

Physical Geography of SE Asia



World Geography Unit 12, Lesson 01

Archipelago

• A group of islands.



Cordilleras

Parallel mountain ranges and plateaus, that extend into the Indochina Peninsula.

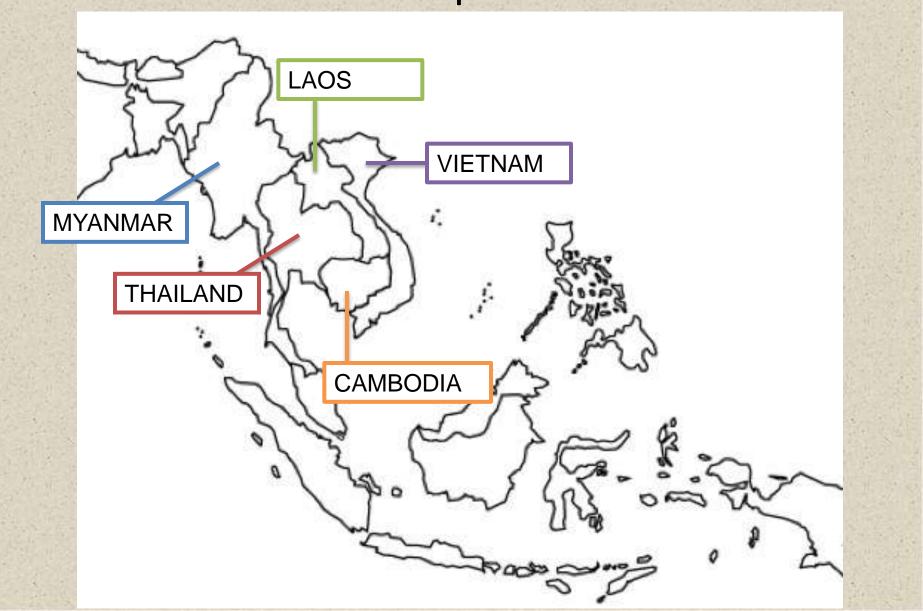




Living on the Mainland

- Mainland countries include Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos
- Laos is a landlocked country
- The landscape is characterized by mountains, rivers, river deltas, and plains
- The climate includes tropical and mild
- The monsoon creates a dry and rainy season

Identify the mainland countries on your map.



Human Settlement on the Mainland

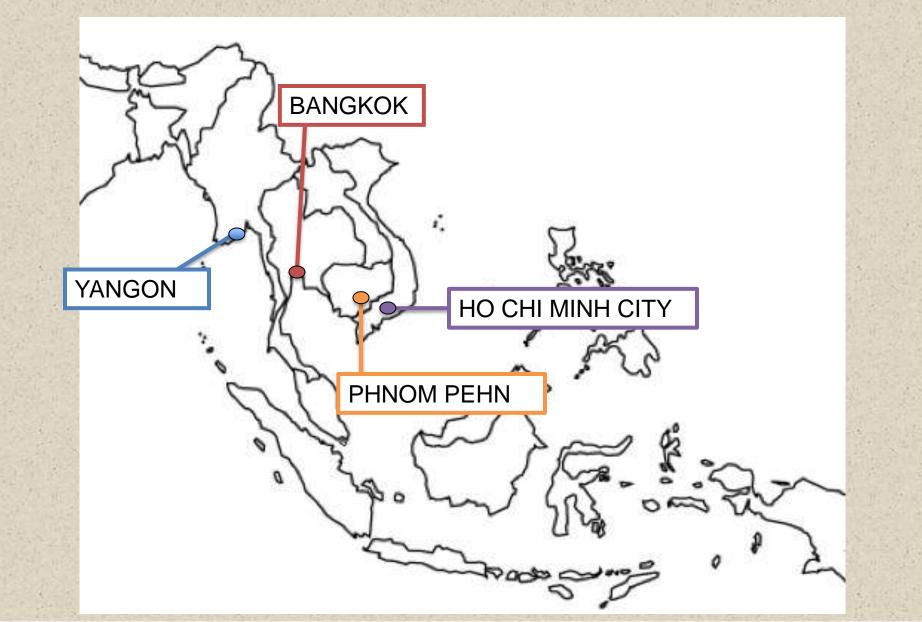
- People rely on the rivers that begin in the mountains as a source of water for drinking, transportation, and irrigation
- Many people live in small villages
- The river deltas create dense population centers
- River create rich deposits of sediment that settle along central plains

Major Cities on the Mainland

- Myanmar- Yangon (Rangoon), Mandalay
- Thailand- Bangkok
- Vietnam- Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
- Cambodia- Phnom Penh



