

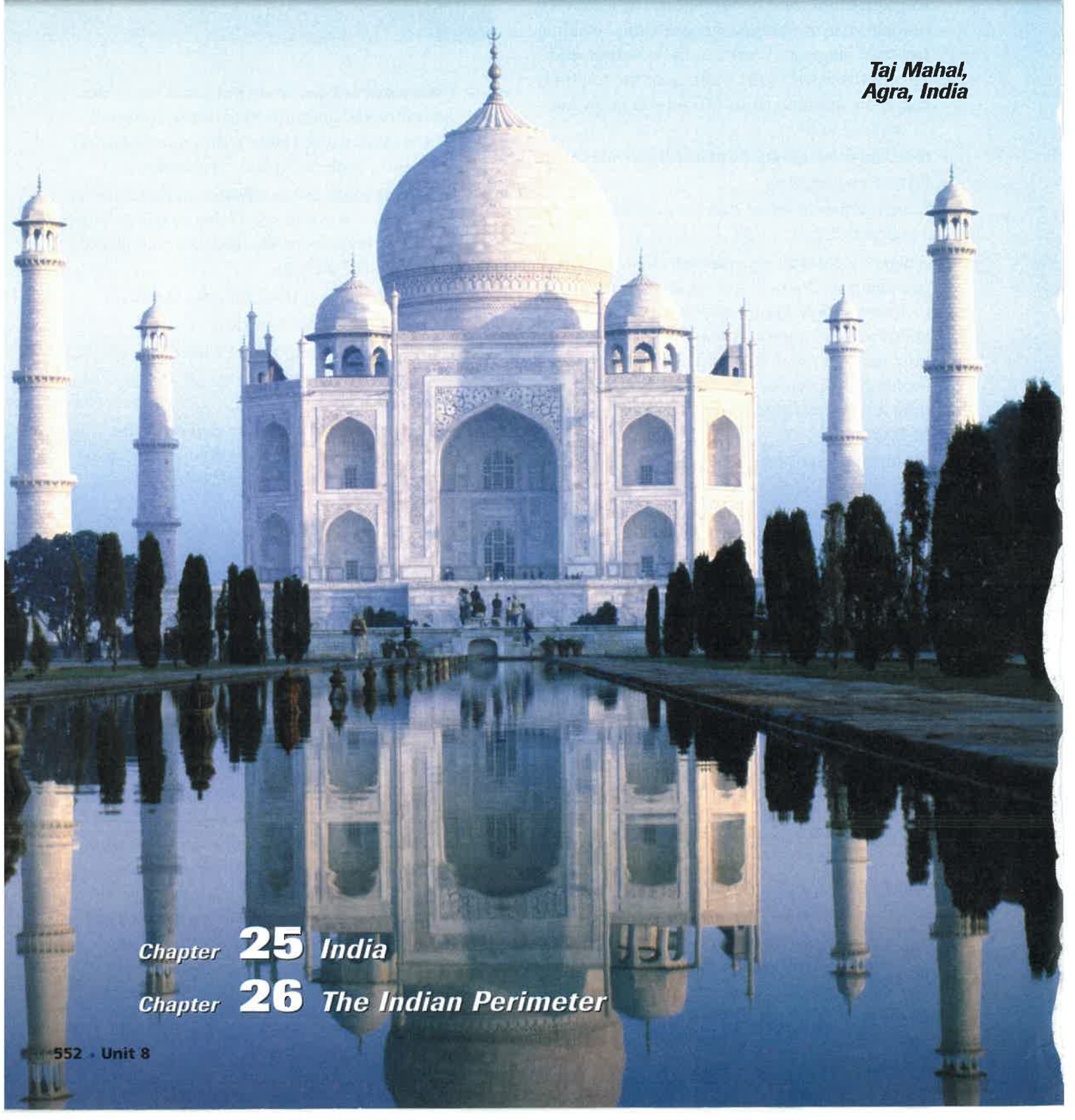


UNIT

8

South Asia

*Taj Mahal,
Agra, India*



Chapter **25** *India*

Chapter **26** *The Indian Perimeter*

CONNECTING TO *Literature*

“HUNDRED QUESTIONS” from the *Mahabharata* translated by R. K. Narayan



The “Hundred Questions” comes from Book 2 of the *Mahabharata*, an important Hindu religious text. In its present form, the *Mahabharata* is thought to have been composed sometime between the 300s B.C. and the A.D. 300s. Central to the *Mahabharata* is the Hindu concept of dharma or sacred duty. Performing these duties contributes to the universal order. In this excerpt a yaksha (forest divinity or nature spirit) challenges Yudhistira to answer questions. Yudhistira’s brothers failed to heed the yaksha’s challenge and died.

Yudhistira said humbly, “What god are you to have vanquished these invincible brothers of mine, gifted and endowed with inordinate strength and courage?” . . .

At this request he saw an immense figure materializing beside the lake, towering over the surroundings. “I am a yaksha. . . . If you wish to live, don’t drink this water before you answer my questions.” . . .

To . . . questions on renunciation, Yudhistira gave the answers: “Pride, if renounced, makes one agreeable; anger, if renounced, brings no regret; desire, if renounced, will make one rich; avarice, if renounced, brings one happiness. True tranquility is of the heart. . . . Mercy may be defined as wishing happiness to all creatures. . . . Ignorance is not knowing one’s duties. . . . Wickedness consists in speaking ill of others.” . . .

