

CHAPTER - 7

ASIA

Introduction

Area: 43,608,000 million sq. km (30% of total land surface of the earth.)

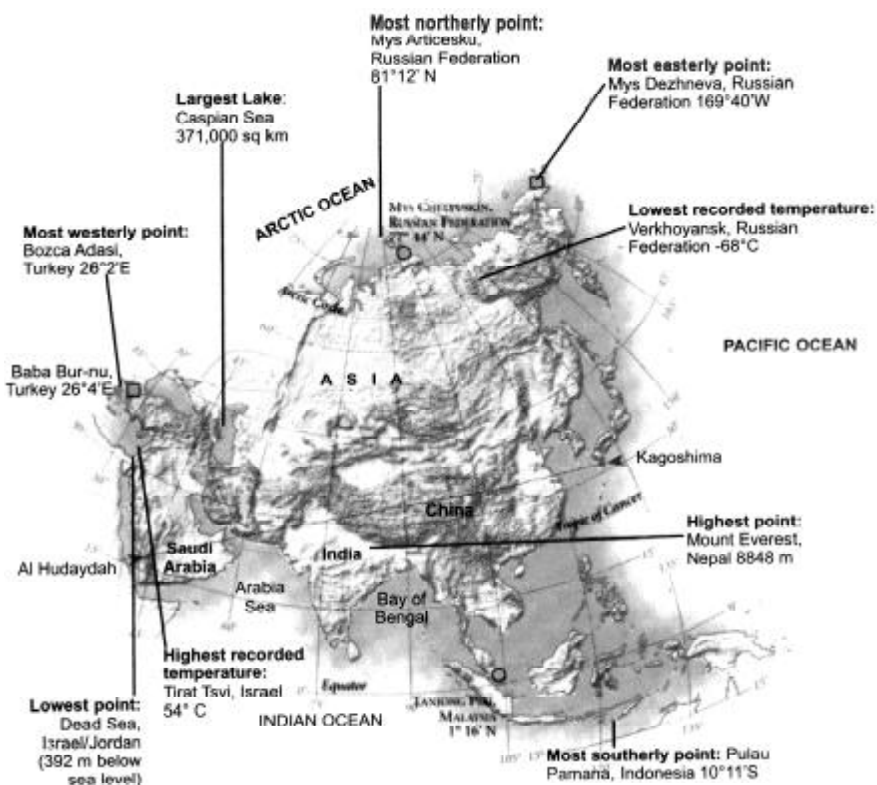
Population : 3588.9 million

Latitudes : 10°11'S to 81°12'N

Only some of the Indonesian group of Islands is located to the south of equator in the Southern Hemisphere.

Longitude : 26°2'E to 169°40'W in the east crossing 180° longitude.

North-South Extent : 6,440 km East-West Extent : 9,650 km



Size : Largest continent in the world, 13 times larger than India.

Situation : The continent of Asia is situated entirely in the northern hemisphere except some of the islands of Indonesia. To the north of it lies the Arctic Ocean, a frozen sea, to the east the Pacific Ocean, to the south the Indian Ocean and to the west lies Mediterranean Sea. It is separated from Europe by the Ural Mountains, the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, the Caucasus Mountains and the Strait of Dardanelles in the west and from Africa by the Red Sea and the Isthmus of Suez while the Bering Strait separates it from North America.

