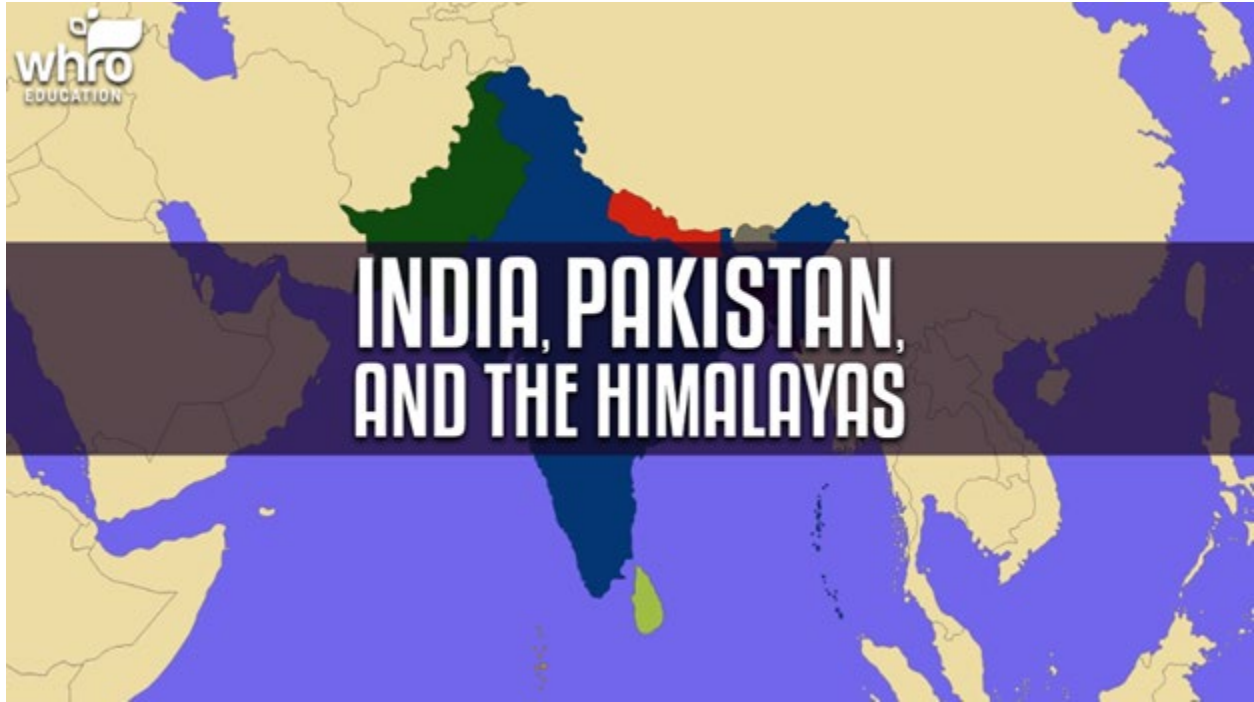


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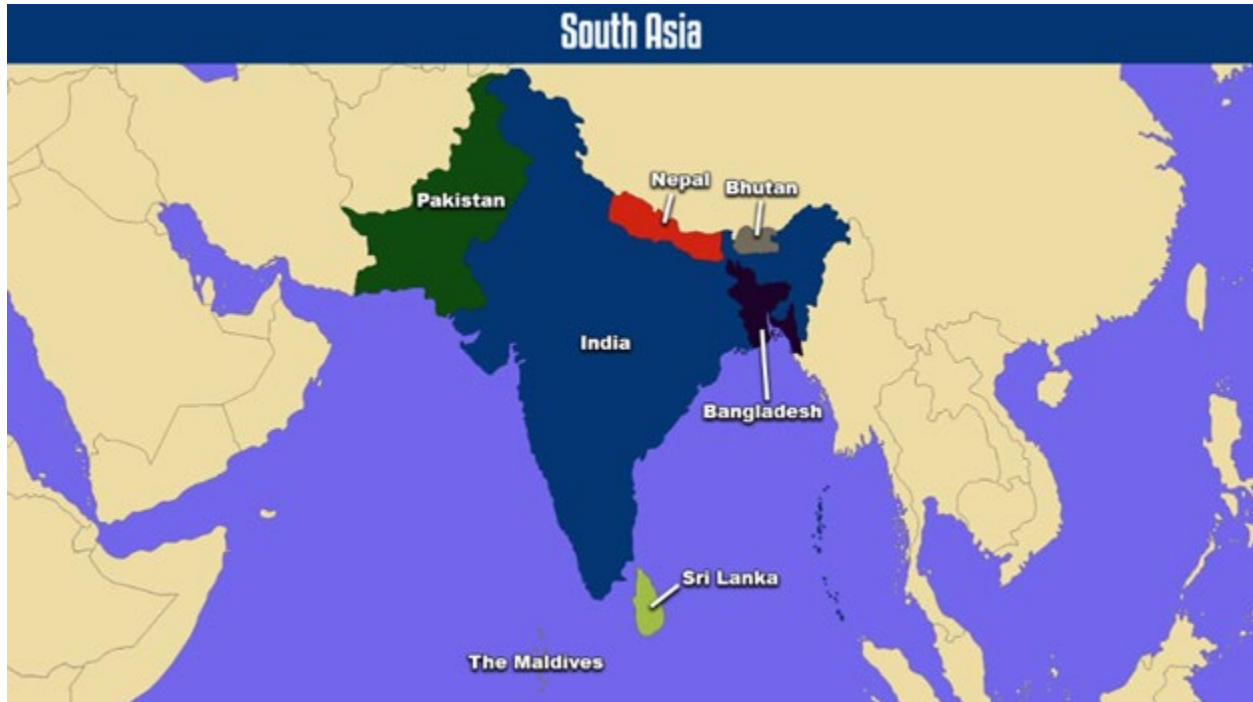
India, Pakistan, and the Himalayas