There were a hundred or more questions in all. Finally, the yaksha said, “Answer four more questions, and you may find your brothers—at least one of them—revived. . . . Who is really happy?”

“One who has scanty means but is free from debt; he is truly a happy man.”



“What is the greatest wonder?”

“Day after day and hour after hour, people die, and corpses are carried along, yet the onlookers never realize that they are also to die one day, but think they will live for ever. This is the greatest wonder of the world.”

“What is the Path?”

“The Path is what the great ones have trod. When one looks for it, one will not find it by study of scriptures or arguments, which are contradictory and conflicting.” . . .

The yaksha said, “You have indeed pleased me with your humility and the judiciousness of your answers. Now let all your brothers rise up and join you.”

Analyzing the Primary Source

- 1. Summarizing** What does the yaksha tell Yudhistira he must do?
- 2. Drawing Inferences** What do you think is meant by the Path? What features of other religions with which you are familiar might be similar to the Path?

The World in Spatial Terms

South Asia: Political

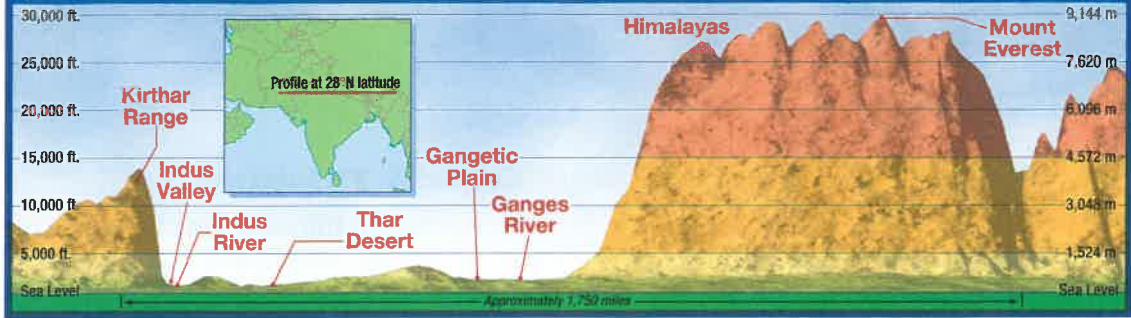
- Places and Regions** Which country is by far the largest in South Asia?
- Places and Regions** Compare this map to the physical map. Which country is almost surrounded by India and dominated by the Ganges Delta?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the physical map. Which part of Pakistan would you expect to have the highest population density?



