



STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 29, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 719–724.

The Land

Terms to Know

cordilleras Parallel mountain ranges and plateaus (page 719)
archipelago A group of islands (page 720)

insular Relating to islands (page 720)
flora Plants (page 723)
fauna Animals (page 723)

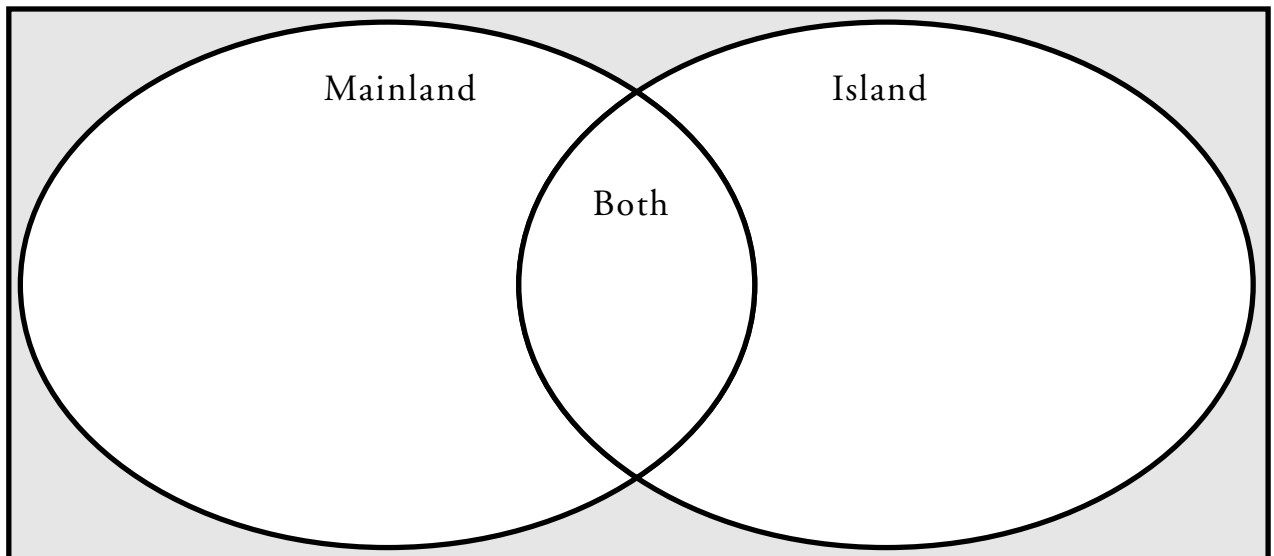
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you know how pearls are produced and harvested? Where do pearls come from? About how big are most pearls?

This section focuses on the physical features and natural resources of Southeast Asia.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the Venn diagram below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about whether the Southeast Asian countries are mainland countries, island countries, or both mainland and island countries.



**STUDY GUIDE****Chapter 29, Section 1****READ TO LEARN****Introduction** (page 719)

The physical geography of Southeast Asia includes rain forests, swamps, mountains, bodies of water, volcanoes, and abundant natural resources.

1. What makes up the physical geography of Southeast Asia?

Peninsulas and Islands (page 719)

Millions of years ago the collision of the Indo-Australian, Philippine, and Eurasian tectonic plates formed the landmasses of what is today Southeast Asia. The collision also formed **cordilleras**—parallel mountain ranges and plateaus—on the Indochina Peninsula. Volcanoes and earthquakes created a series of **archipelagos**—groups of islands—in the South Pacific.

Southeast Asia stretches from mainland Asia almost to Australia. About half of the region's countries—Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand—lie on the Indochina Peninsula. Malaysia is both a mainland and an island country. The rest of the countries are part of the Malay Archipelago. It has 20,000 islands and stretches from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

The **insular**, or island, countries of Southeast Asia include Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia, Singapore, and the Philippines. Indonesia is Southeast Asia's largest island country. It has thousands of islands, but fewer than 1,000 of them are permanently settled. Singapore has one large island and more than 50 smaller ones. It is near the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. More than 7,000 islands make up the Philippines. Only 900 islands are settled. The 11 largest islands make up over 95 percent of the country's area.

2. How was Southeast Asia formed?

Physical Features (page 722)

Cordilleras, volcanoes, and rivers are the major physical features of Southeast Asia.

- A. Mountains dominate southeast Asia and form many boundaries.

Mountains in the west and north separate the region from the rest of Asia. Three cordilleras running north and south separate Myanmar from south Asia and Thailand and separate Laos from Vietnam.