Click next to begin.

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South Asia



South Asia spans most of the Indian subcontinent. It is bordered by the Arabian Sea in the east, the Indian Ocean in the south, and the Bay of Bengal in the west. The Himalayas and the Hindu Kush mountains border the northern part of the region. South Asia includes the countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. It also includes two island countries, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

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India



India is the largest country in South Asia. It spans most of the Indian subcontinent, between the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. India is about one-third the size of the United States. However, the population is roughly four times larger than that of the United States. India is the second most populous country in the world, with an estimated 1.3 billion people.

Seventy percent of India's population lives in rural villages. Many of these villages are small, with only a few hundred residents. Most of the people living in villages practice subsistence agriculture. Rural areas often lack or have limited access to electricity, clean water, and sewage systems.

The rest of India's population lives in large cities. These urban areas offer greater access to education and healthcare. They also have more jobs and economic opportunities. These pull factors attract people to cities. As a result, India's cities have experienced rapid growth. India's largest cities typically have well developed wealthy areas next to impoverished slums. Urban slums suffer from poor infrastructure. This means slums may have insufficient clean water or electricity. The cities also suffer from increased pollution.

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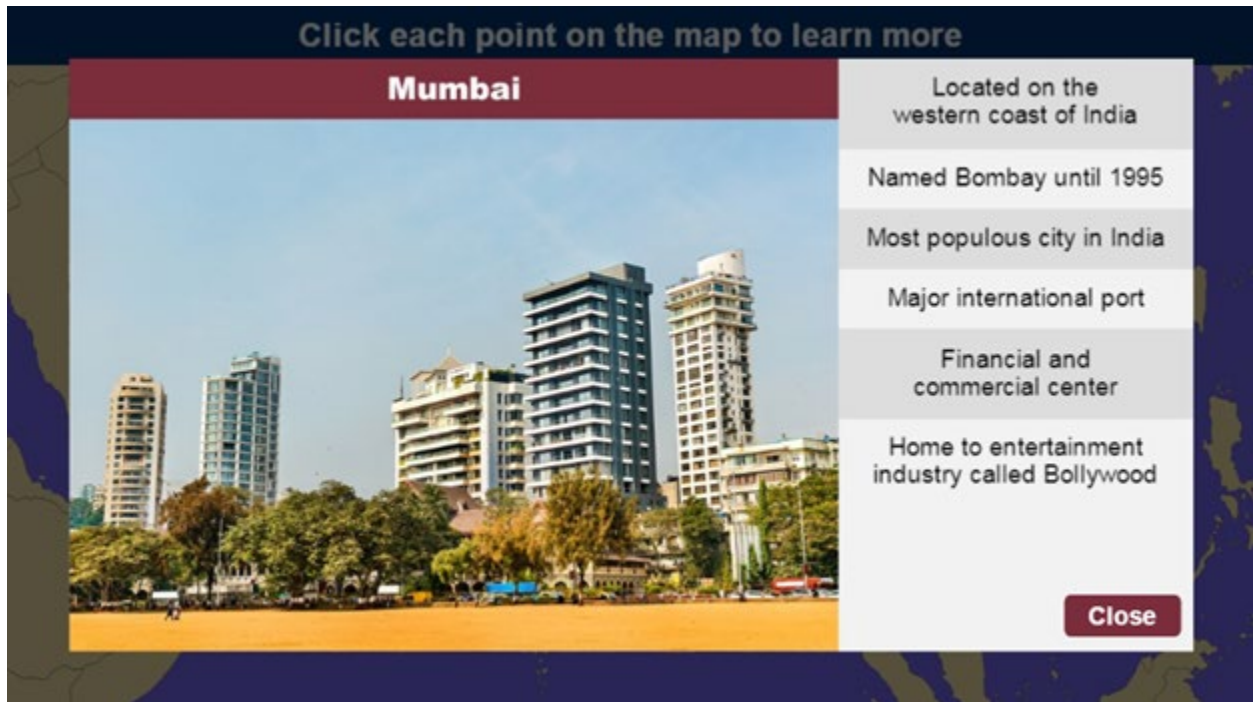
Major Cities in India



