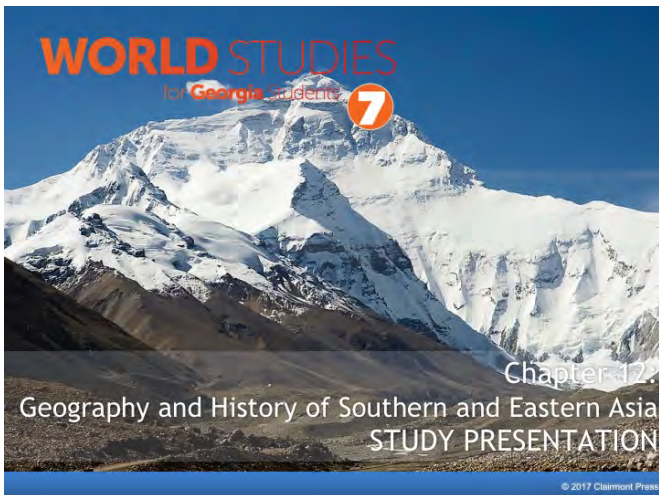
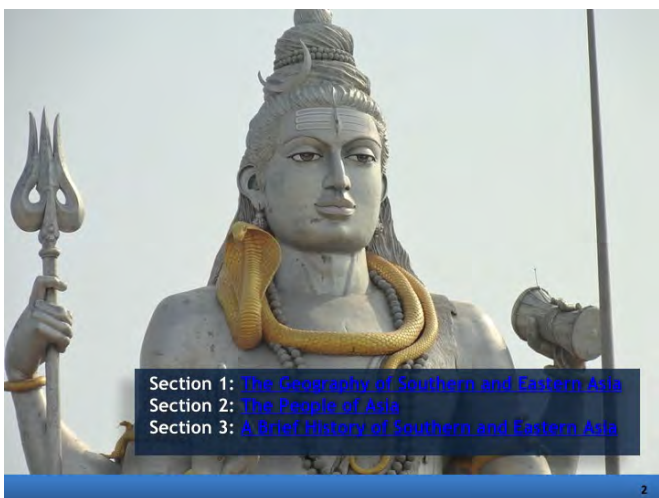


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Chapter 12: Geography and History of Southern and Eastern Asia

Quick Notes





Section 1: The Geography of Southern and Eastern Asia

➤ Essential Question:

- How does the geography of Southern and Eastern Asia affect where and how people live?

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Chapter 12: Geography and History of Southern and Eastern Asia

Quick Notes

Section 1: The Geography of Southern and Eastern Asia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - subcontinent
 - tectonic plate
 - archipelago
 - peninsula

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Location of the Countries of Southern and Eastern Asia

- Twenty-nine countries make up the vast region of Southern and Eastern Asia.
 - The countries vary greatly in geography, cultures, and politics.
- Different geographic features tend to separate Asian countries.
 - The Sea of Japan, for example, separates the Korean Peninsula from the country of Japan. Japan is an **archipelago**, which means it is made of a chain of islands.
 - India is a **subcontinent**, which means it is a large land area that is mostly separate from the rest of Asia. It is also on a different **tectonic plate**, a separate area of Earth's crust, than most of the rest of Asia.

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Physical Features of Asia

- Physical geography impacts the way people trade, travel, live, and work.
- The influence of mountains, rivers, deserts, and large bodies of water all contribute to how people satisfy their needs and wants.
 - Southern and Eastern Asia are home to many of the longest rivers in the world, like the Ganges River, the Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River, and the Huang He (Yellow) River.
 - The Himalayan Mountains are the tallest mountain range in the world, with Mount Everest as its highest peak.
 - The Taklamakan Desert in western China and the Gobi Desert in northern China are among the largest in the world.
 - The Sea of Japan and the South China Sea are two of the larger bodies of water in Southern and Eastern Asia.

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Chapter 12: Geography and History of Southern and Eastern Asia

Quick Notes

Impact of Geography on Where People Live and How They Trade

- Asia's diverse geography and location of natural resources heavily impact where people live and how they trade.
- India is separated from the rest of Asia by mountains. Most of India's population lives in river valleys south of the Himalayas. The rivers provide water for irrigation, travel, trade routes, and drinking water.
- China's population is more concentrated around its rivers, opposed to its mountain and desert regions, because of the rivers' resources.
- In North Korea and South Korea, geography and politics influence the trade success of the countries. The countries make up a **peninsula**, which is a landform surrounded on three sides by water.
- As an island nation with few natural resources, Japan relies on trade by sea and air to meet the needs and wants of its people.

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Section 2: The People of Asia

- Essential Question:
 - What are differences between ethnic groups and religious groups in Asia?

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Section 2: The People of Asia

- What terms do I need to know?

• ethnic group	• Four Noble Truths
• religious group	• nirvana
• philosophy	• Middle Way
• Hinduism	• Tripitaka
• Vedas	• Mahayana Sutras
• Brahman	• Shinto
• reincarnation	• kami
• karma	• Confucianism
• caste system	• Golden Rule of Behavior
• Buddhism	

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Chapter 12: Geography and History of Southern and Eastern Asia

Quick Notes

Ethnic and Religious Groups in Asia

- An **ethnic group** refers to a group of people who share cultural ideas and beliefs that have been a part of their community for many years.
 - Features of this group can include language, religion, history, types of food, and a set of traditional stories, beliefs, or celebrations.
- A **religious group** refers to a group of people who share a belief system in a god or gods with a specific set of rituals and literature.
- The four main ethnic and religious groups in Asia include Hinduism, Buddhism, Shinto, and Confucianism.
 - Hinduism, Buddhism, and Shinto are religions native to Southern and Eastern Asia.
 - China is the birthplace of Confucianism, which is not a religion, but rather a **philosophy**, based on morality and good deeds.

