

# Geography of South Asia Physical



# The Indian Subcontinent

- India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, & the Maldives
- **Subcontinent** - large landmass that's smaller than a continent
  - called Indian Subcontinent because India dominates the region



# South Asia



# The Indian Subcontinent

- Has 1/5 of world's people (1/2 the size of U.S.,)
- Natural barriers separate subcontinent from rest of Asia
  - mountains form northern border, Indian Ocean surrounds rest
  - Arabian Sea to west, Bay of Bengal to east







# Mountains

- **Himalaya Mountains**  
—1,500-mile-long system of parallel ranges
  - Includes world's tallest mountain—**Mt. Everest**
  - Forms barrier between Indian subcontinent and China









# Mountains

- **Hindu Kush mountains**
  - separates Pakistan & Afghanistan
  - historically blocked invasions from Central Asian tribes
  - Khyber Pass is one of the major land routes through the mountains
- **Karakoram Mountains** are in northeastern part of Himalayas
  - Includes world's second highest peak, K2





# Khyber Pass



# Rivers



- **Indus River** -Flows west, then south through Pakistan to Arabian Sea
- **Brahmaputra** winds east, then west, south through Bangladesh
- -Meets the Ganges & forms delta (flow into Bay of Bengal)



# Rivers

- **Feni River** - flows from Chittagong Hills to Bay of Bengal
  - floods during wet season due to monsoon rains
  - Cyclones bring **storm surges**—high waters that swamp low areas
  - 1980s - Bangladesh built South Asia's largest **estuary** – a broadened seaward end of a river
- used large population's unskilled workers to build dam (**abundant resource**)





# Ganges River



- Best-known South Asian river (Known as *Gangamai*—“Mother Ganges”)
- Provides drinking and farming water, transportation
- Hindus believe that the **Ganges River** brings life to its people (Sacred)
- pilgrims come to bathe, scatter ashes of dead











# Ganges River



- Ganges is one of the most polluted river in world
  - sewage, industrial waste, & human bodies
  - users get stomach and intestinal diseases such as hepatitis, typhoid, & cholera
- 1986 - government planned sewage treatment plants & regulations
  - today few plants are operational, factories still dump waste
- - Clean up will take time, money, a change in how people see river



