

ASIA:

Our Neighbour



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Contents

Teachers' Notes	4
Australian Curriculum Links	5
Teaching Ideas	6
Section One: Getting To Know Asia - An Overview	
Being A Good Neighbour	8
Collaboration Promotes Global Citizenship	9
Spotlight On The Region	10
Location, Location – Explore The Region 1	11
Location, Location – Explore The Region 2	12
North-East Asia 1	13
North-East Asia 2	14
South-East Asia 1	15
South-East Asia 2	16
South Asia 1	17
South Asia 2	18
Papua New Guinea And New Zealand	19
Population Watch 1	20
Population Watch 2	21
Language Alert	22
Asian Numbers	23
Section Two: The Environment In Asia And Australia	
Ecosystems 1	25
Ecosystems 2	26
Natural Features	27
Urban Environments	28
Disasters And Adaptation	29
Comparing Environmental Problems	30
Endangered And Invasive Species	31
Section Three: Collaborating Through Migration, Trade And Aid	
Migration - Australians Of Asian Heritage	33
Trade – It Matters!	34
Asian Governments – Who Runs The Show? 1	35
Asian Governments – Who Runs The Show? 2	36
Aid: How Does Australia Help Asia?	37
Section Four: Diversity	
Different Religions In Asia 1	39
Different Religions In Asia 2	40
The Asian School Experience	41
Assorted Working Conditions	42
Asian Influence	43
Section Five: Extra	
Flag Cards	45
The Ultimate Trip	46
Make A Tibetan Prayer Flag Or Lung Ta (Wind Horse)	47
Website Cards	48
Explain It Cards	49
Fast Finishers 1	50
Fast Finishers 2	51
Fast Finishers 3	52
Vocabulary	53
The Great Unscramble	54
Answers	55-60

Teachers' Notes

We live in a world that is focusing more and more on Asia and the rapidly growing countries in this region. For Australians, the places in Asia have contributed greatly to our development historically and these places will have continued relevance and importance in our future. The Australian land and our history are linked to Asia from ancient times to today. Asian traditions have influenced ours, and there are many Australians who have personal ties with Asia. As our closest neighbour, increasing our understanding of Asian societies, beliefs, systems and environments will help us to make connections between our cultures so that we can participate more actively in our own region. After all, being a good citizen is all about recognising diversity and building harmony between nations. Becoming Asia-literate is a key skill for Australian students and is an integral part of the new Australian National Curriculum.

Asia: Our Neighbour is written for students in Years 4-6. It is a flexible resource as teachers can choose to follow the sections chronologically or use the topic pages in no particular order. There is an extensive vocabulary section and additional extension activities at the back of the book. The Website Cards (see page 48) can help with research tasks and can be kept handy at computer stations. Use the Explain It Cards (page 49) as topics for students to reflect on and teach others about, at the conclusion of the unit. Answers to all of the questions and tasks are provided. Have fun!

Internet Safety

With increasing use of the internet in schools, take a few minutes to teach your class how to stay safe online. Following the five SMART rules is one approach you could take.

1. **SAFE** – keep safe by not giving out personal information.
2. **MEET** – meeting someone that you have met online can be dangerous. Talk about this with a parent first.
3. **ACCEPTING** – opening files, accepting messages, pictures or texts from someone who you don't know can be a problem. They could contain viruses or nasty messages.
4. **RELIABLE** – information on the internet may not be true. Check information and see if it is credible.
5. **TELL** – tell a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable online or you see someone being bullied.

► <http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/>



Location, Location – Explore The Region 1

As the biggest continent on our planet it is home to 48 countries and contains all manner of environments including: rainforests, snowy mountains and desert areas. It is a region rich in history, culture and traditions which have influenced the world. Asia is home to billions of people in some of the biggest cities in the world. It is a place of rapid change as development improves the lives of its citizens and problems are addressed.

- ◆ Grab an atlas and locate as many of the Asian countries as you can on the map below. Tick the countries off as you locate them. When you have labelled as many countries as you can, use three different coloured pencils to shade the three areas of Asia: North-east Asia, South-east Asia and South Asia.

North-east Asia:

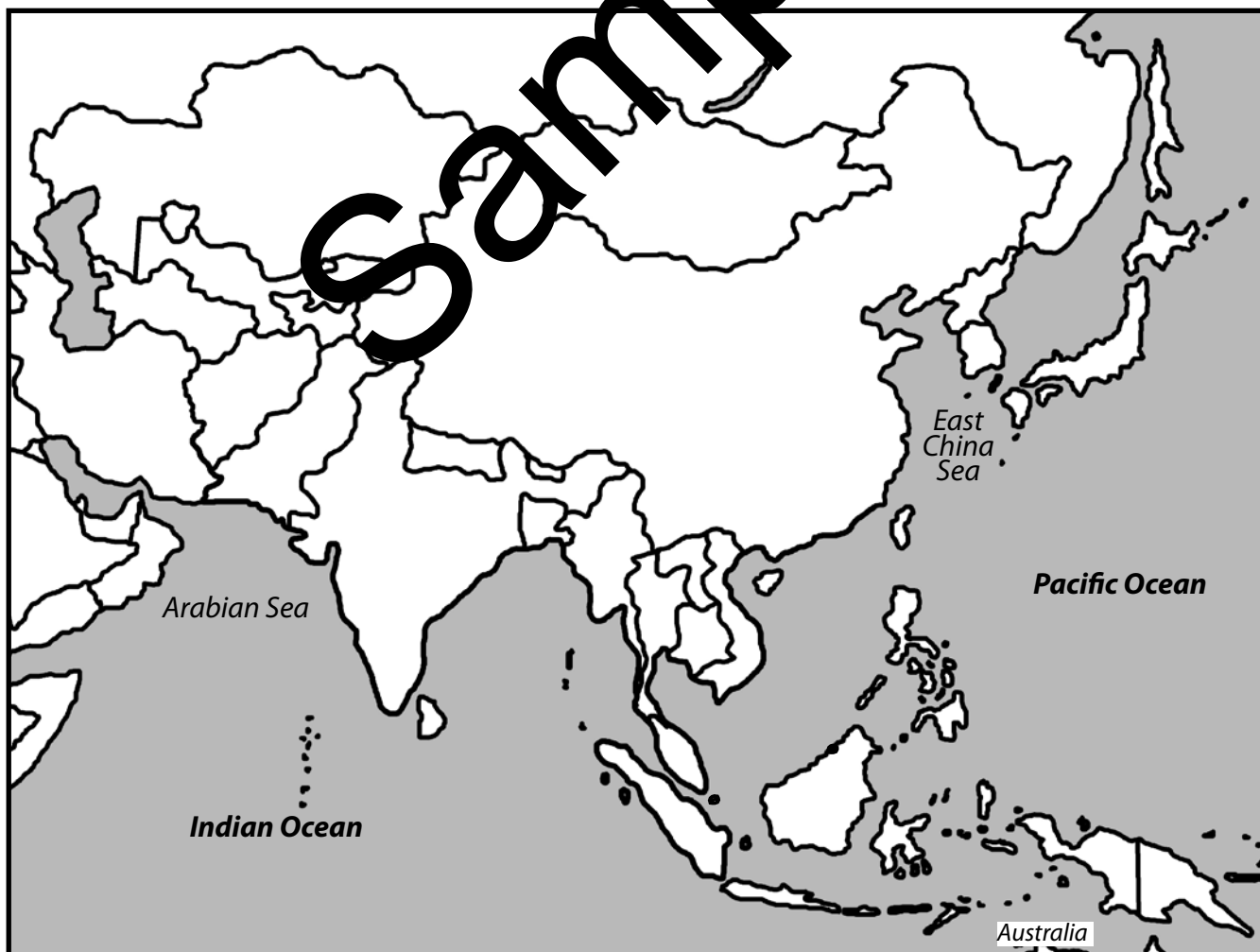
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ China | ☐ South Korea |
| ☐ Mongolia | |
| ☐ Japan | ☐ Taiwan |
| ☐ North Korea | |