Click each point to learn more.

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Mumbai



Mumbai is located on the western coast of India, near the Arabian Sea. Under British rule, the city was called Bombay. The name was officially changed to Mumbai in 1995. Many Indians felt the name Bombay was associated with colonialism, and the name Mumbai reflected the local culture and heritage.


Mumbai is the most populous city in India. It is located at a natural harbor site and serves as a major international port. It is also the financial and commercial center of the country. Additionally, Mumbai is home to India's film industry, which is nicknamed "Bollywood." Bollywood actually produces more movies annually than Hollywood.

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New Delhi

Continue

New Delhi



Centrally located in the northern part of the country

New Delhi is a district of Delhi, a larger urban area

Delhi is a major metropolitan area

Established in 1911

Became the capital in 1931

Center for trade, culture, and transportation

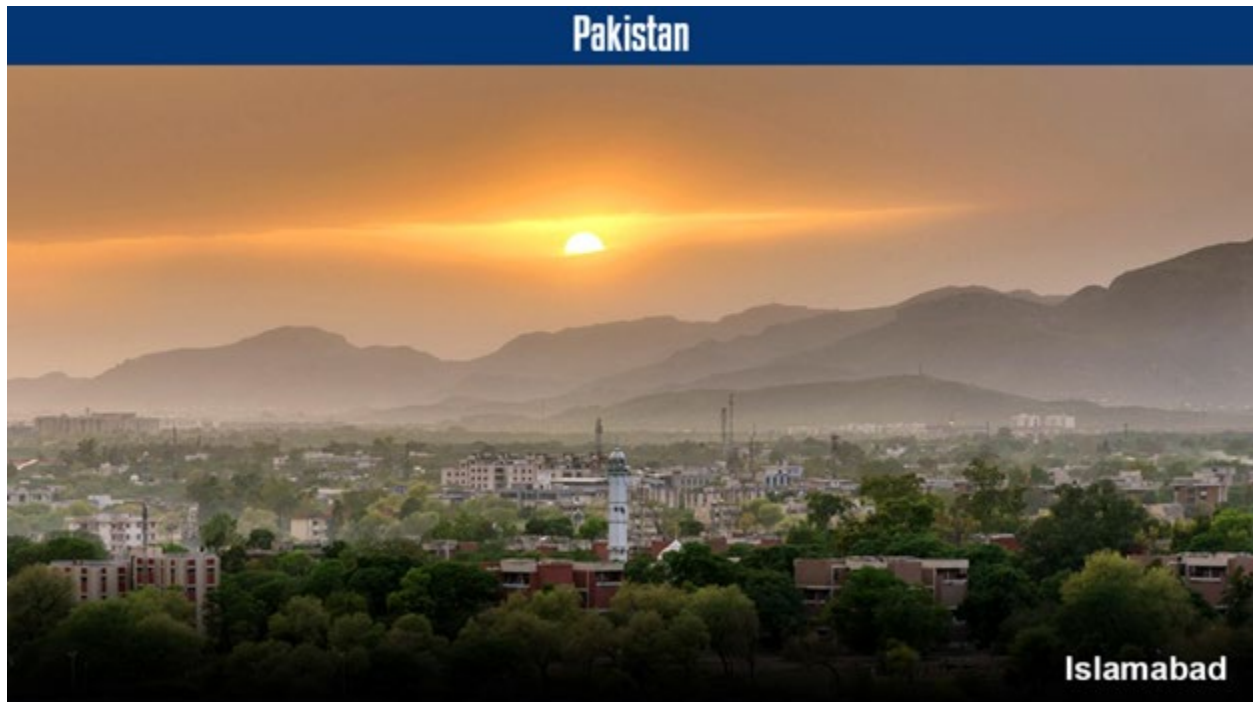
Close

New Delhi is centrally located in the northern part of the country. New Delhi is technically a district in a larger urban area known as Delhi. Delhi is made up of several districts, including New Delhi. These districts form a major metropolitan area that is home to millions of people.

