# CONTINENT OF ASIA

## Asia – The Continent of Diversity

1. Asia is the **largest** of the continents of the world.



2. Asia has **great variety** in physical features, climate, vegetation, wildlife, and soils.

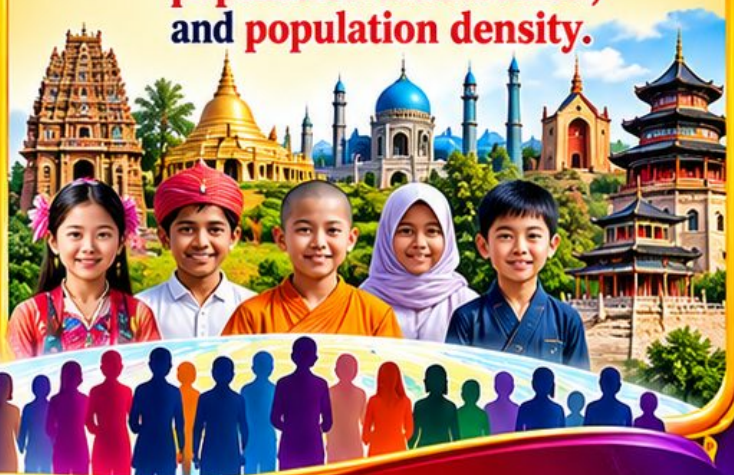




3. Physical features include **high mountains, plateaus, vast fertile plains, deserts, river systems**, and **lakes**.



4. Asia has diversity in **languages, religions, population distribution**, and **population density**.



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# LOCATION, EXTENT AND PHYSICAL SETTING OF ASIA

## Understanding Asia on the World Map




### LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE

**Latitude:** 1°16' North to 77°41' North.

**Longitude:** 26°04' East to 169°40' West.

### IMPORTANT LATITUDES

The **Equator** lies slightly south of Malaysia.

**The Tropic of Cancer** passes through India and **Arabia.**

### AREA AND HEMISPHERE

Asia's total geographical area is approximately **44 million km².**

It covers **33%** of the land surface of the world.

Asia almost wholly lies in the **Northern Hemisphere.**

### BOUNDARIES BY OCEANS AND LAND



**North**
Arctic Ocean



**East**
Pacific Ocean



**South**
Indian Ocean



**West**
Europe

### BOUNDARY BETWEEN ASIA AND EUROPE



The traditional boundary between Asia and Europe follows the Ural Mountains, Caspian Sea, Caucasus mountains and the Black Sea.

### EURASIA




**Europe & Asia together are known as 'Eurasia'.**

Eurasia

### BOUNDARY BETWEEN ASIA AND AFRICA



The boundary separating Asia and Africa is along the Suez canal.

### BOUNDARY BETWEEN ASIA AND AUSTRALIA



The boundary between Asia and Australia passes between the island of New Guinea and Australia.



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# Regional Divisions of Asia

## Five Major Regions of the Asian Continent

Today, there are **48 countries** in Asia. They are grouped into five major regional divisions.

## 1 East Asia

- China
- North Korea
- South Korea
- Japan
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Mongolia

## 2 South-East Asia

- Myanmar
- Laos
- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- Indonesia
- Brunei
- Philippines




## 4 South-West Asia

- Afghanistan
- Bahrain
- Cyprus
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Qatar
- Syria
- Palestine
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)
- Yemen
- Turkey

## 3 South Asia

- India
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Maldives

## 5 Central Asia

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Siberia (Russia)

# Major Physical Divisions of Asia

Mountains • Highlands • Plateaus • Plains • Islands

High mountain ranges are the major landforms in the physical features of Asia. It also has various plateaus, alluvial plains and cluster of islands.

## 1 The North-Western Lowlands

- Extend from the Bering Strait to the Caspian Sea.
- The vast triangular lowland is called the Siberian Plain.
- Rivers: Thelana, Ob and Yenisei.



## 2 The Central Highlands

- Mountain ranges of Central Asia stretch from Asia Minor to the Bering Strait.






## 3 The Southern Plateaus

- Include the Plateau of Arabia,
- the Deccan Plateau,
- the Yunnan Plateau and the Shan Plateau.



