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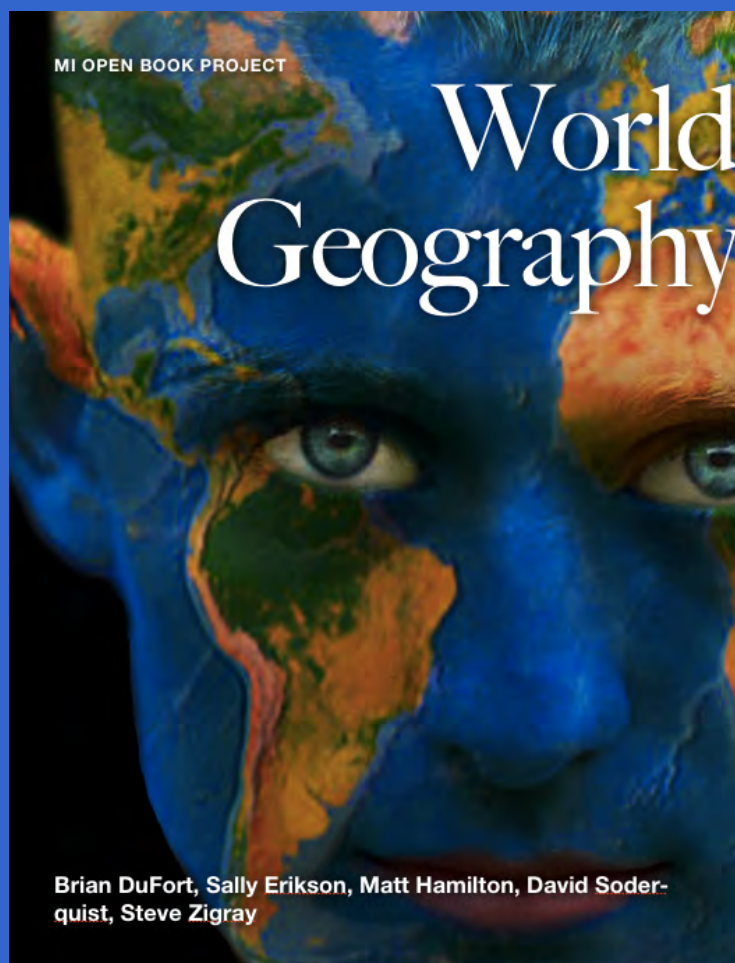
World Geography

Brian Dufort, Sally Erickson, Matt Hamilton,
David Soderquist, Steve Zigray

World Geography



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The Michigan Open Book Project

Project Manager: Dave Johnson,
Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School
District

6th Grade Team Editor: Amy Salani,
Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School
District

6th Grade Content Editor: Carol Egbo

6th Grade World Geography Authors

Brian Dufort, Shepherd Public Schools

Sally Erickson, Livonia Public Schools

Matt Hamilton, East Jordan Public
Schools

David Soderquist, Three Rivers Schools

Steve Zigray, Concord Public Schools



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Brian Dufort

Shepherd Public Schools

Odyssey MS/HS

Brian is originally from Midland, MI and is a graduate of Northern Michigan University. He has spent his entire teaching career at Odyssey Middle/High School, an alternative education program in the Shepherd Public School system. In 2001, his environmental studies class was one of seven programs from the United States and Canada to be chosen as a winner of the Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award. Brian is also the Northern Conference director of the Michigan Alternative Ath-

Sally Erickson

Livonia Public Schools

Cooper Upper Elementary

Sally has taught grades 3-6, as well as special education. She has served as a district literacy leader for many years and participated in the Galileo Leadership Academy in 2001-03. She is proud to be a teacher.

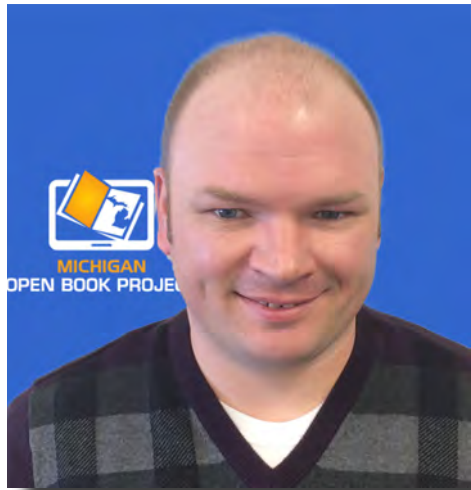


Matt Hamilton

East Jordan Public Schools

East Jordan Middle School

Matt grew up in Cadillac, MI. He holds a bachelor and masters degree from Michigan State University. He currently teaches middle school History and Geography. Matt started and advises a club at his school called the Shoe Club to inspire his students to Dream Big. His wife and two daughters enjoy traveling and spending time in the outdoors.



David Soderquist

Three Rivers Public Schools

Three Rivers Middle School

For the Past 11 years David has taught 6-8 grade Social Studies for Three Rivers Middle School. He serves as Department Head, School Improvement Member and Social Studies Rep for his area. Over the past few years he has completed his Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and become a state recognized Instructional Coach.

Steve Zigray

Concord Community Schools

Concord Middle School

Steve Zigray is a 6th grade teacher. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University and a Masters Degree in K-12 Administration from Eastern Michigan University. Honors Steve has been awarded are the 2001 Junior Achievement Educator of the Year and he was nominated for Jackson Magazine's, Educator of the year in 2014. He has also coached high school and middle school sports, worked on various school improvement committees, wrote the 6th grade Common Assessment tests for Jackson County ISD and is an active member in the community as well as the PTO. He lives in southeast Jackson County with his beautiful wife and three fantastic daughters.



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South Asia

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does population growth impact a region?
3. How does the population of a place impact how and where you live?



QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

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Movement

How do we move from place to place?
How do ideas move from place to place?
How do products move from place to place?



Regions

What region do we live in?
What are a region's characteristics?
What type of region is it?
What makes a region?



Human/Environment Interaction

How have we adapted to or changed our landscape?



Location

Where are we?
Where is a place?



Place

What kind of place is it?
What is it like there?