● Greatest extent, North-South : 6440 km

■ Greatest extent, East-West : 9650 km



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Asia—Physical

Important Seas

Name	Location	Part of Ocean
Kara Sea, Laptev Sea, and East Siberian Sea	North of Russia	Arctic Ocean
Bering Sea	Northerst of Russia	Pacific Ocean
Sea of Okhotsk	East of Russia	Pacific Ocean
Sea of Japan	West of Japan	Pacific Ocean
Yellow Sea	West of Korea	Pacific Ocean
East China Sea	East of China	Pacific Ocean
South China Sea	South of China	Pacific Ocean
Sulu Sea	West of the Philippines Island	Pacific Ocean
Celebes Sea	North of Celebes Island	Pacific Ocean
Banda Sea	East of Celebes Island	Pacific Ocean
Flores Sea	South of Celebes Sea	Pacific Ocean
Molucca Sea	East of Celebes Island	Pacific Ocean
Java Sea	North of Java	Pacific Ocean
Timor Sea	Northwest of Australia	Pacific Ocean
Arafura Sea	North of Australia	South Pacific Ocean
Bay of Bengal	East of the Indian Peninsula	Indian Ocean
Arabian Sea	West of the Indian Peninsula	Indian Ocean
Red Sea	Separates Asia from Africa	Indian Ocean

Important Gulfs

Name	Location	Part of Ocean
Gulf of Ob	Between Yamal Peninsula and Gyda Peninsula	Arctic Ocean
Gulf of Chihli	East of China	Yellow Sea (Pacific Ocean)
Gulf of Tonkin	East of Vietnam	South China Sea (Pacific Ocean)
Gulf of Thailand	South of Thailand	South China Sea
Persian Gulf	Separates Arabian Peninsula from the Plateau of Iran	Indian Ocean
Gulf of Oman	Between Iranian Plateau and Oman	Indian Ocean
Gulf of Aden	Between Somalia and Yemen	Indian Ocean
Gulf of Aquaba	Between Aquaba (Jordan) and Sinai Peninsula (Egypt).	Red Sea
Severnaya Islands	North of Russia	Arctic Ocean
New Siberian Islands	North of Russia	Between Laptev Sea and East Siberian Sea, Arctic Ocean
Wrangel Islands	North of Russia	East Siberian Sea, Arctic Ocean



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Name	Location	Part of Ocean
Kurile Islands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extension of the volcanic Kamchatka Peninsula 	Between Kamchatka Peninsula and Hokkaido Island	Pacific Ocean
Ryukyu Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An example of sub-merged island. 	Between Kyushu and Taiwan	Pacific Ocean
Bonin Island	East of Ryukyu Island	Pacific Ocean
Babuyan Islands	Between Taiwan and Luzon (Philippines)	Pacific Ocean
Spartly and Parcel Islands	A group of atolls in South China Sea	Pacific Ocean
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A disputed group of islands claimed by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Philippines, Brunei because of the vast reserves of oil beneath these islands. 		
The Philippines archipelago	Lying 1200 km east of Vietnam and 15° north of the equator. Luzon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The largest and the important island of the Philippines is known as the 'Rice Bowl of Philippines'. Mount Mayon, the only active volcano of the Philippines, is located in the Luzon. Good quality cigar tobacco is grown in the northern Luzon (mainly Cagayan Valley). Igorot tribe lives in the northern region of island. Mindano Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second largest island located in southern part of the Philippines. Mount Apo, a dormant volcano on Mindano, is the country's highest peak. 	Pacific Ocean

Important Straits

Name	Separates	Connects
Bering Strait	Asia and North America	East Siberian Sea with Bering Sea
La Parouse Strait	Sakhalin Island and Hokkaido Island	Sea of Okhotsk with Sea of Japan
Tata Strait	Eastern Russia and Sakhalin	Sea of Okhotsk with Sea of Japan
Korea Strait	South Korea and Kyushu (Japan)	Yellow Sea with Sea of Japan
Formosa Strait (Taiwan Strait)	Taiwan and China	East China Sea with South China Sea
Luzon Strait	Taiwan and Luzon (Philippines)	South China Sea with Pacific Ocean.