## 4 The Great Plains of Rivers

- Include the Tigris-Euphrates plains,
- Indo-Gangetic Plain, Irrawaddy Plain,
- Menam and Mekong plains,
- Si-Kiang plain, Chiang-Jiang (Yang-tse-Kiang) and Hwang Ho plains.



## 5 The Island Groups

- Numerous islands occur in South-East Asia and along the Pacific coast of Asia.



# Mountains, Highlands and Plateaus of Asia

Exploring Asia's Major Landforms

## 1 The Central Highlands

- The Central Highlands form the second great physical division.
- The Himalayan ranges are fold mountains extending south-west from the Pamirs.
- The Himalayas are the loftiest mountains in the world.
- Mt. Everest is the highest peak in the world.




### Mountain ranges of Central Asia

- Himalayas
- Kunlun
- Karakoram
- Tien Shan
- Altai
- Sayan
- Yablonovy
- Khingan
- Stanovoy

### Western mountain ranges

- Hindukush
- Sulaimans
- Kirthars
- Elburz
- Zagros
- Caucasus
- Pontine
- Taurus










### Plateaus of the Central Highlands

- Tibet
- Mongolia
- Iran
- Anatolia



## 2 The Southern Plateaus

- These are the old plateaus made of hard and quartz rocks.
- The most important of them are the Plateau of Arabia, the Deccan plateau, the Yunnan Plateau and the Shan Plateau.



### Plateau of Arabia



- The Plateau of Arabia is a peninsula and a dry region.

### Deccan Plateau



- The Deccan Plateau occupies a large part of the Indian peninsula.
- It lies between the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats.
- It slopes towards the east.

### Yunnan Plateau



- The Yunnan Plateau is situated to the south-west of China.

### Shan Plateau



- The Shan Plateau is a continuation of the Yunnan Plateau.

# MAJOR RIVERS AND AGRICULTURE OF ASIA

River Systems • Fertile Plains • Major Crops

## 1 Rivers flowing into the Indian Ocean

- Tigris and Euphrates
- Sindhu
- Ganga
- Brahmaputra
- Sittang
- Salween
- Irrawaddy

## 2 Rivers flowing into the Pacific Ocean

- Amur
- Hwang Ho
- Chiang Jiang (Yangtse Kiang)
- Si Kiang
- Menam
- Mekong

## 3 Rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean

- Ob
- Yenisei
- Lena




## 4 Inland Rivers

- Volga
- Ural
- Amu Darya
- Syr Darya

# AGRICULTURE OF ASIA



- Agriculture is an important occupation in Asia.



- Fertile soil and water supply through irrigation support agriculture.



- Paddy and wheat are chief staple food crops.



- China and India are major paddy producers.



- China, India, Pakistan, and Asian Russia are leading wheat-producing countries.

### Rice (Paddy)



- China and India are major paddy producers.

### Wheat



- China, India, Pakistan and Asian Russia are leading wheat-producing countries.

### Tea



- Major tea-producing countries are China, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

### Natural Rubber



- Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are major natural rubber producers.

### Coffee



### Other Crops



- Other important crops are cotton, jute, sugarcane, cocoa, various cereals (Navane, Sajje, Sawe), oil seeds and spices.

# CLIMATE OF ASIA

## From Polar Cold to Hot and Dry Regions

- Asia extends from the Equator in the south up to the Polar regions.
- Different regions of Asia have different climatic conditions.
- Asia includes some of the coldest lands in the world in polar regions.
- Some of the hottest areas are in Central Asia and South-West Asia.
- Very dry areas and areas of high rainfall are also found in Asia.

### Distribution of Annual Temperature






**Polar Regions** (Some of the coldest lands in the world)

**Central Asia & South-West Asia** (Some of the hottest areas)

**Dry Areas**

**Areas of High Rainfall**

## Factors Affecting the Climate of Asia

The varied climate of the continent is due to several factors.

### 1 Size of the continent



### 2 Latitudinal extent



### 3 Physical features



### 4 Monsoon winds



# ASIA
## COMPLETE GEOGRAPHY REVISION

Location • Regions • Landforms • Rivers • Agriculture • Climate

## 1 Location and Extent

- Asia is the largest of the continents of the world.
- Its total geographical area is approximately **44 million km²**.
- It covers 33% of the land surface of the world.
- Asia lies almost wholly in the Northern Hemisphere.




