

Physical Geography of South Asia

Subcontinent:

- A large landmass that is smaller than a continent



Archipelago:

- An island group
 - Example: The Maldives, consists of more than 1,200 small islands



Atoll:

- An island consisting of the low-lying top of a submerged volcano surrounded by coral reefs and/or shallow reefs
- Example: The islands of the Maldives





Monsoons:

- Seasonal winds
 - From June through September, monsoon winds bring heavy rainfall



Cyclone:

- A violent storm with fierce winds and heavy rain
- Severe cyclones can cause major damage and death



Storm Surge:

- High water levels brought by a cyclone that swamps low-lying areas



Estuary:

- A broadened end of a river where the river's currents meet the ocean tide