Over seven billion (7,000,000,000) people live on planet Earth. South Asia has over 1,000,000,000 people alone. Geographers determine regions of the world differently, usually based on characteristics that an area shares, such as language, climate, religion or economic similarities. For our purposes, South Asia includes: India, Nepal,



Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f3/South_West_Asia_location_map.svg/1280px-South_West_Asia_location_map.svg.png

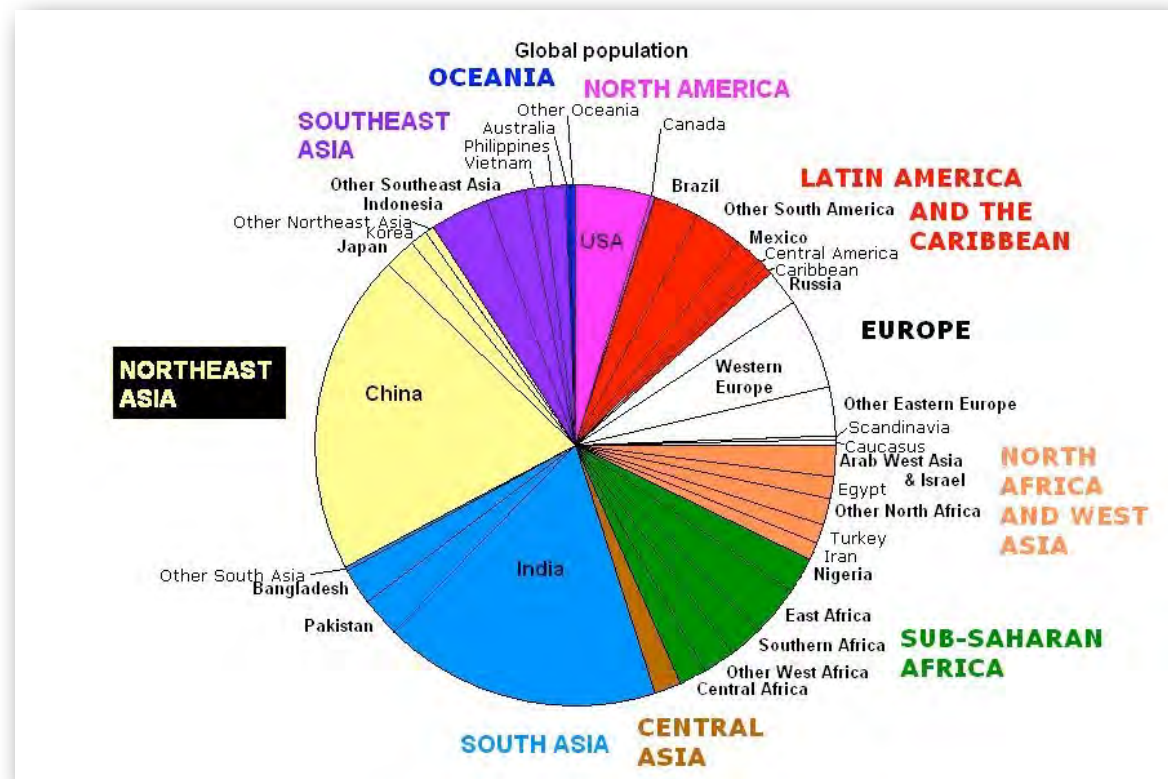


Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/de/World_population_pie_chart.JPG

After China and India, what is the next largest slice of of the pie chart above?

If India has 1.2 Billion people living there, approximately how many people might there be living in that next largest slice?

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. India, with over one billion people alone, is the second most populated country in the world, following China. This “subcontinent” is surrounded by the Arabian Sea to the west, the Indian Ocean to the south, and the Bay of Bengal to the east. Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal sit nestled in the Himalayan Mountains to

the north. Sri Lanka lies just off the coast of southeastern India and The Maldiv islands stretch down toward the Equator.

More than 1 billion people live in one country in this region - India, alone, with predictions of it soon surpassing China within a decade or two. The map above shows the population of major world regions. As you will see in following sections a population this large presents some major challenges to people living in the region.

Interactive 6.1 Population Clock



The world population is constantly growing! Visit this website to learn more about the estimates and what population growth means. (requires internet connection)

Interactive 6.2 Top 10 Populated Countries



Learn more about the 10 most populated countries at this website (requires internet connection)

In this chapter we will be studying the theme of “region” while learning about this portion of the world. A **region** is a man-made label that helps divide the world into manageable chunks for study. Typically a region has a **unifying characteristic**, a similarity that brings the territory together, but not everyone agrees on regions. Even the authors of this book disagreed on where to group certain parts of the world.

How Are Regions Determined?

Sometimes a region is defined by physical characteristics. This can include climate, soil, and vegetation patterns. Others are divided by human characteristics such as culture, political structures, and economies.

The map on this page shows the regional areas of the United States as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Michigan is part of the Midwest. If someone lives in California however, is the Midwest really west? This is one problem with labeling a region. In the chapter on North Africa and the Middle East, the term “Eurocentric view” was introduced. A person in South Asia doesn’t think of themselves as South Asian. They think of themselves as Indian if they come from India. They consider themselves Nepalese if they come from Nepal. This is one instance of where it is not cultural characteristics that label a region, but rather, physical characteristics, as you will learn in the next section.

