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国 家 地 理
科学探索丛书

WORLD REGIONS & CULTURES

世界人文地理

West Asia

西亚

Robert Henderson (美)
Eden Force Eskin (美)

著

外语教学与研究出版社

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英文注释



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“国家地理科学探索丛书”（英文注释版）第三辑新推出了五个系列，共13本书，包含了“世界历史”、“世界人文地理”、“我们的地球”、“发现世界”和“今日美国”等全新的内容。

这套丛书秉承《国家地理》杂志图文并茂的特色，在书中配有大量精彩的图片，文字地道易懂、深入浅出，将科学性和趣味性完美结合，称得上是一套精致的小百科全书。特别值得一提的是本套丛书在提高青少年读者英语阅读能力的同时，还注重培养他们的科学探索精神、动手能力、逻辑思维能力和沟通能力。

本套丛书既适合学生自学，又可用于课堂教学。丛书各个系列均配有一本教师用书，内容包括背景知识介绍、技能训练提示、评估测试、多项选择题及答案等详尽的教学指导，是对课本的极好补充。

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Traveling Through West Asia

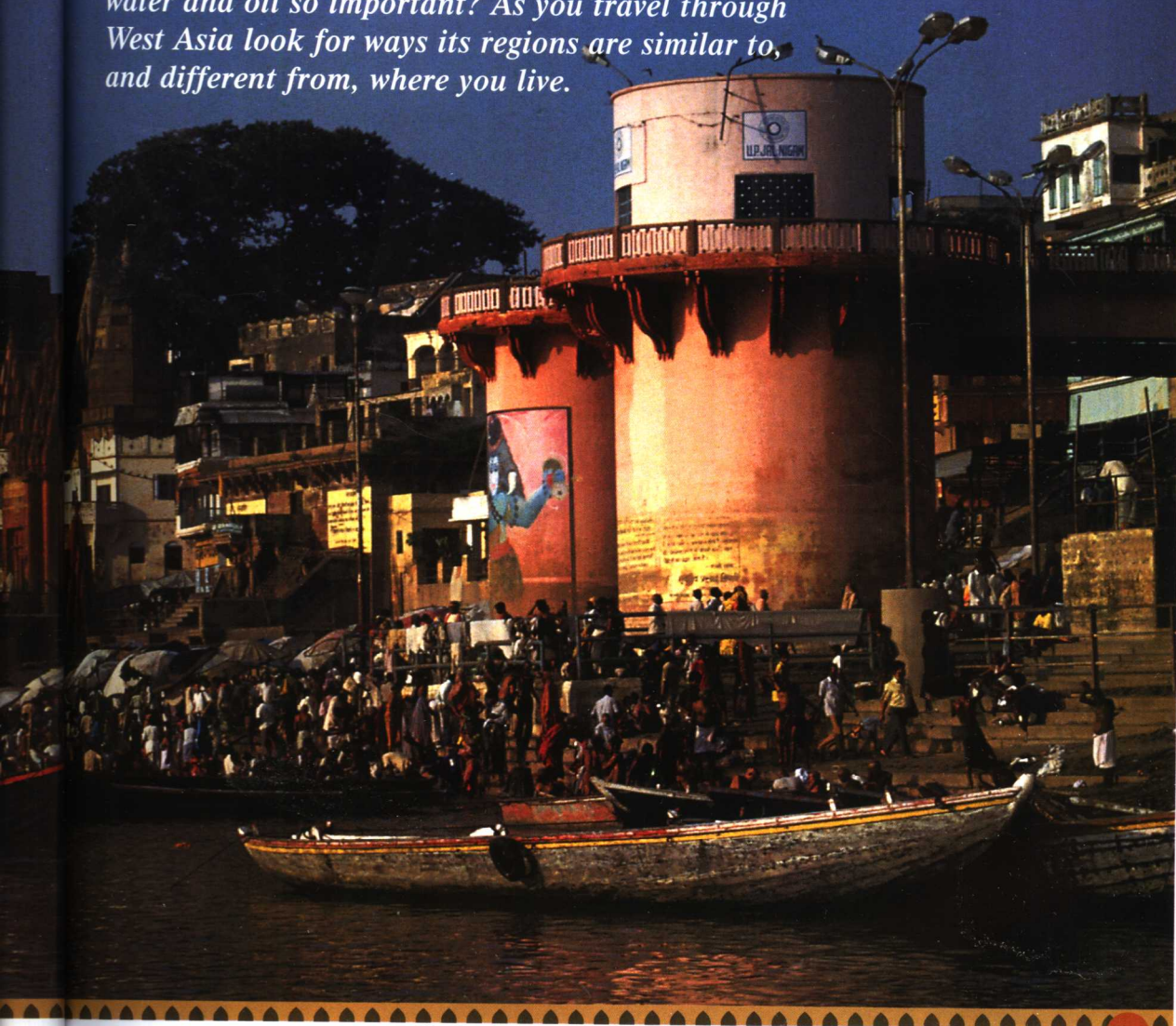
西亚之旅

Millions of People visit the Ganges
River at Varanasi, India, each year.