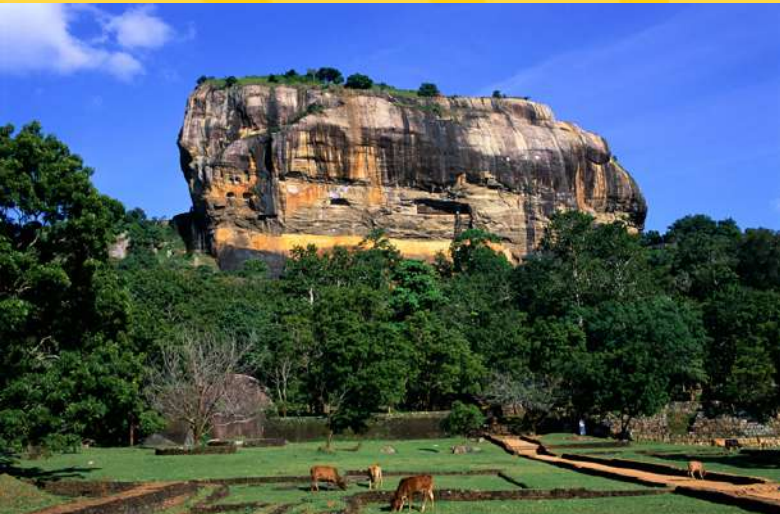


# Fertile Plains



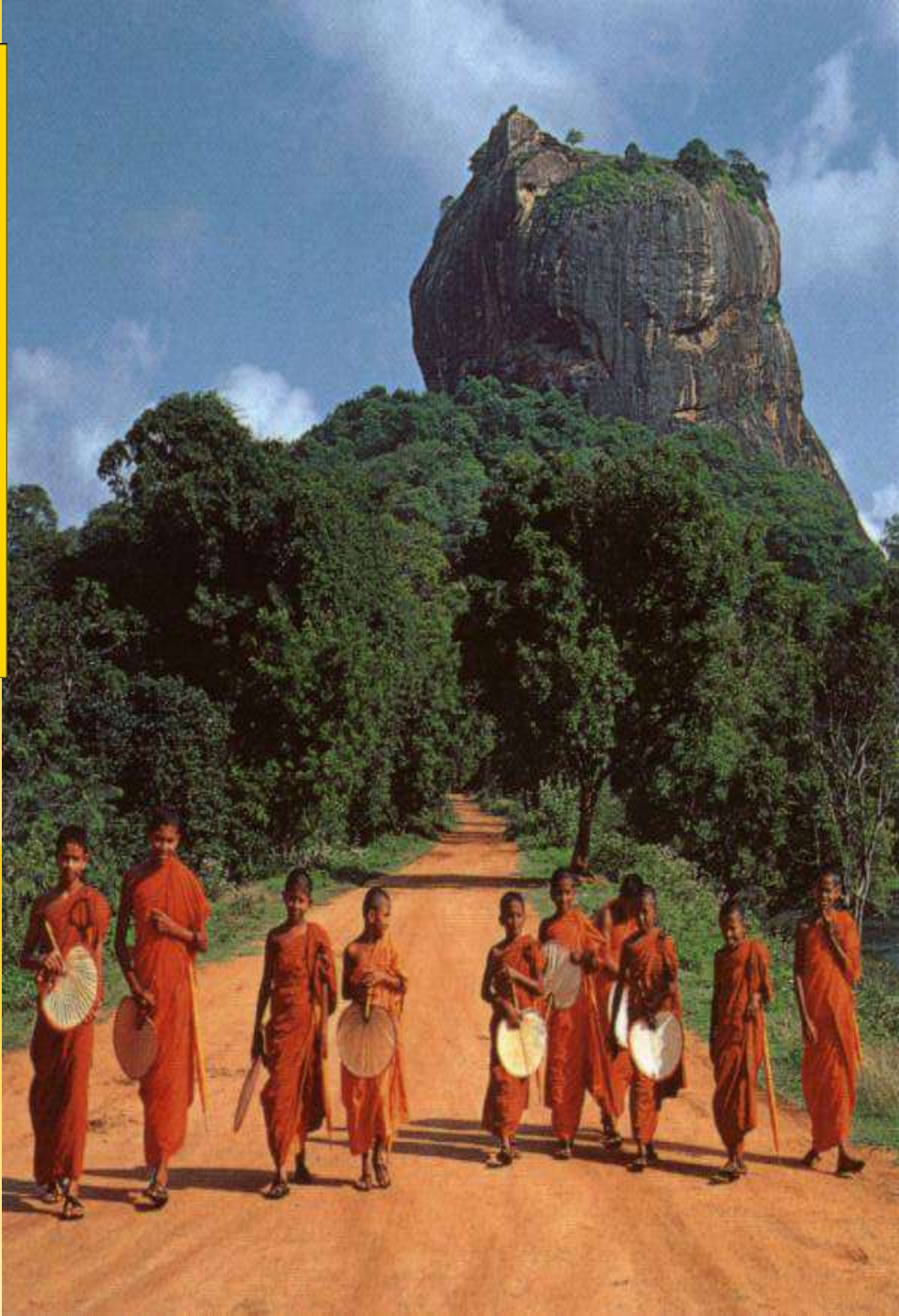
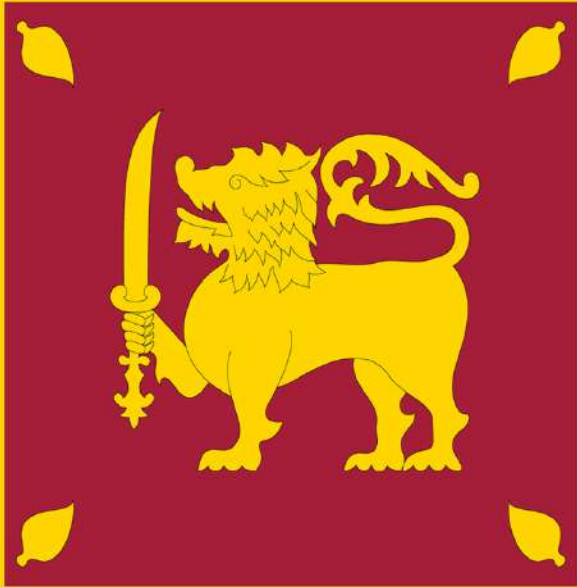
- Rivers irrigate farmlands & carry rich **alluvial soil**
  - Soil is deposited on **alluvial plains**—rich farmlands
- Indo-Gangetic Plain has some of the world's most fertile farms
- Heavily populated area has  $\frac{3}{5}$  of India's people

# Offshore Islands



- **Sri Lanka** - Island in Indian Ocean, off India's southeastern tip
- Large, tear-shaped country with lush tropical land
- Range of high, rugged, 8,000-foot mountains dominate center





