Discover!

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SOCIAL STUDIES

INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

The Geography of Asia

Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, your student will be able to:

- identify key physical geographic features in Asia
- describe why people may live near a physical feature found in Asia
- identify different regions of Asia on a map

Supporting Your Student

Read

It may be helpful to have a physical map of Asia available for your student to point out physical features they read about on the map. For example, as your student reads about the Himalayan Mountains, they could point to the mountains on the map. Point out that some physical features are easily found on a map because of color or texture that is used to show them. For example, mountains are often darker brown and look bumpy, while oceans and other bodies of water may be colored blue.

Write ***(Why are cities located near sources of water?)***

Assist your student in generating their response to this question by asking, "What do sources of water, like rivers, provide for humans?" Guide your student to reread the last paragraph of the Rivers and River Deltas section and highlight things sources of water can provide humans, such as fish to eat, animals to hunt, water to drink, and a way to travel.

Read ***(Regions of Asia)***

As your student reads this section of text, have them point to each region on the map and say its name aloud. Point out that this is just one way that geographers divide Asia into regions. Some geographers divide Asia into five regions instead of six, while Asia can also be divided into regions based on its climate and its physical features. For example, mountainous areas and areas with grasslands could be considered two different regions, as could climates that are dry and temperate. By grouping countries that are nearer to each other or those that may share physical, cultural, or historic characteristics together, geographers can more easily look for patterns to help make sense of the world around them.

While discussing the physical features of each region, note how some physical features span across different regions or serve as a "border" between them. For example, the Himalayas are found in both East Asia and South Asia. They form a natural border between the two areas. Historically, this physical feature made it more difficult to cross from one area to the other and could have discouraged the movement of people, goods, ideas, and customs between the two areas.

Learning Styles

Auditory learners may enjoy listening to recordings of the different languages spoken in Asia's regions.

Visual learners may enjoy watching a video about different physical features or examining pictures of river valleys, mountains, or steppes. Encourage your student to point out the similarities and differences between the physical features they are seeing.

Kinesthetic learners may enjoy contorting their bodies into the different landforms. They could make mountains, simulate rivers, and show flat grasslands by moving and stretching in different ways.

Extension Activities

Virtual Scavenger Hunt

With your student, take a trip to the library or go on a virtual scavenger hunt to gather more information about one of the physical features in Asia, such as the Eastern Steppe, Asia's rivers and river valleys, or the Himalayan Mountains. Have your student generate a list of questions they would like to know about each physical feature and then search for answers in books, magazines, and online resources.

Compare Continents

Have your student look back to the maps in previous lessons about Africa. Compare the geographic features of Africa to those of Asia. Ask your student, "What do they have in common?," "Which features are different?," and "How could these similarities and differences affect the stories of each continent?"

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Answer Key

Explore

All the cities have a river or water source near them.

(Sidebar) Answers will vary. Possible answers: People might want to live near mountains. People might not want to live near swamps.

Write *(Why are cities located near sources of water?)*

Answers will vary. Possible answers: Cities are located near sources of water because they provide humans with food, water, and transportation. People can get fish and hunt other animals that live near the water. The soil near sources of water is usually more fertile to grow crops. They can get water from rivers and streams to drink. They can use a boat to easily get from one place to another.

Write *(How are the mountains and steppes of Asia different?)*

Answers will vary. Possible answers: Mountains are very tall, while steppes are flat grasslands. Mountains are often sources of rivers, while steppes provide food for livestock.

Practice

1. river delta
2. East Asia
3. North Asia
4. steppe
5. Mount Everest

Answers will vary. Possible answer: I am near the Indian and Pacific Oceans. I have a lot of islands, and many languages are spoken in my region. I am the (Southeast Asia) region.

Show What You Know

2. B, C, E, F, G
3. Answers will vary. Possible answers: People live near rivers because rivers provide people with two of their most basic needs—water and food. People live near river deltas because they provide fertile land that makes it easy to grow crops and provide easy access to good fish to eat. People live near mountains because they provide people with opportunities for hiking or skiing and greater access to wildlife. People who live near steppes are typically nomads and are following their livestock.
4. 1) E; 2) D; 3) C; 4) B; 5) F; 6) A

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