



Culture and Religion of Southeast Asia: Module Materials

TEKS Alignment

- (1) ***History***. The student understands how geography and processes of spatial exchange (diffusion) influenced events in the past and helped to shape the present. The student is expected to:
- (A) analyze the effects of physical and human geographic patterns and processes on the past and describe their impact on the present, including significant physical features and environmental conditions that influenced migration patterns and shaped the distribution of culture groups today;
 - (B) trace the spatial diffusion of phenomena such as the Columbian Exchange or the diffusion of American popular culture and describe the effects on regions of contact.
- (5) ***Geography***. The student understands how political, economic, and social processes shape cultural patterns and characteristics in various places and regions. The student is expected to:
- (A) analyze how the character of a place is related to its political, economic, social, and cultural elements;
- (16) ***Culture***. The student understands how the components of culture affect the way people live and shape the characteristics of regions. The student is expected to:
- (A) describe distinctive cultural patterns and landscapes associated with different places in Texas, the United States, and other regions of the world and how these patterns influenced the processes of innovation and diffusion;
 - (B) describe elements of culture, including language, religion, beliefs and customs, institutions, and technologies;
- (17) ***Culture***. The student understands the distribution, patterns, and characteristics of different cultures. The student is expected to:
- (A) describe and compare patterns of culture such as language, religion, land use, education, and customs that make specific regions of the world distinctive;
 - (C) compare economic, political, or social opportunities in different cultures for women, ethnic and religious minorities, and other underrepresented populations; and
 - (D) evaluate the experiences and contributions of diverse groups to multicultural societies.
- (18) ***Culture***. The student understands the ways in which cultures change and maintain continuity. The student is expected to:
- (A) analyze cultural changes in specific regions caused by migration, war, trade, innovations, and diffusion;
 - (B) assess causes, effects, and perceptions of conflicts between groups of people, including modern genocides and terrorism;
 - (C) identify examples of cultures that maintain traditional ways, including traditional economies;

Key Vocabulary

- Indochina
- Siam
- Dutch East India Company
- Mon
- Khmer
- Shan
- Karen
- Ethnicity
- Pluralism
- Animism
- Mahayana Buddhism
- Theravada Buddhism
- Taoism
- Islam
- Hinduism
- Christianity
- Lingua franca
- Cultural landscape
- Overseas Chinese
- Chinese Diaspora
- Spatial diffusion

Key Places – In addition to the countries and their capitals, the following places have particular historical, cultural or religious significance in Southeast Asia.

- Indochina
- Spice Islands (Moluccas or Maluku Islands)
- Angkor Wat
- Borobudur Temple
- Sukhothai
- Melaka, Malaysia

Module Introduction

Southeast Asia is a region defined more by its cultural differences with surrounding regions rather than by any cultural unity within the region. Several countries within this region have more internal cultural diversity than some major world cultural regions. In fact, in many ways, Indonesia could be defined as a culture region all on its own. Its thousands of islands often have their own specific languages and culture groups, which are unrelated even to other parts of the same island – much less those found in other parts of the region. As a result, there are many aspects to teaching the cultures of Southeast Asia.

To begin with, almost every major world religion can be found to a significant degree in this region. Most students (and many people) do not realize that Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. In addition, Hinduism,

Christianity, Buddhism, and many of the Chinese religions can be found here often existing side by side with each other more peacefully than they co-exist in other parts of the world. But these familiar religions may seem a bit different here. People in Southeast Asia tend to put their own unique cultural spin on religions and sometimes create their own individual branches. Take for example the **Aglipayan Church**, a branch of Catholicism unique to the Philippines. And Islam as practiced in Indonesia is much more moderate than found in Southwest Asia.

This module provides a broad variety of resources with which to teach Culture and Religion in Southeast Asia. The videos for the module feature presentations with content on several World Religions, including Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity, as well as diversity of language, ethnicity, and art. Below the video links, a visual is offered for each country – providing a map, the country’s flag and ethnic, linguistic and religious composition. The same information is also provided as a chart for comparison.

