

Exploring the Wonders of Asia

Learning objective: To understand the geographical diversity of the continent of Asia and identify key physical and human features.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Use your knowledge of geography to support your answers.

Finn the dolphin has been busy mapping the world's oceans, but he has recently spent time studying the vast continent of Asia. As the largest and most populous continent on Earth, Asia is incredibly diverse. It stretches from the frozen Arctic circle in the north to the tropical islands of the south. The landscape is home to the Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range, which features the famous Mount Everest. In contrast, you can also find vast deserts like the Gobi, which experiences extreme temperatures. Asia is also home to the world's largest archipelago, Indonesia, which consists of thousands of islands. Because the continent is so large, the climate varies wildly from one region to another. Some areas experience heavy monsoon rains, while others are very dry. Many people live in bustling, modern cities, while others live in rural villages nestled in the river valleys. Whether it is the busy markets or the quiet mountain peaks, Asia is a place where geography shapes every part of life.

Word bank: continent · diverse · landscape · Himalayas · population · archipelago

1. What is the name of the mountain range mentioned in the text that includes the world's highest mountain? (1 mark)

2. According to the text, what is the world's largest archipelago? (1 mark)

3. Why might the climate in Asia be described as 'diverse'? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why do you think people in Asia might live such different lifestyles? (2 marks)

5. If you were planning a trip to Asia, would you rather visit a busy city or a mountain region? Give one reason for your choice using information from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of Asia or a scene showing the contrast between a high mountain peak and a tropical island.



Extension challenge: Research one country in Asia and find out its capital city and one major physical feature, such as a river or a desert, to share with the class.