# SRI LANKA



# Offshore Islands



- **Maldives** - is **archipelago**—island group—of 1,200 small islands
  - Islands are **atolls**—
  - formed from a peak of a submerged volcano
  - only 200 islands are inhabited







# Natural Resources

- **Water and soil** - Provides food through farming & fishing
- River systems help enrich land with alluvial soil & water
- Also provide transportation & power



# Natural Resources



- **Rain forests** produce hardwoods like sal, teak, bamboo and fragrant sandalwood
- Deforestation** is a severe problem (soil erosion, flooding, landslides, loss of wildlife habitats)



# Natural Resources

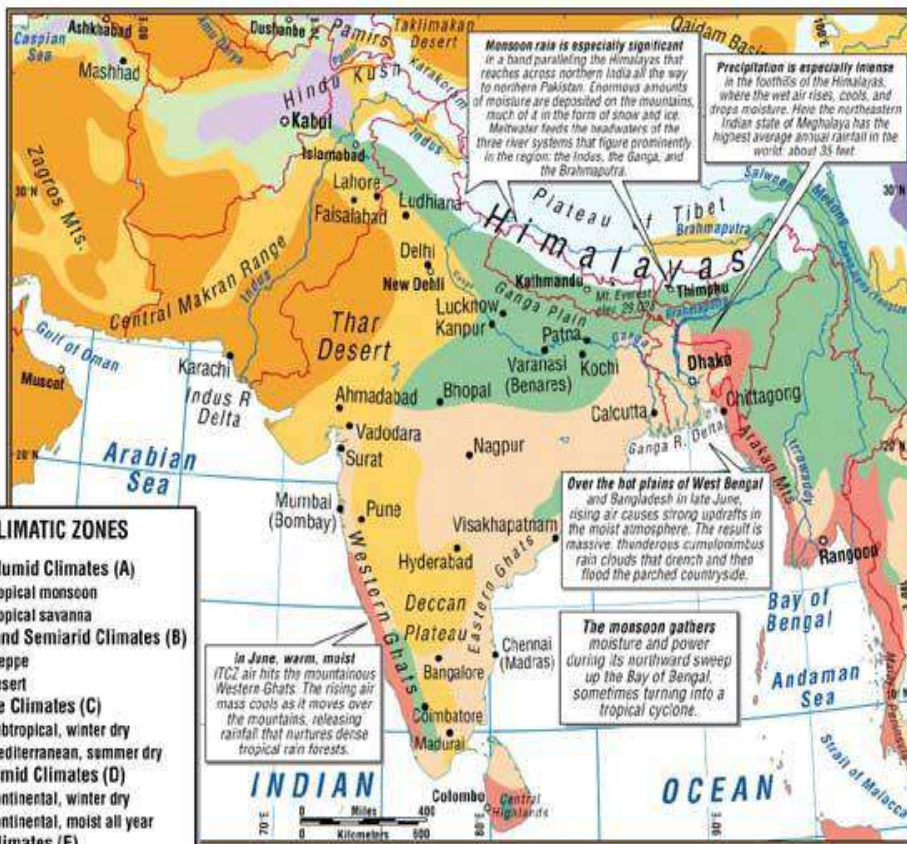


- Minerals
  - Coal - India is fourth in world production of coal
  - also has petroleum, uranium Iron ore & mica (crystals)
- Pakistan & Bangladesh have natural gas resources



# Climate Zones

- Cold highland zone - Himalayas & other northern mountains
- Humid subtropical – Located in the foothills (Nepal, Bhutan) & Indo-Gangetic Plain
- Semi-arid zone - West Plain & Deccan Plateau is warm with light rain





# Climatic Zones



# Climate Zones



- Desert zone - **Thar Desert** is driest area, with 10 inches of rain annually
- Tropical wet zone - Sri Lanka and coasts of India, Bangladesh
  - Cherrapunji, India, holds rainfall record—366 inches in one month

