

Geography Shapes Life

Trace how physical geography affects people across Southern and Eastern Asia.

SS7G11 “Explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, distribution of natural resources, and population distribution on Southern and Eastern Asia.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each geographic feature or resource in the passage. Circle the words that explain its effect on where people live, work, farm, or trade.

Land, Water, and People

- ① Southern Asia lies between the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean. The Himalayas block some cold northern air and help create monsoon patterns, seasonal winds that bring heavy summer rain. Rivers fed by mountain snow and monsoon rain, including the Ganges and Indus, have built fertile plains. These plains support farming and very dense settlement. However, flooding can damage homes and crops. The high mountains, deserts, and rugged plateaus make travel and settlement harder in some places, so fewer people live there.
- ② Eastern Asia faces the Pacific Ocean, and its long coast has supported ports, fishing, and trade. Japan, South Korea, and coastal China have used access to sea routes to connect factories with markets abroad. In contrast, the Gobi Desert and the Tibetan Plateau have harsh conditions and limited water, which help explain sparse populations there. Coal deposits in parts of China have supplied energy for industry, while limited farmland in mountainous areas concentrates many communities in river valleys and coastal lowlands.
- ③ Population distribution is not caused by one feature alone. In Bangladesh, flat delta land and abundant river water support intensive farming, but cyclones and floods create risks for a large population. In Mongolia, cold, dry grasslands and the Gobi Desert support far fewer people, although herding uses wide open land. Across Southern and Eastern Asia, location near coasts or rivers often increases trade and farm opportunities. Climate, landforms, resources, and transportation together shape where people live and work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How do the Himalayas affect both climate and population distribution in Southern Asia?

2 How has Eastern Asia's Pacific coast affected work and trade?

3 Why are the Gobi Desert and Tibetan Plateau sparsely populated?

4 Compare Bangladesh and Mongolia. What geographic conditions help explain their different population distributions?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one place named in the passage that is not Bangladesh or Mongolia. Write a four-sentence explanation of how at least two geographic factors affect where people live or work there. Use cause-and-effect words such as because, so, or as a result.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each geographic feature or resource in the passage. Circle the words that explain its effect on where people live, work, farm, or trade. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the Himalayas affect both climate and population distribution in Southern Asia?	They block some cold northern air and help create monsoon rain. Their high, rugged land also makes travel and settlement difficult, so fewer people live in some mountain areas.
2	How has Eastern Asia's Pacific coast affected work and trade?	The coast supports ports, fishing, and trade. Sea routes help connect factories in Japan, South Korea, and coastal China with markets abroad.
3	Why are the Gobi Desert and Tibetan Plateau sparsely populated?	They have harsh conditions and limited water.
4	Compare Bangladesh and Mongolia. What geographic conditions help explain their different population distributions?	Bangladesh has flat delta land and abundant river water that support intensive farming and a large population, despite flood and cyclone risks. Mongolia has cold, dry grasslands and the Gobi Desert, so it supports far fewer people.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In coastal China, access to the Pacific Ocean supports ports and trade. Because sea routes connect factories to markets abroad, many people can work in trade and industry. River valleys and coastal lowlands also have better farmland than many mountainous areas. As a result, population is concentrated in these lower areas.

Accept explanations that accurately connect at least two geographic factors to population, work, farming, or trade. For Part 3, accept any named place from the passage except Bangladesh or Mongolia if the explanation is supported by passage details.