Label the major cities on your map



Chao Phraya River

Flows into the Gulf of Thailand, Bangkok is located along the river's delta





Irrawaddy River

Located in Myanmar, Rangoon located along the river



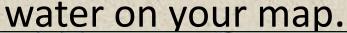
Mekong River

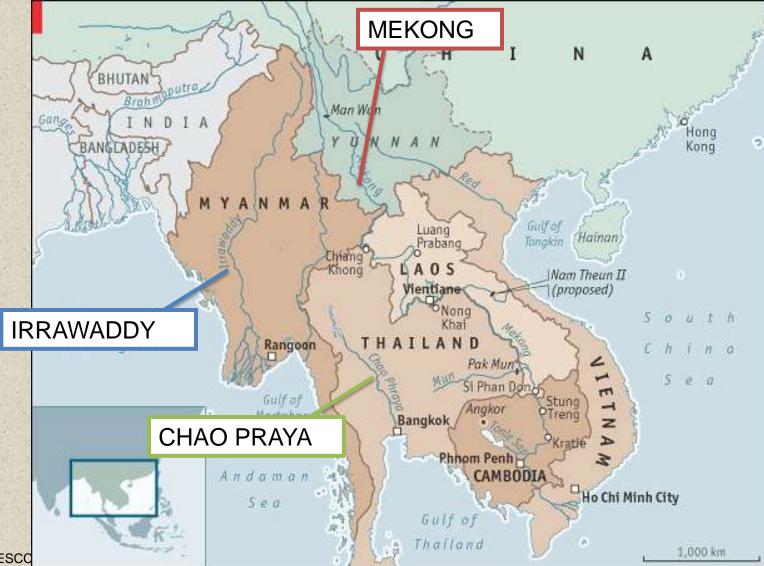
 Longest river in the region, forms part of the borders of Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand, empties into the South China Sea in Vietnam





Label the important rivers and the bodies of



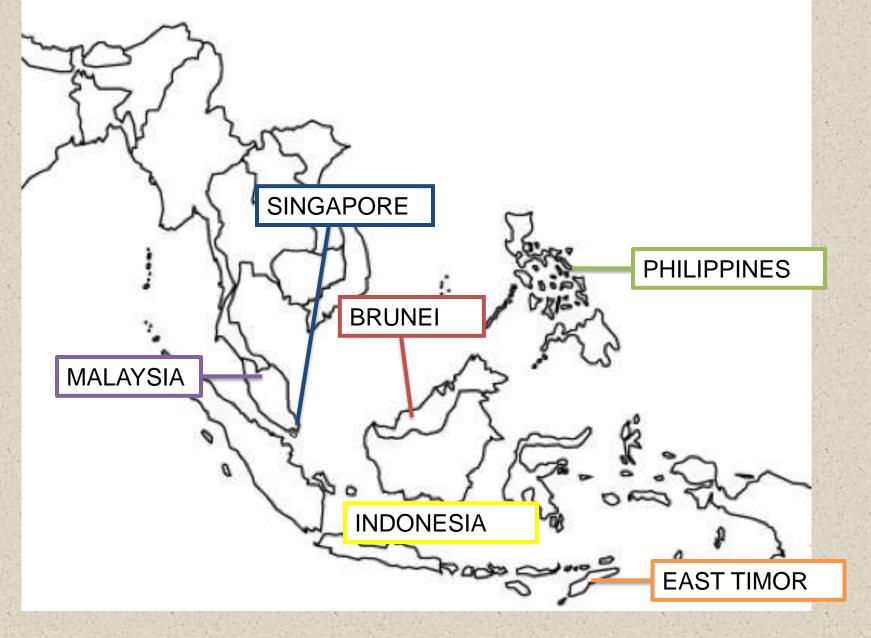


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Living on the Islands

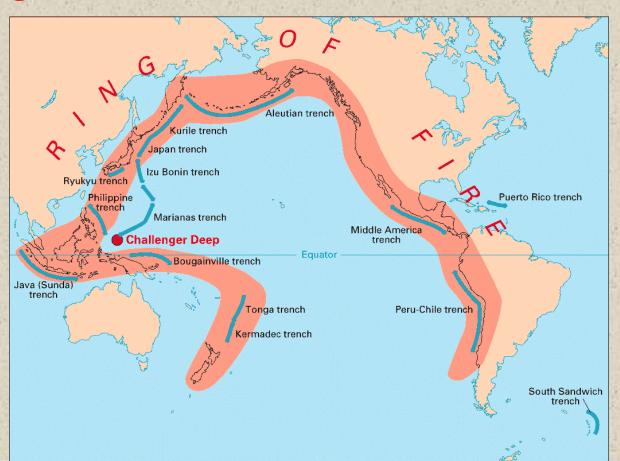
- The island nations are fragmented
- Nations are on islands are made up of island groups.
- Nations include Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, East Timor, Malaysia
- Islands are characterized by volcanic mountains (dormant and active)

Identify the island nations on your map.