The case study for this module is an examination of one the major culture groups which has shaped this region – the Chinese. Students may already be familiar with the European impact on this region, but the Chinese are often overlooked as colonizers. In Southeast Asia, however, the Chinese have had a much longer impact than the Europeans, and in many ways, this impact is much more systemic – even if it may appear to be more subtle.

The lesson for this module takes advantage of a major cultural resource – UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre and provides real-world application for student learning. Nearly a thousand places worldwide have been designated as being culturally or naturally significant enough to all of humanity to be protected at the international level. Southeast Asia has fewer of these sites than many world regions, but the sites found here provide students with excellent resources for studying the complex cultural diversity found in this region. Students will research sites which have been recommended for inclusion as World Heritage Sites and will present a proposal to the class based upon the actual criteria and site submission used by UNESCO.

Video Presentations

- Culture and Religion of Southeast Asia Full Movie
 - http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Culture_Religion_Full.mov
- Ethnic Conflicts in Southeast Asia
 - http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Ethnic_Conflicts.mov
- The People of Southeast Asia
 - <http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/People.mov>
- Islam in Southeast Asia
 - <http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Islam.mov>
- Introduction to the Culture of Southeast Asia
 - http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Intro_Culture.mov
- Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity in Southeast Asia
 - [http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Diversity\(Non-religion\).mov](http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Diversity(Non-religion).mov)
- Christianity in Southeast Asia
 - <http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Christianity.mov>
- Buddhism in Southeast Asia
 - <http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Buddhism.mov>
- Artistic Culture of Southeast Asia
 - http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Artistic_Dance.mov
- Cultural Background of Southeast Asia
 - <http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Cultural%20Background.mov>

- Religious Diversity in Southeast Asia
 - <http://stream.its.txstate.edu/users/tage/Diversity.mov>

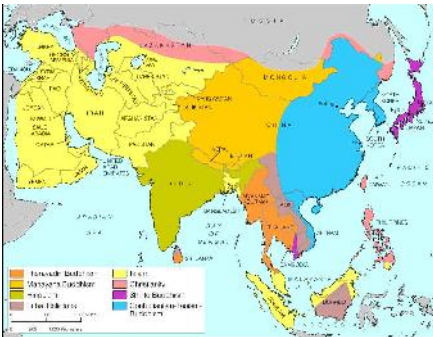
Case Study

Overseas Chinese Power Point – An examination of the distribution of ethnic Chinese throughout Southeast Asia and the impacts their presence has had throughout Southeast Asia’s history.

Readings and Visual Resources


Map of Distribution of Religions in Asia – Cengage Learning Website

http://wadsworth.cengage.com/religion_d/special_features/popups/maps/maps_f.html



Religions of Southeast Asia
by Cindy Kleinmeyer, Northern Illinois University
June 2004

- Hinduism
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Animism
- Christianity (Catholicism)
- Confucianism



[Religions of Southeast Asia](#) – Cindy Kleinmeyer, Northern Illinois University

This presentation provides a historical overview outlining the spread of major religions found in Southeast Asia. The slides include beautiful photography and images from various countries.

- http://www.niu.edu/cseas/outreach/pdfs/origins_religion.pdf

[Land of Shadows](#) – National Geographic

In August, 2011 National Geographic published a feature article on Myanmar and its emergence from long isolation. The online materials include the full-length text of the article, a photo gallery and a map.

- <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/08/burma/chang-photography>



[American Geographical Society Library Digital Map Collection – Southeast Asia](#)

A small collection of maps varying in age from 1696 to 1947. This French map from 1884 is particularly interesting, as it shows (in color) the various territories controlled by Spain, the Netherlands, England and France, as well as some of the different names used by the French for territories in this region.