Climb to the top of Mount Qomolangma¹, the world's tallest mountain. Float in the Dead Sea², the lowest place on Earth's surface.

Celebrate the arrival of the monsoon rains³ in India, and walk through countries where most of the land is desert. How do people live in these very different regions? In what ways are they changing the environments⁴? Why are resources⁵ such as water and oil so important? As you travel through West Asia look for ways its regions are similar to, and different from, where you live.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Mount Qomolangma | 珠穆朗玛峰 |
| 2. Dead Sea | 死海 |
| 3. monsoon rains | 西南季风季节; 雨季 |
| 4. environment | <i>n.</i> 环境 |
| 5. resource | <i>n.</i> 资源 |

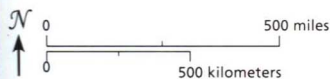




- | | | |
|-------------------|------|---------|
| 1. locate | v. | 指出……的位置 |
| 2. lush | adj. | 茂盛的 |
| 3. mountain range | | 山脉 |
| 4. irrigation | n. | 灌溉 |
| 5. Turkey | | 土耳其 |
| 6. Aral Sea | | 咸海 |
| 7. gradually | adv. | 逐渐地 |



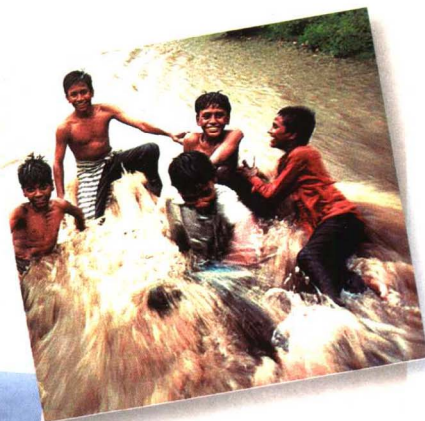
West Asia



**NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC**

**You'll visit four regions of West Asia in this book.
Locate¹ each one on the map before beginning
your journey.**

► **Welcome South Asia's
monsoon rains, which make
much of India lush² and green
during parts of the year.**



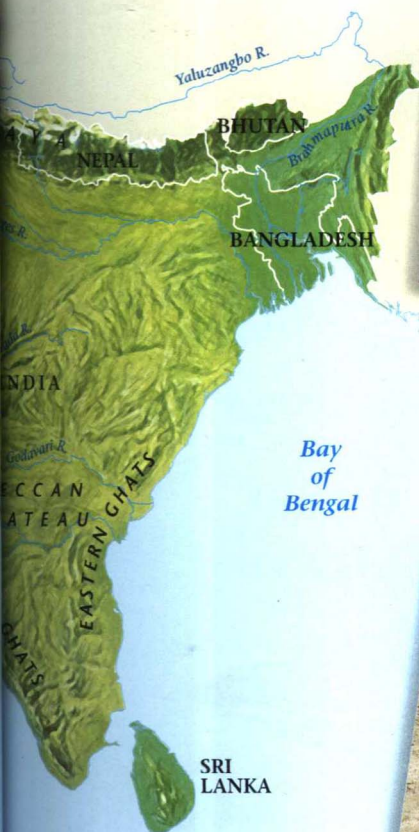
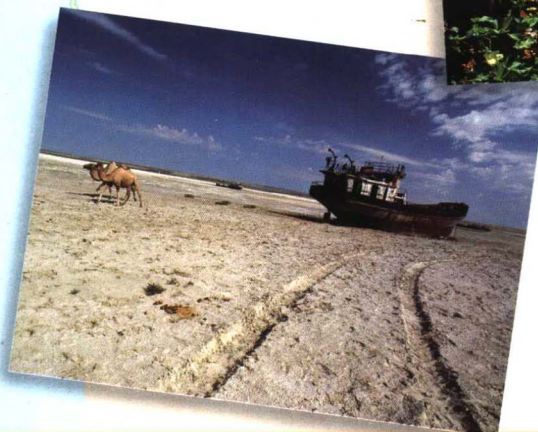
◀ **Meet some of the people who live
in the Himalaya, Earth's highest
mountain range³.**



