

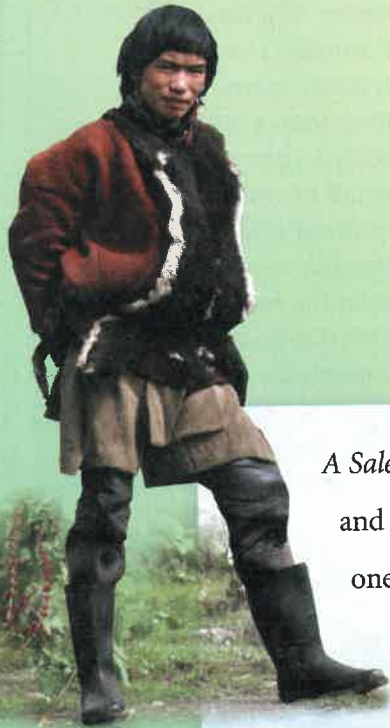
# CHAPTER 26

# The Indian Perimeter



Detail of a rug  
from Bhutan

*The countries of the Indian Perimeter have very different landscapes and cultures. In this chapter, you will learn about each country's natural environments, history and culture, and situation today.*



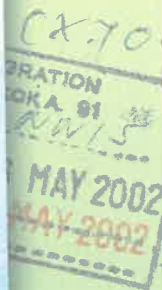
Bragpa man  
in Bhutan

A *Saleem Ale Hem* (God's peace be upon you)! I am Rehan. I am an only child and live with my parents in Karachi, a big sprawling city like Los Angeles. On one side is the sea, and on the other is the desert. I love Pakistan. It is a poor country, but it is very beautiful.

I really like to watch Indian movies. Even though relations between India and Pakistan are tense, Indian movies are very popular. Movies open at the same time in India and Pakistan. We do not make movies here.

I attend a boys' private school styled after the British public school system. The school is 157 years old. After school I play tennis or cricket before going home. Our house is connected to my grandparents' house, and we usually eat our meals all together. Dinner is almost always rice with goat meat or beef, along with lentils or vegetables. We never eat pork because we are Muslim and it is forbidden.

Next year, I am going to go to America with my mother. My parents want me to go to a world-class university. Also, Pakistan is not safe. Even in big cities like Karachi, the crime that upper-class people fear most is kidnapping. My father is a doctor. He will have to stay in Pakistan to take care of his parents and keep up his medical practice. My father has to care for his parents because both his brothers are living in the United States.



Section  
**1**

# Natural Environments

**HOLT**  
**Geography's Impact Video Series**

Watch the video to understand the impact of Buddhism as a world religion.

**READ TO DISCOVER**

1. What are the main physical features of the Indian Perimeter?
2. What types of climates, plants, and animals are found there?
3. What natural resources do countries in the region have?

**DEFINE**

storm surge

**LOCATE**

- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Indus River   | Tarai                  |
| Baluchistan   | Palk Strait            |
| Thar Desert   | Chittagong Hill Tracts |
| Mount Everest |                        |

## Reading Strategy

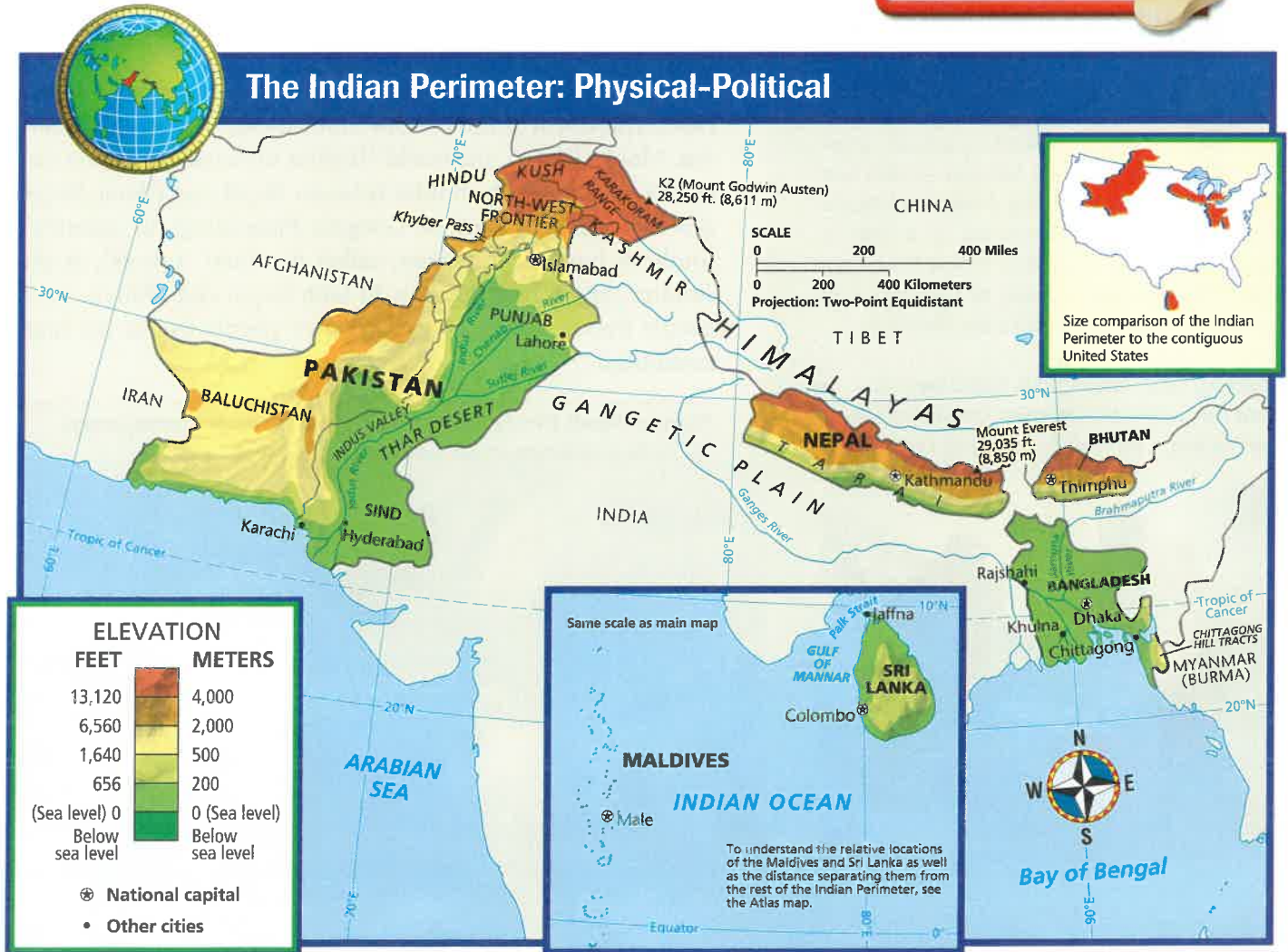
**VISUALIZING INFORMATION** Before you read, preview the map of the Natural Environments of the Indian perimeter. Make notes about features you see on the map that you think will help you understand what you are about to read. For example, how are the environments of Pakistan and the Himalayan countries likely to be different from the environments of the island countries? As you read, explain how the features on the map relate to the materials in the section. Include key terms and their definitions.

**internet connect**

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**KEYWORD:** SW3 CH26  
**FOR:** Web sites about the Indian Perimeter



## The Indian Perimeter: Physical-Political



## Measuring Mount Everest

Technology often changes what we know about Earth. For example, in 1954 surveyors measured the elevation of Mount Everest at 29,028 feet (8,848 m) above sea level. Then, in 1999, researchers funded by the National Geographic Society used Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to measure Everest. Special GPS equipment on Earth's surface sends information to orbiting satellites. Researchers can then use the data that is generated to find the exact location and elevation of any place on Earth's surface.