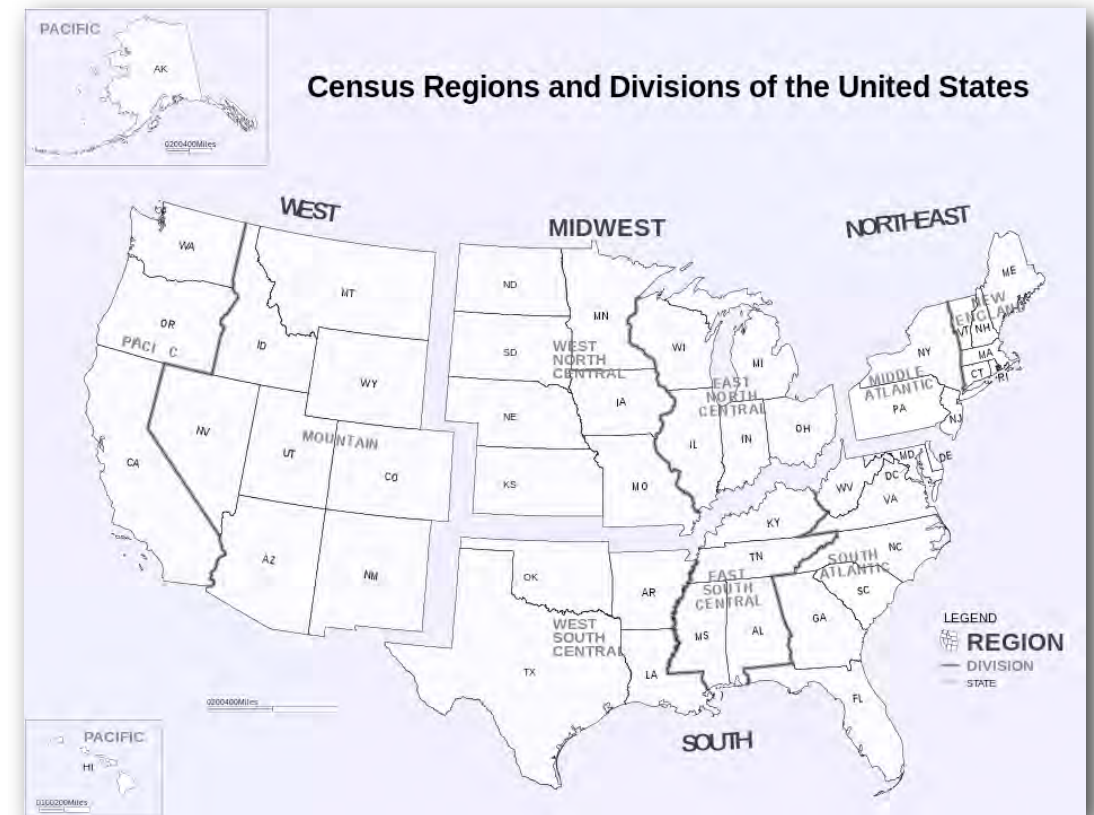


Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_regions_of_the_United_States#/media/File:Census_Regions_and_Division_of_the_United_States.svg

Assuming that you are a student in Michigan:

What region of the state do you live in?

What region of the country do you live in?

What makes your region a region?



QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
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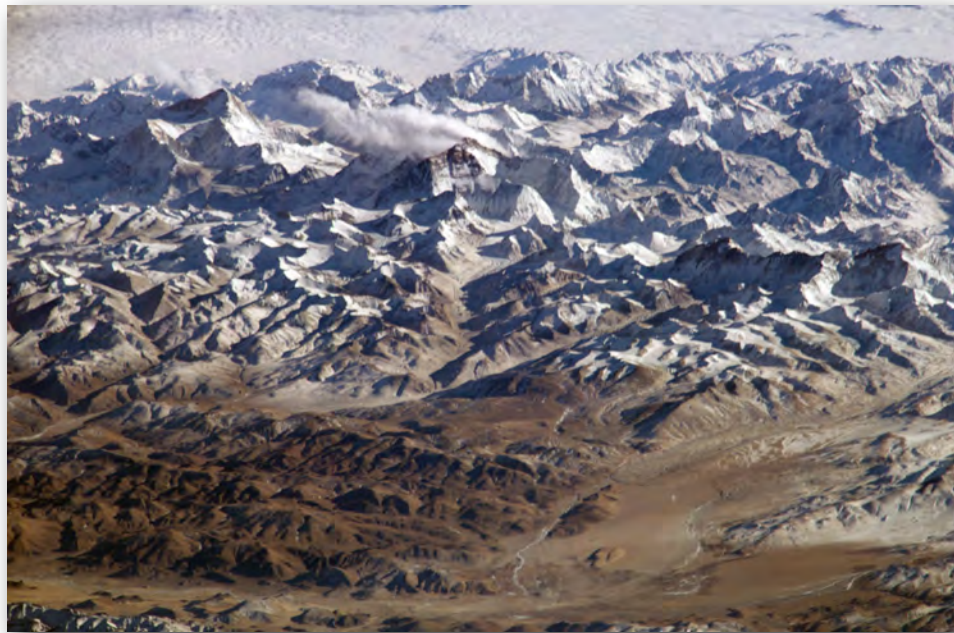


Image source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/79/Himalayas.jpg>

India is the largest country in South Asia spanning almost 1.3 million square miles. It is the seventh largest in the world and one-third the size of the United States. India has 22 official languages, with 1,000 additional languages and 22,000 dialects-more than any other country in the world. Most of their highly educated citizens speak English as a second language. Over 41% speak Hindi.

The Himalayan Mountain range stretches for nearly 1,500 miles, from Pakistan to Bhutan, along the ridge of India, separating it from Nepal. Mt. Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, reaches a height of 29,035 ft. Millions of years ago, sliding tectonic plates forced this mountain range to separate northern Asia from South Asia, forming a natural barrier against trading or traveling. You will learn more about this when you study the history of the ancient world.

Interactive 6.3 Google Maps - South Asia



*Explore the area with this embedded Google Map!
(Requires internet connection)*



Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/58/Himalayas_Map.png

Within the same region lies one of the flattest areas on Earth-the Indo-Gangetic Plain, sitting between the Himalayan Mountains in the north and the Deccan Plateau to the south. The Ganges River, nearly 1600 miles long, runs through this area, emptying into the Bay of Bengal leading to the Indian Ocean. It is considered sacred by Hindus, who travel there to bathe in its holy waters and wash away their sins. This area is ripe for agriculture, making it ideal land for farmers. The Indus and Brahmaputra Rivers also run through this landscape.

In the northeastern part of India is Cherrapunji, in the Assam Hills, one of the wettest parts of the world with an average rainfall of 35 feet, or 428 inches a year.

Interactive 6.4 Rainfall in Cherrapunji



Learn more about the rainfall in Cherrapunji with this video (requires internet connection)

The Deccan Plateau is the peninsular part that juts into the Indian Ocean. It is surrounded by the Western and Eastern Ghats Mountain ranges, where roaming monkeys and elephants can be found.

Nepal

Nepal, a landlocked country about the size of Florida, lies between China to the north and India to the south. Of the ten highest peaks in the world, eight rest in Nepal, with the majestic Mt. Everest being the tallest.

Sherpas are an ethnic group that live in the region. Many are experienced climbers who often guide mountain climbers. The rugged Himalayas separate Nepal from China, with hilly terrain in the central region and flattening out to the south into swampland and forests. The highest percentage of people that practice Hinduism live in Nepal; however, Buddhism, founded by Prince Siddhartha Gautama of Lumbini, is determined to have been



Edmund Hillary a New Zealand native and Tenzing Norgay, a sherpa were the first to reach the top of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953. Initial attempts started as early as 1921 but all fell short of reaching the summit. Since the initial ascent, over 10,000 people have attempted, with over 1700 making it and 175 died while attempting The mountain is named after Sir George Everest, the first person to record the location and height of the mountain..



born in Nepal around 560 B.C.E.

With few cars available, most people continue to travel on foot. The one international airport is found in Katmandu, the only major political city in the country and the most densely populated area of the region. Being one of the least developed countries in the world, many people are isolated due to the rugged and mountainous terrain.