Ring of Fire

 An area of seismic (earthquake) and volcanic activity located along the eastern edge of Asia along the Pacific Plate boundaries.



Label the Ring of Fire on your map.



Tsunamis

Undersea earthquakes can cause tsunamis.
This natural force is common in the region as a result of plate movement.





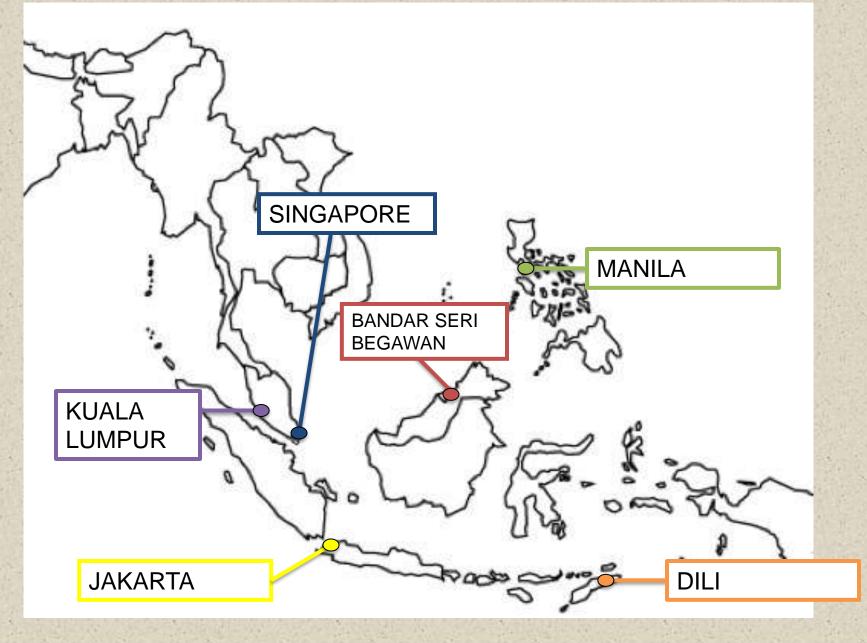
Smokey crater on the island of Java



Population clusters on the islands

- Java is the most populated island in Indonesia- more than half of the total population lives on the island.
- The greatest population centers in the Philippines live on the lowland plains. Manila, the capital city is heavily populated.

Label population centers of the islands on your map.



Singapore Discussion: Effects of geographic location

Location

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Located off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula



 How does the location of Singapore contribute to its economic growth?

Population Clusters

Examine a population density map of Southeast Asia. [Students may refer to a student atlas or textbook]

Place an X on population clusters in Southeast Asia.



Resources on the Mainland and Islands

- Fertile soils allows bountiful rice and tea fields in the plains
- Climate in some areas provides for year round farming
- Farming along rivers and coastlines
- Commercial Fishing
- Subsistence farming and fishing in rural areas
- Mineral resources include petroleum, tin, and gems
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Fish caught along the Mekong River



The Mekong River in Southeast Asia travels through a basin rich in natural resources. The river originates on the northern slope of the world's tallest mountains, the Himalaya Range, and then drops elevation quickly through steep mountain gorges, tumbling out of China into Myanmar (Burma) and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The precipitous terrain of Lao PDR and Thailand generates interest in the river and its tributaries for hydropower development. The terrain, soils, water, and climate make it one of the world's most biologically rich regions. The Mekong's bounty is again on display in the Mekong River Delta, where rice production has successfully been increased to high levels making Vietnam second only to Thailand as the world's largest rice exporters. At least 800 fish species contribute to the natural resource bounty of the Mekong River and are the basis for one of the world's most productive fisheries that provide the primary protein source to more than 50 million people.

Tea harvesters in Java



Fishing boats in Indonesia



Terraced rice fields in Vietnam



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Create a key (symbol) for natural resources in the region. Place symbols on your map for natural resources in the region. [Students may refer to their student atlas or textbook.]



Climate in the Region

[Students may use a student atlas or textbook.]

- Locate the Equator, draw a line that represents the Equator on your map.
- Identify the major climate regions on your map.
- Discussion: How do the climate regions affect economic activity in the region?