## 2 Regional Divisions

**Five major regional divisions**

- East Asia
- South-East Asia
- South Asia
- South-West Asia
- Central Asia

## 3 Physical Divisions

1. North-Western Lowlands
2. Central Highlands
3. Southern Plateaus
4. Great Plains of Rivers
5. Island Groups




## 4 Major Rivers

**Four groups based on where the rivers flow**

**Rivers flowing into the Indian Ocean**
- Tigris and Euphrates
- Sindhu
- Ganga
- Brahmaputra
- Sittang
- Salween
- Irrawaddy

**Rivers flowing into the Pacific Ocean**
- Amur
- Hwang Ho
- Chiang Jiang (Yangtse Kiang)
- Si Kiang
- Menam
- Mekong

**Rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean**
- Ob
- Yenisei
- Lena

**Inland Rivers**
- Volga
- Ural
- Amu Darya
- Syr Darya

## 5 Agriculture

- Agriculture is an important occupation in Asia.
- Fertile soil and water supply through irrigation support agriculture.
- Paddy and wheat are chief staple food crops.
- China and India are major paddy producers.
- China, India, Pakistan and Asian Russia are leading wheat-producing countries.
- Asia leads the the production of natural rubber and tea.
- Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are major natural rubber producers.
- Major tea-producing countries are China, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and Thailand.
- Other crops include cotton, jute, sugarcane, coffee, cocoa, various cereals (Navane, Sajje, Sawe), oil seeds and spices.



## 6 Climate

- Asia extends from the Equator in the south up to the Polar regions.
- Different regions have different climatic conditions.
- Asia has some of the coldest lands in the world (Polar).
- Some cfy the hottest areas are in Central Asia and South-West Asia.
- Very dry areas and areas ihe high rainfall are also found in Asia.

**The climate varies due to several factors**

1. Size of the continent
2. Latiudiinal extent
3. Physical features
4. Monsoon winds

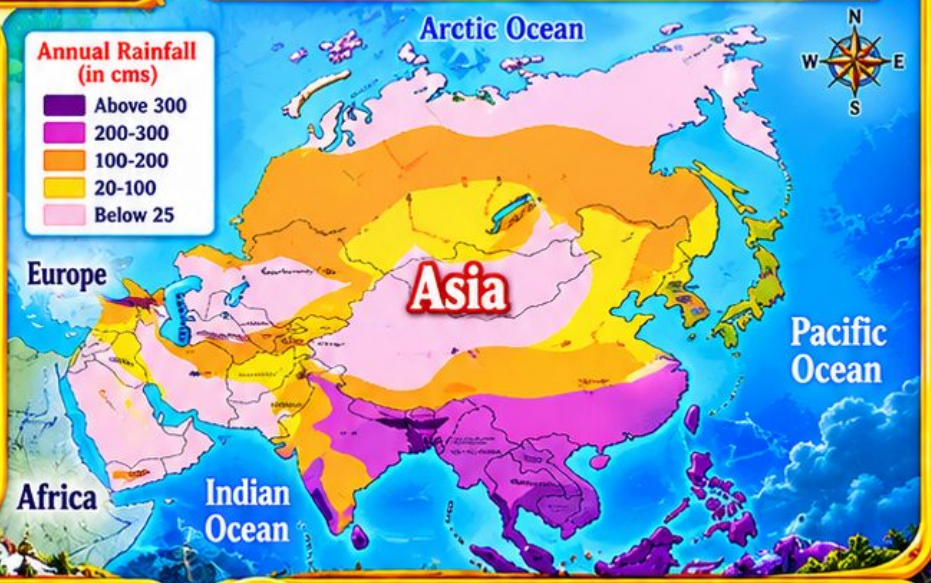
# CLIMATE AND RAINFALL OF ASIA

Seasons • Temperature • Distribution of Rainfall

## 1 DISTRIBUTION OF RAINFALL

- Most of the rainfall in Asia is caused by the summer south-west monsoon winds.
- The monsoon winds do not reach the central part of Asia. That part of Asia remains dry throughout the year.
- In winter, the Westerlies cause rainfall in Western Asian countries.
- Eastern parts of China and the Philippines, Malaysia etc. receive rainfall from tropical cyclones.