Image source: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/2015_Nepal_depremi_\(6\).jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/2015_Nepal_depremi_(6).jpg)

Nepal recently experienced a severe and destructive earthquake on April 25, 2015, measuring 7.8 on the Richter Scale and killing upwards of 10,000 people. The last significant earthquake of 1934 killed 17,000. Katmandu is an overcrowded and poor place that rests near a major tectonic plate. When new construction occurs, there are no codes to insure they can withstand major disasters, such as earthquakes.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh, is home to 156 million people making it one of the most crowded places on earth. Bangladesh is a country smaller than the state of Iowa, an dhome to 156 million people, making it one of the most crowded places on earth. It is mostly a flat, fertile land, full of flourishing wild and plant life. The swampy Sunderbans forest in the southeast is home to the endangered Bengal tiger. This area is often hit by cyclones and tidal waves, causing severe flooding. During the rainy seasons, overflowing waters flood farms, often ruining crops, providing even less food for its growing population. This country is one of the poorest in the world. Although most people there are farmers, there is still not enough food to feed everyone. They are the largest producers of jute, a crop fiber used to make burlap. Like India and Pakistan, Bangladesh was ruled by Great Britain until their independence in 1947. At that time, Pakistan broke off into East and West Pakistan; however, separated by 1,000 miles. In 1971, East Pakistan became Bangladesh. Although disease and poverty are

rampant, economic growth is slowly increasing.

Bhutan

Bhutan is a mountainous, landlocked country sitting between India and China with 751,000 people in an area of 46,500 square miles. This predominantly mountainous area is home to some of the highest, snow covered peaks in the world, reaching up to 23,000 feet. Only monks live in the highest regions of the mountains in a few remote monasteries. Three-fourths of the people practice Buddhism, with the minority being Nepalese and practicing Hinduism. Thunderstorms and heavy rains are common. Most people in this country either farm crops such as wheat, rice, corn, and barley, or tend livestock, such as cattle, yaks, and sheep.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, formerly called Ceylon, is a small island about the size of West Virginia. It lies between the Bay of Bengal to the north, the Gulf of Mannar to the west and the Indian Ocean to the south. It is 20 miles off the coast of India, separated by the Palk Strait. Several landforms are evident in this small country: mountains in the center, plains along the outer edges, a rainforest in the southwest corner. Wild animals, such as bears, crocodiles, snakes, elephants and monkeys call this home, along with over 3000 plant species. The bulk of the people are Sinhalese who

come from northern India and practice Buddhism. From southern India are the Tamils, following the Hindu religion. Most Sri Lankans are farmers, but wood carving, basket weaving, jewelry making and pottery are popular. Like other people living in this region of the world, Sri Lankans live with the threat of natural hazards. For example, a **tsunami** in 2004 killed over 30,000 Sri Lankans.

The Maldives

The Maldives, the smallest country in South Asia, is made up of nearly 1,200 islands that stretch southwest of India in the Indian Ocean and are surrounded by coral reefs. Many islanders migrate to Malé, the capital. Only 210 of the islands are inhabited by humans. Palm trees and other plant life are found on these tiny islands, with no island bigger than five square miles. Fishing is the island's main source of income, as is tourism. The islands have many master boat builders, creating boats holding up to 12 people. Many of the islands are getting bigger, while others are slowly eroding away. The coral reefs surrounding these islands are home to many varieties of sea life. Over 400 miles of sandy coastlines and beautiful lagoons attract thousands of tourists. The people of the Maldives are Sunni Muslim, with the only accepted religion being Sunni Islam. Visitors may quietly practice their personal religion; however, no other homes of worship are available.

Weather in the Region

Extreme weather conditions exist in South Asia. The southeast region receives record breaking rainfalls and the western part is desert. Devastating monsoons flood this area in the summer while the winter often brings extreme droughts and temperatures reaching 110° Fahrenheit. (Visual showing actual rain and desert.) Vacationers and the wealthy flock to the hills, or spots at a higher elevation with cooler temperatures, to escape the heat and humidity.

Interactive 6.5 Investigating Regions



Use this handout and Google to learn the answers to the questions on this handout. (Requires internet connection)

Interactive 6.6 If the World Were a Village



Take another look at the “If the World Were a Village” video.

If the video above were the only tool available to you, would you be able to label regions of the world using physical characteristics or human characteristics?

Explain your answer.

Section 3

History

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does population growth impact a region?
3. How does the population of a place impact how and where you live?



The Taj Mahal took 22,000 workers, 11,000 elephants and 22 years to complete. It was finished in 1653.(caption for Taj Mahal)

Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c8/Taj_Mahal_in_March_2004.jpg

The history of India dates back 6,000 years ago when the first people who lived there practiced both hunting and gathering. First settlements began near the Indus River Valley where the ground was fertile and ripe for planting due to river flooding. Thriving for over 900 years, they traded across the Arabian Sea.

Around 1500 B.C.E. the Aryan, or lighter skinned, Indo-European people, intruded upon the darker skinned, native Dravidians, pushing them out. With them came the beginnings of Hinduism, spreading across India. The Buddhist religion entered India in 563 B.C.E. due to Siddhartha Gautama and his approach to achieving a peaceful state of mind. The Mauryan Empire, the first empire, started in 321 B.C.E. and introduced a numerical system and the numeral zero (0), value of Pi, and the length of the solar year. Buddhism continued to spread.

The Gupta Empire, from 320-550 C.E., flourished with the advancement of the arts and sciences and the continued spread of Buddhism. The invasions of the Huns brought

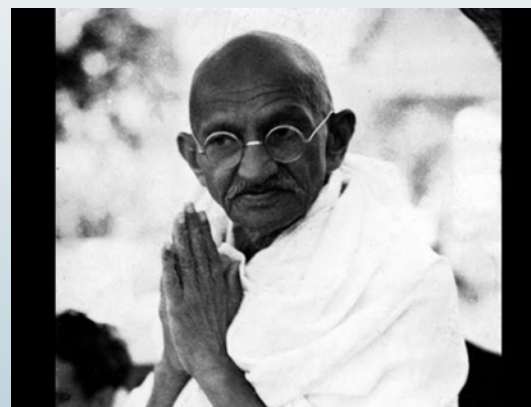
this empire to an end. During the Mogul Empire from 1526-1726 A.D., the Shah Jahan built the famous, white marbled Taj Mahal in memory of his favorite wife. He was later overruled by his son, Aurangzeb, in 1659, who imprisoned his father and beheaded two of his brothers.

By the 19th century, Great Britain controlled the country with the British East India Co., investors hoping to trade with India. Although, they did bring modern conveniences to the area such as the railroad system and the telegraph, they were brutal to the the Indian People. During WWI, Indians served in the British army with the promise they would have their own government at the end of the war; however, that promise was not kept. Peacefully protesting the government, the much revered leader Mohandas (later Mohatma, meaning “The Great One) Gandhi was arrested several times for his civil protests and sit ins.