Getting GPS equipment to the top of Everest would have been impossible only a few years before. An early GPS unit might have weighed 50 pounds (23 kg). These early units were too heavy to carry in the thin air and dangerous conditions of Everest. By 1999 a GPS unit was about the size of a sandwich. The researchers also used a special radar device that could "see" through snow because the summit of Everest is generally snow-covered.

After the equipment was in place, the researchers studied the new GPS data to determine the exact elevation of Mount Everest. They learned that Mount Everest's elevation is actually seven feet higher than previously believed—29,035 feet (8,850 m). The 1999 survey also showed that Mount Everest is moving northeastward at a rate of between 0.12 and 0.24 inches (3 and 6 mm) per year. This movement is caused by the collision of the tectonic plates that created the Himalayas.

**Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** In what other ways do you think Global Positioning Systems might be helpful in studying Earth?



## Physical Features

As the name of this region suggests, the countries of the Indian Perimeter border India. They are Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. These countries have greatly varying physical features. Landforms range from Earth's highest mountain range to islands that barely rise above the sea. Follow along on the chapter map as we look more closely at the natural environments of these countries.

**Pakistan and the Himalayan Countries** To the northwest of India is Pakistan. About twice the area of California, Pakistan is the largest country of the Indian Perimeter. The towering mountains of the Himalayas, Karakoram Range, and Hindu Kush cover the northern part of Pakistan. Four mountain peaks in Pakistan are higher than 26,000 feet (7,925 m).

South of these mountains lies a region of hills and plateaus, some of which are good for farming. The country's main farming region, however, is the Indus Valley. This large fertile plain was formed from massive amounts of sediment deposited by the Indus River. Although the area receives little rainfall, it is made productive with irrigation. West of the Indus Valley lies Baluchistan, an arid and lightly populated plateau. To the east of the Indus, the Thar Desert stretches into India.

Nepal and Bhutan are landlocked countries in the Himalayas north of India. Both countries are mostly mountainous. Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain at 29,035 feet (8,850 m), lies on the border between Nepal and China. Nepal also includes a strip of the Gangetic Plain along the country's southern border. This plain, called the Tarai (tuh-RY), is the country's main farming area. In both Nepal and Bhutan, most people live in valleys and plains. Few people live in the high mountains.

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*Pilgrims in Nepal's Khumbu Valley stack rocks as thanks for their sacred journeys and for the good fortune of later travelers.*





**Bangladesh and the Island Countries** South of Bhutan and across a narrow extension of India lies Bangladesh. Most of this country is a broad flat alluvial plain. The Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers join and flow southward through a huge river delta before draining into the Bay of Bengal. This delta is crisscrossed by many smaller rivers and waterways. The rivers overflow their banks every year. These floods deposit new layers of silt on the land, ensuring its fertility. Yet depending on their timing, floods often damage crops. Floods caused by tropical storms can also destroy villages and kill people and livestock.

Floods are also constantly reshaping the topography of Bangladesh. Floods can change the courses of rivers, sweep away years' worth of soil deposits, and form new islands. For this reason, no map of Bangladesh stays accurate for long.

South of India is Sri Lanka, a beautiful tropical island country in the Indian Ocean. The Palk Strait separates Sri Lanka from India. A coastal plain surrounds the mountainous center of the country.

The Maldives lie to the southwest of India in the Indian Ocean. This tropical country is made up of a chain of about 1,200 small coral islands. They have a total land area of just 115 square miles (298 sq km). None of the islands rises more than 8 feet (2.4 m) above sea level.

Mount Everest is named after Sir George Everest, a British surveyor general of India. In Nepal, Mount Everest is called Sagarmatha, which means "Goddess of the Sky." In Tibet it is called Chomolungma, or "Mother Goddess of the Universe."

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Physical Systems* What role have rivers played in creating good farmland in the region?

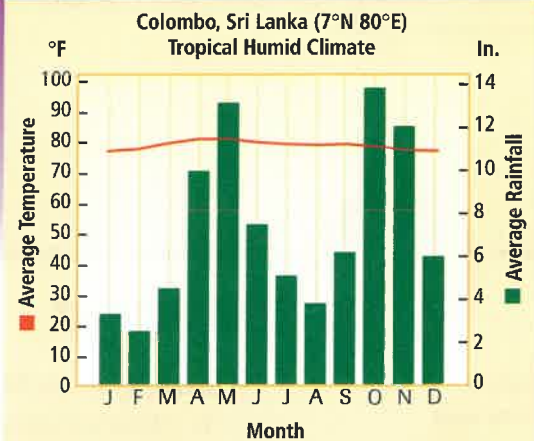
## Climates, Plants, and Animals

The climates of the Indian Perimeter range from arid and semiarid to tropical humid and highland. The peaks of the Himalayas are among the coldest places on Earth. Yet Sri Lanka and the Maldives, which are much lower and lie close to the equator, have warm tropical climates.

As in India, monsoons greatly affect the weather and vegetation of the Indian Perimeter countries. (See the climate graph.) The wet summer monsoon brings rain to most of the subcontinent, including lowland areas of Bhutan and Nepal. The rains support lush tropical rain forests from Bangladesh through the Himalayan lowlands. In fact, much of Bangladesh is covered with lush vegetation. Mango, bamboo, coconut, and date palm are common. About 15 percent of the country is forested. These areas support a variety of wildlife, including the Bengal tiger. Herds of wild elephants live in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh.

Powerful tropical cyclones often occur in the Bay of Bengal. These storms are called hurricanes in North America and typhoons in the western Pacific. They bring heavy rains and winds that can reach 150 miles (241 km) per hour. The strong winds can cause water to "pile up" in the Bay of Bengal. In what is called a **storm surge**, waters then wash ashore like a very high tide. Waves as high as 20 feet (6 m) may crash onshore. Because coastal areas are flat and low, these storm surges can move far inland and cause severe flooding. Since the early 1700s, when weather records were first kept, more than 1 million people have died because of these storms.

### Climate Graph for Colombo



**INTERPRETING THE GRAPH** The average temperature in Colombo, Sri Lanka, stays at about 80°F (27°C) year-round. However, rainfall varies from month to month. Which months receive the most rainfall? What weather phenomenon might help explain Colombo's rainfall pattern?



**INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD** *Members of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program build an irrigation channel from the Batura Glacier to new orchards and fields outside a village in northern Pakistan. Irrigation has long been important in Pakistan. How would you describe the level of technology being used to build this irrigation channel? What might this indicate about Pakistan's level of development?*

In contrast to Bangladesh, most of Pakistan has dry climates. Much of southern and central Pakistan has an arid climate. Other areas have semiarid climates with cold winters. In the north, the foothills of the Himalayas have a humid subtropical climate. Because of the rain-shadow effect, south-facing slopes of hills are often wooded, while north-facing slopes are often bare and dry.

Mountainous parts of Nepal, Bhutan, and northern Pakistan have highland climates. Forests once covered large areas of these mountains. However, parts of these forests have been cleared. Bears, deer, snow leopards, wild goats, and many other animals live where forests remain. A valley in south-central Nepal is one of the last homes of the Indian rhinoceros, which is threatened by poaching.

✓ **READING CHECK: Physical Systems** What factor greatly influences the region's climates and weather?

## Natural Resources

Overall, the countries of the Indian Perimeter are not rich in natural resources. Pakistan and Sri Lanka have the most significant mineral deposits. Pakistan's minerals include iron and copper. Limestone for cement production is also mined there. The country has only small amounts of oil, but it has rich deposits of natural gas. Sri Lanka has deposits of several minerals, such as gemstones, iron, and salt.