South-east Asia:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Indonesia | ☐ Singapore |
| ☐ Myanmar (Burma) | ☐ Vietnam |
| ☐ Thailand | ☐ Laos |
| ☐ Malaysia | ☐ East Timor |
| ☐ Brunei | ☐ Philippines |
| | ☐ Cambodia |

South Asia:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ India | ☐ Bangladesh |
| ☐ Pakistan | ☐ Sri Lanka |
| ☐ Nepal | ☐ Maldives |
| ☐ Bhutan | |





North-East Asia 1

The countries in North-east Asia are some of the most populous on the planet. They have all been influenced by China's culture and way of life. Countries in North-east Asia include: China, Mongolia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan.

- ◆ Read the facts about each country in North-east Asia then grab an atlas and locate each place on the map. Draw straight lines to connect the fact boxes to the countries marked on the map.



◆ MONGOLIA

Sometimes considered part of central Asia, Mongolia is covered in deserts and grasslands. Its people were traditionally nomadic and used eagles to help them hunt. The country is rich in natural resources.

◆ NORTH KOREA

North Korea is located on a peninsula. North and South Korea were once one country (Korea) before civil war divided it. Relations are still tense today.

◆ SOUTH KOREA

A very mountainous country, this presidential republic has a high standard of living in comparison to its neighbour North Korea. Samsung and LG are South Korean companies selling most of the world's mobile phones.

◆ CHINA

The largest country in North-east Asia and home to more people than anywhere else on earth.

◆ TAIWAN

About half the size of Tasmania, Taiwan is seismically active and one of the most densely populated areas of the world due to its small size.

◆ JAPAN

One of our most important trading partners, Australia and Japan have enjoyed good business relations. Made up of many islands, Japan is rich in tradition and has also developed some of the world's most innovative technology.

Nepal

Bangladesh

Laos

Phillipines

Russia



North-East Asia 2

The countries in North-east Asia are some of the most populous on the planet. They have all been influenced by China's culture and way of life. Countries in North-east Asia include: China, Mongolia, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan.

- ◆ Use your research skills together with what you already know to complete the fact files on the countries in North-east Asia listed below. Cut the fact files out and staple them together to create a flip book.