► **Discover the different
methods of irrigation⁴ used
in Turkey⁵ and other places
in this region.**



◀ **Find out why the salty
Aral Sea⁶ is gradually⁷
disappearing.**



(注释见第6页)

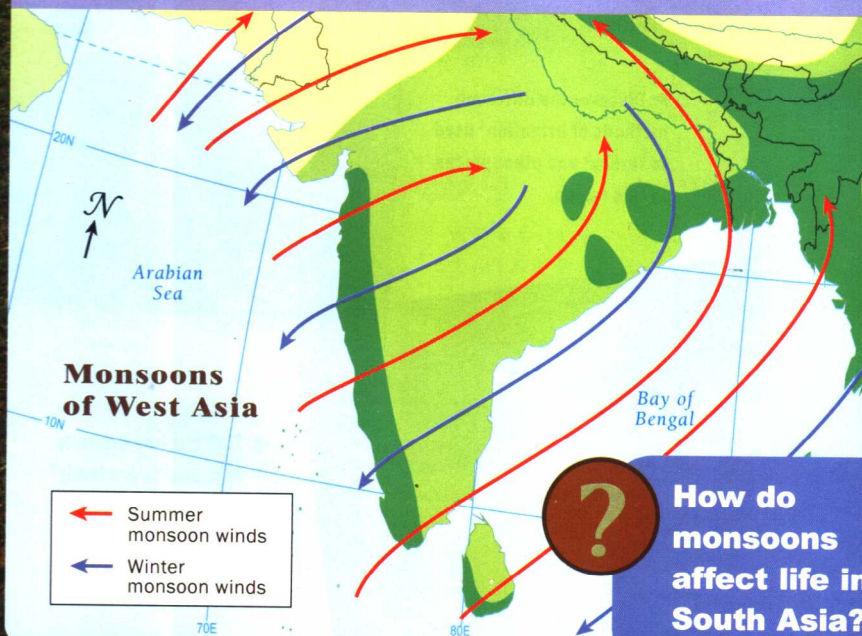
LAND OF THE MONSOONS

季风盛行的大陆

You are all watching and waiting . . . it's coming. On the horizon¹, lightning² flickers³ against dark clouds. It won't be long now.

You are waiting for the rains. Every year monsoon rains drench⁴ the southern region of West Asia. They usually move into the region in June and last until September. Sometimes the rains cause damaging⁵ floods, but mostly they bring life to the people, animals, and plants of South Asia. The rains are vital⁶ to the region, and their arrival is usually greeted with joy.

(注释见第9页)





- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 1. horizon | <i>n.</i> | 地平线 |
| 2. lightning | <i>n.</i> | 闪电 |
| 3. flicker | <i>v.</i> | 闪烁; 忽隐忽现 |
| 4. drench | <i>v.</i> | 使湿透 |
| 5. damaging | <i>adj.</i> | 有破坏性的 |
| 6. vital | <i>adj.</i> | 至关重要的 |

CHANGING WINDS



Palm trees⁶ bend under the monsoon winds in Trivandrum, India.

Monsoons actually are not rain. They are seasonal winds that shift direction twice a year. In fact, the word “monsoon” comes from the Arabic¹ word *mausim*, which means “season.”

Monsoons occur² in many parts of the world. There are monsoons in other parts of Asia, in Europe, and even in the United States. However, monsoons are especially important in the Indian subcontinent³. A subcontinent is a large landmass⁴ that is part of a continent⁵. The Indian subcontinent is part of the Asian continent, but it is separated from the rest of Asia by the Himalaya mountain range to the north. India is the largest country on the subcontinent.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. Arabic | <i>adj.</i> | 阿拉伯语的 |
| 2. occur | <i>v.</i> | 发生 |
| 3. subcontinent | <i>n.</i> | 次大陆 |

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------|
| 4. landmass | <i>n.</i> | 陆块; 地块 |
| 5. continent | <i>n.</i> | 大陆 |
| 6. palm tree | | 棕榈树 |

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT



Monsoon Seasons

In South Asia, the dry monsoon season begins in October, when dry winds blow from cool desert lands of the north. They sweep¹ over the subcontinent and out into the Indian Ocean². These winds bring dry, cool weather to the subcontinent.

Then in June, the monsoon winds reverse³ direction. Conditions high in the atmosphere⁴ cause winds to blow from the south, off of the Indian Ocean. These winds carry the moist⁵ ocean air over the subcontinent. The result is long periods of heavy rainfall⁶. During the rainy season, parts of India can receive as much as 7.6 meters of rain—about 80 percent of the yearly rainfall.