Bangladesh has few minerals. However, it has small deposits of oil as well as some coal and natural gas. Rivers and good soil are the country's most important resources. Bhutan and Nepal also have few mineral deposits. However, both of these mountain countries have rich forests, and both have rivers that have potential for generating hydroelectric power.

✓ **READING CHECK: Physical Systems** What are the most important natural resources of Bangladesh?



## Review

**Define**  
storm surge

**Working with Sketch Maps** On a map that you draw or that your teacher provides, label the Indus River, Baluchistan, Thar Desert, Mount Everest, Tarai, Palk Strait, and Chittagong Hill Tracts. Which part of Pakistan is the most mountainous?

### Reading for the Main Idea

1. **Physical Systems** Why is the topography of Bangladesh subject to frequent change?
2. **Places and Regions** Why do the Maldives and Sri Lanka have warmer climates than Nepal and Bhutan?

### Critical Thinking

3. **Analyzing Information** In what ways is periodic flooding in the region beneficial? How can it be a problem?
4. **Analyzing Information** From which direction do you think Pakistan's moisture-bearing winds come? Why?

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### Organizing What You Know

5. Create a chart like the one below. Place an X in the box if the landform can be found in that country.

	Mountains	Alluvial plain	Desert
Bangladesh			
Bhutan			
Maldives			
Nepal			
Pakistan			
Sri Lanka			

# Geography for Life

## Environmental Change and the Maldives

Global warming and environmental change present serious threats to the Maldives. The islands are very low in elevation. As a result, just a slight melting of the polar ice caps—resulting in rising sea levels—could spell disaster. In fact, if the sea level of the Indian Ocean rose just 20 inches (51 cm), it could cover roughly 80 percent of the Maldives. Some scientists predict that in the next 100 years, water will completely cover the Maldives.

Recent changes in ocean levels and weather patterns point to other problems. For example, some residents believe the number and intensity of storms in the region has increased. In the past 15 years alone, two powerful storms have caused major damage to the islands. In addition, fishers have complained of a decline in the area's marine life. Residents say that the rising temperature of the ocean waters has killed sea life and damaged coral reefs.

Because of the seriousness of the problems facing the Maldives, its citizens are trying to prepare for the future. For example, the Maldives and other small island countries are pushing for worldwide reductions in greenhouse gases. Many scientists believe that these gases cause

global warming. At an early age, students in the Maldives learn about global warming. Television and radio stations also teach the public about the greenhouse effect. With help from Japan, the Maldives built a 6-foot-high (1.8 m) concrete wall around its capital, Male. The island country's government hopes this seawall will protect the city from future storms. However, at \$4,700 per foot, this type of wall is too expensive to build on each of the country's 200 inhabited islands. Some government officials have proposed another idea. They have suggested gathering the people of the smaller islands onto the three largest ones and defending them with seawalls.

### Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** How might global warming and rising sea levels affect the environment of the Maldives?
- 2. Problem Solving** What do you think should be done to protect the Maldives from the threat of rising sea levels?



## Section 2

# History and Culture

### READ TO DISCOVER

1. What is the history of the countries of the Indian Perimeter?
2. What are some characteristics of the region's cultures?

### Reading Strategy

**READING ORGANIZER** Before you read this section, create a spider map. Label the circle History and Culture. Draw five legs and label them Empires, Modern Period, People and Languages, Education, and Religion. As you read the section, write main ideas and supporting details about each topic beneath each leg. Include key terms and their definitions.

### DEFINE

protectorate

### LOCATE

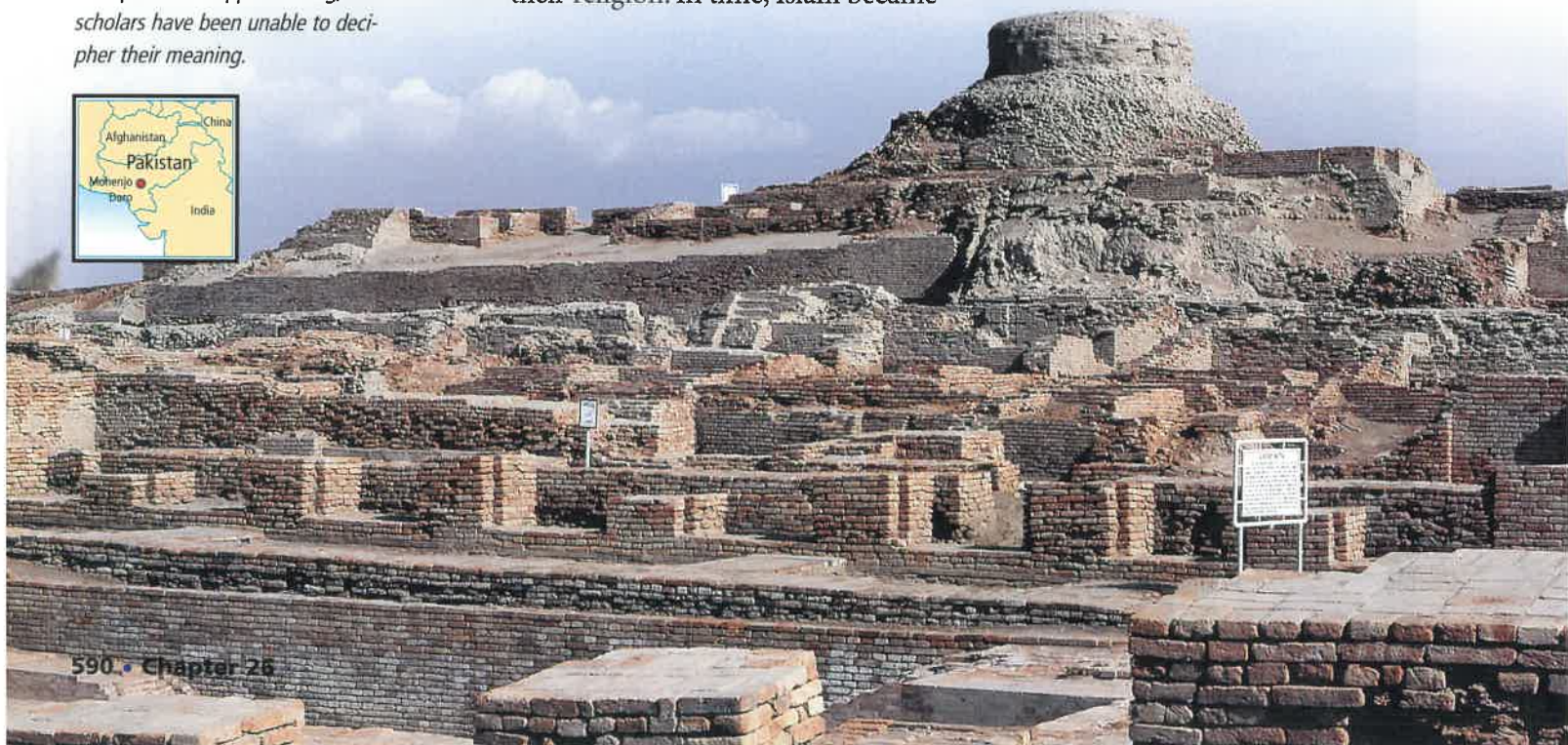
Indus Valley

## History

The Harappan civilization grew along the Indus Valley in ancient times. This society built well-planned cities such as Mohenjo Daro. By about 1500 B.C. Aryans from central Asia had moved into what is now Pakistan. In time, they spread across northern India. Their culture mixed with the Dravidian culture already present in the area.