At the start of WWII, he demanded independence from Great Britain and was denied. At the conclusion of the war, with Great Britain financially and emotionally drained, they established Jawaharlal Nehru as India’s Prime Minister. Tension between Muslims and Hindus increased, due in part to such a heavy presence of Hindus. Pakistan and India were granted their separate independences in August, 1947. Soon

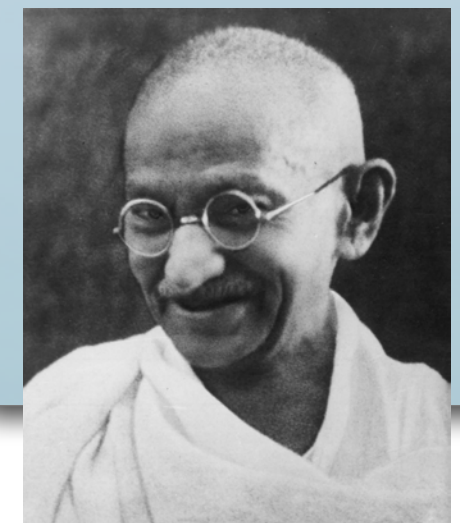
after, 10 million people left: Muslims for Pakistan, Hindus for India. The Muslim people wanted their own country; however, Gandhi’s opposition to separating the people was not well received. A man named Nathuram Godse, who was a Hindu Nationalist assassinated Gandhi in 1948. Godse had ties to an extremist group that opposed nonviolence and thought Gandhi favored Pakistan. Over the years tensions have continued between India and Pakistan

Interactive 6.7 Gandhi Biography



Learn a little more about Gandhi and his beliefs in this short video. (Requires internet connection)

Gandhi was born in 1869 in Porbandar, India. He studied law in London. Upon his return to India, he soon left for South Africa, a country also controlled by the British. In 1915, 21 years later, he went back home to fight the oppression of his people. One example of his civil disobedience was leading hundreds of people on a 240 mile trek to the sea to make their own salt, which had to be purchased from the government, from salt water. These types of protests led to his arrest and imprisonment.



Section 4

Population

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
2. How does population growth impact a region?
3. How does the population of a place impact how and where you live?

Bangladesh currently has a population that has exceeded 150 million. If you recall from a previous section, this is a small country that is roughly the size of Iowa in the United States. Iowa, in contrast to Bangladesh, has only 3.1 million people according to the 2014 United States Census.

The region of South Asia overall is over 1.7 billion. Population is a major challenge for all countries, and will continue to be so over the coming decades.

With this in mind, **how has population growth impacted South Asia?** To answer this question, first take a look at the two maps on this page.

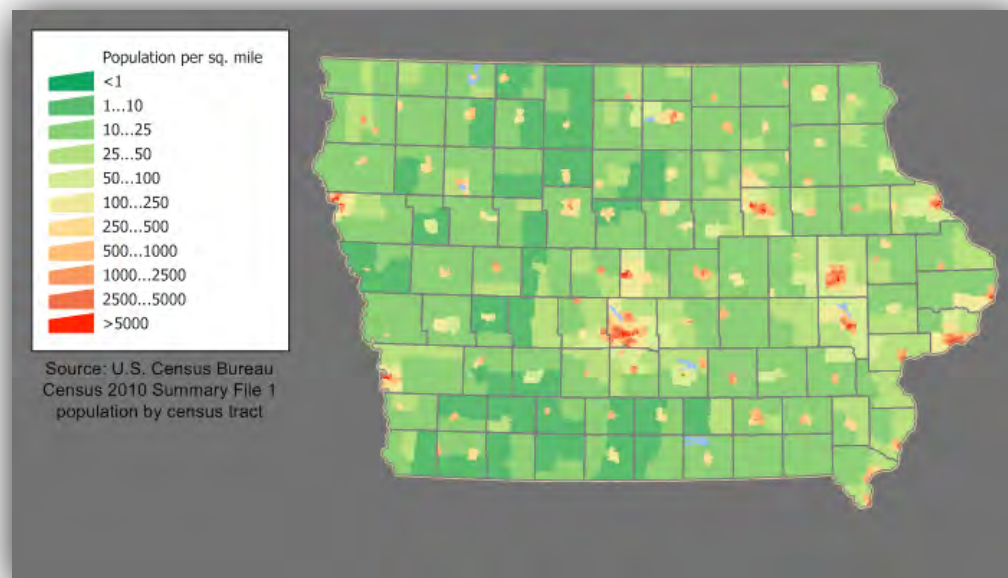
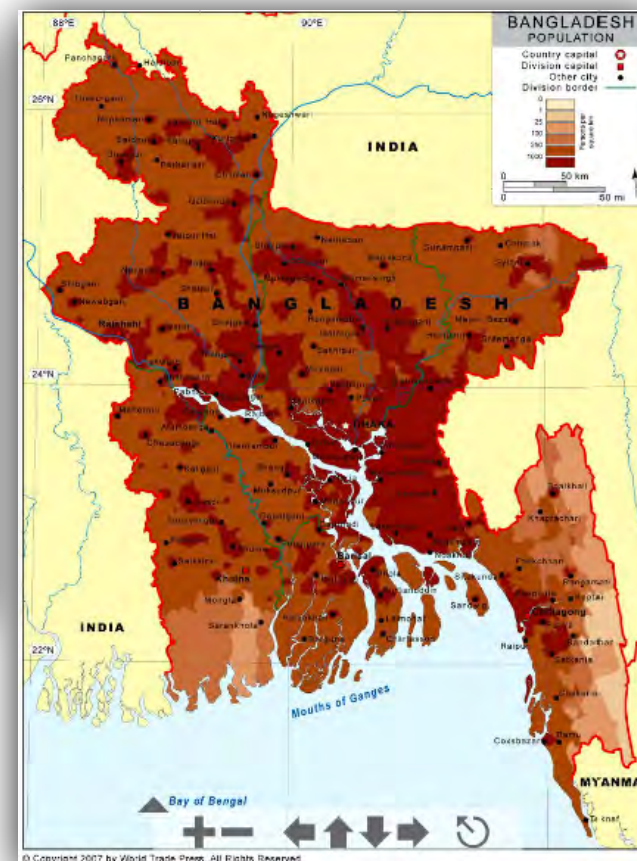


Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/93/Iowa_population_map.png



To determine the population density of a region, all you need to do is find out how many people are living there and divide by the size of the area.

