

Table of Contents

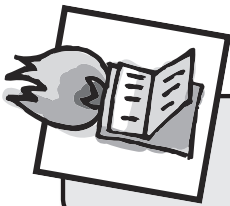
Cambodia.....	4
China	15
India.....	32
Indonesia.....	52
Japan.....	64
Korea.....	81
Thailand	98
Vietnam.....	110
Answer Key... ..	120
Additional Resources	121

Cambodia



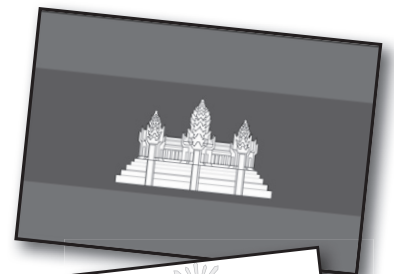
Welcome to Cambodia!

Cambodia, often called Kampuchea, is a country in Southeast Asia. It is bordered by Thailand and Laos to the north, Vietnam to the south and east, and the Gulf of Thailand to the south and west. Because the country is known mostly for its farming, most Cambodians live in rural settings. About a thousand years ago, Cambodia was the center of the magnificent Khmer empire. These people controlled most of Southeast Asia and left behind many fascinating ruins.



FAST FACTS

Official Name:	Kingdom of Cambodia
Location:	Southeastern Asia between Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos
Population:	14,701,717 (2010 estimate)
Capital City:	Phnom Penh
Area:	69,898 square miles
Major Language:	Khmer
Major Religions:	Nearly all Cambodians are Buddhists, with a very small percentage of Muslims and other religious groups
Currency:	The <i>riel</i> 1 riel = 100 <i>sen</i>
Climate:	Tropical, with a monsoon season (May to November) and a dry season (December to April); little seasonal temperature variation
The Land:	Mostly low, flat plains with mountains in southwest and north
Type of Government:	Multiparty democracy under a constitutional monarchy
Flag:	The Cambodian flag is made up of three horizontal stripes: first blue, then red, then blue again. A three-towered white temple in the middle of the red stripe represents a temple (<i>wat</i>) in the old Khmer capital of Angkor.
Coat of Arms:	Two animals appear on the Cambodian coat of arms – a <i>gajasingha</i> (a lion with an elephant trunk) and a <i>singha</i> (lion). The animals are each holding a five-tiered umbrella, and a royal crown sits in between the two. The Khmer phrase on the coat of arms translates to “King of the Kingdom of Cambodia.”
National Flower:	Rumdul
National Animal:	Kouprey
Motto:	“Nation, religion, king.”



Physical Features

Most of Cambodia is bordered by low mountains, except along the coast. The Mekong River, which originates in Tibet, flows down through Cambodia on its way to the South China Sea. One-third of the land is made up of fertile plains. Much of the country is covered in forests.

Cambodia has a dry season and a rainy (monsoon) season. During the dry season, the Tonle Sap River runs southeast from the Tonle Sap Lake and meets the Mekong River at Phnom Penh. The monsoon (rainy) season generally lasts from May to November. During the monsoon season, melting snow from Tibet causes the Mekong and Tonle Sap rivers to rise. This makes the Tonle Sap River flow in the opposite direction. The country averages very warm temperatures (around 85 degrees Fahrenheit) throughout the year. The coastal region experiences heavy rainfall, but the inland area near Phnom Penh receives significantly less.

Cambodia's economy relies on its agriculture. Before the Vietnam War and before the Khmer Rouge Communists came to power, the country produced enough food to feed all its people and export to other countries as well. The main food crops were corn and rice, and rubber was another important export. During the Vietnam War, however, many of Cambodia's rubber plantations were destroyed. It took several decades to rebuild the country's agricultural capabilities.

Before the wars, Cambodia had many factories that produced cement, cloth, paper, plywood, rubber tires, processed foods, and textiles. Unfortunately, most of these industries could no longer function after the various wars. Because most of these factories have closed, Cambodia imports most of its manufactured goods.

In Your Classroom

Chart the interesting path of the Tonle Sap River. Draw red arrows for the direction it flows during the dry season and blue arrows for the direction it flows during the rainy season.

Have the students locate Cambodia on the map. Using a large sheet of paper or poster board, make a map of the country together. Label major cities and bodies of water, such as the Mekong River, the Tonle Sap River, Tonle Sap Lake, and the Gulf of Thailand. Use colored pencils, crayons, or paints to color the map.

Have each student draw and color a Cambodian flag. Hang these flags throughout the classroom, or place them on the front cover of students' binders.



A HISTORY OF CAMBODIA

Throughout its history, Cambodia has always been ruled by a king or queen. This type of government is called a monarchy. From as early as CE 100, Cambodia was home to some of the greatest powers in Southeast Asia. First, the Funan kingdom came to power for several hundred years. Then around CE 600, the Chenla kingdom dominated Southeast Asia for about a century.

From the 800s until the 1400s, Cambodia was home to a Khmer-led Hindu-Buddhist kingdom. In the kingdom's capital, Angkor, the Khmer built many beautiful stone temples. Today, people visit Angkor to see ruins of Khmer architecture and sculpture. Along with temples, the Khmer also built hospitals, roads, irrigation canals, and reservoirs throughout the country. During this time period, the Khmer empire reached its height. They conquered much of modern-day Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam.