

Reading Geography

If you're having trouble with geography, it might be because of how you're reading the textbook. Practice reading and responding to a geography chapter here.

Before Reading

On these pages, you'll use the reading process and the **strategy of using graphic organizers** to help you read and respond to a geography chapter about the physical geography of Southeast Asia. Take what you learn here and apply it to your own reading.

A

Set a Purpose

Your purpose for reading a geography chapter is twofold: Find out the subject of the chapter, and learn why the information is important.

- To set your purpose, turn the title of the geography chapter into a question.

Write your purpose for reading these pages from a chapter called "The Physical Geography of Southeast Asia"

My purpose: _____

B

Preview

A preview can show you what to expect during your careful reading.

Directions: Preview the following two pages from the geography chapter. Make notes on page 30 about the subject, key terms, first paragraph, and the graphics.

11 The Physical Geography of Southeast Asia

Preview

Key Terms

cataclysmic
cordillera
flora
fauna
archipelago

Places to Locate

Indochinese Peninsula
the Philippines
Malay Peninsula
Singapore
Bay of Bengal

Read and Learn—

1. the natural forces that shaped Southeast Asia.
2. geographical similarities and differences between mainland and island Southeast Asia.
3. the natural resources and climate of Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia is a region of Asia that includes the Indochinese and Malay peninsulas and several nearby island groups. The region is bordered on the north by China; on the south by the Indian Ocean; on the east by the South Pacific Ocean; and on the west by the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian subcontinent. Southeast Asia includes the countries of Brunei, Cambodia (Kâmpuchéa), Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam (see Figure 11.1).

SOUTHEAST ASIA: COUNTRY PROFILE		
Country	Population	Landmass
Brunei	300,000	2,035 sq. mi.
Cambodia	10,800,000	68,154 sq. mi.
Indonesia	207,400,000	705,190 sq. mi.
Laos	5,300,000	89,110 sq. mi.
Malaysia	22,200,000	126,860 sq. mi.
Myanmar	47,100,000	253,880 sq. mi.
Philippines	75,300,000	115,120 sq. mi.
Singapore	5,900,000	236 sq. mi.
Thailand	61,000,000	197,250 sq. mi.
Vietnam	77,500,000	125,670 sq. mi.

Figure 11.1

The Land

Southeast Asia was formed by the collision of the Eurasian, Philippine, and IndoAustralian tectonic plates. The collision took place millions of years ago and occurred over time, rather than as one cataclysmic, or sudden, event.

The clashing of the plates where India joined Asia forced up the Himalaya Mountains. This in turn created river valleys and **cordilleras**, or parallel mountain ranges, in the Indochinese Peninsula.

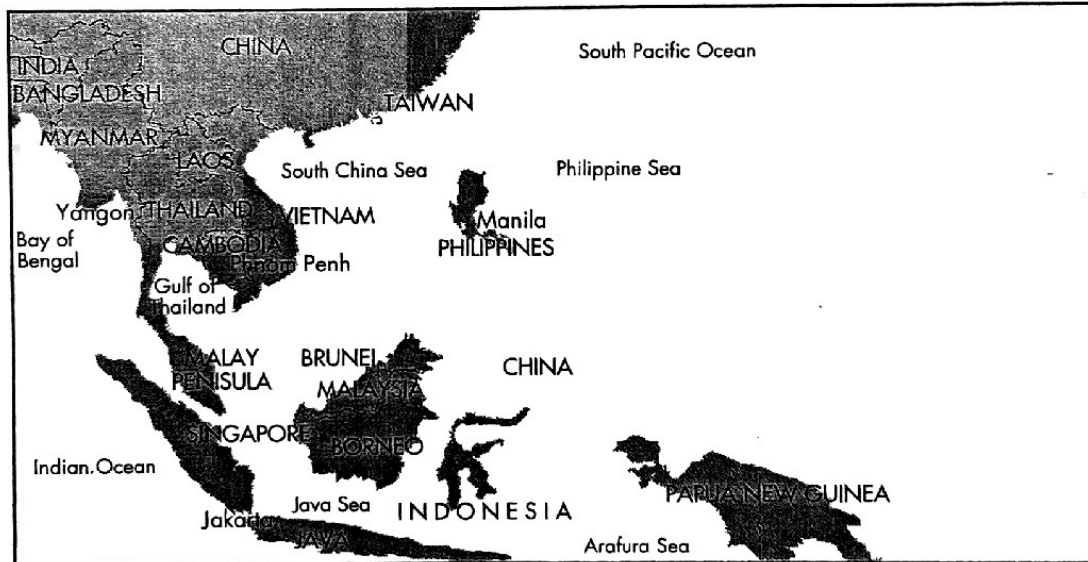
Southeast Asia can be divided into mainland and island countries. These countries are quite distinct from one another. Each has its own language, of course, and its own distinctive **flora**, or plants, and **fauna**, or animals.