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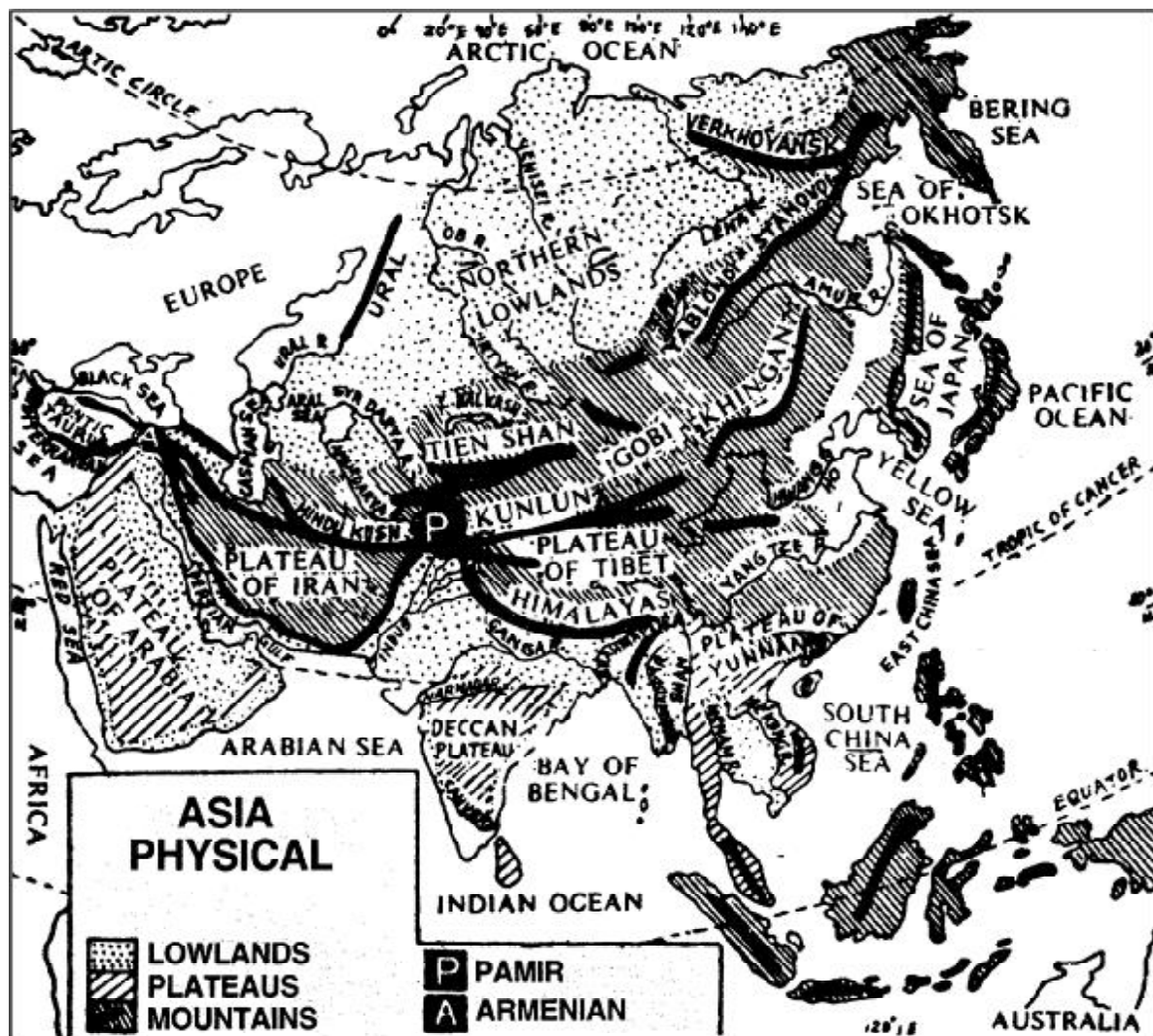
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Name	Separates	Connects
Makassar Strait	Borneo (Kalimantan) and Celebes Island	Celebes Sea with Java Sea.
Sundra Strait	Java and Sumatra	Java Sea with India Ocean
Malacca Strait • One of the great ship-ping corridors of the world	Malaya Peninsula and Sumatra	Java Sea with Bay of Bengal
Strait of Jahore	Singapore and Malaysia	South China Sea with strait of Malacca
Strait of Hormuz	UAE and Iran	Persian Gulf with Gulf of Oman.
Strait of Bosphorus	Asia and Europe	Black Sea with Sea of Marmara.
Strait of Dardanelles	Asia and Europe	Sea of Marmara with Mediterranean Sea