**Empires—Ancient and Modern** Other outsiders eventually took over the northwestern part of the subcontinent. These included the Persians and the armies of Alexander the Great. Two Indian empires, the Mauryan and the Gupta, pushed into parts of what is today the Indian Perimeter. Starting about A.D. 1000, Turkic Muslims from Afghanistan came to the subcontinent, bringing their religion. In time, Islam became

*Mohenjo Daro was the largest city of the Harappan civilization, which flourished in the Indus Valley from about 2500 to 1500 B.C. This civilization was the first to use fire-hardened bricks extensively in construction, possibly because of a lack of building stone in the region. Although archaeologists have unearthed many examples of Harappan writing, scholars have been unable to decipher their meaning.*



the main religion in the areas that are now Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. The Muslim Mughal Empire flourished from the 1500s to the 1700s. About 1500, Europeans began sailing into the Indian Ocean, first to trade and later to set up colonies. Over time, the British came to control most of the subcontinent.

**The Modern Period** The British granted their Indian colony independence in 1947. India was divided into two countries, India and Pakistan. India was mostly Hindu. Pakistan was mostly Muslim and included present-day Pakistan and Bangladesh. These two parts of the country, separated by hundreds of miles, were known as West Pakistan and East Pakistan. While both were mostly Muslim, West and East Pakistan had important cultural differences. For example, their main languages were different. The new government was centered in West Pakistan, and many people in East Pakistan felt they had no real power. Then, in a war in 1971, East Pakistan broke away from West Pakistan and became the independent country of Bangladesh.

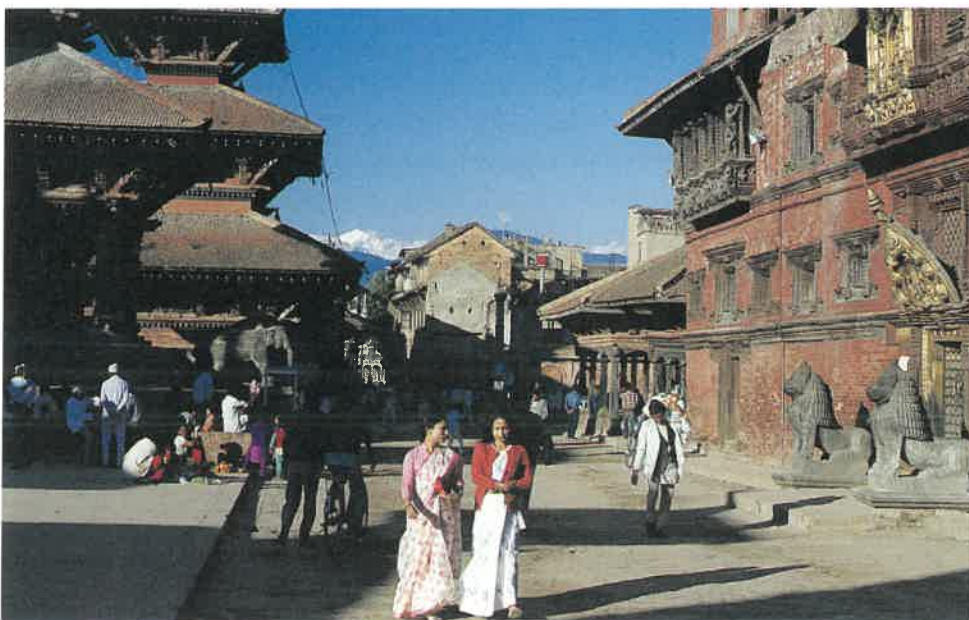
Sri Lanka became a colony of the British in 1802. They called their island colony Ceylon. In 1948 Sri Lanka became independent. The Maldives were a British **protectorate**. A protectorate gives up certain decision-making powers in exchange for protection by a stronger country. The Maldives gained full independence in 1965. Bhutan also was once a British protectorate. It became fully independent in 1949. However, India guides Bhutan's foreign policy.

Nepal was ruled by a series of dynasties until reforms were begun in 1951. Today the country is a constitutional monarchy. However, ethnic troubles, illiteracy, and poverty still make it hard for Nepal's people to build a strong democracy.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* Why did East and West Pakistan split into modern Pakistan and Bangladesh?



*Crowds in Bangladesh celebrate Victory Day on December 16, the date on which Bangladesh achieved independence from Pakistan in 1971.*



*Durbar Square in Patan, Nepal, is home to many Buddhist monuments and Hindu temples. Patan is famous for its artisans and metalworkers, whose work can be seen in the town's many bronze gateways, guardian statues, and other carvings.*





### INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

*A wide variety of foods are produced and sold in Bangladesh. In addition to staples like rice and fish, Bangladeshi markets may include beans, eggplant, lemons, plantains, red onions, and a wide variety of spices. Based on these photos, what type of economic system do you think Bangladesh has?*

## Culture

All the countries of the Indian Perimeter are multiethnic. Three major religions dominate the region, and many languages are spoken.

**People and Languages** Pakistan's traditional regions—Baluchistan, the North-West Frontier Province, Punjab, and Sind—are each culturally distinct. However, there are also some common features, such as the importance of Islam. Urdu is Pakistan's official language and is taught in schools along with regional languages. An Indo-European language, Urdu is similar to Hindi, which is widely spoken in India. However, Urdu is written in a form of Persian script and, unlike Hindi and English, is read from right to left. Some Pakistanis also speak English.

In southern Nepal, most ethnic groups are of Indian Aryan ancestry. They speak Indo-European languages, such as Nepali, the country's official language. Others in the north are related to the people of Tibet (now part of China). They speak Sino-Tibetan languages.

Bhutan's population includes three main ethnic groups. The largest group, the Bhote, came from Tibet starting in the A.D. 800s. The second-largest group is made up of more recent immigrants from Nepal. Discrimination against the Nepalese is an important problem. The third group is made up of tribal peoples in eastern Bhutan. They are related to the peoples just across the border in India. Bhutan's official language, Dzongkha, is a Sino-Tibetan language. However, English is widely used in schools.

Most of the people in Bangladesh are Bengalis. The Bengalis are a mix of the region's early settlers with Turks and other Southwest Asians who came as merchants as early as the 1200s. Most speak Bengali.

Nearly 75 percent of Sri Lanka's population are Sinhalese. The Tamils, originally from southern India, make up most of the rest of the population. Tamils generally live in the northern and eastern parts of the country. In recent decades there have been bloody conflicts between the two ethnic groups.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How does Urdu differ from Hindi? Where are these languages widely spoken?

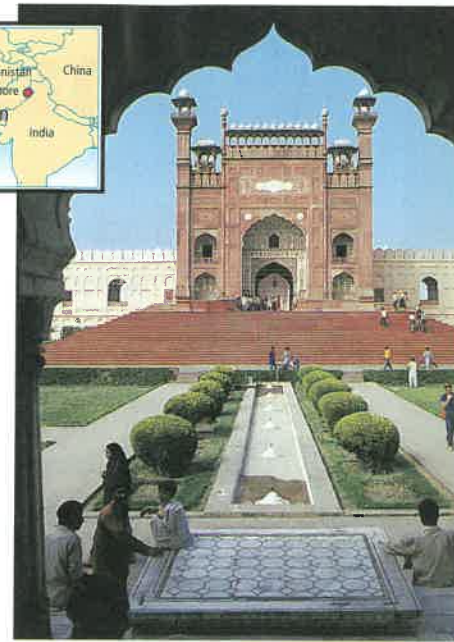
**Education** Education levels and literacy rates in the Indian Perimeter are generally low. In recent decades these countries have tried to increase literacy. However, there are too few schools and teachers. In general, women are less likely than men to be able to read. This is largely because of cultural attitudes that emphasize women's role in the home.