Population of Iowa: 3,107,000 (approximate)

Population of Bangladesh: 156,600,000 (approximate)

Size of Iowa: 145,743 Square Kilometers

Size of Bangladesh: 130,170 Square Kilometers

Try using the same formula to decide whether or not the population density of Bangladesh is similar to that of the United States:

Population of the United States: 314,000,000 (approximate)

Population of Bangladesh: 156,600,000 (approximate)

Size of United States: 9,842,000 Square Kilometers

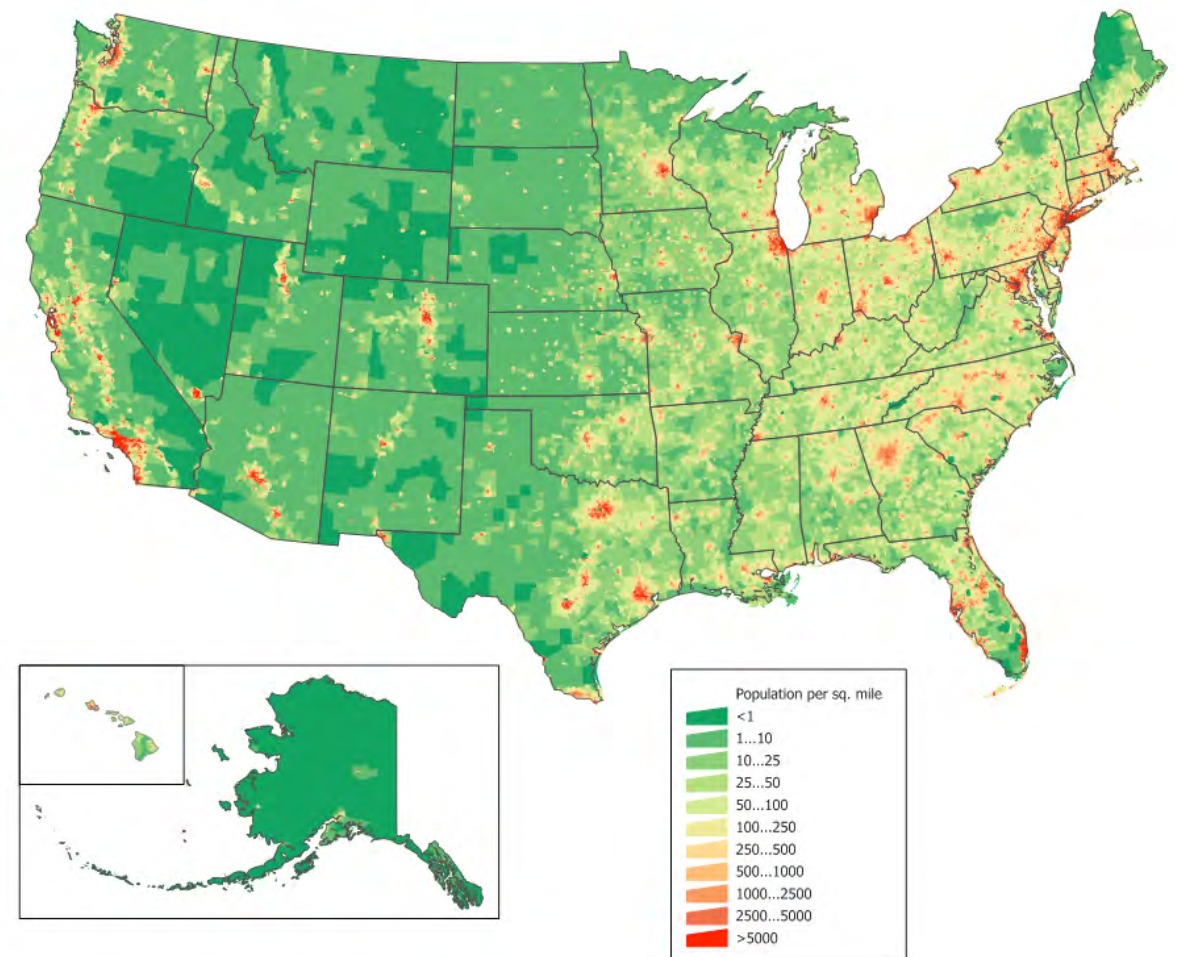
Size of Bangladesh: 130,170 Square Kilometers

Using the formula provided above, what is the population density of Iowa?

What is the population density of Bangladesh?

Which country is more crowded?

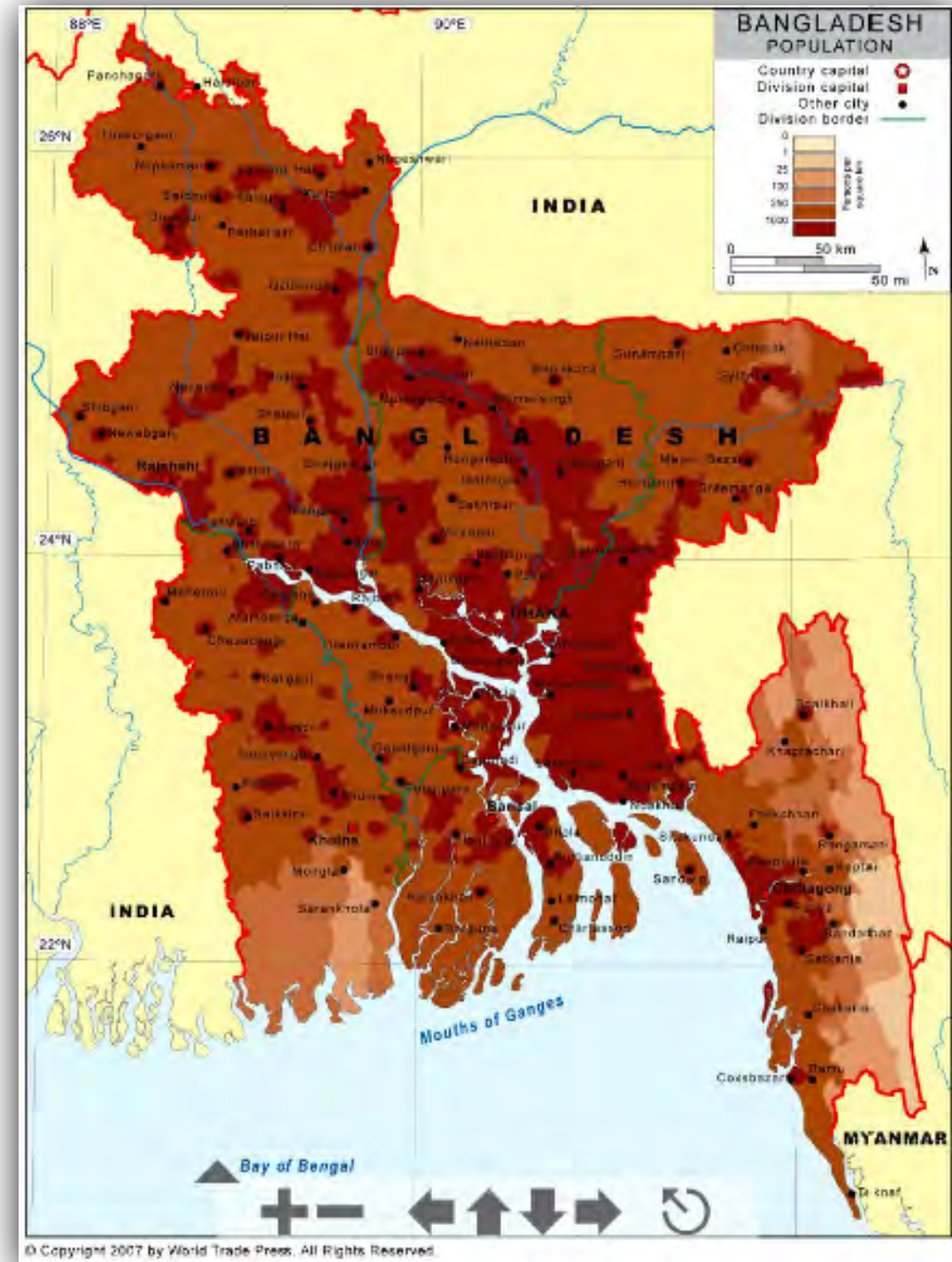
What problems might living in a crowded area cause?