Mainland and Island Southeast Asia

The countries of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar lie entirely on the

Indochinese Peninsula. Thailand lies mainly on the Indochinese Peninsula, but also trails southward to the Malay Peninsula (see **Figure 11.2**).

The islands of Southeast Asia are numerous and varied. Singapore is an island located off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. A separate island country, Indonesia, is composed of 13,677 small islands that stretch from the Indian Ocean to Papua New Guinea. The Philippines, which is an **archipelago** (a group of islands), is composed of 7,107 islands. Brunei, on the north edge of the island of Borneo, is also an island country of Southeast Asia.



Map Search

Figure 11.2 Southeast Asia

1. What region includes Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar?
2. What is the capital of Myanmar?
3. Where is Manila located?

The subject of the chapter:

Key terms:

The first paragraph tells me this:

I noticed this about the graphics:

NAME

Plan

Your next step is to choose a strategy and make a reading plan.

- Use graphic organizers to keep track of important information in a chapter.

Directions: Complete this K-W-L Chart. Write what you already know about the geography of Southeast Asia in Column 1. Write what you want to know in Column 2. Save Column 3 for later.

K-W-L Chart

What I K now	What I W ant to Know	What I L earned
1. The first step in the scientific process is to ask a question.		
2. A hypothesis is a statement that can be tested.		
3. The next step is to design an experiment.		
4. During an experiment, you collect data.		
5. After the experiment, you analyze the data.		
6. The results of the experiment can either support or refute the hypothesis.		
7. If the hypothesis is supported, it becomes a theory.		
8. A theory is a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world.		
9. The scientific process is a continuous cycle of asking questions, testing hypotheses, and refining theories.		
10. The scientific process is a way of thinking that helps us understand the world around us.		

During Reading

Now go back and do a careful reading of the geography pages. As you read, write important facts and details in Column 3 of your K-W-L Chart.

D Read with a Purpose

Remember to keep your purpose in mind as you read. Your goal is to find out what the chapter is about and why this information is important.