**Religion** The region's main religions are Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. The religious makeup of each country reflects past events and historical migration patterns.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives are mostly Muslim. Small numbers of Hindus and Christians also live in these countries. At the time of India's partition, the new borders placed districts with Muslim majorities into East and West Pakistan. The number of Hindus in these areas fell sharply when millions fled to India. At the same time, millions of Muslims left India and settled in East and West Pakistan.

In Nepal and Bhutan, most Indian Aryan peoples are Hindu, while peoples of Tibetan origin are generally Buddhist. Bhutan's population is about 75 percent Buddhist and about 25 percent Hindu. The kingdom of Nepal is the world's only officially Hindu state. In Sri Lanka most Sinhalese are Buddhist and most Tamils are Hindu.

The region's religions are reflected in its traditions and customs. For example, Islamic influences shape life throughout Pakistan. People stop to pray several times a day, and Muslim holidays such as Ramadan are important. Midday prayers on Friday draw large numbers of people to the country's many mosques. Also in Pakistan, women often wear veils in public. In Sri Lanka, Buddhist festivals are held throughout the year. For example, the traditional Poya Days mark the phases of the Moon. The most important festival in Sri Lanka is held in the mountain city of Kandy each August. According to tradition, a temple there holds the country's most sacred relic, a tooth of the Buddha. During the annual August celebration, a beautifully decorated elephant is paraded through the streets accompanied by dancers and acrobats.



**INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD**

*A gateway leads to Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, Pakistan. This large mosque symbolizes the importance of Islam in Pakistan, a country where some 97 percent of the population is Muslim. Islam is the main link among the many different cultural groups that make up Pakistan. How might Islam help connect different cultural groups in Pakistan?*

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* What are the three main religions of the Indian Perimeter?



**Review**

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**Define** protectorate

**Working with Sketch Maps**

On the map you created in Section 1, label the Indus Valley. Why do you think the region's first great civilizations grew there?

**Reading for the Main Idea**

1. *Human Systems* What people brought Islam to the region? What Muslim empire ruled the region?

2. *Human Systems* How did the partition of India affect the countries of this region?

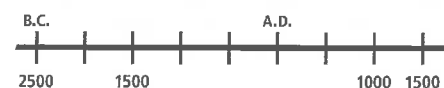
3. *Human Systems* What are some examples of the ways religion is reflected in the region's customs?

**Critical Thinking**

4. *Analyzing Information* Which country of the region is the most ethnically and linguistically unified?

**Organizing What You Know**

5. Copy the time lines below. Then identify important events that occurred on or about the dates listed on the time lines.



# Section 3

## The Region Today

### READ TO DISCOVER

1. What is the basis of the economies of the Indian Perimeter?
2. What are settlement patterns like in the region?
3. What challenges will these countries face in the future?

### Reading Strategy

**TAKING NOTES** Taking notes while you read will help you understand and remember the information in this section. Your notes will be useful for reviewing the material. Use the headings in this section to create an outline. As you read about the Indian perimeter countries today, write details you learn beneath each heading. Include key terms and their definitions.

### DEFINE

graphite

### LOCATE

Karachi

Lahore

Islamabad

Kathmandu

Thimphu

Dhaka

Colombo

Male

## Economy

The level of economic development in the Indian Perimeter is generally low. The countries depend heavily on agriculture. Most have tried to build new industries. However, these efforts have been slowed by a lack of natural resources. Despite these similarities, there is quite a range between the richest and poorest countries of the region. For example, Nepal and Bhutan are among the poorest countries in the world. Yet Pakistan, while still a poor country, has experienced growth in GDP since independence.

**Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka** Pakistan has used its significant mineral resources to help develop its manufacturing industries. However, nearly half the labor force still works in agriculture. Although Pakistan's economy has grown, so has its population. This population growth strains the country's ability to provide basic services to its people.

*Rice is an important crop in Sri Lanka. Since independence in 1948, the country has steadily increased the amount of land devoted to rice and has adopted new technologies to increase yields.*





Bangladesh is overwhelmingly agricultural. More than half of the people work in farming. Jute, rice, and tea are the most important crops. Farming depends on the monsoon. Variations in the timing and intensity of the monsoon rains make the difference between a good harvest or a poor one. In recent times people have built a number of irrigation projects to control floods and conserve water for the dry months. These projects, the increased use of fertilizers, and new crops have increased farm output.

The government of Bangladesh has tried to industrialize the country. Textile and clothing makers are among the country's largest employers. However, a lack of mineral resources has made other development difficult. A dam in the Chittagong Hill Tracts produces hydroelectric power. Fishing and logging are also important. One common type of bamboo forms the basis of the country's paper industry. Construction is also a growing industry—a result of the country's fast-growing population.

Farming remains important to Sri Lanka's economy. Tea, rubber, and coconut are the main export crops. The country mines a variety of minerals, including gemstones and **graphite**. Graphite is a form of carbon that is used in pencil leads. Manufacturing is growing and now rivals agriculture in importance. Processed foods and textiles are leading manufactured products.

Bhutan's rulers banned foreigners from the country until well into the 1900s. This historical isolation, along with Bhutan's inaccessible location in the Himalayas, makes economic development difficult today.

**Nepal and Bhutan** Nepal and Bhutan are very poor and are still mainly agricultural. Timber is an important resource, with most being exported to India. Tourism is a growing part of the economies of the mountain countries. Many visitors come to hike in the Himalayas. However, some people fear the negative effects of tourism on the environment and cultures of Nepal and Bhutan. Their isolated locations have left many of their ecosystems and traditional ways of life largely intact. Bhutan, in particular, has taken a careful approach to tourism. The country was almost closed to outsiders until the 1970s. Today tourists must pay a fee and follow certain restrictions to limit their effect on the country.

Much of the development in Nepal and Bhutan has been helped by aid from other countries and the United Nations. Both these mountain countries have rivers that can generate hydroelectric power. However, they lack the resources needed to build dams. Aid from India did help Bhutan build one such project. Bhutan now sells extra electricity to India.

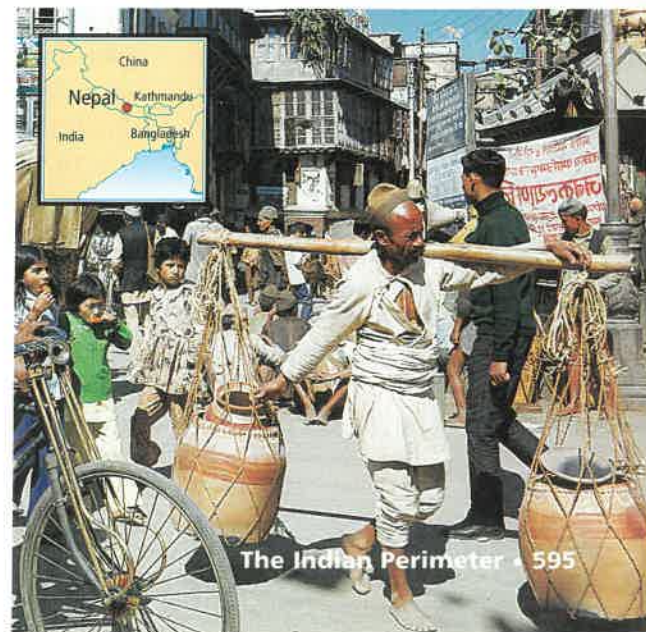
✓ **READING CHECK:** *Environment and Society* How have Bangladeshis dealt with the effects of variations in monsoon rainfall on farming?