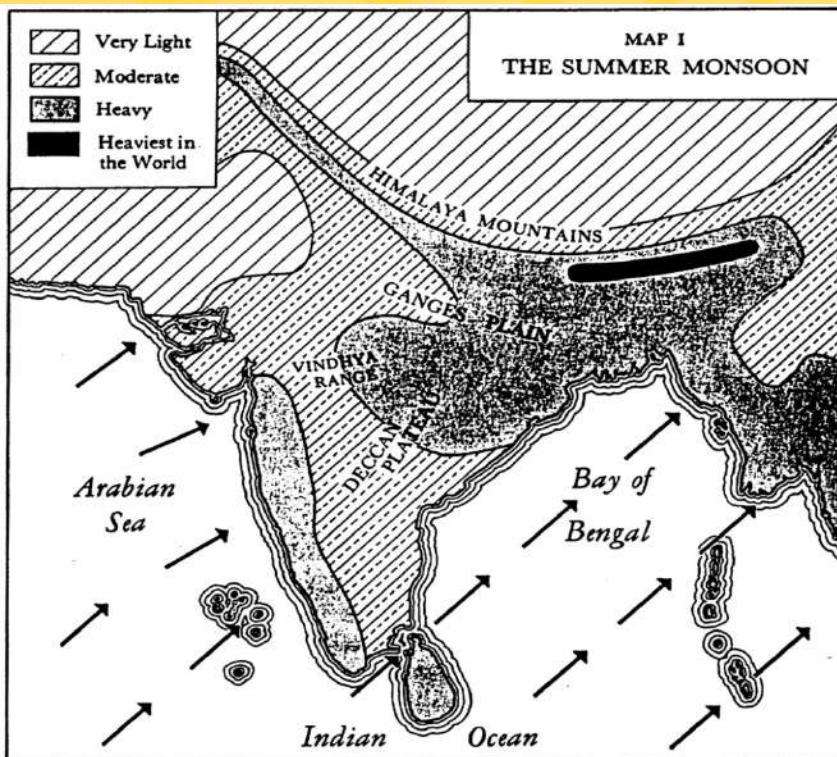




# Monsoons and Cyclones



- **Monsoons**—seasonal winds that affect entire region ( two seasons)
- **Summer monsoon**—blows moist from southwest, across Indian Ocean (Brings rain)
- **Winter monsoon**—blows cool from northeast, across Himalayas, to sea (drought)









# Monsoons and Cyclones

- **Cyclone**—violent storm with fierce winds & heavy rain (hurricanes in North America)

- Bangladesh's low coastal region swamped by high waves









# Physical Review

- What type of weather is associated with a winter monsoon?
- What type of weather is associated with a summer monsoon?
- What is an archipelago?
- .What do the Himalayan Mountains form a barrier between?
- What is an atoll?
- What are alluvial plains?
- What is a subcontinent?
- What is an abundant resource in Bangladesh that was used to build a dam on the Feni River?
- What is an estuary?
- What is a storm surge?
- Mount Everest is located in what mountain range?
- What desert is located in South Asia?
- What type of landform is South Asia?

# History





# Early History

- 2500 B.C. - Indian civilization began in Indus Valley
- 1500 B.C. - Aryans from north of Iran invaded



# European Rule

- 1500s - French, Dutch, & Portuguese built cloth, & spice trades
- 1757 - British East India Company controlled Indian trade
- **Raj** – 200-years of British rule in India





# European Rule



- **Mohandas Gandhi** - Led Indian independence movement (**nonviolent resistance**)
- 1947 - India gained its independence from Britain
- Muslim Pakistan split from Hindu India



**Imperialism in the Modern World, 1900**

Belgian	British	French	American	German	Italian
Portuguese	Spanish	Japanese	Dutch	Danish	Independent





# Partition and War

- 1947 - **partition** created Hindu India & Muslim Pakistan
- Hindu-Muslim violence killed one million people
- 10 million people crossed borders: Hindus to India, Muslims to Pakistan
- Pakistan & India have fought wars over territory



# Pakistan and Bangladesh

- Ethnic differences led to civil war between West and East Pakistan
- 1971 - East Pakistan won independence & became Bangladesh **(Partition)**







# History Review

- Who led India's independence movement?
- What is nonviolent resistance?
- What was the partition of India & Pakistan in 1947?
- What was Raj?
- What two countries have fought several wars over the territory of Kashmir?
- Where did civilization first begin in South Asia?
- What country was known as East Pakistan between 1947 & 1971?



