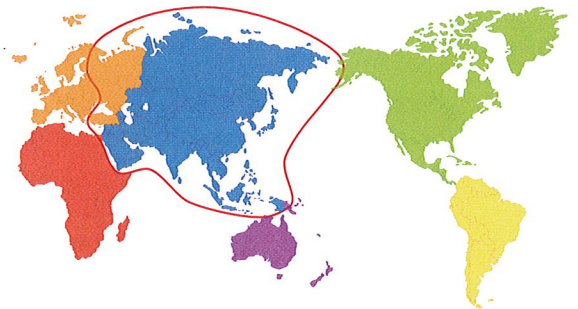


# 1 Our Asian Neighbours

Asia is the world's largest continent, containing nearly two-thirds of the world's population. Asia is in the Northern Hemisphere, except for parts of Indonesia that extend into the Southern Hemisphere.

Asia is east of Europe, north-east of Africa, and north and north-west of Australia. It is bounded by three oceans: the Arctic (north), the Pacific (east) and the Indian (south).



### Asia Fact File

Area	44 614 000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population*	4 436 224 000*
Number of countries	48
Number of languages	2197
Nation with largest population*	China, 1 382 323 000*
Highest point	Mt Everest, Nepal, 8850 metres
Longest river	Yangtze River, China 6300 kilometres

(\*United Nations estimate, 2016)



### Nations of Asia

The largest nations of Asia include China, India, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Russia is the largest Asian nation in area, even though much of the country is in Europe. The part of Russia that is situated in Asia is called Siberia.

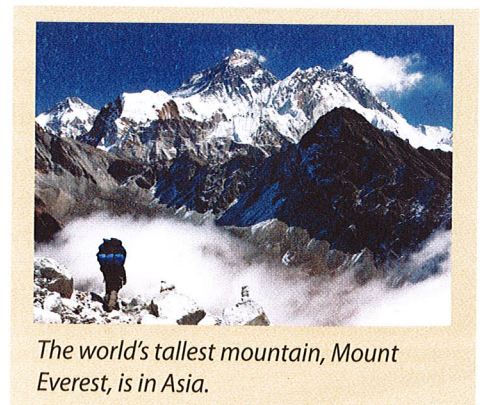
### Asia's Regions

Asia can be divided into six regions: Central Asia, South-East Asia, Eastern Asia, Northern Asia, Southern Asia and Western Asia.

### Asia's Environment

Asia's climate varies widely, ranging from Arctic conditions in the north to tropical conditions in the south. Asian environments include deserts, rainforests, massive mountains and broad grasslands.

Much of Asia has a temperate climate. The northern areas are in the polar zone and are very cold. The southern areas near the equator are hot all year round. Rainfall in the tropical areas ranges from very high to low. The Himalayas are a range of high mountains in central Asia. They include the world's highest mountains.



The world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, is in Asia.

Asia also has large cities. The largest is Tokyo in Japan, with about 37 million people. Other large cities include Seoul, South Korea (22 million), Delhi, India (22 million) and Shanghai, China (20 million).