### Distribution of Annual Rainfall




## 2 WINTER SEASON

- Most of Asia experiences winter from October to March.
- Oblique rays of the sun reach the Northern Hemisphere during this season.
- Much of Asia experiences low temperatures and cold climatic conditions.
- Winds blow from land towards the sea and are generally dry.
- Rainfall is rare in winter.

## 3 SUMMER SEASON

- Summer starts in April and ends in September.
- The sun shines directly in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Much of Asia experiences high temperatures and low pressure in Central Asia.
- Winds blow from the sea towards the land and bring rain.

## 4 SOME IMPORTANT FACTS

**Verkhoyansk**
(Siberia)
**-51°C**

**Oymyakon**
**-71°C**
recorded minimum temperature in January.

**Mawsynram**
(Meghalaya, India)
**1187 cm**
highest rainfall in the world.

# Natural Vegetation of Asia

## Seven Major Types of Vegetation

Natural vegetation in Asia is closely associated with climate. But other factors such as landforms, soils and interference of human beings also have influence on types of vegetation and its distribuntion.

### 1 Tundra Vegetation



- Found in a narrow belt along the Arctic coastal areas.
- This belt is mostly covered by snow and ice. So plant growth is limited and restricted to mosses and lichens.

### 2 Coniferous Forests (Taiga Forests)



- Distributed in the Tundra region.
- Also known as Taiga forests.
- Fir, spruce, larch and pine are the major trees (soft wood trees).

### 3 Temperate Grasslands (Steppes)



- Found mainly to the west of Central Asia and in a fringe of deserts and semi-deserts.
- Due to low rainfall, short grass are grown.

### 4 Desert Vegetation



- Occurs in tropical and temperate deserts of Asia, e.g., Arabia, Iran, Thar desert etc.
- Only some thorny plants, bushes and poor grass grow here.
- Near the oasis date palm trees are found.

### Natural Vegetation of Asia




### 5 Monsoon Forests



- Found in the South, South-West and East Asia.
- Since this region has high temperature and sufficient rainfall, forests grow here.
- Teak, sal, banyan, bamboo, sandal and many varieties of hardwood trees are found here.
- They shed their leaves in autumn.

### 6 Equatorial Forests



- Mainly found in the East Indies and heavy rainfall areas of the monsoon lands.
- They are evergreen and trees are quite tall.
- Mahogany, ebony, rubber, bamboo, rosewood are the main trees.

### 7 Mediterranean Vegetation



- Found in South-Western parts of Asia.
- Olive, figs, oak and shrubs grow here.
- Trees grow to a shorter height.

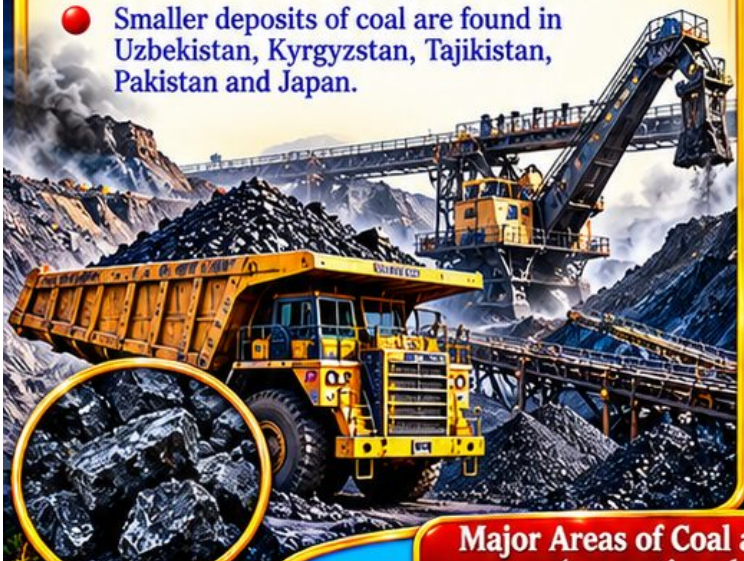
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# COAL AND PETROLEUM OF ASIA

## Important Mineral Resources and Energy Sources

## 1 COAL

- Coal is a fossil fuel mineral and an important source of energy.
- Asia has rich coal reserves, but they are not uniformly distributed.
- Major reserves are found in China, India, Indonesia, Siberia and Central Asian countries.
- China is the largest country in coal deposits and production in the world.
- India is the second largest producer of coal in Asia.
- The Kuznetsk Basin in South Central Siberia has become the largest producer of coal.
- Smaller deposits of coal are found in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan and Japan.