# Culture



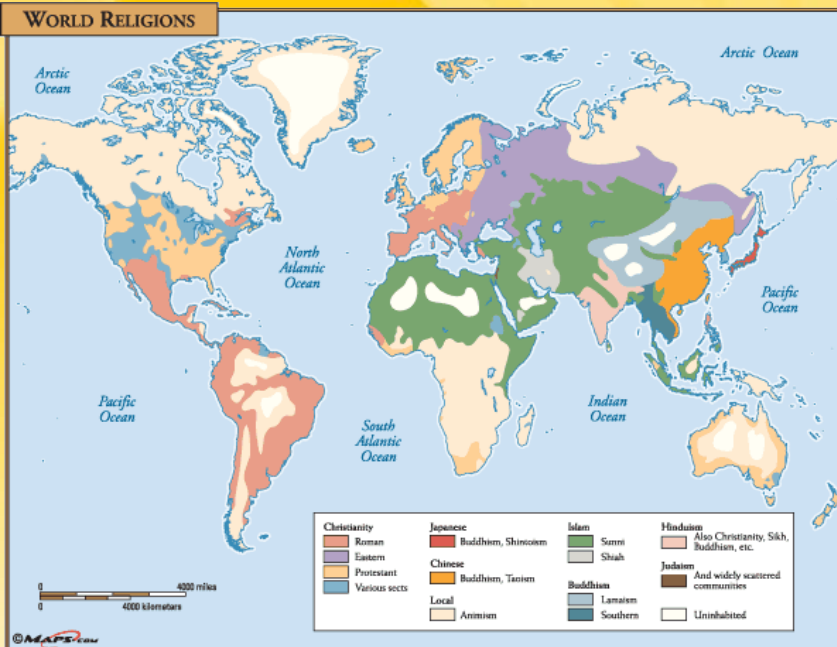
# Languages

- India has over 1000 languages and dialects
  - **Hindi** is the official language
- Pakistan is more diverse: five main groups, each with own language
  - Punjabis, Sindhis, Pathans, Muhajirs, Balochs
- Majority of people in Bangladesh are Bengali
  - Bengali language based on **Sanskrit**, ancient Indo-Aryan language

# Religions

- **Hinduism** – 80% of Indians are Hindu
  - Believes in a system of social classes (caste system)
- People must live according to his or her **dharma** or moral duty

- **-Karma** - all good are rewarded and all bad deeds punished
- People are reincarnated until they overcome all of their weaknesses and earthly desires, then they are released from the cycle of rebirth





# Religions

**Islamic** – Over 90  
% of the populations  
of Pakistan and  
Bangladesh

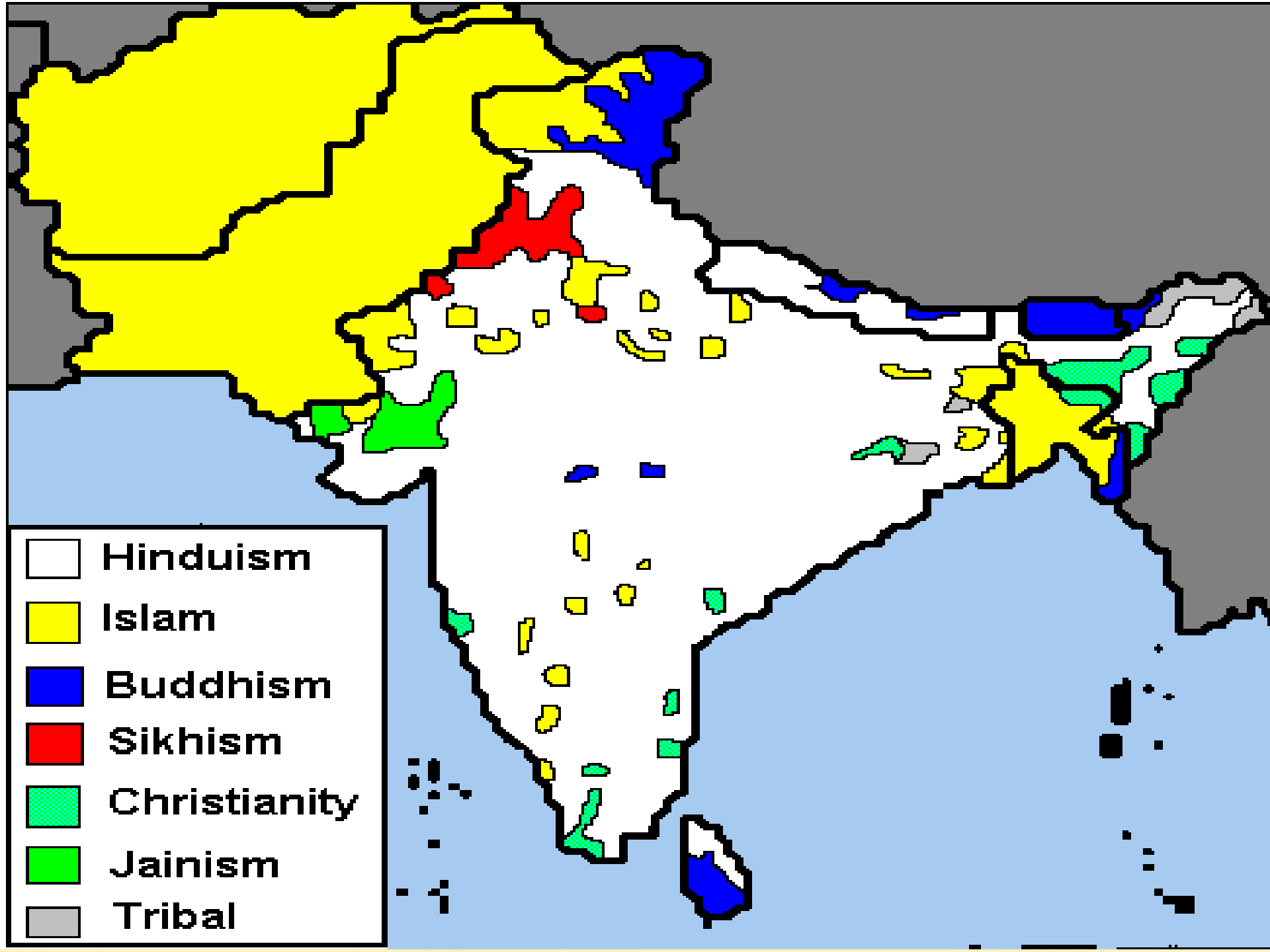
- Pakistan's stricter Islamic law includes *purdah*—women's seclusion
- women have no contact with men not related, wear veils in public
- Bangladesh's religious practices are less strict