Elevation Profile



South Asia: Physical



ELEVATION	
FEET	METERS
13,120	4,000
6,560	2,000
1,640	500
656	200
(Sea level) 0	0 (Sea level)
Below sea level	Below sea level

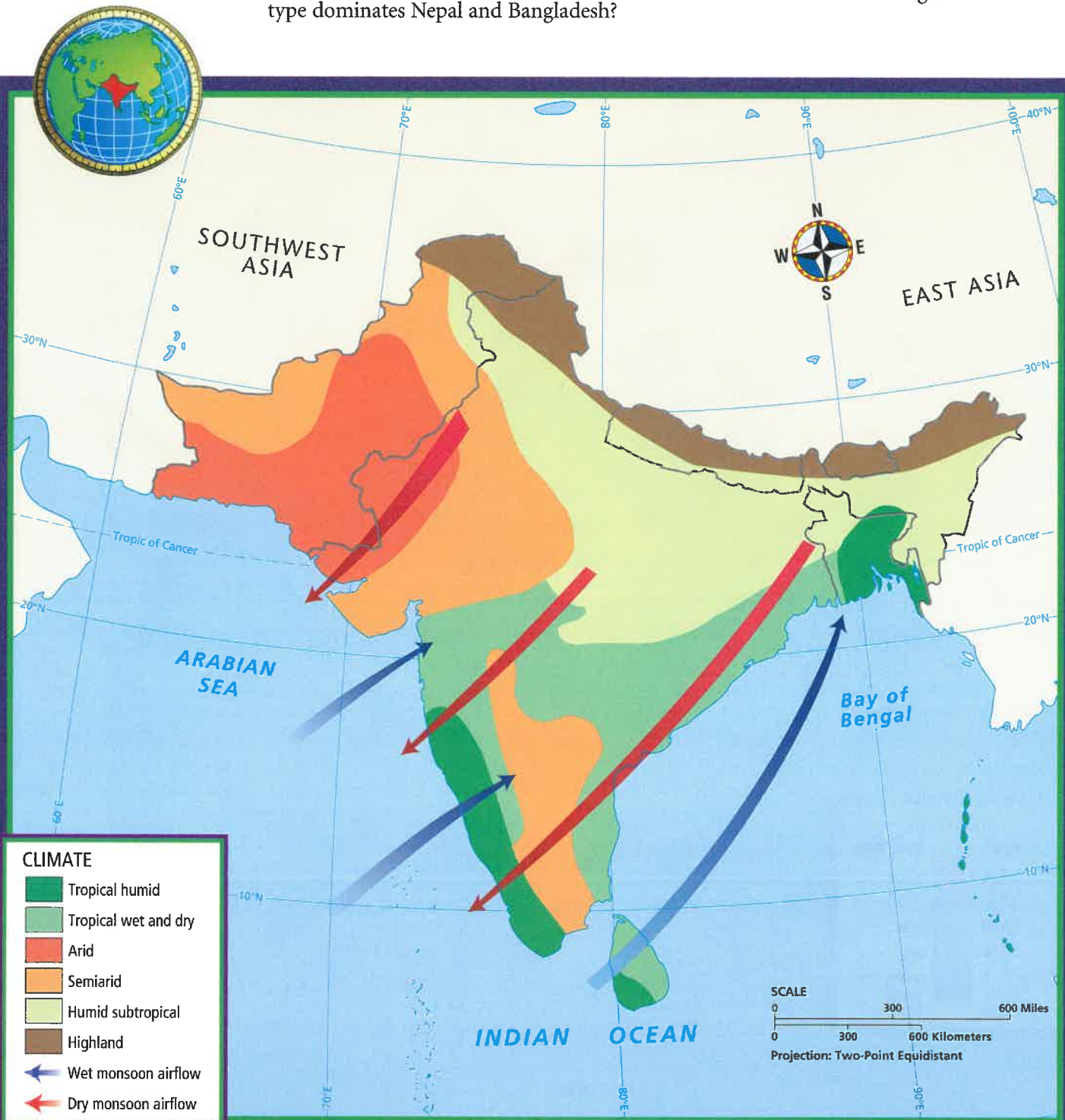
SCALE
0 300 600 Miles
0 300 600 Kilometers
Projection: Two-Point Equidistant

South Asia: Climate

- Places and Regions** Compare this map to the physical map. Which landform in southern India is dominated by a semi-arid climate?
- Places and Regions** Which climate type dominates Nepal and Bangladesh?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the political and precipitation maps. How do you think the wet monsoon airflow affects life in Bangladesh?