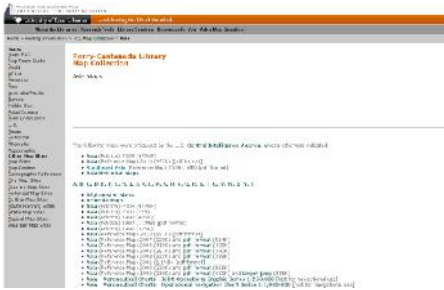
- <http://collections.lib.uwm.edu/cdm/search/collection/agdm/collection/agdm/>



[Historical Maps of Southeast Asia](#) – Florida’s Educational Technology Clearinghouse, University of South Florida

Fourteen historical maps of Southeast Asia dating from 1805 to 1922. The collection shows the dwindling borders of Thailand as France and England compete for territory in the area.

- <http://etc.usf.edu/maps/galleries/Asia/regional/SoutheastAsia.php>



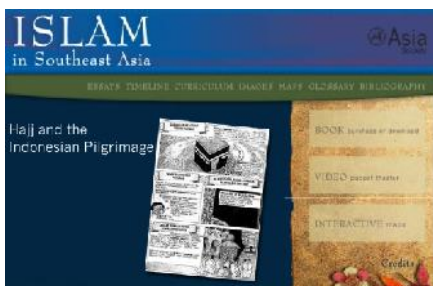
[Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection: Asia Maps](#) – University of Texas at Austin

An extensive collection of maps including historical, thematic, topographic, and general reference maps from all over Asia.

- <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/asia.html>

[South-East Asia’s Chinese](#) - A BBC News report on segregation, university quota policies and other forms of discrimination faced by ethnic Chinese in various Southeast Asian nations.

- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1514916.stm>

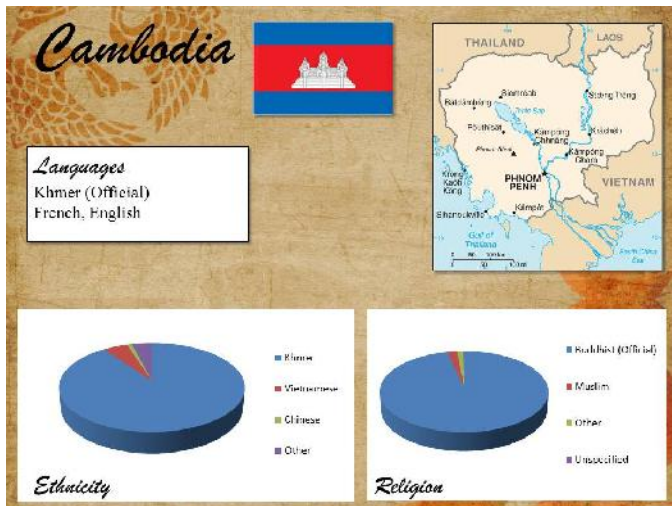
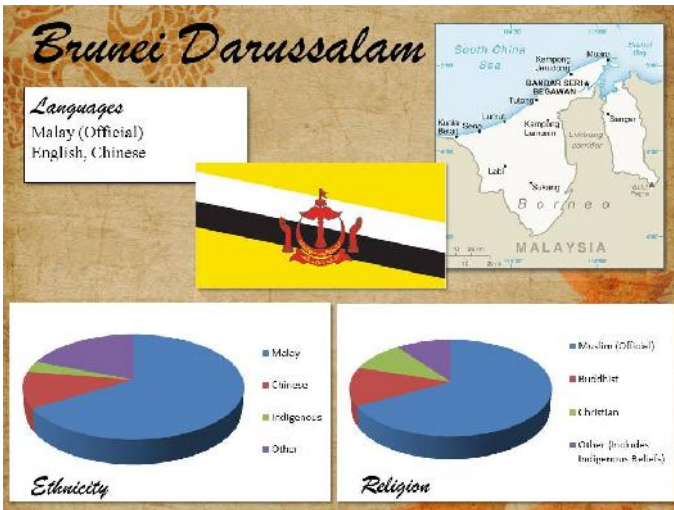