# Religions



- **Buddhism** – started by Siddhartha Gautama
- By following his guidelines, people could enter into a state of great insight, calm, and happiness called nirvana
- **Jainism** – Believe that every living creature has a soul therefore it is a sin to kill even an insect



-  Hinduism
-  Islam
-  Buddhism
-  Sikhism
-  Christianity
-  Jainism
-  Tribal



# Culture Review

- What religion do most Indians belong to?
- Who founded the religion of Buddhism?
- What is the caste system & what religion believes in it?
- What is the predominate religion in Pakistan & Bangladesh?

# Living In South Asia Today



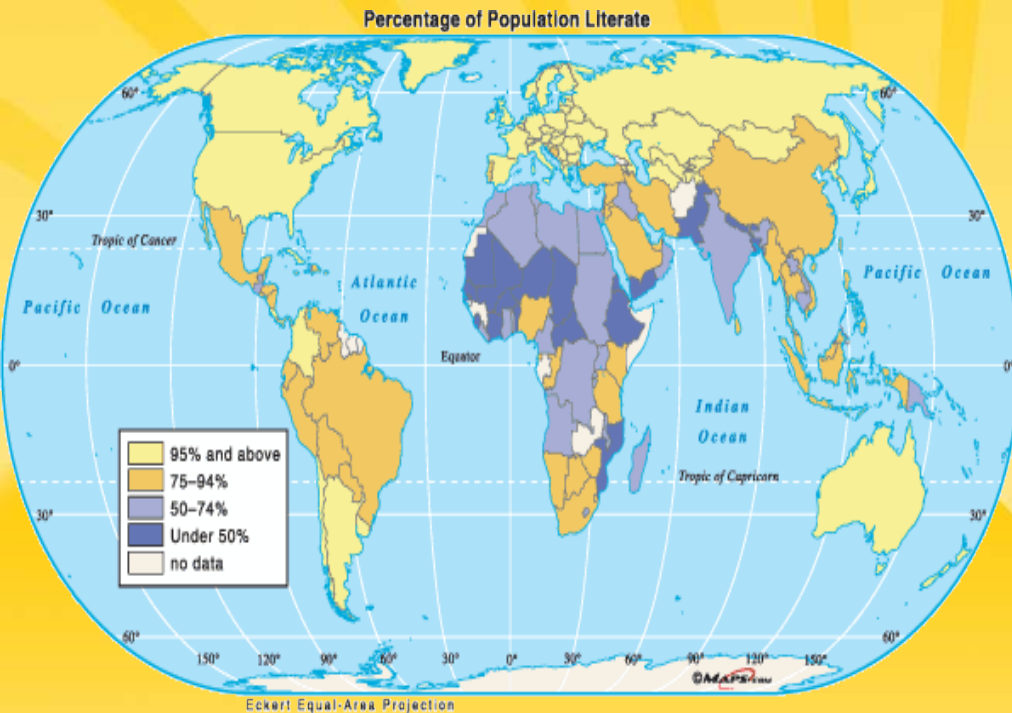
# Daily Life



- Most Indians have male-dominated arranged marriages
- Diet is mostly vegetarian
  - meat is eaten in curry dishes, but is limited by religious beliefs
- Sports include soccer, field hockey & cricket



