysia, a Southeast Asian country rich in natural resources. Despite recent economic troubles, Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries are developing at varying rates. Most of Southeast Asia's workforce is employed in agriculture. Manufacturing and commerce, however, are important factors in the economies of about half of the region's countries.

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## Agriculture

**R**ice farming is the most important agricultural activity in the region. More than 50 percent of the farmland in Southeast Asia is used for growing rice.

## Rice Cultivation

Rice grows well in Southeast Asia because most of the region has fertile soil, an abundant water supply, and a warm, wet climate. In addition to providing a major source of food, rice has long been an important export of Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. Rice is also a major crop in Indonesia. For the most part, farmers in Southeast Asia do not use modern machinery. They plant and harvest their crops by hand or with simple hand tools, such as sickles—sharp, curved knives. Water buffalo or oxen are used to plow the fields.

Rice needs an abundance of water to grow. Rains provide sufficient water for growing rice in parts of the Philippines and in the Irrawaddy River delta in Myanmar. Seasonal flooding





### Geographic Themes

#### Place: Bali, Indonesia

The island of Bali is known for its beautiful scenery, elaborate temples, and fertile soil. *What major crop is grown in Indonesia and other countries of Southeast Asia?*

of the Chao Phraya and Mekong rivers irrigates rice fields in parts of Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam. Rice is planted at the beginning of the rainy season in May and is ready for harvest in October. During the dry season, a second rice crop can be grown by irrigating rice fields with water stored from the rains and the flooding river.

### Other Crops

Southeast Asian nations also grow edible roots, such as cassavas and yams, and bananas. Many people in Southeast Asia have small garden plots that produce a variety of fruits and vegetables, and they also raise pigs and poultry for food.

Plantations in the coastal lowlands provide many of the region's **cash crops**—crops raised to be sold. Sugar cane is grown on Java and in the Philippines. Rubber, brought to the region from South America less than 100 years ago, is an important cash crop. Malaysia is the world's leading natural-rubber producer. Other regional cash crops are coconuts, coffee, palm oil, and spices.

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## Forestry and Mining

**F**orestry is an important industry in Southeast Asian countries. Myanmar leads the world in teakwood exports. Lumber and products made from teak, ebony, mahogany, and bamboo are important to the economies of Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand.

### Environmental Protection

Logging, however, has often led to serious deforestation and environmental damage. In recent years, some countries have taken steps to limit the exploitation of the forests. The governments of Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia have passed laws to limit certain timber exports, but these restrictions are often not adequately enforced.

### Oil and Mining

Oil extraction and mining are important to Southeast Asian economies. Brunei has become rich from its oil industry. Crude oil,





natural gas, and petroleum products account for 95 percent of Brunei's export income. One of the world's largest natural gas plants is found in Brunei.

Indonesia is the largest producer of petroleum in the region and is one of the top 10 producers in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Economic development has been spurred by the building of pipelines to carry oil from drilling sites to the

coasts for shipment. Pipelines have been built on the islands of Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and New Guinea.

Tin mining is a major industry in Southeast Asia. Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia are three of the world's leading tin producers. Iron ore is also important in Malaysia and in the Philippines. Manganese, an important mineral for strengthening steel, is found in the Philippines and in Indonesia. Tungsten,





# MAP & GRAPH SKILLS

## Understanding Time Zones

The earth revolves  $360^\circ$  in 24 hours; therefore, when it is day on one side, it is night on the other. To clarify time relationships, the earth's surface has been divided into 24 international time zones.

### REVIEWING THE SKILL

Each zone represents  $15^\circ$  longitude, or the distance the earth rotates in 1 hour. The base time zone, called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), is set at the Prime Meridian ( $0^\circ$ ). Traveling west from Greenwich, it becomes 1 hour earlier; traveling east, it becomes 1 hour later. The international date line is set at the  $180^\circ$  meridian. Traveling west across this imaginary line, you add a day; traveling east, you subtract a day. Use the following steps to determine time zones:

- Choose a place for which you already know the time and locate it on the map.
- Locate the place for which you wish to know the time, and determine if it is east or west of the first place.
- Count the time zones between the two places.