China

Capital city: _____

Population: _____

Two rivers: _____

Two famous attractions: _____

Mongolia

Capital city: _____

Population: _____

Two mountain ranges: _____

Type of landscape: _____

Religion: _____

Japan

Capital city: _____

Population: _____

Largest island: _____

Foods that are eaten: _____

Two Japanese sports: _____

North Korea

Capital city: _____

Population: _____

Language spoken: _____

Form of government: _____

Currency: _____

South Korea

Capital city: _____

Population: _____

Main exports: _____

Currency: _____

Tourist Attractions: _____

Taiwan

Capital city: _____

Population: _____

Language spoken: _____

Currency: _____

National sport: _____

Food Specialties: _____



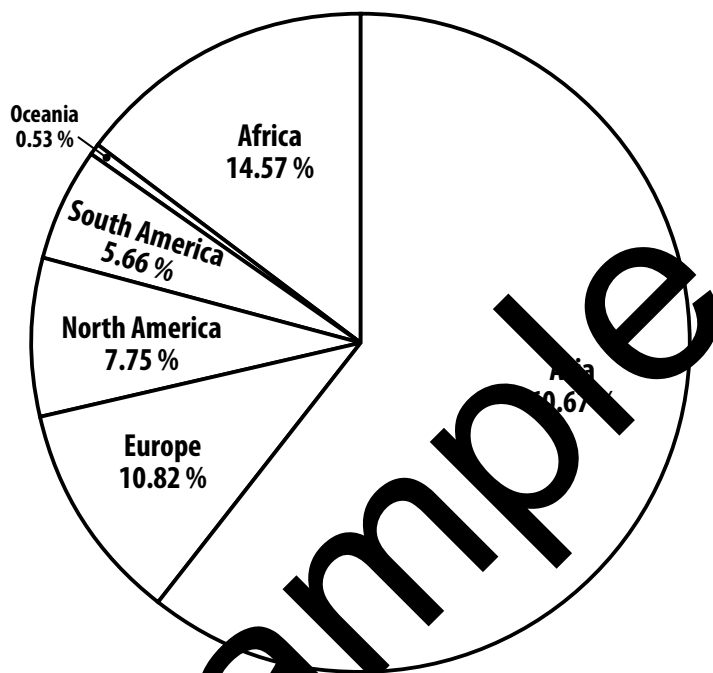


Population Watch 1

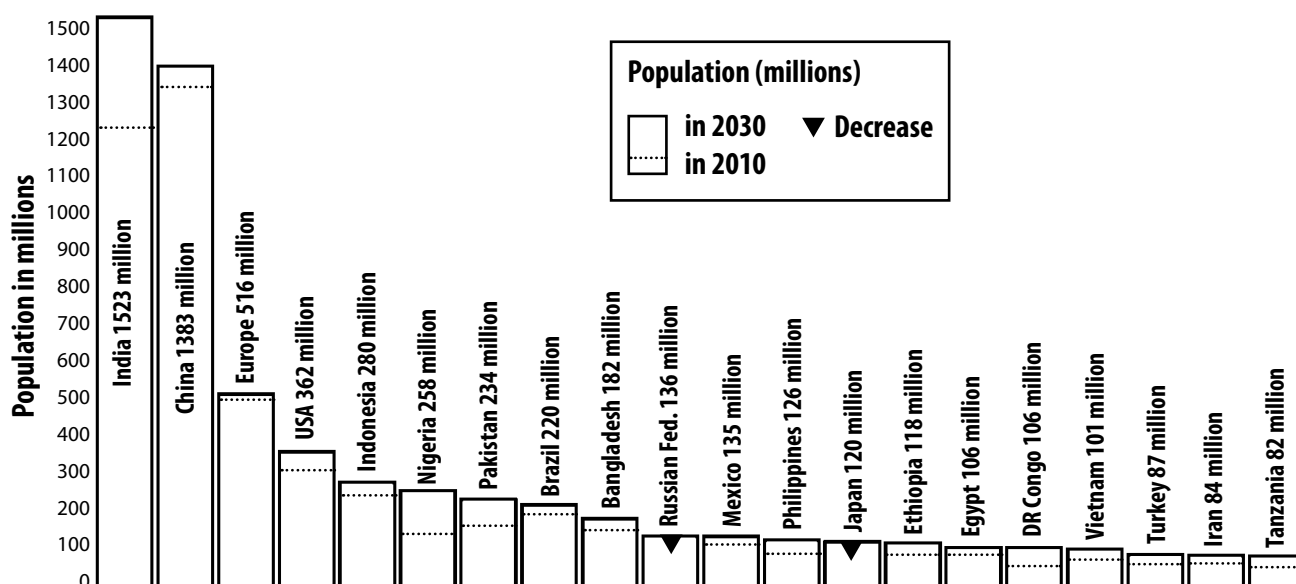
At the start of the 20th Century, there were less than 2 billion people living on Earth. Today there are over 7 billion of us and our numbers are growing quickly. Asia is the biggest contributor to this growing population. Knowing how to interpret statistics (collections of information and data) is important because this helps us to make sense of our world and make decisions about what we might need to do in the future.

- ◆ Study the pie chart and the bar graph below, then answer the questions on page 21.

World Population By Continent



Population of 20 major countries in 2010 and 2030



Source: UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2011).



Asian Numbers

India is one of the most populated and fastest growing nations in the world. Over 180 million people speak Hindi in India and other parts of the world. Numbers in Hindi look very different to the ones that we are familiar with (1, 2, 3, etc.), but just like learning anything else, it gets easier the more you practise. Indonesian is a little easier to remember because the same numbers (1,2,3, etc.) are used.