There are two important things to note about the second part of the activity you just completed. The first is that the United States is much larger than Bangladesh. You probably noticed that by using the mathematical formula provided, the United State's population density is much lower than that of Bangladesh. The second thing to note about this activity is that people cannot live everywhere in the United States. High mountains, large deserts, extreme temperatures and other natural barriers to settlement exist. Because of this, when studying population it is also necessary to study the **population distribution** of an area.

The average population density for the planet overall is around 48 people for every squared kilometer. You can arrive at this average for the planet overall by using the same formula you used to calculate Iowa and the United States. The problem becomes, when studying the world overall, that the formula assumes that those people are evenly spaced out around the planet, when in fact, they are not.

Take a look at the Population Density map of Bangladesh once again. Where are the areas of highest concentration of people? Where are the lowest areas of concentration?



Problems with Population

Squeezing that many people into one area does not come without costs. While you will learn more about some of the population issues other countries in South Asia are facing in the next section, what problems does Bangladesh face?

Like many countries in the region, they face issues of overpopulation. The population is expected to reach over 200 Million by 2050. While the birth rate has started to taper off, the overall population continues to increase.

Over a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line. This makes several other population related issues big problems for the citizens there. Many people there have an inadequate diet and suffer from food shortages. This problem is worse in children. Almost two-thirds of the child population under five are considered under-nourished.

Because the population is impoverished, there is a shortage of affordable housing in the region. This has led to a rise in slums where many people end up having to live due to the lack of other choices.

The air quality in the region, due partially to industrial and vehicle pollution has become a major concern for the people living in Bangladesh. This has led to increased risks of being born with or developing asthma, and led to other respiratory and neurological problems. The problem is worse in children who spend more

time out doors, especially during the time of day when pollution levels have reached their highest. Add that to the fact that there is one qualified doctor for every 25,000 people on average, and Bangladesh can be considered to have some steep problems to overcome.

The Global Connection

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, connected?
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Global Connections: India

One-fifth of the world's population is in South Asia. Today the people living there encounter less poverty and disease, and can enjoy a longer life expectancy.

India is a diverse country with hundreds of languages spoken, 22 of them official. Seventy percent of people living in India live in rural villages in dried mud and straw homes, working in low wage jobs: farming, agriculture, handicrafts, fishing.



Image source: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Jute_Rope_\(%E0%AE%9A%E0%AE%A3%E0%AE%B2%E0%AF%8D_%E0%AE%95%E0%AE%AF%E0%AE%BF%E0%AE%B1%E0%AF%81\).jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Jute_Rope_(%E0%AE%9A%E0%AE%A3%E0%AE%B2%E0%AF%8D_%E0%AE%95%E0%AE%AF%E0%AE%BF%E0%AE%B1%E0%AF%81).jpg)

Conditions are poor, skills are few and unemployment is high. India is the top producer of many goods: bananas, mangoes, jute (a long vegetable fiber used to make burlap), iron, and steel. Rice is a mainstay of farmers to feed their families. However, rural to urban migration is occurring. Mumbai, formerly called Bombay, has more people than New York City. It is a small island off the western coast and bridges link it to the mainland. Seventy percent of the population is under the age of 40



Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/66/Mumbai_skyline88907.jpg

with 600 million people under 25 years old. With the population of the United States and China aging, India's population is young, vibrant and excited for their bright and promising future. It is estimated that by the year 2030, India could almost wipe out their poverty stricken areas.

In the early 1990s, the government moved away from socialism, allowing foreign businesses to come, opening up a free market. With lower wages and many of their youth speaking English, American companies settle in India attracting young people. Starbucks, Nike, Gap and Wi-Fi are all recent additions to India and the young people flock to anything coming from the Western world. Poverty has been reduced by 9% a year and their middle

class has doubled. New Delhi, the capital city since 1931, has a population of 22 million people. This modern city is full of skyscrapers, palaces, gardens and parks.

When Americans call companies for technical support, they often speak with a college-educated student in India, earning a much lower wage than students in the United States. India also has a thriving movie industry. Americans generally think of Hollywood as being the movie capital of the world; however, it is Bollywood in Mumbai that produces 800 films a year in comparison to Hollywood's 500-600 films.

The people of India still face many challenges. Bridges, roads, airports and railroads are in poor condition. They have more traffic deaths than anywhere in the world with the majority being school-aged children. Their caste system, dating back to ancient times, still exists despite it being outlawed in 1950.



Image source: [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c7/Dalit_or_Untouchable_Woman_of_Bombay_\(Mumbai\)_according_to_Indian_Caste_System_-_1942.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c7/Dalit_or_Untouchable_Woman_of_Bombay_(Mumbai)_according_to_Indian_Caste_System_-_1942.jpg)

Dalits, formerly called Harijan, or untouchables, are the lowest members of the caste system still practiced in India today. They face inferior accommodations and discrimination, not to be touched because they do the dirtiest and lowliest of jobs, such as clearing animal carcasses from the street, or cleaning toilets. About 170 million people, or 17% are among this group. Priests belong to the highest order of the caste system, followed by rulers, traders and farmers. Gandhi worked

extensively to eradicate this thinking, often visiting slum areas and staying in homes of the Harijan.

Go to your interactive journal and compare the caste discrimination in India to racial discrimination in the United States.

Interactive 6.8 Interactive Journal



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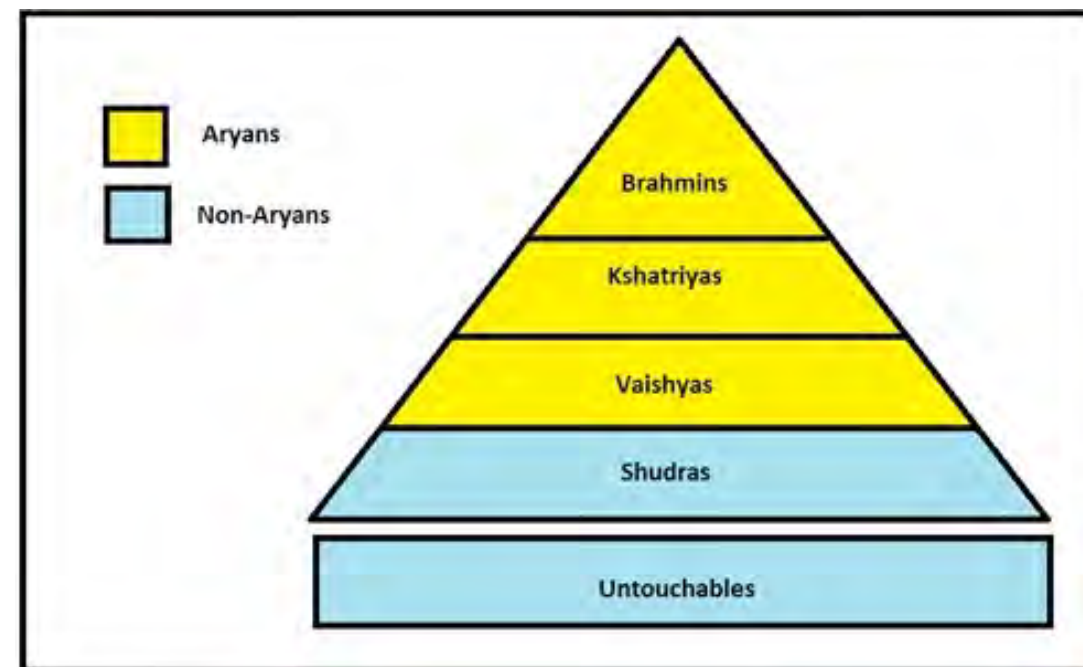


Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/75/Caste_System.jpg

Over one-third of their population remains illiterate. Their government run educational system is poorly run and many families pull their children, enrolling them in private schools.

India produces more millionaires each year than any other country in the world, they also have one-third of their population living on 56 cents a day.

Over 80% of people living in India practice Hinduism. Hindus revere life and often believe that souls live eternally and come back in a different life form. Animals are sacred creatures, especially the cow, having its own holiday - Gopastami, when cows are decorated with ribbons and flowers. Islam is practiced by 138 million Muslims, the second largest Muslim population in the world. They believe in the teachings of Muhammad and follow the Qur'an, their holy book. Jainism and Sikhism are also major

religions. Sikhism, dating back to the 16th century, is a monotheistic religion that stresses the importance of doing good actions rather than merely carrying out rituals. Jainism is based on a reverence for life, self-denial and a vegetarian lifestyle.

Women typically wear a saree (sometimes spelled sari), or pants with knee-length shirts and jewelry representing wealth and/or religion. The saree is a traditional form of dress that has remained part of the culture for centuries. Women are often seen with a bindi, a colored dot on their forehead, representing femininity and marital status. It is considered an adornment and becoming more optional. Once widowed, the bindi is not worn. Men usually wear suits or a dhoti, a cloth wrapped around their waist. Young people tend to be seen in trending Westernized clothing.

Rice is the most common food in most of India; however, in the north wheat is quite common. Meals are typically spicy, and often include onions, coconut and curry. Most Indians are vegetarians; Hindus do not eat beef, as the cow is sacred and Muslims do not eat pork or drink alcohol. Traditional families will eat with their right hand only, or with a banana leaf. Women eat last and may be malnourished. More urbanized citizens will use utensils and a more Westernized diet is not uncommon. High rise apartments are plentiful in big cities,



Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7c/Sari_bleu.jpg

like Mumbai, but slums are prevalent as well. Roofs are flat, so they can be used to grow gardens, hang clothes out to dry and avoid the heat inside. The poor will find any available materials to create a makeshift home, such as aluminum and plastic. Families that live in rural areas will have homes made of brick, mud, stone and bamboo. Air conditioning is rare, even in larger cities.

In most cases, men are typically the head of the household. Women take care of all household chores and usually stay home to raise the family. It is becoming more common for women to seek an education. If a

woman works outside the home, she continues to take care of the household. A baby's first haircut is a meaningful and sacred time. Within their first three years, the entire head is shaved to eliminate past imperfect traits and to ensure a thick head of hair.

Religious holidays often unify India: Muslims celebrate the Hindu holidays of Diwali (Festival of Lights) and Holi, while the Hindus celebrate Eid al-Fitr, a celebration marking the end of Ramadan. It is common to celebrate the Christian holiday of Christmas. The people of India have their own Independence Day and New Year to honor, as well. Gandhi's birthday on October 2 is a special day with prayer services and religious services to honor the person who led the struggle for freedom and independence.



Image source: http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/73/Slum_in_India.JPG

Interactive 6.9 Culture Grams - India



Using your knowledge of the region as well as the information at this website write a response about what makes you similar to Indian sixth graders. Do this in your Interactive Journal.

Interactive 6.10 India Map Puzzle



Test your knowledge of this region with this interactive map puzzle.

People of Mumbai

Think about what it would be like to live in a country in South Asia. How do you currently get to school? Do you ride a bus? Do your parents take you there themselves? Maybe you walk? How do students in countries in South Asia get to school? How might your classroom compare to theirs? How might your lunch compare to theirs?

The largest city in Michigan is Detroit, with a population just topping 700,000 people. India’s most populated city, Mumbai, has over 12,000,000 people. Think about the following questions as you write a response in your interactive journal.

Our earth is a crowded place, with a large population living in South Asia. Think about how the population of South Asia might affect you and jot your notes in your interactive journal.

What challenges might students in Mumbai have?

What challenges might students in Detroit have?

Do Mumbai and Detroit share similar problems?

What would a student from Mumbai be most surprised by if visiting Detroit?

As a tour guide for your region of the state, what would you show a visiting student from Mumbai?

Interactive 6.11 Distance - Mumbai



Take a look at the journey you would take from Lansing to Mumbai.