Southern and Eastern Asia
Standard SS7G9
Geographic Understanding

SS7G9 The student will locate selected features in Southern and Eastern Asia.
a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: Ganges River, Huang He (Yellow River), Indus River, Mekong River, Yangtze (Chang Jiang) River, Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, Sea of Japan, South China Sea, Yellow Sea, Gobi Desert, Taklimakan Desert, Himalayan Mountains, and Korean Peninsula.
The southern and eastern parts of Asia are home to almost half of the world’s population. The geography of this large area is varied, containing some of the world’s longest rivers, highest mountain ranges, and most extensive deserts.
Indonesia

Picture retrieved from http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/encyclopedia/asia-resources/?ar-a=1
The Indus River begins in the mountains of Tibet and flows almost 2000 miles through the country of Pakistan before emptying into the Arabian Sea. The Indus River valley is one of the richest farming areas in this region. Many different civilizations have lived along this river throughout the centuries.
The Ganges River is India’s most important river. It begins in the Himalayan Mountains and flows southeast through India and Bangladesh before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. The water of the Ganges carries tons of rich sediment (topsoil, silt and minerals from the mountains) that is gradually spread along its path enriching the farmland and creating a large, fertile delta at the mouth of the river. Because so many people live and work along the Ganges, the water in the river is heavily polluted.
The country of Bangladesh is located almost completely in the Ganges River delta. Heavy flooding in this part of the world during the monsoon season (a seasonal prevailing wind, lasting several months, bringing heavy rains) often causes great hardships for those living in this country. Further out to sea is the Indian Ocean, which is the third largest ocean in the world.
The Himalayan Mountains form the southern border of China. This high ground spreads to the north to form the Tibetan Plateau. The area is sometimes called “the roof of the world” because of its high altitudes. This wide area of mountains and high plateau blocks any moisture coming from the rivers and seas to the south. The Himalayan Mountains form India’s eastern border with China and Nepal. These high mountains form a barrier between India and countries to her north and east. The Himalayan Mountains stretch for almost 200 miles. The highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, is on the border between Nepal and China.
As the mountains begin to level off in the north, the land becomes desert. Here one finds the Taklimakan Desert and the Gobi Desert. The Taklimakan Desert is over 600 miles in length, one of the longest deserts in the world. To the west and in the central part of China is the Gobi Desert, which can be one of the hottest and also one of the coldest places in the world. Much of the Gobi Desert is covered with sand and rocks.
Geography of Southern & Eastern Asia

- **Huang He**: China’s second longest river, “Yellow River,” because of the color of the silt.
- Causes deadly and destructive flooding, and is therefore referred to as “China’s Sorrow.”
Geography of Southern & Eastern Asia

- **Yangtze River**: is China’s longest river, stretches almost 3,500 miles in length. Provides important resources to the country (i.e. oil, natural gas, copper, etc.).
Geography of Southern & Eastern Asia

- **Mekong River** is one of the longest rivers in Southern & Eastern Asia.
  - It stretches almost 2,700 miles long, runs through western China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, before emptying in the **South China Sea**.
Geography of Southern & Eastern Asia

- **Korean Peninsula**: bordering China.
- A peninsula is a body of land surrounded on three sides by water.
- The peninsula is surrounded by the East China Sea, Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea, the Korean Strait and the Pacific Ocean.
- The peninsula is home to the nation of Korea. 684 miles long.
- For most of its history Korea was a nation united by language and culture.
- WWII, Korea was divided into North and South Korea.
- South Korea usually has a warm and wet climate.
- North Korea tends to be colder and has less than half of the average rainfall in South Korea.
Korean Peninsula
The Sea of Japan is a small sea bound by Russia to the north, the Korean Peninsula to the west, and Japan to the east.