- Calculate the time by either adding or subtracting an hour for each time zone.
- Determine whether you have crossed the date line, and identify the day of the week.

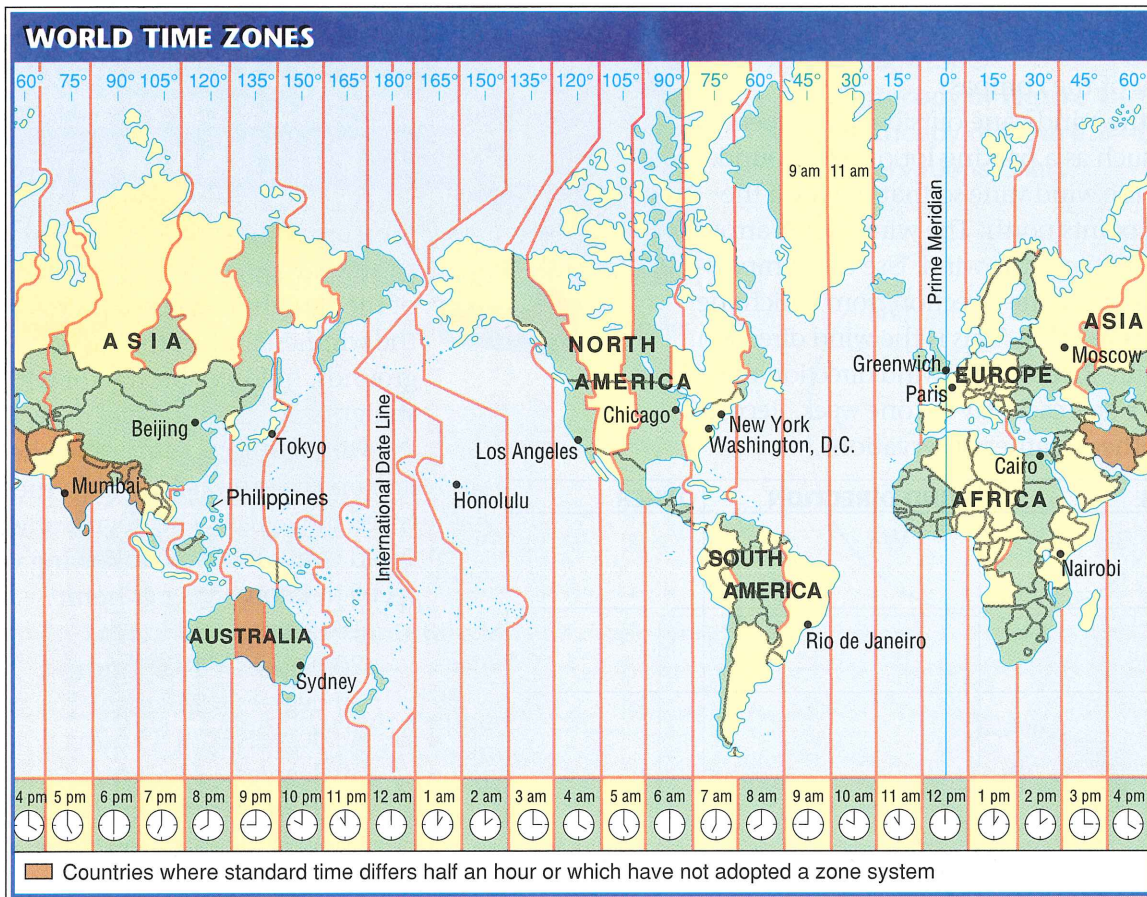
### PRACTICING THE SKILL



Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. If it is 4 P.M. in Honolulu, what time is it in Rio de Janeiro?
2. If it is 10:00 A.M. in Tokyo on Tuesday, what day and time is it in Moscow? In Washington, D.C.?
3. How many time zones does Southeast Asia have?

For additional practice in understanding time zones, see Practicing Skills on page 642 of the Chapter 31 Assessment.