*Kathmandu, Nepal, is a city of contrasts. Urban growth, tourism, and increasing connections with the outside world are causing rapid changes throughout the city. Kathmandu's old city is home to many old temples and shrines, but automobile exhaust, construction, and growing shantytowns are putting stress on the city's environment.*

## Cities, Settlement, and Land Use

Pakistan and Bangladesh each have more than 130 million people. In fact, they are 2 of the 10 most populous countries in the world. The other countries of the region have far smaller numbers of people. The population throughout the region is mostly rural. This pattern reflects the importance of agriculture there.

About a third of Pakistan's population lives in cities. Karachi is the largest city and main seaport. Lahore is the second-largest city. Islamabad, far to the north, is the capital. Pakistan's population is concentrated in the Indus Valley. Most other areas have



few people. The rural population lives mostly in small villages. In northwestern Pakistan, villages are sometimes laid out in a ring. The outer walls have no doors or windows, giving the village the appearance of a fortress.

In both Nepal and Bhutan, population density is low overall. However, the average is much higher in the lowlands and valleys where farming is possible. Nepal's most crowded area is the Kathmandu Valley, near the center of the country. The capital and largest city, Kathmandu, is located there. Bhutan had no cities at all until the 1960s. Even today Thimphu, the capital, is a town of only about 30,000 people.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are mostly rural and are densely populated. Bangladesh has about 2,361 people per square mile. This is a very high population density by world standards. For comparison, the United States has about 76 people per square mile. In and around Dhaka, in the country's most fertile region, there are more than 2,800 people per square mile. Sri Lanka's population density is much lower, but there are still some 766 people per square mile. The country's population is heavily concentrated along the fertile coastal plain.

In both countries most people live in villages. In good farming areas these villages are located close together. One village merges with the next in many areas. Bangladesh has two major cities. Dhaka is the country's capital, and Chittagong is the major port. Sri Lanka's largest city is Colombo, the capital and leading industrial area.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How are settlement patterns similar in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka?

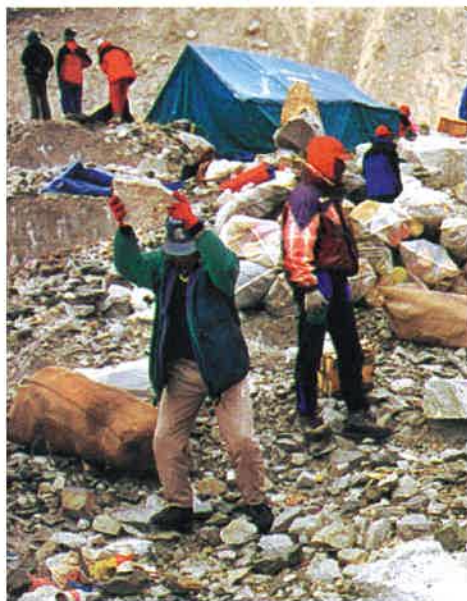
## Economic and Environmental Challenges

As in many other developing countries, the greatest challenge for the countries of the Indian Perimeter is poverty. Poor sanitation, disease, and poor nutrition cause major health problems. High population growth rates have made these problems worse. The largest cities, such as Karachi and Dhaka, are growing rapidly as people migrate from rural areas. Many people in these cities live in homemade shacks with no fresh water or electricity.

The region's countries also face environmental challenges. For example, deforestation is a serious problem in Nepal. Nepal and Bhutan are trying to limit tourism's destructive effects on their environment. In addition, flooding in Bangladesh and the Maldives, with their low flat terrain, might worsen if global warming causes ocean levels to rise. The threat of rising ocean levels has already affected the Maldives' capital of Male. (See Geography for Life: Environmental Change and the Maldives.)

In addition to problems between Pakistan and India over Kashmir, many countries in the region are struggling with political problems. For example, in Pakistan military leaders have overthrown the elected government three times. Rivalries between richer and poorer parts of society have also led to violence. Achieving democratic government and sharing economic benefits throughout society will be key challenges in the future.

Sri Lanka faces an ethnic conflict between the Hindu Tamil minority and the Buddhist Sinhalese majority. Tensions between the two groups have increased since the late 1970s. Some Tamils demand that they be allowed to form their own country. Fighting and violence continue today.



*Nepal's mountainous landscapes are a major destination for trekkers and mountain climbers from other countries. However, these international tourists have added to the country's pollution problems. Hikers in Nepal leave behind an estimated 110,000 pounds (50,000 kg) of garbage each year. Here, hikers at Everest Base Camp crush aluminum cans, which are taken back to Kathmandu and recycled.*



*In Sri Lanka high quality "Ceylon" tea is grown on large plantations in the central highlands. Young tender leaves are picked by hand once a week and then quickly processed, producing teas of the highest quality. Women harvesting tea leaves hang large baskets from their heads so that both hands are free to pick leaves.*



## FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHY

**Migration, Tea, and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka** The origins of multi-ethnic Sri Lanka date back more than 2,000 years. About that time, Hindu Tamils from southern India began trading in Sri Lanka. Those who settled in northern Sri Lanka became known as the Ceylon Tamil. Their descendants are usually considered natives of Sri Lanka, along with the Buddhist Sinhalese.

Another group, the Indian Tamil, have a different history. During the mid-1800s Tamil workers from southern India came to Sri Lanka's central plantation region to harvest the coffee crop. Then they would return to India. When a leaf disease destroyed the coffee business, farmers switched to tea. Tea is an evergreen plant that is harvested year-round. Therefore, the Tamil laborers settled in Sri Lanka permanently. Over time, they formed a poorly paid, over-worked underclass.

Conflicts between Hindu Tamils and Buddhist Sinhalese have broken out from time to time over hundreds of years. Fighting in recent years has killed at least 55,000 people. Troubles between Indian Tamils and Ceylon Tamils have added to Sri Lanka's political crisis.

**READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* What role did the switch from coffee to tea play in Sri Lanka's modern ethnic conflicts?



Section

3

## Review

**Define** graphite

**Working with Sketch Maps** On the map you created in Section 2, label Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Kathmandu, Thimphu, Dhaka, and Colombo. Which of these are port cities?

### Reading for the Main Idea

**1. Environment and Society** What is the general level of economic development in the region? What are some indicators of this?

**2. Human Systems** In which Indian Perimeter country is a civil war currently being fought?

### Critical Thinking

**3. Analyzing Information** How are settlement patterns in Bangladesh related to the way most Bangladeshis make a living?

**4. Identifying Cause and Effect** What demographic trend has affected Pakistan's economic growth?

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**Homework  
Practice  
Online**

Keyword: SW3 HP26

### Organizing What You Know

**5.** Copy the following graphic organizer. Use it to identify the leading economic activities of each country.

	Economic activities
Bangladesh	
Bhutan	
Nepal	
Pakistan	
Sri Lanka	

# CASE STUDY

## Banking on Bangladesh's Female Entrepreneurs

**Human Systems** Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries. It is a young country that has experienced terrible cyclones and a costly struggle for independence, which have disrupted its economy. Economic development has not reached many small villages. As a result, Bangladesh's rural areas have a very low standard of living. For women in Bangladesh, raising the family's standard of living is a difficult task.

For several reasons, poverty often poses greater challenges for women than for men. In rural Bangladesh, begging and working as maids are the only jobs outside the home available to women. Culture traits can also keep women from working. Women in Bangladesh have traditionally had few contacts with anyone outside their families. Some are forbidden to travel far away from home. In addition, rural Bangladeshi women have little schooling. As a result of all these factors, women are limited in their ability to increase their families' income.