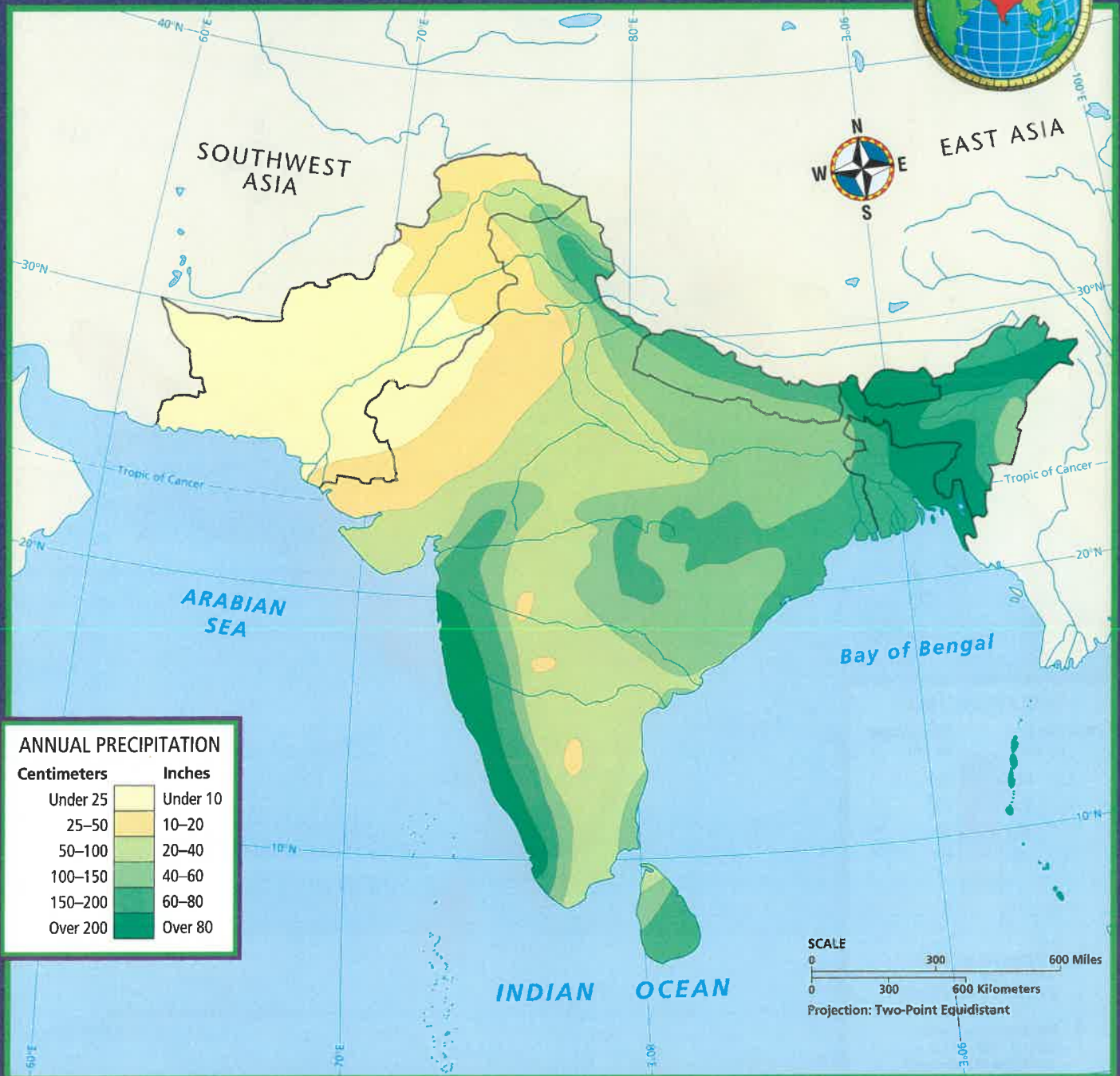
South Asia: Precipitation

- Physical Systems** Compare this map to the physical and political maps. Which mountains in southern India cause a rain-shadow effect?
- Environment and Society** Compare this map to the climate and political maps. How do you think the wet

monsoon airflow affects the amount of precipitation in Bangladesh?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the physical map. How do you think the Himalayas affect the distribution of precipitation in South Asia?