**1**

**SECTION**

**Living in Southeast Asia**

**KEY TERMS**

sickle (p. 629)  
cash crop (p. 630)  
interdependent (p. 632)  
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (p. 633)  
free port (p. 633)

**SUMMARY**

- Agriculture is the basis for most of the economies of Southeast Asia. The major crops are rice, sugar cane, rubber, coffee, and coconuts.
- The lush forests of Southeast Asia yield many wood products; mining has also been important to the economies of the region.
- In recent years manufacturing has become increasingly important, and many new industries have developed in Southeast Asia.
- The main form of transportation in Southeast Asia is by water. Land transportation is less developed.



Indonesian farmer with water buffalo

**2**

**SECTION**

**People and Their Environment**

**KEY TERMS**

cyclone (p. 636)  
typhoon (p. 636)

**SUMMARY**

- Industrialization, urbanization, and rapid population increases have brought environmental pollution to many urban and rural areas in Southeast Asia.
- Because they live within the Ring of Fire, large numbers of Southeast Asians are surrounded by volcanoes, many of them active.
- Each year, flash floods destroy lives and crops in Southeast Asia.
- Typhoons are dangerous storms that occur in Southeast Asia between July and October.



Busy expressway in Bangkok, 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.

- sickles (p. 629)
- cash crops (p. 630)
- interdependent (p. 632)
- free port (p. 633)
- cyclone (p. 636)
- typhoon (p. 636)

### SECTION 1

1. Some Southeast Asian countries have become more \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of regional development and trade organizations.
2. Southeast Asian farmers harvest their crops with simple hand tools, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Singapore is a leading center of trade in Southeast Asia.
4. Rubber, coconuts, palm oil, and spices are \_\_\_\_\_ exported from Southeast Asia.

### SECTION 2

5. The term \_\_\_\_\_ means "coil."
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a tropical storm located in the Pacific area.

## Reviewing Facts

### SECTION 1

7. What is the most important agricultural product in Southeast Asia?
8. What factors have led to Singapore's development as an important port and manufacturing center?
9. What is a major goal of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

### SECTION 2

10. What impact did the eruption of Mount Pinatubo have on the Philippines?
11. Why is Bangkok's flooding problem getting worse?

12. How do Asian meteorologists designate different typhoons?

## Critical Thinking

13. **Predicting Consequences** Brunei reportedly has enough oil reserves to last until 2018. What might happen to other economies in the region if Brunei's oil runs out?
14. **Analyzing Information** How does living within the Ring of Fire affect daily life for many Southeast Asians?



## Geographic Themes

15. **Region** What change came to industrializing economies in Southeast Asia after the mid-1990s?
16. **Human/Environment Interaction** What have humans done in Southeast Asia that increases the danger and damages from flooding?



## Practicing Skills

### Understanding Time Zones

Refer to the Understanding Time Zones skills feature on page 640.

If you take a noon flight from New York to Paris, what time will it be in Paris when you land six hours later?

### Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the physical geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 592–593.

17. What natural resources have brought wealth to Brunei?
18. What environmental factor accounts for the fertile soil in Indonesia?



**Projects**

**Individual Activity**

You have learned about some environmental hazards in Southeast Asia. Research one type of hazard (such as volcanoes or typhoons) and write a brief report telling what the dangers are and what is being done to safeguard people and property.

**Cooperative Learning Activity**

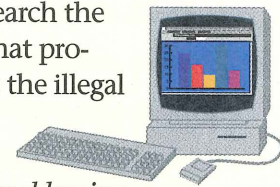
Work in groups of four with each student representing one of the following countries: Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Singapore. Organize a presentation for the United Nations on whether or not Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam should be allowed to join ASEAN. Think about why it would be advantageous or a problem for your country.

**Writing About Geography**

**Classification** Using your journal record as a reference, think about several ways to divide the environmental problems of Southeast Asia into groups or categories. Then write a short essay explaining and defending your classification system. Tell why the way you have grouped the environmental problems is useful or instructive.

**Technology Activity**

**Using the Internet** Search the Internet for a Web site that provides information about the illegal teak logging industry in Thailand. Type words such as *teak*, *thailand*, *illegal logging* into a search engine to help focus your search. Write a report based on your findings.

