

Exploring the Vast Continent of Asia

Learning objective: To develop a deeper understanding of the diverse geographical, physical, and human features of Asia.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Think critically about how Asia's size and variety impact the people who live there.

Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent, stretching from the frozen Arctic in the north to the tropical islands of the equator. Finn the dolphin often marvels at how this vast landmass contains such dramatic contrasts. To the south, the Himalayas form a formidable mountain range, housing Mount Everest, the highest peak on Earth. In contrast, the region features expansive arid deserts, lush rainforests, and the world's largest archipelago, Indonesia. The climate is equally varied; while some areas experience extreme, dry heat, others rely on the seasonal monsoon winds to bring essential rainfall for agriculture. Human geography in Asia is just as diverse, ranging from remote, tranquil villages in the mountains to bustling, neon-lit megacities like Tokyo and Mumbai. With over four billion people, the continent is a tapestry of hundreds of languages, religions, and traditions. The rapid pace of urbanisation is transforming the landscape, as more families move to cities to find work, leaving a unique mark on the continent's ancient heritage. Understanding Asia means appreciating both its immense natural beauty and its complex, ever-changing human story.

Word bank: continent · archipelago · topography · monsoon · urbanisation · biodiversity

1. Identify two extreme physical landscapes mentioned in the text that show the variety of Asia's geography. (2 marks)

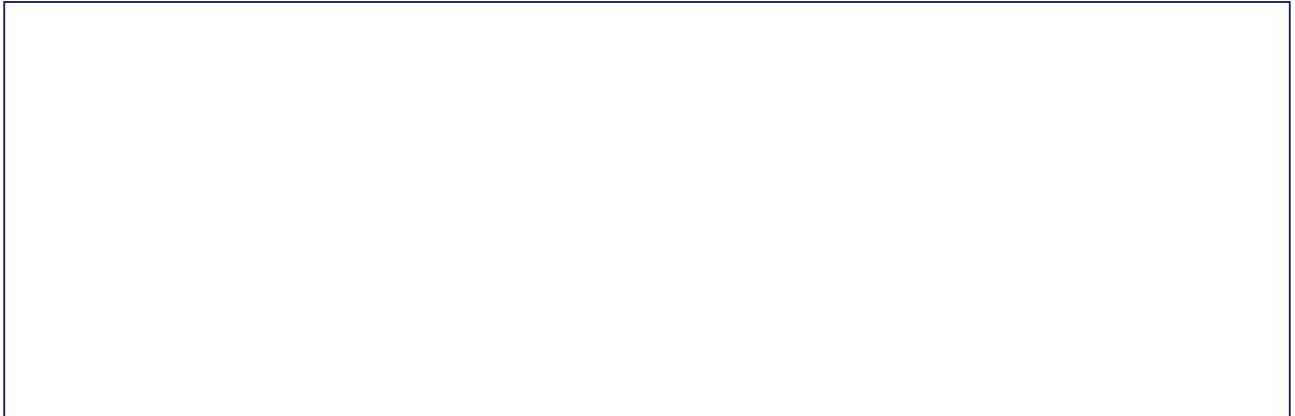
2. According to the text, why are monsoon winds considered essential for many parts of Asia? (2 marks)

3. Why might the rapid process of urbanisation cause challenges for regions that have strong ancient traditions? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of someone living in a remote mountain village with someone living in a megacity like Tokyo. Use evidence from the text. (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that Asia's large size is the most important factor in its cultural diversity? Justify your answer using your own geographical knowledge. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a map of Asia or a split-screen illustration showing the contrast between a high, snowy mountain peak and a busy, modern city street.



Extension challenge: Research a specific Asian country. Create a travel brochure entry that details one physical feature (e.g., a river or mountain) and one human feature (e.g., a city or cultural festival). Explain why a tourist should visit, justifying your choices with descriptive, persuasive language.