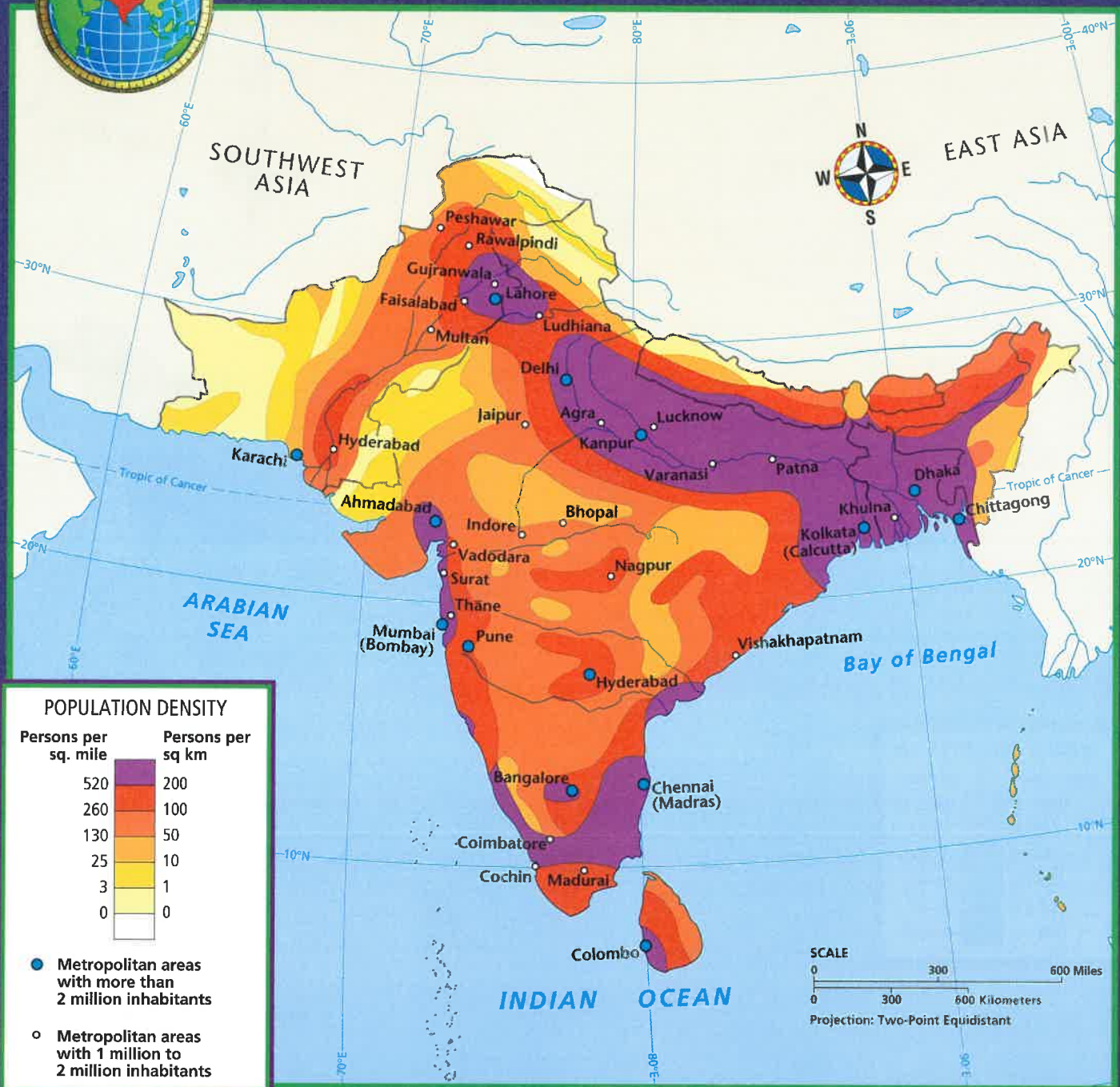


South Asia: Population

- 1. Environment and Society** Compare this map to the physical map. Which two major rivers flow through densely populated northern areas?
- 2. Places and Regions** Which country in the region has the highest overall population density?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the physical, climate, and land use maps. What do population density patterns suggest about the ways South Asians have adapted to their physical environments?