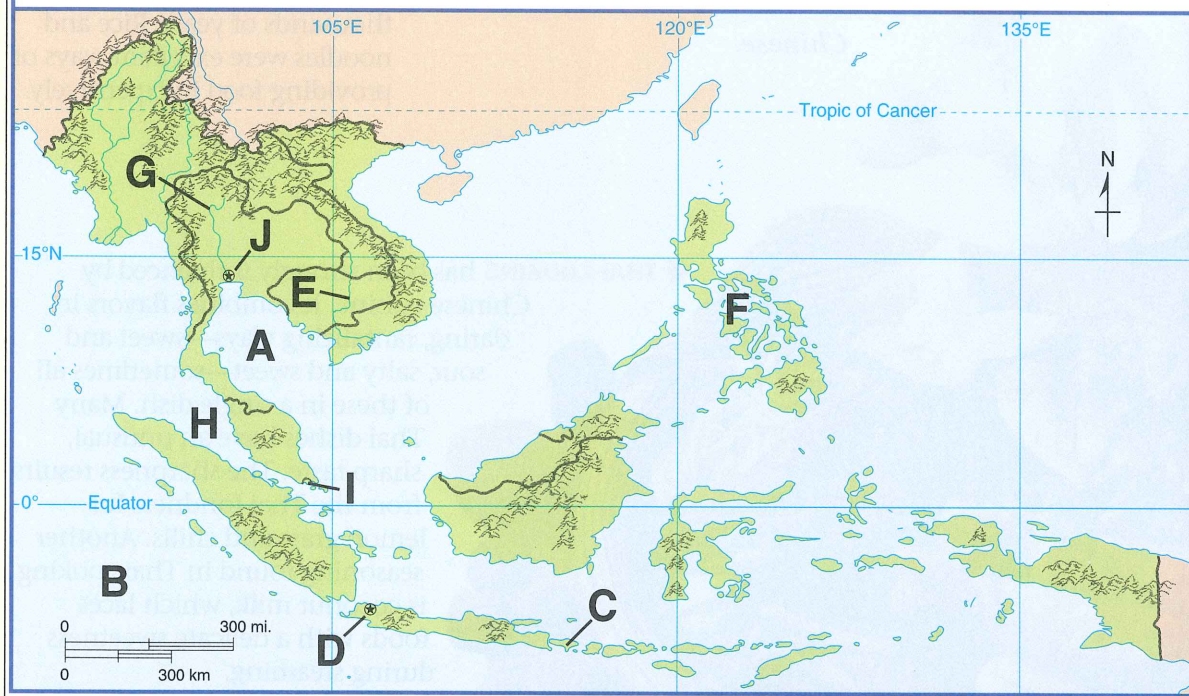


**Locating Places**

**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. Bangkok     | 6. Strait of Malacca  |
| 2. Philippines | 7. Mekong River       |
| 3. Singapore   | 8. Gulf of Thailand   |
| 4. Bali        | 9. Indian Ocean       |
| 5. Jakarta     | 10. Chao Phraya River |