# Education



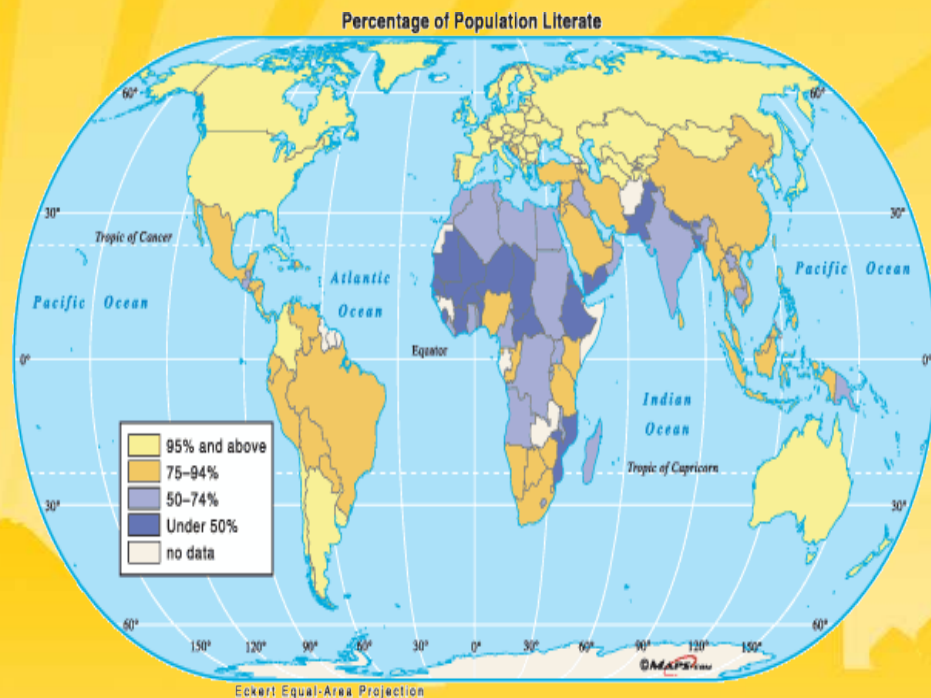
- Indian economy is changing & more people are working in factories, & offices
- **Education** is key to change
- Literacy has risen steadily since the 1950s
- school attendance, literacy still low in slums and rural areas

# Population Problems

- South Asia must manage population growth so economies can develop
- Rapid growth means many citizens lack life's **basic necessities**
  - **food, clothing, shelter**