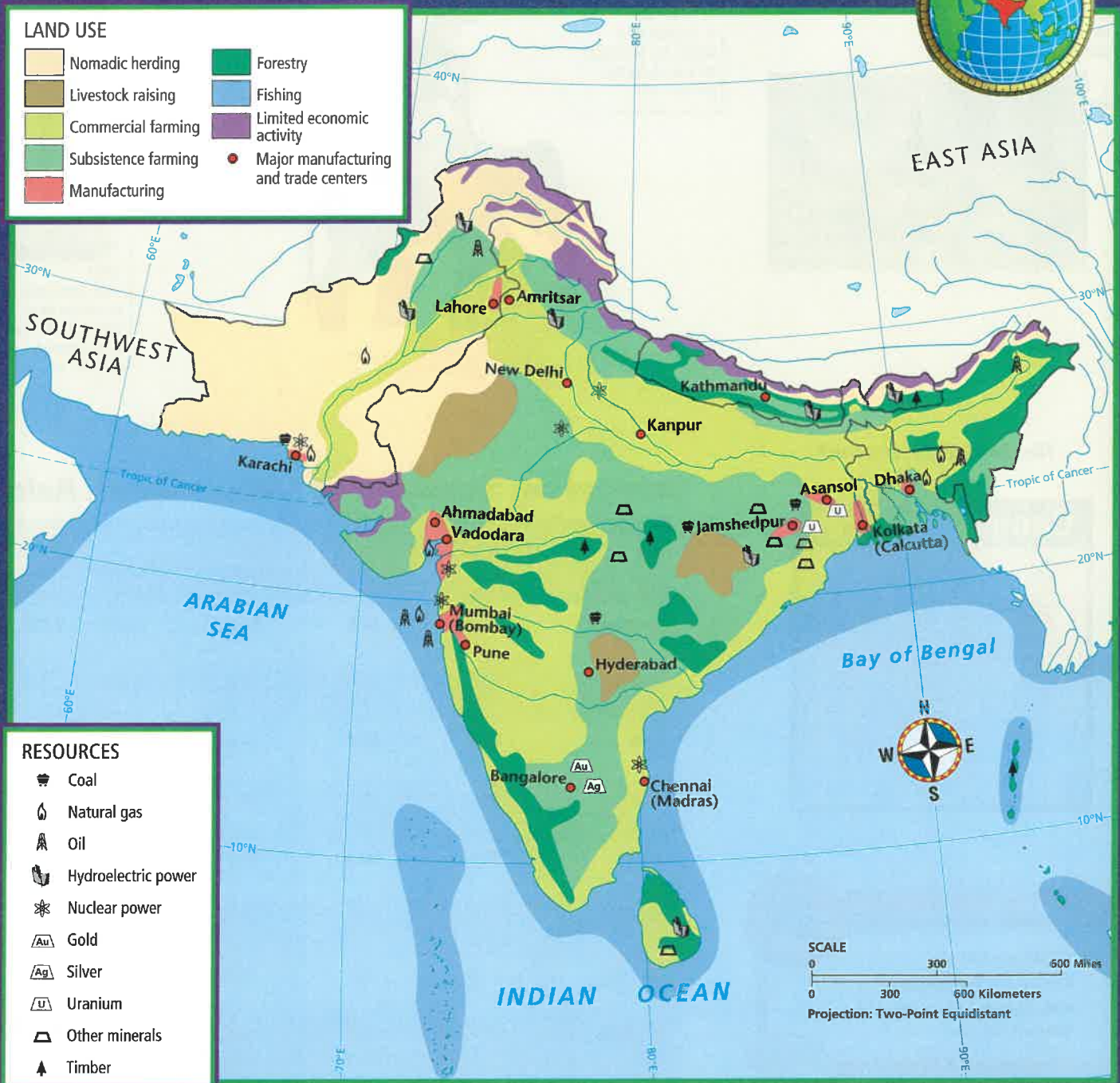


South Asia: Land Use and Resources

- 1. Environment and Society** Compare this map to the political map. What is the dominant type of land use in coastal India?
- 2. Places and Regions** Which part of India seems to have the highest concentration of minerals?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the physical and political maps. How is land use in Nepal related to elevation?



Time Line: South Asia



1920
Mohandas K. Gandhi begins an independence movement of nonviolent disobedience in India.

1971
Bangladesh becomes independent.

400s B.C.
Siddhārtha Gautama founds Buddhism.

1600 A.D.
The British establish the East India Company.

2500 B.C.

c. 2500 B.C.
Indus Valley civilization flourishes.



400 B.C.

1600 A.D.

1700

1800

1900

c. 1630–50
A Mughal ruler builds the Taj Mahal as a tomb for his favorite wife.



1858
The British government takes control of India.



1947
India wins independence from Great Britain and is partitioned.

The United States and South Asia

Comparing Sizes



Comparing Standard of Living—South Asia

COUNTRY	LIFE EXPECTANCY MALE (at birth, 2006)	LIFE EXPECTANCY FEMALE (at birth, 2006)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 births)	LITERACY RATE	DAILY CALORIC INTAKE
Bangladesh	62.5	62.5	60.8	43.1%	2,193
Bhutan	55	54.5	98.4	47.0%	NA
India	63.9	65.6	54.6	59.5%	2,473