## 2 PETROLEUM

- Petroleum is a mineral oil.
- It is a source of power for automated vehicles, railways, ships and aeroplanes.
- South-Western Asia has the largest petroleum reserves.
- It is mostly found in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Some countries of Eastern and South Eastern Asia also have petroleum reserves, e.g. Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Myanmar, Sarawak, India and Vietnam.
- Recently Siberia has increased the production of petroleum.
- Central Asia also possesses considerable deposits of petroleum, in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan etc.

The term 'petroleum' is derived from two Latin words: 'petra' means 'rock' and 'oleum' means oil.





## Major Areas of Coal and Petroleum in Asia (as mentioned in the textbook)
















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# MAJOR INDUSTRIAL REGIONS OF ASIA

Japan • China • India • Other Asian Regions

An area dominated by industries and industrial activities is called an "**Industrial Region**". Asia has rich mineral and agricultural resources but has not industrialised like Europe. The main reasons are lack of technology, lack of capital, conservative attitude and large population engaged in agriculture.

## 1 JAPAN

1. **Keihin Region**
   Tokyo, Kawasaki and Yokohama.
   Textiles, engineering, shipbuilding, paper and cement.
2. **Hanshin Region**
   Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto.
   Textiles.
3. **Ise Bay Region**
   Around Nagoya.
   Textiles and engineering.
4. **Kita Kyushu Region**
   Yawata, Moji and Kokura.
   Steel, shipbuilding, machinery and textiles.

## 2 CHINA

1. **Manchuria Region**
   Iron, engineering and chemicals.
2. **Beijing Region**
   Engineering, shipbuilding, textiles and chemicals.
3. **Shanxi-Baotou Region**
   Iron and steel and agricultural equipment.
4. **Chang-jiang Region**
   Textiles, shipbuilding and steel manufacturing.
5. **Wuhan Region**
   Metallurgical and heavy industrial goods manufacturing.

### Major Industrial Regions of Asia




## 3 INDIA

1. Hooghly-Kolkata Region.
2. Mumbai-Pune Region.
3. Ahmedabad-Vadodara Region.
4. Madurai-Coimbatore-Bengaluru Region.
5. Chotanagpur Region.
6. Delhi-Meerut.
7. Vishakapatnam Region.
8. Kollam-Thiruvananthapuram Region.

## 4 OTHER ASIAN REGIONS

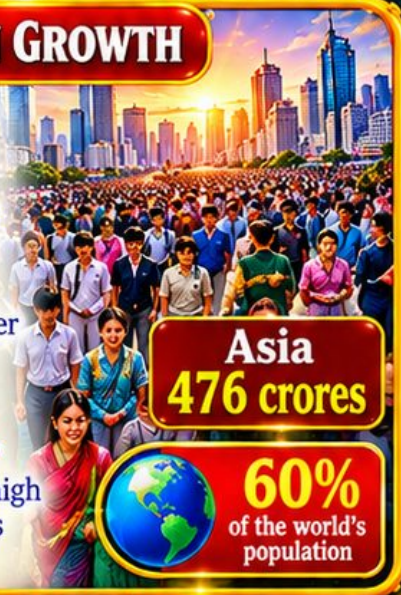
- South Korea
- Hong Kong
- Singapore
- Malaysia

# POPULATION OF ASIA

Population Growth • Distribution • Density

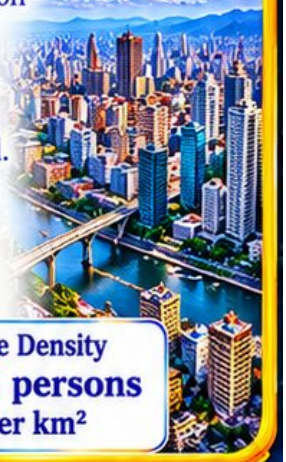
## 1 Population Growth

- Asia has a population of around **476 crores**.
- It is **60%** of the world's population.
- Today's population has increased **five times** over the last three decades.
- In 1950 the population of Asia was **140 crores**.
- The rate of growth was high until recently. Now it has been decreasing.