New Delhi was established in 1911, under British colonial rule. The British moved the colonial capital to New Delhi in 1931, because of its central location within the country. Today, New Delhi is the national capital of India. It is also an important center for trade, culture, and transportation.

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Pakistan



Pakistan is located west of India and north of the Arabian Sea. Pakistan is one of the most populous countries in the world, with around 200 million people. Most of these people live in densely populated areas near the Indus River. The rest of the country is dry, mountainous, and sparsely populated. The Indus River has supported people in this region for thousands of years. One of the world's oldest known civilizations, the Indus Valley Civilization, was based here.

Under British colonial rule, Pakistan was a part of India. Pakistan and India split into separate nations in 1947. The split was largely based on religious differences. Sunni Islam is the official religion of Pakistan. More than 90% of the population identifies as a Sunni Muslim. The country is ethnically diverse, and more than 60 languages are spoken among the population. English and Urdu are both official languages.

Since independence, Pakistan has faced several challenges. The country has been involved in multiple wars and border skirmishes with India over the ownership of Kashmir. After a violent civil war in 1971, East Pakistan split and became the nation of Bangladesh. Pakistan has also had problems with political instability, corruption, and terrorism.

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Major Cities of Pakistan




Click each point to learn more.

Module: South Asia
Topic Content: India, Pakistan, and the Himalayas

Karachi

Click each point on the map to learn more

Karachi



- Harbor site on the Arabian Sea
- Most populous city in Pakistan
- Previously served as the capital
- Culturally diverse city
- Center for finance, trade, and transportation

Close


Karachi is located at a harbor site on the Arabian Sea, northwest of the Indus Delta. Karachi is the most populous city in Pakistan. It served as the first capital of Pakistan, but the capital was later moved to Islamabad. Karachi is the most culturally diverse city in Pakistan. It is also a major center for finance, trade, and transportation.

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Islamabad

Continue

Islamabad



- Located in the foothills of the Himalayas
- Established in 1960 to serve as the capital
- Became the capital in 1967
- Blends modern buildings with Islamic architecture
- Center for commerce, education, and healthcare

Close

Islamabad is located in the northern part of the country, in the foothills of the Himalayas. Islamabad was established in 1960 to serve as the capital of Pakistan. The city officially became the capital in 1967. Islamabad blends modern buildings with traditional Islamic architecture. The city has one of the highest standards of living in Pakistan. It is also an important center for commerce, education, and healthcare.

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Bangladesh



Bangladesh is located on the northern coast of the Bay of Bengal. It includes a large part of the Ganges Delta. Bangladesh was once part of Pakistan. During this time, it was known as East Pakistan. Modern day Pakistan was known as West Pakistan. The countries split after a violent civil war. In East Pakistan, ethnic Bengalis began to push for independence. West Pakistan violently suppressed the movement with systematic killing that amounted to genocide. India joined the conflict in support of the Bengalis. West Pakistan was forced to surrender. East Pakistan became the independent nation of Bangladesh in 1971.

Bengalis make up most of the population and Bengali is the official language. Muslims make up the majority of the population, but there is a large minority of Hindus as well. Bangladesh is an underdeveloped country with poor infrastructure. It is also one of the world's most densely populated nations. As a result, overpopulation has caused serious problems. Many people lack access to clean water due to flooding, pollution, and poor sanitation systems.

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Nepal



Nepal is a landlocked country bordered by India in the south and China in the north. The Himalayan Mountains extend across the northern part of the country and make up about 75% of the terrain. Nepal was a monarchy until 2008. After a decade of violent negotiations, it became a democratic republic.

Nepal's population is composed of more than 100 different ethnic groups. The population speaks a variety of languages. Nepali is the official language, but English is often used for government and business. Hindus make up about 80% of the population. The rest consists of Buddhists, Muslims, and Christians.

Nepal has remained isolated due to its physical geography, but also by choice. This isolation has made Nepal one of the least developed countries in the world. However, the country is trying to modernize, and receives economic assistance from various international countries.