*Rural development projects in Bangladesh are helping many women find jobs outside the home, which is raising their standard of living.*

However, a creative lending program is showing that women may hold the key to economic development in rural Bangladesh.

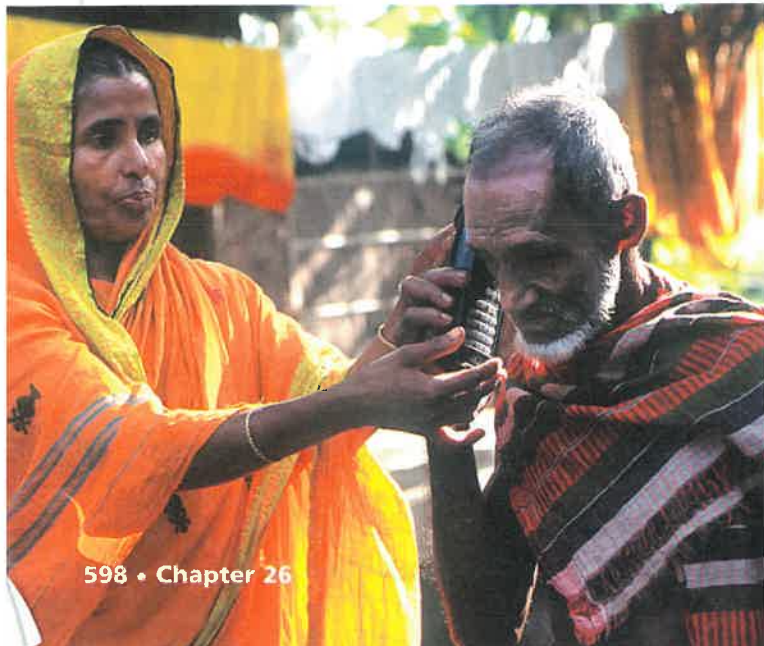
### Small Loans, Big Results

In the early 1980s the Grameen Bank was founded to offer small loans to rural poor people in Bangladesh. Known as microcredit, these loans typically range from about \$100 to \$300. Borrowers use the money to start small businesses in their villages. These businesses then provide a steady source of income. Soon after the bank started lending to poor families, officials noticed that the women were often better financial managers than the men. While men were more likely to spend the money on themselves, women used it to make long-range plans.

Today about 95 percent of Grameen's borrowers are women.

One such woman is Mosammat Anowara Begum from the village of Chamurkhan. Anowara is a widow with several children. Even though she cannot read or write, the bank offered her a loan. She borrowed \$390 from Grameen and used it to buy a cellular phone—the only telephone in her village. Anowara now sells telephone calls for 10 cents a minute. She hopes to pay back the loan in three years. Then Anowara will bring home a steady income of about \$2 a day. While that amount may not seem like much, it is almost three times what the average Bangladeshi earns. Anowara's growing income has enabled her daughter to go to college.

*Like Mosammat Anowara Begum, Noorjehan Begum borrowed about \$320 from the Grameen Bank and bought a cellular phone, which she charges other villagers to use. With the money she earned, Noorjehan paid off her loan and bought a small piece of land and a house.*





Women wait to apply for loans at a Grameen Bank weekly meeting. More than 2.3 million people from some 40,000 villages have borrowed money from the bank.

Anowara's story is just one example of how small loans are changing rural Bangladesh. Many other people have borrowed money from Grameen. They have started more than 400 different kinds of businesses. These include making ice cream, processing mustard seeds for oil, repairing radios, and weaving floor mats. The loans seem to be working. Some 125,000 families with Grameen loans pull themselves out of poverty each year. Researchers have noted that children's nutrition and education have significantly improved in households with female borrowers.

### A New Approach

Microcredit projects have become so popular that many other countries, including the United States, have experimented with the idea. For example, the Women's Self-Employment Project in Chicago has loaned almost \$1 million to a total of about 5,000 women. In all, more than 40 countries have applied the Grameen model, and it has reached nearly 22 million people.

Microcredit projects provide an alternative to conventional methods of helping the world's poor. Pouring large sums of money into industry has been the most common strategy for developing economies. However, these jobs then attract large numbers of people from rural areas to urban areas. By investing money in the rural areas one household at a time, development can be distributed throughout the country. With increasing opportunities for women to earn money, more and more households can lift themselves out of poverty.



**INTERPRETING THE GRAPH** The percentages of women in the labor forces of Bangladesh and the United States are nearly the same. However, most Bangladeshi women work in agriculture. Still, the Grameen Bank is helping many find other ways to make a living. Officials in other countries, such as Mexico, want to set up similar programs. *What might be some factors that explain differences in economic opportunities for women in these countries?*

### Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** How does microcredit create economic opportunities that are not otherwise available to women in Bangladesh?
- 2. Comparing and Contrasting** How is microcredit different from conventional forms of development aid?



Review the video to answer the closing question:  
*Do you think the Buddhist path to enlightenment is achievable in today's world? Why or why not?*

### Building Vocabulary

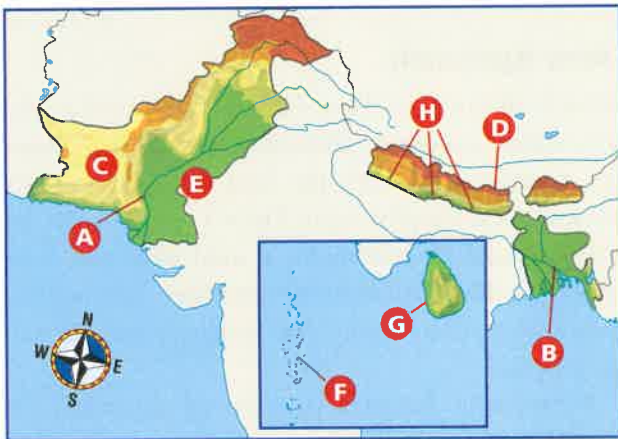
On a separate sheet of paper, explain the following terms by using them correctly in sentences.

storm surge      protectorate      graphite

### Locating Key Places

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Indus River	Mount Everest	Colombo
Baluchistan	Tarai	Male
Thar Desert	Dhaka	



### Understanding the Main Ideas

#### Section 1

- Physical Systems** Which countries of the Indian Perimeter include parts of the Himalayas? Which include parts of the plain of the Ganges River?

#### Section 2

- Human Systems** Where did Bhutan's largest ethnic group, the Bhote, come from?
- Human Systems** On what basis did the British divide their colony of India upon independence in 1947?

#### Section 3

- Human Systems** What are the major industries of Bangladesh?
- Environment and Society** What is the greatest potential energy resource of Nepal and Bhutan?

### Thinking Critically

- Analyzing Information** What combination of factors make Bangladesh so vulnerable to storm surges?
- Identifying Cause and Effect** What political factors might make further development difficult in some countries of the region?
- Comparing** What part of Pakistan bears a resemblance to the main environment of Bhutan? What part might resemble Bangladesh?

### Using the Geographer's Tools

- Analyzing Maps** Study the physical and political map of the Indian Perimeter. Why do you think it would be difficult to govern modern-day Pakistan and Bangladesh as one country?
- Analyzing Tables** Study the information from the unit Fast Facts and Comparing Standard of Living tables. Then rank the countries according to their levels of economic development and standard of living. Explain why you have ranked the countries as you have.
- Preparing Charts** Create a two-column chart listing the benefits and drawbacks of tourism for Nepal and Bhutan. What economic benefits does tourism offer for these countries?