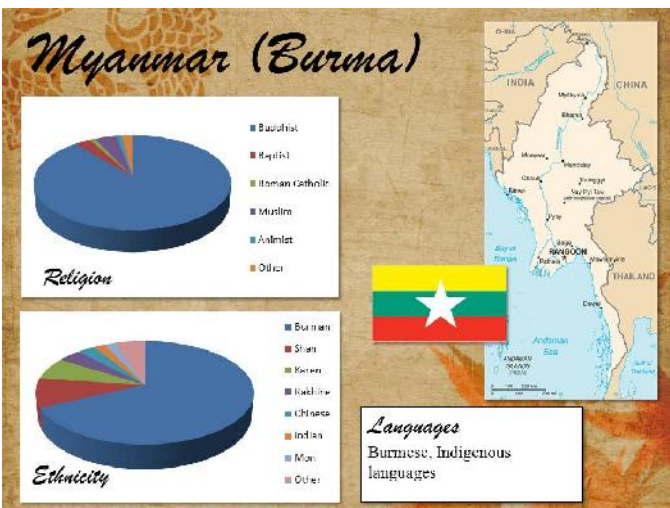
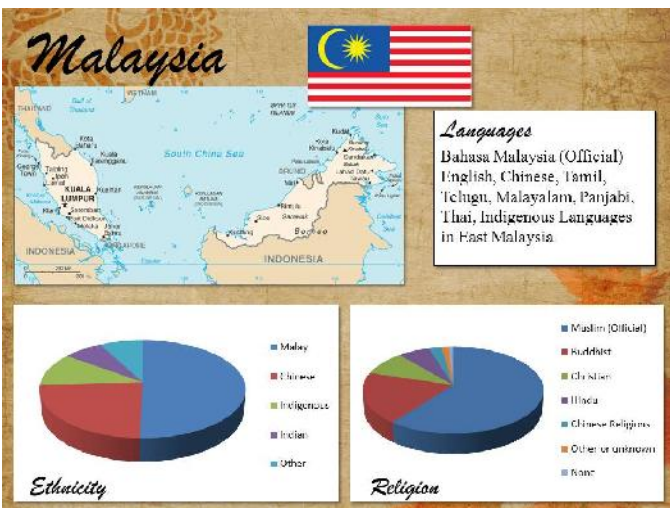
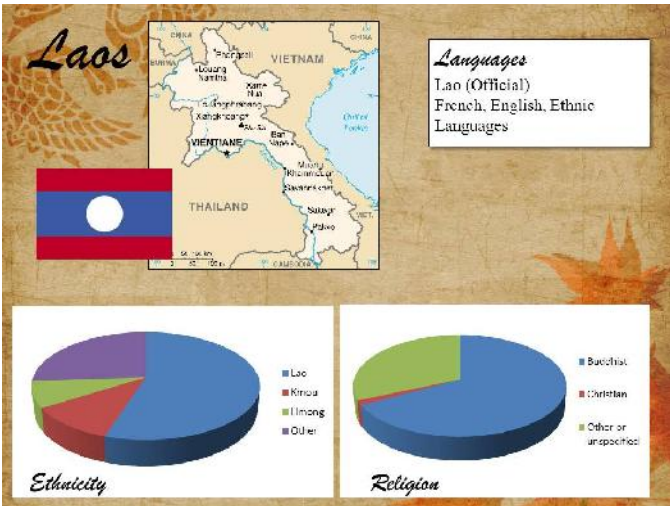
[Islam in Southeast Asia](#) – This website, created by the Asia Society, contains numerous materials on the spread of Islam into Southeast Asia. There is a timeline, a collection of images and maps, and numerous lesson plans for teachers to use.