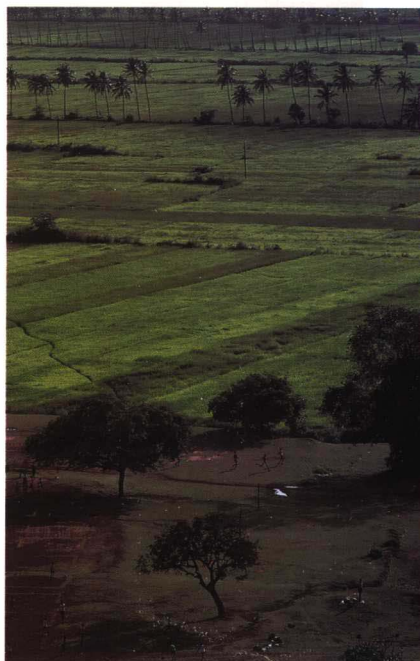
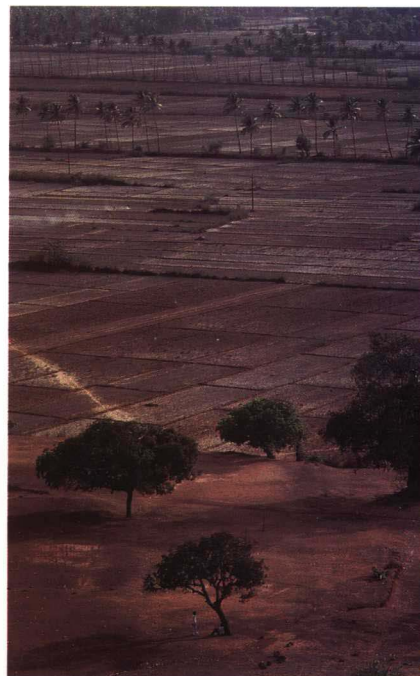
Sometimes the monsoon does not bring as much rain as expected, causing a drought⁷. Without rain, crops can't grow. When droughts occur, people may have trouble getting enough food.

The monsoon rains are so important to life in South Asia that everyone wants to know when they will arrive. Weather forecasters⁸ use satellite pictures⁹ and computers to help them predict¹⁰ when the rains will begin. These forecasts are becoming more and more important to the people of the Indian subcontinent.

1. sweep	v.	快速移动
2. Indian Ocean		印度洋
3. reverse	v.	使反向
4. atmosphere	n.	大气层
5. moist	adj.	湿润的
6. rainfall	n.	降雨量

7. drought	n.	干旱
8. weather forecaster		气象预报员
9. satellite picture		卫星照片
10. predict	v.	预报
11. depend on		依靠
12. parched	adj.	干透的

For the millions of people in this region who depend on¹¹ farming for a living, the arrival of the monsoon rains is very important. After a long dry season, the land is parched¹². Farmers depend on the rains to water their crops, such as rice and wheat. You can see the difference the rains make in these "before" and "after" photographs.



Welcome Rains

It's the middle of June and the monsoon rains are late. The land is brown and some of the rivers are dry.

Finally, the air becomes very still, and thunder¹ is heard in the distance. Clouds darken the sky. Amid² thunder and lightning, the rains arrive. Torrents³ of water quickly turn much of the land into a temporary⁴ sea. Soon, the brown fields will turn a bright emerald green⁵.

People celebrate, filled with joy and relief⁶. Many run into the wet streets, dancing and singing. Now there will be enough water—at least for this year.

Children celebrate the arrival of monsoon rains in Bhopal, India, after a downpour⁷ has flooded the streets.

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------|
| 1. thunder | <i>n.</i> | 雷声 |
| 2. amid | <i>prep.</i> | 在……中 |
| 3. torrent | <i>n.</i> | 急流; 激流 |
| 4. temporary | <i>adj.</i> | 暂时的 |

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------|
| 5. emerald green | | 绿宝石色 |
| 6. relief | <i>n.</i> | 轻松; 宽慰 |
| 7. downpour | <i>n.</i> | 倾盆大雨 |