### Writing about Geography

Use classroom and library materials to research the ethnic and religious conflict in Sri Lanka. Write a news article that compares the Sri Lankan conflict to similar problems in other places, such as Northern Ireland. What role have economic opportunities for ethnic and religious minorities played in conflicts there? What other issues are important? What efforts have been made to end those conflicts? When you are finished with your news report, proofread it to make sure you have used standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.

#### SKILL BUILDING



### Geography for Life

#### Applying Geographic Models

**Physical Systems** Study the courses of the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra Rivers. Consider the connection between erosion in the Himalayas and deposition of sediment downstream. Create a diagram showing how sediment is eroded and deposited by this process. Consider the interrelationships of climate, slope, and soil.

**Birthrates and Death Rates in Indian Perimeter Countries**

Country	Births (per 1,000 people)	Deaths (per 1,000 people)
Bangladesh	29.9	8.6
Bhutan	34.8	13.5
Maldives	36.7	7.7
Nepal	32.5	9.8
Pakistan	29.6	8.8
Sri Lanka	16.1	6.5

Source: *The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2004*

**Interpreting Charts**

Study the chart above. Then use the information from the chart to help you answer the following questions.

- Which country has the lowest birthrate?
  - Pakistan
  - Nepal
  - Maldives
  - Sri Lanka
- Rank the six countries' birthrates and death rates from least to greatest. Which country has the highest birthrate but the second-lowest death rate?

**Using Language**

The following passage contains mistakes in grammar, punctuation, and usage. Read the passage and then answer the following questions.

(1) Family life in Bangladesh is different from Pakistan. (2) For example, many Bangladeshi women keep close ties to their own families after marriage. (3) However, as in other South Asian countries, marriages arranged by parents. (4) Most couples typically do not know each other prior to there wedding.

- Which sentence contains a spelling error?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
- Which line is a fragment?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - All are complete sentences.
- Rewrite sentence (1) to correct the mistake in comparison.

**Alternative Assessment**

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

**Learning about Your Local Geography**

**Group Project: Presenting Information**

Conduct research on natural hazards that can strike your area. Examples might be earthquakes, floods, forest fires, hurricanes, mudslides, or tornadoes. Analyze the way people prepare for and react to these hazardous events. Study some examples of how humans have used technology to adapt to the dangers of natural hazards. Compare and contrast the effects of local natural hazards with the effects of tropical cyclones and flooding in Bangladesh. How important is preparing for natural hazards in the daily lives of people in both regions? Use posters or another kind of display to present your findings to the class.

**Internet connect**

**Internet Activity:** [go.hrw.com](http://go.hrw.com)  
KEYWORD: SW3 GT26

Choose a topic on the Indian Perimeter to:

- publish a poster on the landscapes and cultures of the Himalayas.
- learn the history of Sri Lanka.
- examine Pakistani history and culture.



# Geography Skill-Building Workshop

## WORKSHOP 1

### Using Media Services: The Internet

The Internet, or the Net, is made up of millions of computers linked worldwide through a telecommunications network. The Net provides access to a great deal of information in many formats and from many sources.

**Developing the Skill** An Internet service provider, or ISP, provides access to the Internet. A computer links to the ISP through a modem. Once you are connected, you can “surf” the Internet. Surfing the Internet lets you link to informational sites or send messages called e-mail. Many informational sites are locations on the World Wide Web, sometimes referred to as the WWW or simply the Web. You access the Web by using software called a Web browser. You can call up specific Web sites by entering a special address called a uniform resource locator, or URL. Such addresses typically begin with `http://` and end with suffixes such as `.com`, `.edu`, `.gov`, or `.org`.

Most Web sites have a home, or main, page that will “link” you to additional information on other pages or sites through hyperlinks. These hyperlinks usually appear as underlined terms or phrases. For example, databases like the World Factbook from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency can be found on the Web. The World Factbook includes hyperlinks to specific categories of information and countries.

You can also search the Web for sites that include information about a particular topic by using a search engine. Search engines will seek Web sites that include key words you have entered. You will need to experiment to find search engines that are most useful to you. Follow instructions on each search engine.

Users must be able to determine whether a Web page contains valuable information. Ask yourself these questions:

- Is a well-respected organization sponsoring the site? Whose views are represented?
- Is the information clear and easy-to-read? What has the designer done to attract your attention?



- Is the Web site easy to navigate, and are most of the page links active?
- Is the information current?
- Is the information biased? What information has been left out of the site? How might information there be interpreted in different ways by different people?

The Internet contains a huge amount of resources, making it an excellent tool for research. However, there is a lot of inappropriate material on the Web. Many well-respected sites have developed safe sites for children and teens. These sites are known as child-safe zones. Even so, you must be careful.

- Do not chat with or meet strangers.
- Do not give out any personal information.
- If you get into an unsecured area, get out immediately and tell your parent or teacher.
- Stay within well-respected search engines.

### Practicing the Skill

1. Find Web sites operated by each of the governments of South Asia's countries. List the URL for what appears to be the main Web site for each government.
2. Locate a Web site that offers news from India or Pakistan. Identify the operator of the site. Is it a newspaper, television network, or other news provider?
3. Locate Web sites that provide statistics about countries in South Asia. What kind of data do you find on each site?

## WORKSHOP 2

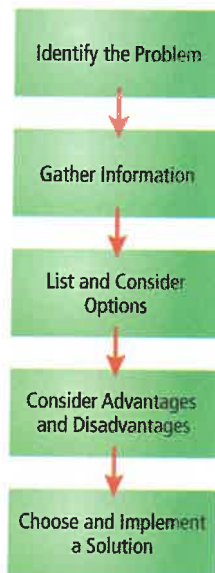
### Solving Problems

Having effective problem-solving skills is important in geography. For example, some farmers must learn how to transform harsh environments into productive farmlands. Demographers work to find ways to collect more accurate information about populations. Governments study possible solutions to problems like rapid population growth, inadequate health care systems, and pollution.

**Developing the Skill** The problems listed above are very different from each other. However, solving them can involve similar processes. Once you have identified a problem, these steps can help you find a solution:

- **Gather information** about the issue or problem. Libraries and reliable sites on the World Wide Web are common sources of information about geographic problems. The information you gather will help you understand a problem more clearly and identify possible solutions.
- **List and consider the options** you have. Brainstorm possible options and list them in a chart or idea web. List all the reasonable options that come to mind—you can narrow down your choices later.
- **Consider advantages and disadvantages** of each of your options. For complex problems, you might create a cost-benefits balance sheet

#### The Problem-Solving Process



for each option. List the disadvantages or additional problems associated with a particular option on the “cost” side of the balance sheet. On the “benefits” side list the advantages associated with that option. Follow the same process for all of your options. Then decide whether the advantages of each option outweigh the disadvantages.

- **Choose and implement the solution** you think is best from your list of options. The best solution may be clear once you have analyzed your cost-benefits balance sheets. If the best solution is not clear, you may need more information to help you decide. Then create an action plan for implementing your solution.
- **Evaluate the effectiveness** of your solution. What you learn from this evaluation can help you solve other problems in the future. It can also help you refine your own problem-solving process. Review your cost-benefits balance sheet for the option you chose. Note whether you anticipated all of the possible disadvantages and advantages associated with your solution.

### Practicing the Skill

1. India and Pakistan have gone to war against each other twice since the late 1940s. Today both countries have nuclear weapons, making the possibility of war between them even more frightening. Imagine you are a member of a United Nations commission trying to forge a lasting peace between the two countries. Identify problems that divide the countries and then identify possible solutions.
2. Mount Everest and other mountains of the Himalayas attract many climbers and other tourists each year. Unfortunately, those visitors leave their garbage behind. How might the government of Nepal work to protect the natural environment from the problems visitors cause? How might the government implement your proposed solution?