## *Southeast Asia and the United States*

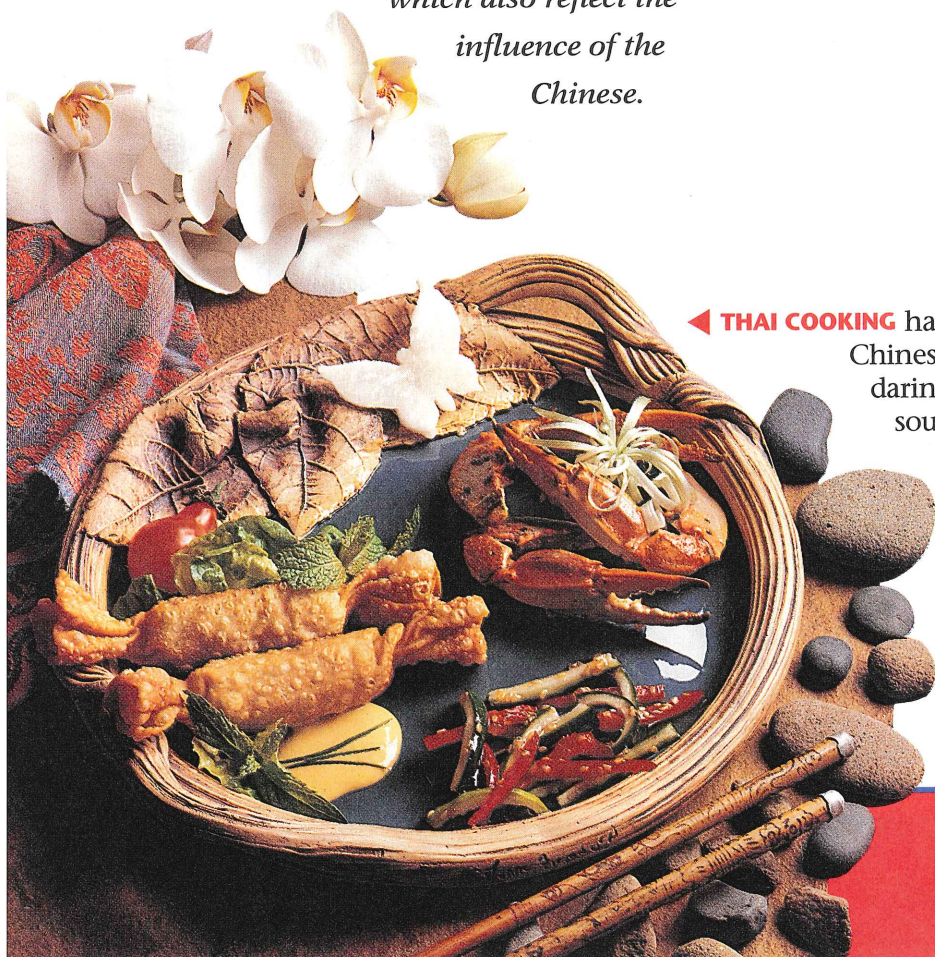
### **SOUTHEAST ASIAN DINING**

**I**n the 1840s many Chinese people emigrated to Southeast Asian countries, where Chinese influence was already strong. Other Chinese emigrants went to the United States, taking their unique foods and cooking methods. These have become as popular as New England Yankee pot roast and apple pie.

Since the 1960s immigrants and refugees from Thailand and Vietnam have made the United States their home. They, too, have brought their cuisines, which also reflect the influence of the Chinese.

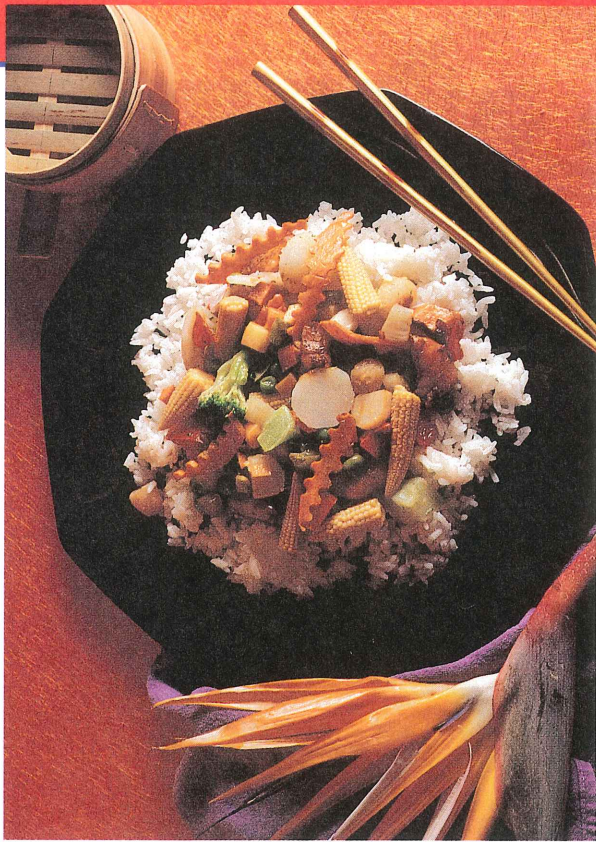
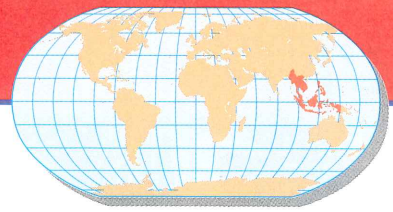


▲ **RICE OR NOODLES** is the most basic ingredient in Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese cooking. Rice has been a staple food in Southeast Asia and China for thousands of years. Rice and noodles were excellent ways of providing food inexpensively.