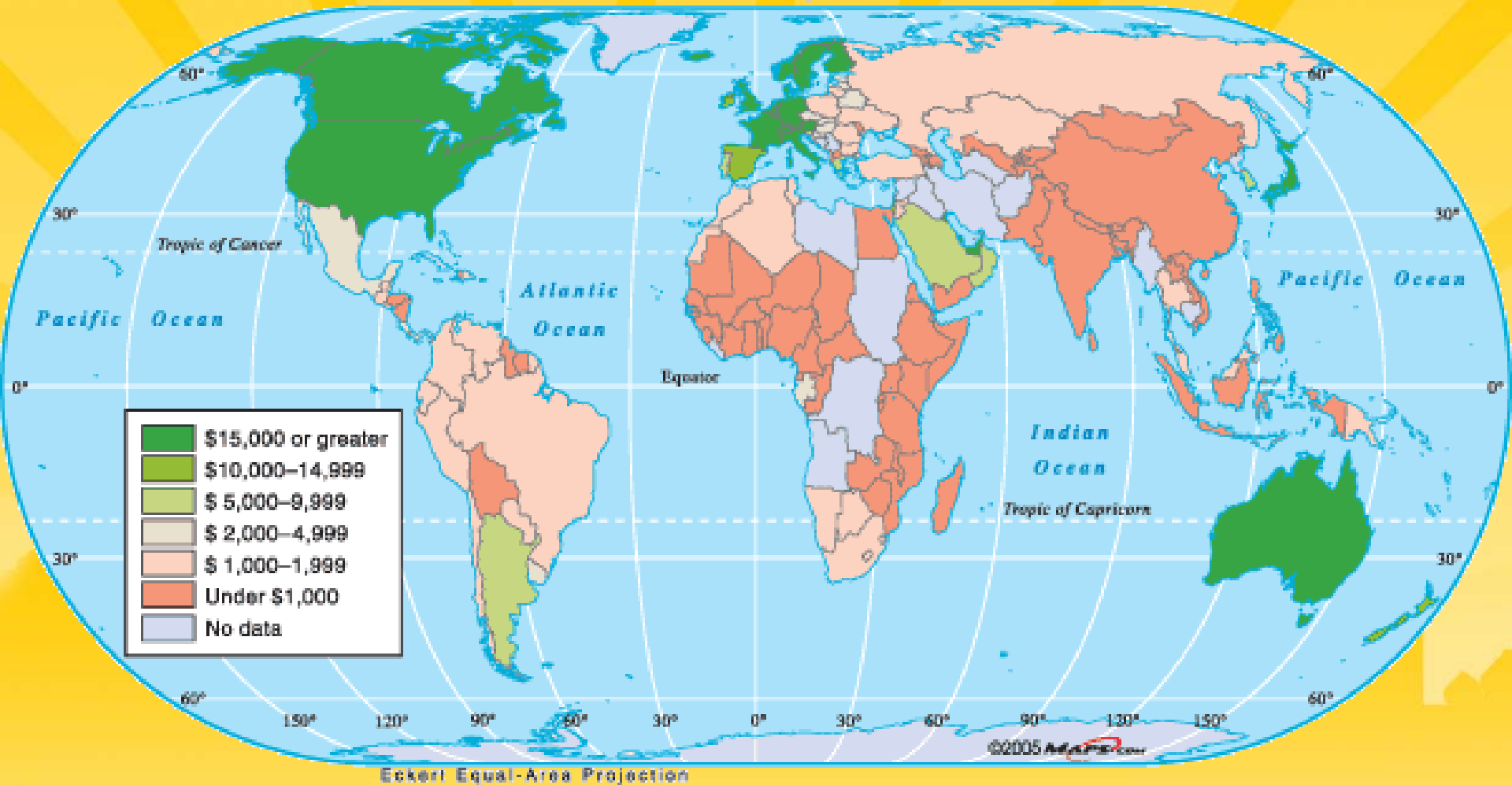
# Population Problems

- Region has widespread poverty, **illiteracy**—inability to read or write
  - poor sanitation, health education lead to disease outbreaks
- Every year, to keep pace, India would have to:
  - build 127,000 new schools and 2.5 million new homes
  - create 4 million new jobs
  - produce 6 million more tons of food





# GNP Per Capita



# Managing Population Growth

- India spends nearly \$1 billion a year encouraging smaller families
- Programs have only limited success
  - Indian women marry before age 18, start having babies early
  - **Poor people view children as source of money (begging or working fields)**
  - **children can later take care of elderly parents**
  - **have more kids to beat high infant mortality**
- **Education** could break cycle of poverty & raise living standards ( limited funds)
  - India spends under \$6 per pupil a year on education
  - U.S. spends \$6,320 per pupil a year
  - improves females' status with job opportunities
  - better health care education could lower infant mortality rates

# Living In South Asia Today

## Review

- What is considered the key to controlling India's population as well improving its standard of living?
- What is illiteracy?
- What country in South Asia has the largest population?
- Name three reasons that Indian families continue to have a large number of children?
- Name three basic necessities:



# Economy

The background is a solid yellow color with a pattern of radiating lines that create a sunburst effect. In the lower portion of the image, there are dark yellow silhouettes of a mountain range on the left and a large, domed building, possibly a mosque or a historical structure, on the right.

# Agriculture



- Two-thirds of people farm (**Subsistence Farmers**)
- After famines of 1960s, scientists improved farming techniques & crops
- - **Green Revolution** increased crop yields for wheat & rice
- Pakistan & Bangladesh's Climate hurts yields (arid & stormy)
- -freshwater fishing is also vital to economy

# TELEVISIONS AND PERSONAL COMPUTERS





# Industry

- Cotton textiles have long been a major producer in India
  - iron, steel, chemical, food industries develop after 1940s
- Neither Pakistan or Bangladesh is highly industrialized
  - small factories lack capital, resources, markets to expand
- Both export cotton clothes
- **Microcredit** policy allows small loans to poor entrepreneurs
  - **entrepreneurs**—people who start and build businesses
  - small businesses join together to get microloans
  - program raises standards of living, especially for women

# Increasing Tourism



- **Tourism** is fastest-growing industry in Nepal
- - people visit capital at Kathmandu to climb **Himalayas**
- - hotels, restaurants, services grow
- - also hurts Nepal's environment; trash, pollution left on mountains

# Economy Review

- What is Microcredit?
- What is an entrepreneur?