- ◆ Trace the numbers in Hindi and see if you can remember how to say and write them. It means that you will be able to communicate with more people and this might even inspire you to want to learn more Hindi, and one day, become fluent.

Number	1	2	3	4	5
Hindi					
	Ek	Do	Tin	Chaar	Pamch

Number	6	7	8	9	10
Hindi					
	Chay	Saat	Ath	Nau	Das

- ◆ Rewrite the Indonesian words for the numbers 1-10 below. This will help you to remember them. Then count to 10 in Indonesian.

Indonesian	satu	dua	tiga	empat	lima	enam	tujuh	delapan	sembilan	sepuluh
Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____

Newsflash

Every year India makes more movies than any other country. They are made in Mumbai which used to be called Bombay and this resulted in the studios being known as "Bollywood". The movies are often full of music and dance with a dramatic storyline.





Ecosystems 1

We are surrounded by ecosystems - living things that rely on each other in a particular location. It is a balancing act - when something changes in an ecosystem, other living things have to adapt. Sometimes changes are due to human activity (like new buildings being developed or forests being cleared) and other times by nature (natural disasters).

- ◆ **Predict what might happen in the ecosystems outlined below. Write your responses in the space provided.**

CORAL REEFS: SOGOD BAY, PHILIPPINES

What's the story?

- **25% of marine creatures live in coral reefs.**
- **Corals are unique and can be considered animal, plant and mineral.**
- **This ecosystem surrounds the Philippines.**
- **Ocean acidification is impacting the reef and causing corals to become fragile.**
- **The reef is important for people's livelihood.**

What impact will the destruction of the coral reef have on people, animals and plants? Write your ideas below.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

LOCATE IT! Find the Philippines on a map.

COLD DESERTS: GOBI DESERT, MONGOLIA, CHINA

What's the story?

- **The Gobi Desert is the largest desert in Asia with one of the greatest temperature extremes (in winter the temperature is below 30 degrees and is above 30 degrees in summer).**
- **It is home to many special plants and animals who have adapted to live in this harsh environment.**
- **Introduced livestock and off-road vehicles have trampled delicate grasslands.**
- **Copper and gold is being mined in some areas of the Gobi.**
- **The Gobi is expanding due to desertification into China and taking over grasslands there used for agriculture.**

What impact will the expansion of the Gobi Desert have on people, animals and plants? Also consider the impact of the introduction of mining, livestock and off-road vehicles. Write your ideas below.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

LOCATE IT! Find the Gobi Desert on a map.



Make A Tibetan Prayer Flag Or Lung Ta (Wind Horse)

Tibetans make prayer flags to display messages of peace, goodwill and love. They are often on colourful, rectangular fabric and strung up and displayed outside. They are traditionally made in primary colours and in sets of five to represent the different elements:

BLUE for the sky/space **WHITE** for air/wind **RED** for fire **GREEN** for water **YELLOW** for earth

◆ Follow this procedure to make your own prayer flag.

Materials

- Pieces of rectangular fabric, 15cm x 10cm in five different colours (red, blue, yellow, white and green).
- Fabric paint or markers.
- Safety pins.
- Thick string for hanging.

Steps

1. Look at examples of prayer flags online.
2. Decide on your design and what traditional elements to use.
3. Use the space below to make a draft of your design and write your blessing or prayer. Think of a goodwill message to spread to the world. They are often blessings about long life, wisdom, good fortune and compassion.



Sample

4. Create your flag using the fabric markers.
5. Pin it to the string and hang.

Tibetan Flag Fact 1

A horse, symbolising speed or transformation, is often placed in the centre of a prayer flag, with four other animals at the corners: dragon, garuda (similar to an eagle), tiger, and snow lion.

Tibetan Flag Fact 2

Tibetan people believe that when the wind blows, the prayer flag blessing is spread to the world.