◀ **THAI COOKING** has been strongly influenced by Chinese cuisine. It combines flavors in daring, tantalizing ways—sweet and sour, salty and sweet—sometimes all of these in a single dish. Many Thai dishes have an unusual, sharp taste. The sharpness results from the Thai fondness for lemon grass and chilis. Another seasoning found in Thai cooking is coconut milk, which laces foods with a delicate sweetness during steaming.



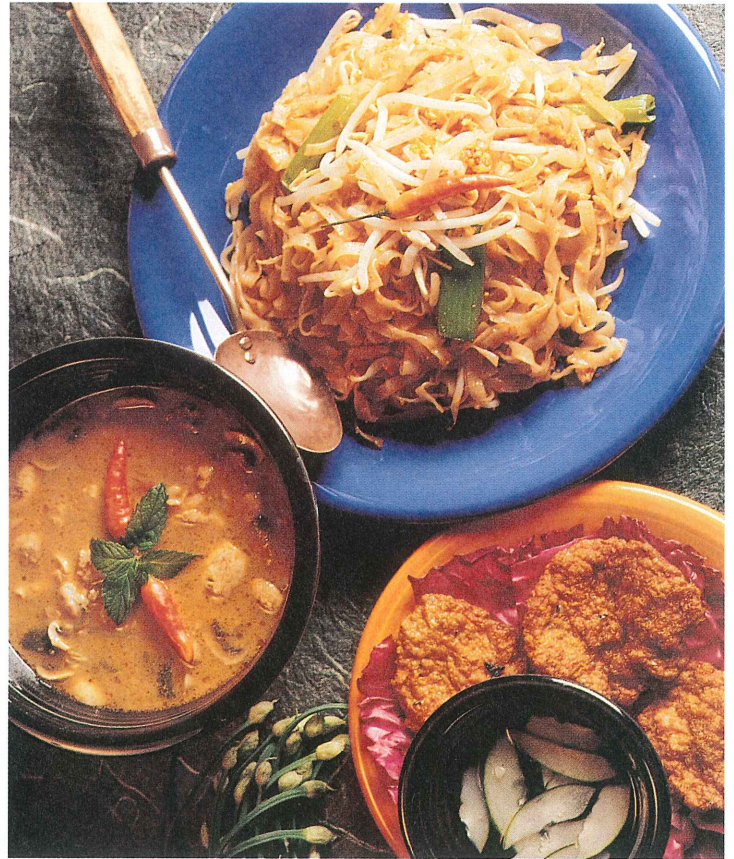


◀ **THE CANTONESE STYLE** of Chinese food is familiar to most Americans, because most of the Chinese who emigrated to the United States came from the southern Chinese city of Canton, now known as Guangzhou. Chinese cooking is also popular in urban centers of Southeast Asia that have large Chinese communities.

**VIETNAMESE FOOD** ▶

reflects a number of influences, the strongest of which is Chinese. Vietnamese dishes can be spicy, although not so hot as Thai. Also, many dishes often seem like salads to Americans because they are served with large platters of lettuces, fresh herbs, and raw vegetables, such as beans, sprouts, carrots, and cucumbers.

▼ **FISH** is a favorite item on Vietnamese and Thai menus. A standard Vietnamese dish is *nuoc mam*, a clear, salty golden sauce made from fish or shrimp. Thai and Vietnamese dinners may also include other fish dishes, such as eel soup, seafood pancakes, and grilled shrimp balls.



**Checking for Understanding**

1. Why are Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese cuisines similar?
2. **Movement** Which Southeast Asian cuisine would best fit into your daily diet? Why?