Maldives	63.1	65.8	54.9	97.2%	2,558
Nepal	60.4	59.9	65.3	45.2%	2,483
Pakistan	62.4	64.4	70.5	48.7%	2,316
Sri Lanka	70.8	76.1	14.0	92.3%	2,416
United States	75	80.8	6.4	99.0%	3,754

Internet connect

GO TO: go.hrw.com









KEYWORD: SW3 Almanac

FOR: Additional information and reference sources



Fast Facts: South Asia



FLAG	COUNTRY Capital	POPULATION	POPULATION DENSITY (per sq. mi.)	AREA	PER CAPITA GDP (in US \$)	ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION (kilowatt hours per person)	TELEPHONE LINES (per 100 people)
	Bangladesh Dhaka	147,365,352	2,850.3	55,599 sq. mi. 144,001 sq km	\$ 2,100	109.9	0.61
	Bhutan Thimphu	2,279,723	125.6	18,147 sq. mi. 47,001 sq km	\$ 1,400	109.7	3.9
	India New Delhi	1,095,351,995	954.2	1,269,345 sq. mi. 3,287,588 sq km	\$ 3,400	473.9	4.1
	Maldives Maie	359,008	3,099.4	116 sq. mi. 300 sq km	\$ 3,900	362.1	9.6
	Nepal Kathmandu	28,287,147	535.6	54,363 sq. mi. 140,800 sq km	\$ 1,500	81.3	1.7
	Pakistan Islamabad	165,803,560	551.4	310,403 sq. mi. 803,940 sq km	\$ 2,400	431.5	3
	Sri Lanka Colombo	20,222,240	809.1	25,332 sq. mi. 65,610 sq km	\$ 4,300	336.3	5.1
	United States Washington, D.C.	298,444,215	84.4	3,717,810 sq. mi. 9,629,084 sq km	\$ 42,000	12,251.8	60.6

Sources: Population: Census Bureau; Per Capita GDP: *CIA Fact book*; Electricity: Energy Information Admin.; Telephones: Int'l Telecommunication Union



Bengal tiger