Wild Weather

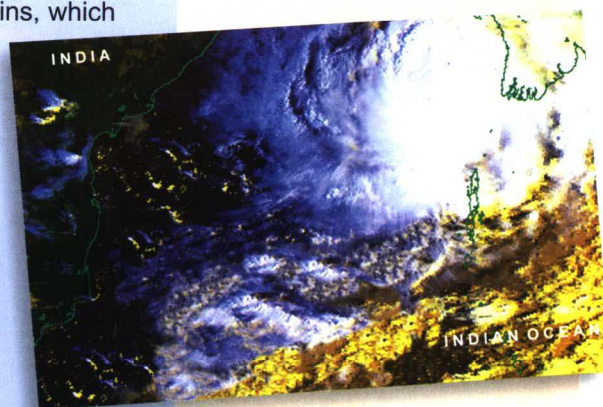
Cyclones¹

No one celebrates when a cyclone arrives. Cyclones are fierce², often deadly³ storms that form over warm spots in tropical⁴ oceans. Tropical means that they are located in a band along both sides of the Equator⁵, in an area known as the tropics. The air above these warm spots rises, creating what is called a tropical depression⁶. Winds start to circle the tropical depression, faster and faster, until it grows into a storm of great power. When the winds reach at least 119 kilometers per hour, the storm is called a cyclone in South Asia. The same type of storm is called a hurricane⁷ in the Atlantic⁸ and Caribbean⁹ oceans, and a typhoon¹⁰ in the western Pacific Ocean¹¹ and the China Sea¹².

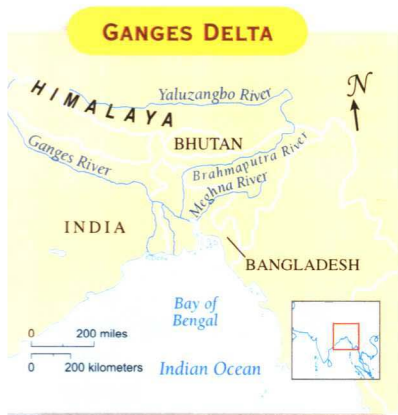
Cyclones bring damaging winds and heavy rains, which can cause flooding. Winds from these storms often create storm surges¹³. These are giant waves that sweep over the land and wash away everything in their path. Cyclones and storm surges often strike the coast of the Indian subcontinent, especially in Bangladesh¹⁴. Poorly constructed¹⁵ homes there are unable to withstand¹⁶ the effects of cyclones or storm surges. In recent years, the government has started to build concrete¹⁷ storm shelters¹⁸ that can hold hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people. They often serve as schools or community centers when not needed for shelter.

Because many houses in Bangladesh are poorly built, major destruction¹⁹ can occur when a cyclone hits. Here, residents²⁰ clean up after a cyclone that left thousands homeless.

1. cyclone	<i>n.</i>	龙卷风
2. fierce	<i>adj.</i>	猛烈的
3. deadly	<i>adj.</i> (可能) 致命的	
4. tropical	<i>adj.</i>	热带的
5. Equator		地球赤道
6. tropical depression		热带低气压
7. hurricane	<i>n.</i>	飓风
8. Atlantic	<i>adj.</i>	大西洋的
9. Caribbean	<i>adj.</i>	加勒比海的
10. typhoon	<i>n.</i>	台风
11. Pacific Ocean		太平洋
12. China Sea		中国海 (东海和黄海)
13. storm surge		风暴潮
14. Bangladesh		孟加拉
15. construct	<i>v.</i>	建造
16. withstand	<i>v.</i>	经受住
17. concrete	<i>adj.</i>	混凝土的
18. shelter	<i>n.</i>	避难所
19. destruction	<i>n.</i>	破坏; 毁灭
20. resident	<i>n.</i>	居民



This image taken from space shows a cyclone that hit Bangladesh in October 1999.



THE GANGES DELTA¹

As rivers in the Indian subcontinent flow downstream², they pick up a lot of sand, clay, and silt³, or small particles⁴ of rich soil. When rivers approach⁵ the ocean, they slow down and deposit⁶ this mixture of soil near the mouth of the river before flowing into the ocean. The sand, clay, and silt build up in layers until they form land above the water. This land that is created at the mouth of a river is called a delta.

The Ganges Delta is the largest delta in the world. It is formed by not one, but three rivers—the Ganges, Brahmaputra⁷, and Meghna⁸. These rivers join together and empty into the Bay of Bengal⁹. The delta they create covers more than 80,000 square kilometers.

Most of the Ganges Delta is located in Bangladesh, although part lies in India.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1. the Ganges Delta | | 恒河三角洲 |
| 2. downstream | <i>adv.</i> | 顺流而下 |
| 3. silt | <i>n.</i> | 淤沙; 淤泥 |
| 4. particle | <i>n.</i> | 颗粒 |
| 5. approach | <i>v.</i> | 接近 |

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------|
| 6. deposit | <i>v.</i> | 使(淤泥)沉积 |
| 7. Brahmaputra | | 布拉马普特拉河 |
| 8. Meghna | | 梅格纳河 |
| 9. Bay of Bengal | | 孟加拉湾 |