Important Mountains

The Himalayan Mountain Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the north of Indo Gangetic Plain, is an example of mountain range which formed in the same age with same process. An example of fold mountain of Alpine orogeny. Mount Everest (8,848 m) is the highest peak, located in Nepal.
Karakoram Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies in the north of the Himalaya. Godwin Austen (K₂) is the highest peak of Karakoram.
Kailash Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East of Karakoram Range in Tibet.
Kunlun Shan Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the north of Tibet Plateau and to the South of the desert basin of Tarim in China.
Tianshan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the north of Tarim basin.
Great Khingan Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tien Shan extends to the north east and reaches the Amur River under the name of Great Khingan Mountains.
Altai Mountain Hangay Mountain Sayan Mountain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the north of Tianshan in succession in a more or less east-west direction.
Yablonovy Range, Stanovoy Range, Dzhugzur Range and Kolyama Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the north east of Altai Range in the eastern Siberia.
Verkhoyansk Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the east of the Lena River separates Central Siberian Plateau from the eastern Siberian regio.
Pegu Yoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Irrawaddy and Sittang are divided in their middle course by this mountain range.
Arakan Yoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running southwards, is the western range of Myanmar. A range of the Himalaya which further continues through the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sumatra, Java and other Indonesian islands.





The Mountain Regions to the West of the Pamir

Hindukush Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running westwards from the Pamir Knot to the Elburz Mountains in Iran.
Elburz Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindukush Mountain joins the Armenian Knot near the Caspian Sea under the name of Elburz Mountains in Iran.
Sulaiman Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It proceeds southwards from the Pamir Knot along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The most famous pass across this mountain wall is the Khyber, linking Pakistan with Afghanistan.
Kirthar Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sulaiman Range takes the name of Kirthan in the south.
Makran Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirthan Range turns westward on the Arabian Sea coast and assumes the name of Makran.
Zagros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running to the northwest of Makran, ultimately ends up in the Armenian Knot.
Pontic Mountain Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running to the northwest of Armenian Knot in Turkey.
Taurus Mountain Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Running to the southwest of Armenian Knot along the Mediterranean coast in Turkey.



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Important Plateaus and Basins

NAME	INFORMATION
Ladakh Plateau (Inter-montane Plateau)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies between the Karakoram in the north and the Himalayas in the south.
Tibet Plateau (Inter-montane Plateau)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enclosed to the south by the Himalays, to the north by the Kunlun Shan Range is the highest tableland (4,800 m) of Tibet. The largest plateau in the world with an average altitude of 4,250 m.
Yunan Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the southeast of the Tibet Plateau is separated from the fertile Szechuan basin by the range of mountains.
Takla Makan Desert Plateau and Tarim Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An intermontane desert basin lies between the Tianshan in the north and Kunlun Shan in the south. Convective and 'Karaburan' blows in the arid regions.
Pamir Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated to the northwest of the Indian sub-continent. Meeting point for the central Asian mountain ranges which make up the skeleton of the continent. The highest plateau of the world with an altitude of 4,900 m is also known as 'roof of the world'.
Armenian Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated between the Caspian Sea and Black Sea. Pamir-like plateau from where many mountain ranges spread out, therefore called the Armenian Knot.
Iranian Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The central desert plateau of Iran is enclosed by Zagros in the south and west and Elburz in the north.
Mongolian Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high plateau between 1,500 and 1,800 m above sea level, is situated between the Khyngan in the east, Altunshan and Tien Shan in the south, Altai in the west and Yablonovy in the north.
Urfan Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the west of Mongolian Plateau.
Aldan Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the north west of Stanovoy Mountain.
Indo-China Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Region of Southeast Asia, extends over Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar.
Shan Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies between Pegu Yoma and Arkan Yoma in the eastern part of Myanmar. The Salween River flows through the plateau. Region important for precious stone (Rubies), silver, lead, and tin and tungsten.
Deccan Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies to the south of Indo Gangetic plain, between the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats. North western part of Deccan Plateau is an example of lava Plateau or Plateau of accumulation.
Baluchistan Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A desert plateau (900 m high) situated to the west of Kirthar Range.

