

Year 9 Geography

Knowledge Organiser: Asia



What is the Physical Geography of Asia?

Landforms: Asia is the largest continent, with vast and diverse landforms, including:

Mountains: The Himalayas, the world's highest mountain range.

Plains: The fertile plains of the Ganges in India and the Yangtze in China.

Deserts: The Gobi Desert in China and Mongolia, and the Arabian Desert.

Rivers: Major rivers like the Mekong, Yangtze, Ganges, and Indus.

Plateau Regions: The Tibetan Plateau, also known as the 'Roof of the World,' is the highest and largest plateau.

What is the Climate of Russia Like?

Subarctic and Tundra Climates: Most of Russia experiences very cold temperatures, especially in Siberia. Winters are long and harsh, with temperatures dropping as low as -40°C in some areas.

Continental Climate: The southern parts of Russia, particularly around the Black Sea, experience warmer summers and colder winters.

Permafrost: Large areas of the northern part of Russia are permanently frozen, with the ground never thawing out.

How Many Climates Does India Have?

Tropical Wet: The southern and coastal regions experience high rainfall and high temperatures throughout the year.

Tropical Dry: The central and western parts of India have dry conditions and high temperatures.

Arid: Western Rajasthan is an arid desert with very little rainfall.

Temperate: The Himalayan region experiences cooler temperatures, with heavy snowfall in winter.

Mountain Climate: The Himalayan range has its own unique mountain climate with cool summers and cold winters.

Which Asian Countries Suffer from Weather Hazards?

Monsoon Flooding: Countries like India, Bangladesh, and Southeast Asia experience seasonal flooding due to heavy monsoon rains.

Cyclones: The Philippines, India, and Bangladesh are often hit by tropical cyclones.

Droughts: Parts of China and India face droughts, especially in arid regions.

Which Asian Countries Suffer from Tectonic Hazards?

Earthquakes: Countries like Japan, Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines are located near tectonic plate boundaries, making them prone to earthquakes.

Volcanoes: Indonesia, the Philippines, and Japan are home to many active volcanoes, like Mount Fuji in Japan and Mount Merapi in Indonesia.

What is the Human Geography of Asia Like?

Diverse Population: Asia is home to the largest population in the world, with countries like China and India being the most populous.

Urbanisation: Rapid urbanisation in countries like China, India, and Indonesia has led to the growth of megacities like Beijing, Mumbai, and Jakarta.

Cultural Diversity: Asia is culturally diverse, with hundreds of languages, religions, and traditions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity.

What Are the BRIC Countries?

- BRIC stands for Brazil, Russia, India, and China, four of the world's largest emerging economies.

Economic Growth: These countries are known for their rapid economic development and increasing influence on the global stage.

Key Challenges: Despite rapid growth, BRIC countries face challenges like inequality, environmental degradation, and political instability.

Who Are the People of Russia?

Ethnic Diversity: Russia is home to over 100 ethnic groups, including Russians, Tatars, Ukrainians, and Chechens.

Language: The official language is Russian, but there are many regional languages spoken.

Urban vs Rural: The majority of Russia's population lives in urban areas, with Moscow and St. Petersburg being major cultural and economic centres.

How is Urbanisation Affecting India?

Rapid Growth: India is undergoing rapid urbanisation, with millions moving from rural areas to cities in search of better employment and living conditions.

Challenges: Urbanisation has led to overcrowding, pollution, inadequate infrastructure, and slums like Dharavi in Mumbai.

Economic Growth: Urbanisation has contributed to economic development, but the benefits are uneven, with significant poverty still present in many urban areas.

What is Life Like in Dharavi, Mumbai?

Overcrowding: Dharavi is one of the largest slums in Asia, with high population density and limited space.

Poor Living Conditions: Many residents live in cramped, unsanitary conditions with limited access to clean water and healthcare.

Economic Activity: Despite poverty, Dharavi is a hub of small-scale industries, including pottery, textiles, and recycling, providing income to many residents.

How Has China Become a Superpower?

Economic Growth: China's rapid industrialisation and integration into the global economy have turned it into a global economic powerhouse.

Manufacturing Hub: China has become the 'world's factory,' producing a large share of global goods.

Political Influence: China's growing military power and influence in global politics, such as through initiatives

like the Belt and Road Initiative, have solidified its position as a superpower.

What is Asia's Relationship with Fossil Fuels Like?

Major Producers: Asia, particularly the Middle East (e.g. Saudi Arabia, Iran), is rich in oil and gas reserves, making it a key player in global energy markets.

Economic Growth and Demand: Rapid industrialisation in countries like China and India has led to a high demand for energy, especially fossil fuels.

Environmental Concerns: The reliance on fossil fuels has raised concerns about air pollution and climate change, particularly in industrialising nations.

Is Conflict in Asia the Result of Physical or Human Geography?

Physical Geography: Natural resources like water, land, and energy resources have led to territorial disputes, especially in areas like the South China Sea.

Human Geography: Ethnic, religious, and political tensions have contributed to conflicts, such as the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan, and the ongoing North-South Korea conflict.

What Does the Future for Asia Look Like?

Population Growth: Asia will continue to experience population growth, especially in India and parts of Africa, leading to increased demand for resources.

Urbanisation and Technology: Rapid urbanisation and the development of new technologies will continue to shape Asia's future, with cities becoming more connected and technologically advanced.

Environmental Challenges: Asia will face significant environmental challenges, including air pollution, water scarcity, and the effects of climate change.

Economic Power: Asia's economic influence will likely continue to grow, with China and India becoming even more dominant in the global economy.

Key Terms

Urbanisation: The process of people moving from rural areas to cities, leading to the growth of urban areas.

BRIC Countries: Brazil, Russia, India, and China, a group of emerging economies with significant global influence.

Superpower: A country with significant global political, military, and economic influence.

Fossil Fuels: Natural resources like coal, oil, and gas that are used for energy.

Tectonic Hazards: Natural disasters caused by the movement of tectonic plates, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Monsoon: A seasonal wind that brings heavy rains, often leading to flooding in parts of Asia.

Revision Questions

- 1) What are the main physical features of Asia, and how do they shape the environment?
- 2) Describe the climate of Russia and how it affects life there.
- 3) How does India's climate vary across the country?
- 4) Which Asian countries are most affected by weather hazards, and why?
- 5) Which countries in Asia are most vulnerable to tectonic hazards, and why?
- 6) How would you describe the human geography of Asia, including its population and urbanisation?
- 7) What are the BRIC countries, and why are they important?
- 8) What is life like in Dharavi, Mumbai, and what challenges do its residents face?
- 9) How has China become a superpower in recent years?
- 10) What role does Asia play in the global fossil fuel market, and what challenges does it face?