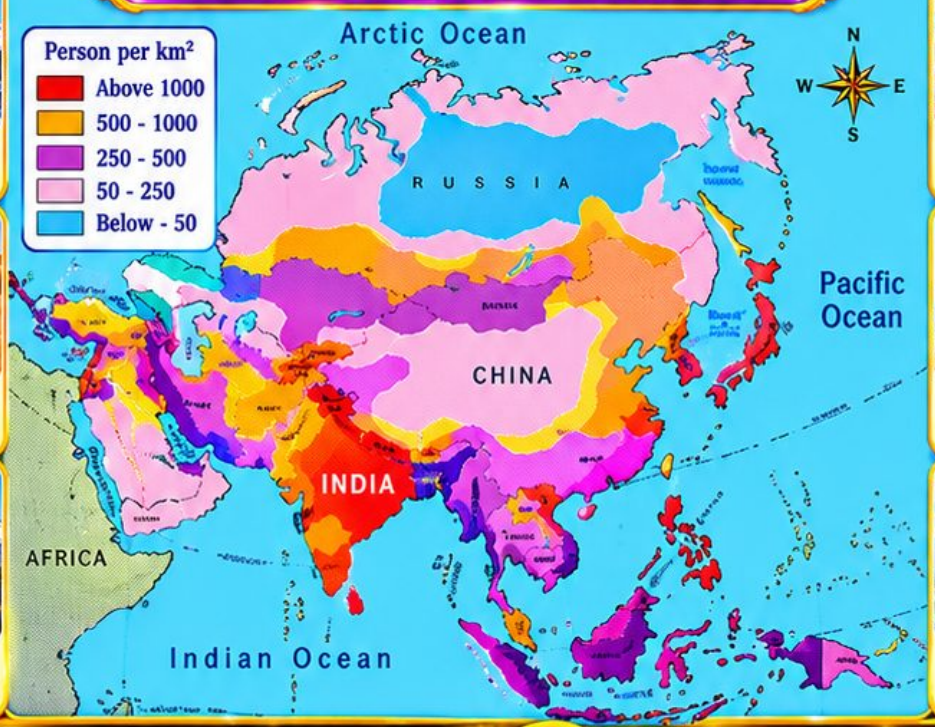

## 2 Distribution And Density

- The distribution of population in Asia is not uniform.
- Some areas are sparsely populated and some areas are very densely populated.
- The average density of population of Asia is **153 persons per km²**.



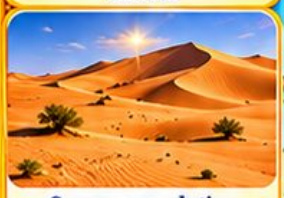
Average Density
**153 persons per km²**

## Density of Population in Asia





Sparsely populated Siberia


Sparse population in deserts


Sparse population in highlands


Dense population in the plains


Dense population in Japan and Korea


Dense population in Java (Indonesia)

## 3 Sparsely Populated Areas

- Northern and eastern parts of Siberia which are very cold.
- Deserts of Arabia, Iran and the Thar Desert in India.
- Highlands of Central Asia.



## 4 Densely Populated Areas

The densely populated parts of Asia include the great plains of India, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Korea and Java island (Indonesia).



# AMAZING GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS ABOUT ASIA

Mountains • Lakes • Glaciers • Plateaus • Islands

## 1 HIGHEST PEAK



Mt. Everest is the highest peak in Asia, at **8,848 m**, according to the textbook.

## 2 LOWEST POINT



The lowest point of Asia is the **Dead Sea**.

## 3 LARGEST GLACIERS



The **Karakoram Range** contains the largest glaciers of the world.

## 4 HIGHEST PLATEAU



**Tibet** is the highest plateau in the world. It is often called as the 'Roof of the World'.




## 5 LARGEST INLAND WATER BODY



**Caspian Sea** is the world's largest inland water body.

## 6 DEEPEST LAKE



**Lake Baikal** in southern Siberia is the world's deepest lake.

## 7 MALDIVES



**Maldives** is the smallest country in Asia both in terms of area and population.