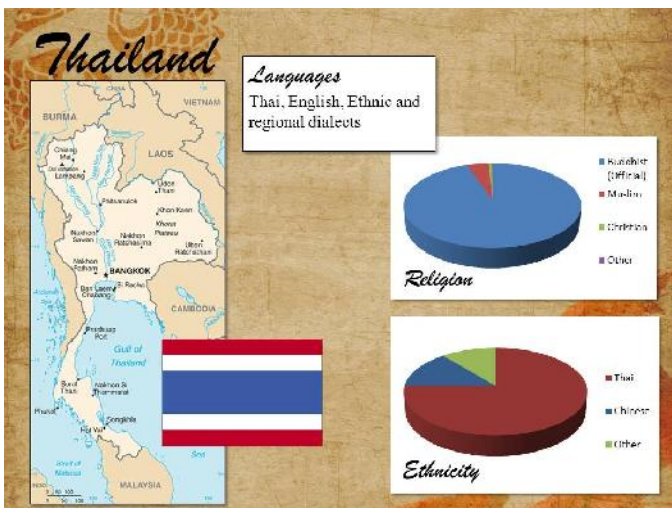
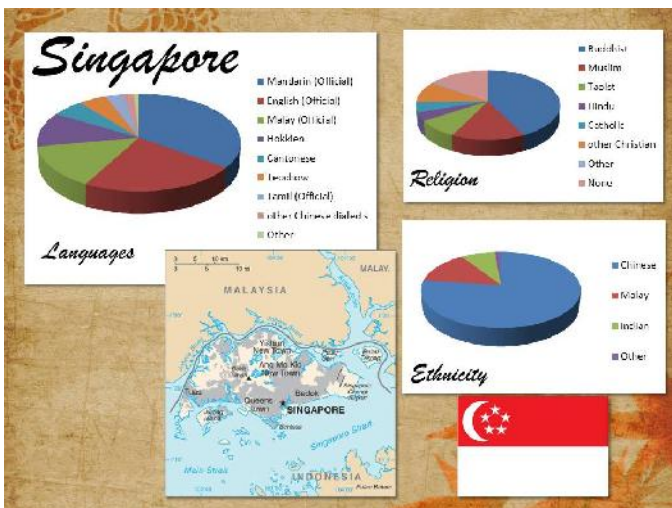
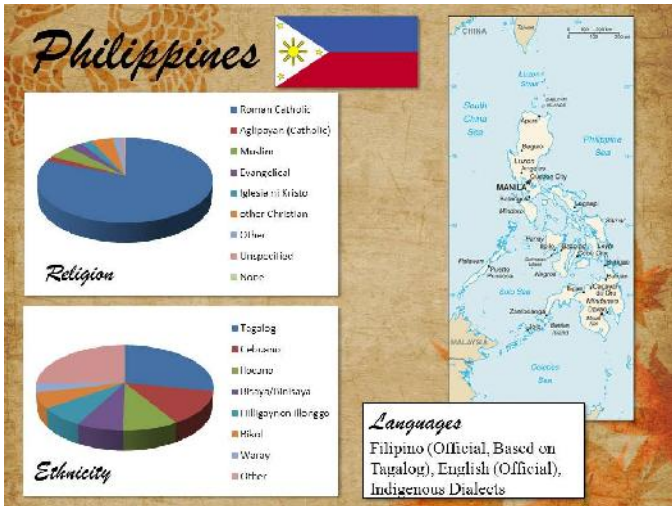
- http://sites.asiasociety.org/education/islam_in_seasia/index.htm

The following graphics were created using data and images from the CIA World Factbook .

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>







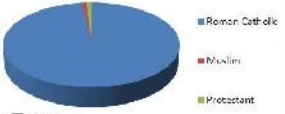


Timor-Leste

Languages
 Tetum (Official)
 Portuguese (Official)
 Indonesian, English,
 Indigenous Languages

Religion





Religion	Percentage
Roman Catholic	90%
Muslim	7%
Protestant	3%

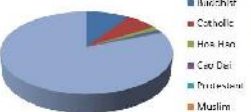
Ethnicities
 Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian),
 Papuan, Chinese

Vietnam


Languages
 Vietnamese (Official)
 English, French, Chinese,
 Khmer
 Mountain area languages

Religion



Ethnicity



The following table contains the same information as the graphics above, but is provided here in a table to facilitate comparison and analysis:

Country Name	Ethnicity	Language	Religion
Brunei Darussalam	Malay, Chinese, Indigenous	Malay (Official), English, Chinese	Muslim (Official), Buddhist, Christian, Indigenous Beliefs
Cambodia	Khmer, Vietnamese, Chinese	Khmer (Official), French, English	Buddhist (Official), Muslim
Indonesia	Javanese, Sundanese, Madurese, Minangkabau, Betawi, Bugis, Banten, Banjar	Bahasa Indonesia (Official, Modified form of Malay), English, Dutch, Local Dialects (most widely spoken is Javanese)	Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Hindu
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Lao, Kmou, Hmong	Lao (Official), French, English, Ethnic Languages	Buddhist, Christian
Malaysia	Malay, Chinese, Indigenous, Indian	Bahasa Malaysia (Official), English, Chinese (Multiple Dialects), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai, Indigenous Languages in East Malaysia	Muslim (Official), Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Chinese Religions
Myanmar (Burma)	Burman, Shan, Karen, Rakhine, Chinese, Indian, Mon	Burmese, Ethnic Languages	Buddhist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Animism
Philippines	Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Bisaya/Binisaya, Hilligaynon, Ilonggo, Bikol, Waray	Filipino (Official, Based on Tagalog), English (Official), Indigenous Dialects	Roman Catholic, Aglipayan (Catholic), Muslim, Evangelical, Iglesia ni Kristo,
Singapore	Chinese, Malay, Indian	Mandarin (Official), English (Official), Malay (Official), Tamil (Official), Hokkien, Cantonese, Teochow	Buddhist, Muslim, Taoist, Hindu, Catholic, other Christian, None (15%)
Thailand	Thai, Chinese	Thai, English, Ethnic and Regional Dialects	Buddhist (Official), Muslim, Christian
Timor-Leste	Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian), Papuan, Chinese	Tetum (Official), Portuguese (Official), Indonesian, English, Indigenous Languages	Roman Catholic, Muslim, Protestant
Vietnam	Kinh (Viet), Tay, Thai, Muong, Khmer, Mong, Nung	Vietnamese (Official), English, French, Chinese, Khmer, Mountain Area Languages	Buddhist, Catholic, Hoa Hao, Cao Dai, Protestant, Muslim, None (81%)

Additional Video Resources

“They Call it Myanmar” – Robert H. Lieberman

<http://www.theycallitmyanmar.com/>

This documentary, shot clandestinely over a 2-year period, examines life in Myanmar. It traces the history of the country from a British colony to independent nation with an elected leader to the modern military regime of the country. The film brings to light the rich cultural and religious heritage of the country, but also exposes the poverty and difficulty of daily life under extreme censorship. The DVD may be purchased from the film’s website or Amazon, or it can be streamed through Netflix.

Ethnic Conflict and Reform in Myanmar - Stratfor Global Intelligence

<http://www.stratfor.com/video/ethnic-conflict-and-reform-myanmar-dispatch>

Stratfor, a geopolitical analysis firm, has posted dozens of short videos (most around 3 minutes long) on a variety of topics from around the world. While some of the current event videos are up to 2 years old, the topics they address are still relevant. The videos are free to watch online.

A Vision of Rangoon – Asia Society

<http://asiasociety.org/new-york/vision-rangoon>

As Rangoon becomes increasingly part of the world economy, the face of the historic city is changing. This short (3 min) video presents the highlights from a longer presentation regarding the need to protect the historic architecture of the city. A short reading, a few photos and a link to the entire one and a half hour program are included on the website.

Lesson Plan

World Heritage Sites Project Lesson Plan – Students will research tentative sites for inclusion as a World Heritage Site and make a proposal to the class. The class will vote based upon the same criteria used by UNESCO.

World Heritage Site Project Power Point

UNESCO World Heritage Site Notes

UNESCO Tentative List Investigation

UNESCO Tentative List Student Submission Form

UNESCO World Heritage Site Voting Form