NAME	INFORMATION
Arabian Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An example of titled block extending over the entire Arabian Peninsula.
Plateau of Antolia of Asia Minor or Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enclosed between Pontic Mountain Ranges in the north west and Tauras in the south west. A vast plateau with an average height of 1,200 m, broken by ridges and volcanic outcrops. The main rivers draining off the plateau are Tigris and Euphrates.
Loess Plateau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plateau region is surrounded by Great Plain in the east, Qining Mountains in the south and Ordos Plateau in the north. Loess is the wind borne fine dust, deposited beyond the deserts limits and is the fine loam, rich in lime. Shansi and Shensi region of loess plateau is known for its extensive coal reserves. The Hwang Ho flows through loess land.
Dzungarian Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively low lying land between the Tien Shan and Altai Range in Mongolia. A sort of door between China and Mongolia in the east and Tarim lowland in the west.
Mesopotamian Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed by the Tigris and Euphrates River in Iraq. One of the major regions where wheat, barley, tobacco and cotton is grown.
Gobi Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated to the southeast of Mongolians Plateau and extends into China. Aridity due to interior location shows the features of undulating sand sea as well as barren sheets or rock and stone.

Important Land Regions

Manchurian Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed by the Amur River and its tributaries in the northern part of China. Important cities Anshan, Shenyag and Fushun of Mukden Triangle are located.
Great Plain of China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed by the Hwang-Ho and Yangtze Kiang Rivers in the eastern China.
Turanian Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed by the two principal Asian rivers, the Amu Darya and Syr Darya. It is an example of Basin plain which covers the region of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.
West Siberian Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It extends over 3,200 km eastwards from the Urals to the Yenisey River and is one of the largest lowlands in the world.
Taaidam Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lies between Altun Shan and Kunlun Shan and to the north east of Central Tibetan Plateau.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The major region of oil fields.
Szechuan Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated to the north of Yunan Plateau is the fertile basin where the Yangtze Kiang River is joined by three major tributaries known as the Red Basin because of its coloured sandstone. Red basin of Szechuan is the leading rice producing region and is called the 'Rice Bowl of China'.
	THE DESERT LANDSCAPE OF SAUDI ARABIA
Rub-al-Khali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest continuous sand desert in the southern part of Saudi Arabia. It is also called 'Empty Quarter'.
Al Nafud Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deserts land in the north eastern region of Saudi Arabia.
	THE DESERT LANDSCAPE OF IRAN
Dash-I-Kavir	Largest Salt desert of the world situated in the northern Iran.
Dasht-I-Lut	Barren desert of Iran situated in the eastern part of country.

Important Lakes

NAME	INFORMATION
Lake Baikal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in the southern part of eastern Siberia and to the west of Yablonovy Range in Russia. Source of the Lena River. It is the deepest continental body of water on Earth having a maximum depth of 1,620 m.
Lake Balkash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Kazakhstan. North of the Lake is Karaganda coal basin.
Aral Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Two principal Asian rivers, the Amu Darya and Syr Darya flow through semi arid depression into the sea.
Lake Van Golu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The largest lake of Turkey. One of the saltiest lake in the world.
Lake Turnool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The northernmost extent of East African Rift Valley. Located in the Anatolia Peninsula of Turkey.
Lake Asad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in Syria.
Dead Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an example of rift valley lake which lies along the West Bank of Jordan. One of the deepest points of Asia is the world's lowest lake. The Jordan river flows into the Dead Sea, which has no outlet, and evaporation balances the inflow.
Sea of Gallilee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lava flow blocked the Jordan Valley and formed an elongated lake in Israel.