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Ethnic and Religious Groups in Asia

- **Hinduism** is one of the oldest religions in the world and was founded in India around 1500 BC. Aryan priests followed complicated rituals and hymns known as the **Vedas**.
 - There is no specific founder for Hinduism, unlike other religions. Followers of Hinduism are called Hindus.
 - Many gods and goddesses exist in Hinduism, but it is believed that they are all part of a supreme “universal spirit” named **Brahman**.
 - The Ganges River is a holy river for Hindus, and several religious practices involve the river.

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Ethnic and Religious Groups in Asia

- **Reincarnation** is the religious belief that when a person dies, their soul is reborn into a person or animal according. This is based on his or her good or bad deeds, or **karma**.
- The **caste system**, a system of social classes that are inherited and cannot be changed, acts an important religious and social influence for Hindus.
 - The traditional castes include Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Sudras.
 - Over time, the castes have been further divided, complicating India’s social structure.

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Chapter 12: Geography and History of Southern and Eastern Asia

Quick Notes

Ethnic and Religious Groups in Asia

- **Buddhism** was founded by Siddhartha Gautama around 500 BC.
 - Siddhartha sought answers as to why there is so much suffering in the world. After meditation, Siddhartha became known as “Buddha” or “The Enlightened One.” He believed the cause of human suffering to be greed and the desire for material things.
 - The central teaching of Buddhism is called the **Four Noble Truths**, which include moral “truths” and instructions for conduct. The **Tripitaka** and the **Mahayana Sutras** make up two Buddhist texts.
 - **Nirvana** exists as a state of perfect peace for Buddhists. It can be reached by following the **Middle Way**, via rules outlined by the Eightfold Path.

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Ethnic and Religious Groups in Asia

- **Shinto** is a religion unique to Japan, with no specific date of origin or founder. It is closely intertwined with Japanese culture.
 - The main belief of Shinto is reverence for the **kami**, which are spirits that Shinto followers believe live in nature, animals, and a person’s ancestors.
 - Followers offer prayers and perform rituals to honor and please the kami.

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Ethnic and Religious Groups in Asia

- **Confucianism** was founded by a Chinese scholar named Confucius around 550 BC.
 - Confucius emphasized good character and virtue as a means to peace and social order.
 - The **Golden Rule of Behavior** says, “What you do not like when done unto you, do not do to others.”
 - Confucius believed that his philosophy would bring order to China, should leaders and the government follow Confucianism’s guiding principles.
 - Even though China is now a communist country, the Chinese and many people throughout Southern and Eastern Asia continue to respect and practice Confucianism teachings.

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Chapter 12: Geography and History of Southern and Eastern Asia

Quick Notes

Section 3: A Brief History of Southern and Eastern Asia

- Essential Question:
 - How did the events of World War II impact Asia politically and socially?

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Section 3: A Brief History of Southern and Eastern Asia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Cold War
 - containment
 - cease-fire
 - domino theory
 - demilitarized zone

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Colonialism and Struggles for Independence

- Many regions of Southern and Eastern Asia were colonized by European powers.
 - India was colonized by the British, for example, and France created a colony called French Indochina which included Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
 - Although the Koreans, China, and Japan escaped European colonization, they were all affected by the independence movements and the growth of communism.
 - Many Asian countries gained independence after World War II.
- Nationalism and communism are two major movements which occurred in Asia after World War II.
- The **Cold War**, a war of words with no direct fighting, also began after World War II.
 - The United States sought **containment** to stop the spread of communism to other Asian countries.

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Chapter 12: Geography and History of Southern and Eastern Asia

Quick Notes

Ho Chi Minh

- Ho Chi Minh was a famous opponent of colonial rule in Asia during in the twentieth century.
- He was born in Vietnam during France's colonization, which his family did not support.
- He created the Vietnamese Communist Party, as well as the Viet Minh to fight the Japanese in the Indochina War.
- After World War II, following an eight year war between the French and the Vietnamese, Ho Chi Minh became president of North Vietnam in 1954.
- As president, Ho Chi Minh's efforts to reunite Vietnam as a communist country led to the Vietnam War.

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Korean Conflict

- During World War II, the Korean Peninsula was under the control of the Japanese. The Soviet Union invaded the peninsula, at which point the United States military became involved.
- A **cease-fire**, or truce, was called in 1953, but a peace treaty was never signed to officially end the conflict.
- In the end, the peninsula was divided into two countries.
 - The northern part, controlled by the Soviets, became communist.
 - The southern part became a democracy, an ally of the United States.
- The United States was concerned that, if Korea became a communist country, other neighboring countries would also fall to communism - a concept known as the **domino theory**.
- Tensions remain between North Korea and South Korea. The border between the two countries is a **demilitarized zone**, which means no military equipment or people are allowed within the border.

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Vietnam Conflict

- Many Vietnamese wanted to reorganize their country under the communist leadership of Ho Chi Minh, but the United States did not want other communist countries in Southeast Asia for fear that it would spread to nearby countries.
- The United States joined France in an effort to regain control of Vietnam. The war was between the North Vietnamese, supported by the Soviet Union and Ho Chi Minh, and the South Vietnamese, supported by the United States.
- Many resources were contributed to the war, but it became increasingly unpopular in the United States.
 - The United States withdrew their military, and Vietnam was united under a communist government.

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Quick Notes