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- B. Hundreds of volcanoes have formed the mountain islands of Indonesia and the Philippines. The volcanoes are rich in minerals, which makes the soil of these islands fertile. These islands form part of the Ring of Fire, an area of volcanic activity that surrounds the Pacific Ocean.
- C. Southeast Asia's rivers are used for transportation, communication, and food. They also create fertile farming areas. Inland rivers include the **Irrawaddy** in Myanmar, the **Chao Phraya** in Thailand, and the **Red** in Vietnam. The **Mekong River** forms a border between Thailand and Laos and then flows through Cambodia and Vietnam.
3. What are the main physical features of Southeast Asia?
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 **Natural Resources** (page 723)

Southeast Asia has many rich natural resources.

- A. Energy sources include a large supply of fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas. Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, and Indonesia have rich petroleum reserves. Vietnam and Philippines mine coal. Indonesia is a member of OPEC and a leading producer of oil in the Far East.
- B. Southeast Asia has many minerals. Indonesia mines nickel, iron, and tin. The Philippines mine copper. Thailand, Laos, and Malaysia mine tin. Malaysia has the world's largest tin deposits. Myanmar has large deposits of tin, zinc, other minerals, but the resources are underdeveloped. Many countries also mine sapphires and rubies. The Philippines harvest pearls.
- C. The **flora** and **fauna** of the region are diverse. The flora, or plants, include the *Rafflesia arnoldii*—the world's largest flower. Thailand has over 1,000 species of orchids. Malaysia has rubber trees. Mahogany is found in the Philippines. Myanmar exports teak wood. Indonesia is the world's largest supplier of plywood. The fauna, or animals, include elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, and orangutans. Some animals native to Southeast Asia are not found anywhere else in the world.
- D. Fish thrive in rivers, seas, and fish farms in the region. Large fishing operations now compete with traditional small operations.
4. What are the major natural resources of Southeast Asia?
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STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 29, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 725–729.

Climate and Vegetation

Terms to Know

endemic Native to a particular area.
(page 728)

deciduous Trees that lose their leaves in
autumn (page 729)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What kinds of plants and animals are native to the area where you live? Have some of the species of plants and animals native to your area been replaced by urban areas or by other species that have been brought there by humans?

In the last section, you read about the physical features of Southeast Asia. This section focuses on the climate and vegetation of the region.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the climate regions and vegetation of Southeast Asia.

Climate Region	Location	Vegetation

(continued)

**STUDY GUIDE****Chapter 29, Section 2****READ TO LEARN** **Introduction** (page 725)

Southeast Asia has seasonal winds called monsoons. These winds blow over the northern part of the Indian Ocean and the land nearby. In summer the monsoons bring large amounts of rain to the region. This rain is enough to support the region's tropical rain forests. In winter, the wind blows out to sea from the northeast as a dry monsoon.

1. Why does Southeast Asia get large amounts of rain?

 **Tropical Climate Regions** (page 725)

Tropical climates dominate Southeast Asia:

- A. Much of Southeast Asia has a tropical rain forest climate. The temperature is mostly the same year-round—about 79°F (26°C)—with high humidity.

This tropical rain forest climate supports a diverse ecosystem, or community of interdependent living things. In the Malaysian rain forest, 145,000 species of flowering plants grow. There are several layers of vegetation between river valleys and higher elevations. Peat swamp forests exist in the river valleys. Sandy soil supports coastal shrubs. The tidal mud flats support mangrove swamp forests. Lowland areas with poor or shallow soil support forests of tall trees with leathery, evergreen leaves. Some of these trees are used in making medicines and varnishes.

Singapore was once covered by dense rain forest. As Singapore grew, urban areas replaced much of the natural habitat. Many **endemic** species—those native to an area—are now gone.

- B. The tropical savanna is the next largest climate region in Southeast Asia. It is located in the Indochina Peninsula and along the southeastern parts of Indonesia. Tropical savanna regions change between wet and dry seasons and support grasslands. On the mainland from May through October, summer monsoon winds bring rain. The winter dry season is from October to April. In southern Indonesia, these seasons are reversed. There the dry season is from May to September, and the rains come from October to April.

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- C. Northern areas of Southeast Asia's mainland have a humid subtropical climate. From November to April, the cool, dry temperatures there average around 61°F (16°C). The Shan Plateau in Myanmar has lower temperatures than the rest of the country.
2. What tropical climates exist in Southeast Asia, and where are they located?

 **Highlands Climate Region** (page 729)

Highlands climates are located in mountainous areas of Myanmar and on the Indonesian islands of New Guinea and Borneo. Highlands climate regions are much cooler than the other climate regions in Southeast Asia. The lower slopes have **deciduous** forests. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in autumn. Higher elevations have evergreen trees. In Myanmar, forests of rhododendrons grow.

3. Where are highlands climates located in Southeast Asia?