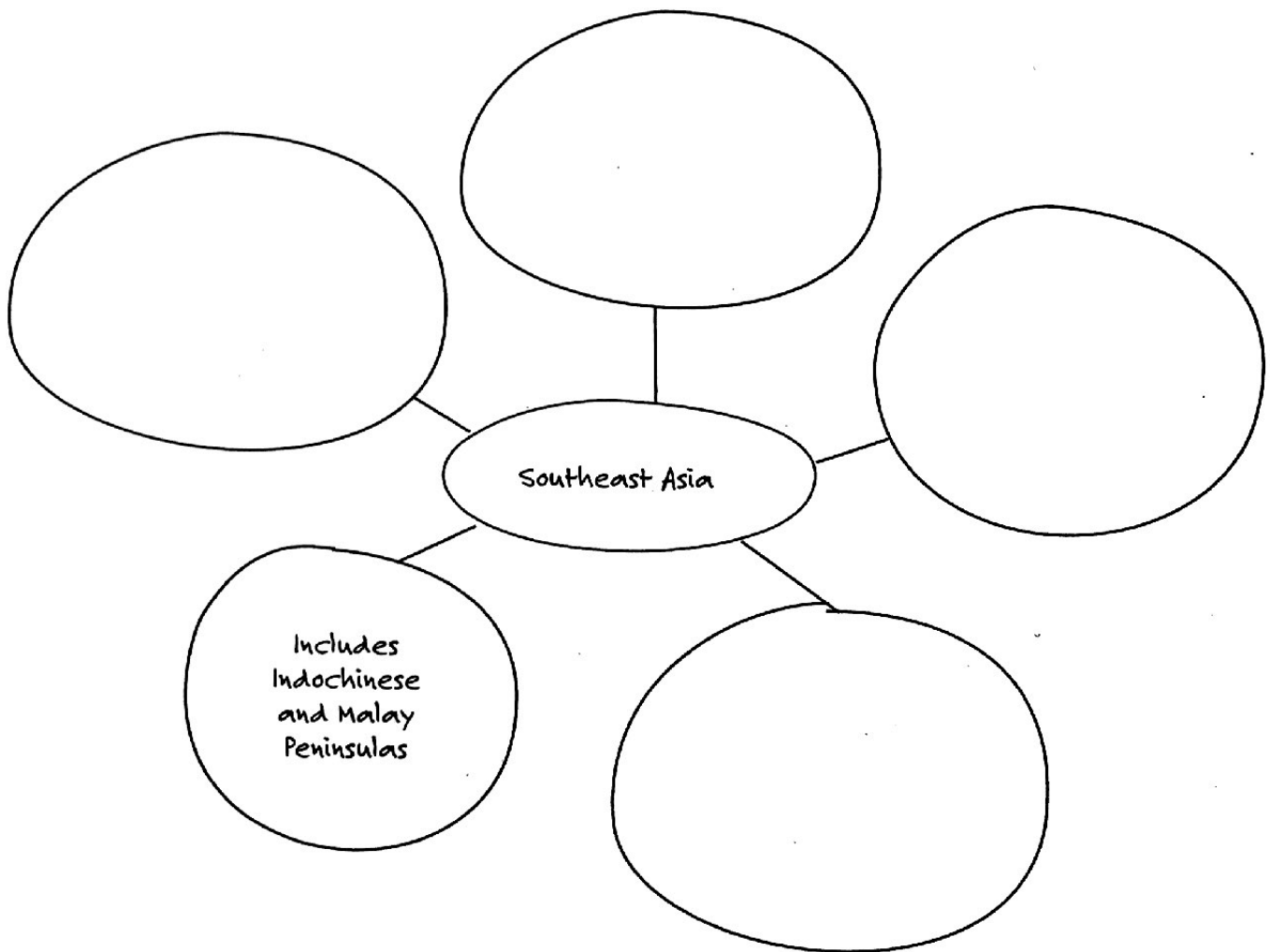
Using the Strategy

Many kinds of graphic organizers work well with geography textbooks.
Choose the organizer that works best for you.

A Concept Map can help you explore important ideas in the reading.

Directions: Explore important ideas and details about Southeast Asia on this Concept Map.

Concept Map



Understanding How Geography Textbooks Are Organized

Geography textbooks are usually organized around topics and graphics.

1. Topic Organization In most geography chapters, you will find several key topics. Within each topic there may be two or more subpoints.

Directions: Look at the sample Outline on page 94 of your handbook. Then complete this Outline using notes from the reading.

Outline

I. The Land

A. Formed by collision of tectonic plates

B.

C.

II. Mainland and Island Southeast Asia

A.

B.

C.

2. Use of Graphics In addition to paying attention to key topics, you must also look carefully at the maps, graphs, tables, photographs, and other visual helps that are scattered throughout a chapter.

Directions: Look at the chart on page 29. Write one sentence that summarizes the point of the visual. Then do the same for the map on page 30.

One-sentence Summary

Chart:

Map:

E**Connect**

Making personal connections to a geography text can help you understand and stay interested in what you're reading.

As you read, make notes about information that you find interesting, surprising, or puzzling.

Directions: Record your connections to the Southeast Asia reading here.

I was interested in these parts of the reading:

I found this information surprising:

I'm puzzled by this:

After Reading

After you finish reading, stop and consider what you've learned.

F**Pause and Reflect**

Begin by reflecting on your reading purpose.

After you finish a geography chapter, ask yourself:
"How well did I meet my purpose?"

Directions: Return to Column 3 of your K-W-L Chart (page 31). Note what you learned. Then decide whether or not you've met your reading purpose. Circle *have* or *have not* and explain.

I *have* / *have not* met my reading purpose. Here's why:

Reread

Even the best readers can take in and retain only so much on a first reading. For this reason, it's a good idea to look back and reread.

• A powerful rereading strategy to use with geography is note-taking.

Directions: Reread the textbook pages. Write one question about Southeast Asia on the front of each Study Card. Then exchange books with a classmate. Have him or her answer the questions you've written.

Study Cards

Question:

Answer:

Question:

Answer:

H**Remember**

After you finish a reading, figure out a way to remember what you've learned.

Creating a practice test can help you remember important information.

Directions: Create a practice test that covers the material in the Southeast Asia reading. Then turn the book upside down and make an answer key. One question has been done for you.

Practice Test for "The Physical Geography of Southeast Asia"

1. What is a cordillera?

a. a small Mexican town

b. where two rivers meet

c. a type of rock

d. a chain of mountains

2.

a.

b.

c.

d.

3.

a.

b.

c.

d.

4.

a.

b.

c.

d.

5.

a.

b.

c.

d.

Answer Key

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.