NAME	INFORMATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lake-blocked lake is linked to the Dead Sea through the Jordan River.
Lake Tonle Sap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Located in central lowland of Cambodia.
Lake Toba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situated in Sumatra (Indonesia). An example of crater of caldera lake.
Lop Nor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salt lake in China, site of numerous nuclear testing. Tarim river drains into the lake.
Caspian Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The largest lake in the world which is five times larger than the Lake Superior. It separates Europe from Asia.

Important Rivers

NAME	SOURCE	OUTFLOW
NORTH FLOWING RIVERS FROM WEST TO EAST IN RUSSIA		
Ob Tributaries : Irtysh, Tobolsk	Altai Mountain	Gulf of Ob
Yenisey	Tannuala Mountain	Arctic Ocean
Lena	Lake Baikal	Arctic Ocean
Kolyma	Kolyma Range	East Siberain Sea
EAST FLOWING RIVERS (FROM NORTH TO SOUTH)		
Amur Tributary : Sungari River.	Confluence of Shika Argun River.	Tatar Strait
Yalu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms a well defined border between North Korea and the Eastern Russia. 		Korea Bay (Yellow Sea)
Hwang Ho	Tibetan Plateau	The river's course was diverted away into the Gulf of Pohai instead of the Yellow Sea.
Yangtse Kiang <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is the longest river of Asia. It flows through Szechuan basin. Shangai and Wuhan, are the important cities of China lying along the river. 	Tibetan Plateau	East China Sea.
Si Kiang <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than half of the total silk production in China comes from the Yangtse Kiang and Si Kiang deltas. 	Eastern Yunan (China)	South China Sea.



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EAST FLOWING RIVERS (FROM NORTH TO SOUTH)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 75% of the Chinese live in fertile river basin of Hwang Ho, Yangtse Kiang. 		
SOUTH FLOWING RIVERS		
Mekong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It flows through China, Thailand-Laos border, Cambodia and Vietnam over 4,160 km to South China Sea. Longest river in South East Asia. In Laos, the Mekong forms the western boundary with Thailand. Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh cities are situated on the bank of river. Mekong valley of south Vietnam is devoted to rice cultivation. Delta: Arcuate, is (characterised by funnel shaped distributaries, stabled by growth of mangrove vegetation) lying in Vietnam. 	Tibetan highlands	South China Sea
Chao Phraya City located : Bangkok <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principal river of Thailand. The river's delta has rich alluvial soil which is used almost entirely for rice and has very high density of population. 		Gulf of Thailand
Salween <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It flows through China & Shan Plateau (Myanmar) over 2,090 km. Longest river of Myanmar. 	Tibetan highlands	Gulf of Martaban
Irrawaddy Tributary : Chindwin City located : Mandalay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major river of the country referred to as the 'Life life of Myanmar' Central basin between Irrawaddy and Chindwin around Mandalay is very important for wheat and cotton cultivation. Delta region of Irrawaddy and Sittang, known as the 'Rice Bowl of Myanmar'. 	North Myanmar	Bay of Bengal
Brahmaputra <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brahmaputra is called Tsang-Po in Tibet before entering in India. 	Rises in galcier about 100 km south east of Mansarovar Lake	Bay of Bengal

SOUTH FLOWING RIVERS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It enter Bangladesh near Bhubri. 		
Ganga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the upper course Alaknanda and Bhagirathi River meet at Devprayag and from Ganga 	Gangotri Glacier	Bay of Bengal
Indus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the world's largest rivers flow south-east-wards across the country then drain into Arabian Sea through Attock plains of Pakistan. 	Mansarovar lake	Arabian Sea
Tigris and Eupharates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These two rivers dominate Iraq and flow south-east-wards across the country then drain into the Persian Gulf via a combined estuary. They meet at Shatt-al-Arab in Iraq. 		Persian Gulf
Amu Darya and Syr Darya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principal rivers of Central Asia flow in to the Aral Sea through the semi and depression. 		

