Social Studies Virtual Learning

Geography

April 13, 2020

Geography
Lesson 16: April 13, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: The student will understand the impact of weather on people's lives in SE Asia.

Warm Up

1. Looking at the two pictures of SE Asia, how would life be different in the two locations?
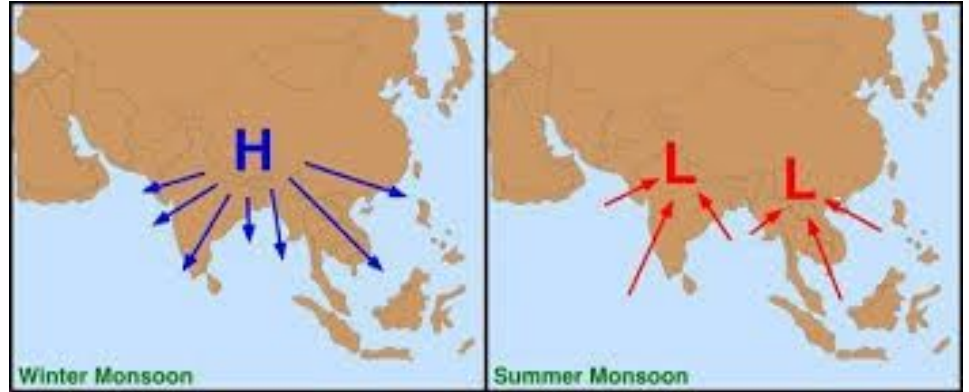
Warm Up

1. Looking at the two pictures of SE Asia, how would life be different in the two locations? **Teacher Response: The one on the left would be very rainy and there would be lots of concerns about flooding. On the right, very dry and concerns about access to food.**

Lesson Activity

A monsoon is a seasonal change in the direction of the prevailing, or strongest, winds of a region. Monsoons cause wet and dry seasons throughout much of the tropics. Monsoons are most often associated with the Indian Ocean.

Monsoons always blow from cold to warm regions. The summer monsoon and the winter monsoon determine the climate for most of India and Southeast Asia.

1. Based on the text and the diagram, which monsoon is associated with lots of rain?(Summer or Winter) Why?

Lesson Activity

As you move through the activity today and learn about monsoons, write down your answers to the guiding questions on a piece of paper!

The summer monsoon is associated with heavy rainfall. It usually happens between April and September. As winter ends, warm, moist air from the southwest Indian Ocean blows toward countries like India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. The summer monsoon brings a humid climate and torrential rainfall to these areas.

Benefits of the Summer Monsoon

India and Southeast Asia depend on the summer monsoon. Agriculture, for example, relies on the yearly rain. Many areas in these countries do not have large irrigation systems surrounding lakes, rivers, or snowmelt areas. Aquifers, or supplies of underground water, are shallow. The summer monsoon fills wells and aquifers for the rest of the year. Rice and tea are some crops that rely on the summer monsoon. Dairy farms, which help make India the largest milk producer in the world, also depend on the monsoon rains to keep cows healthy and well-fed.

2. How are the Summer Monsoons beneficial for SE Asia?

Industry in India and Southeast Asia also relies on the summer monsoon. A great deal of electricity in the region is produced by hydroelectric power plants, which are driven by water collected during the monsoons. Electricity powers hospitals, schools, and businesses that help the economies of these areas develop.

3. What is hydroelectric power?

When the summer monsoon is late or weak, the regions economy suffers. Fewer people can grow their own food, and large agribusinesses do not have produce to sell. Governments must import food. Electricity becomes more expensive, sometimes limiting development to large businesses and wealthy individuals. The summer monsoon has been called India's true finance minister

4. List three effects when the Summer monsoon is late or weak.

Heavy summer monsoons can cause great damage. Residents of such urban areas as Mumbai, India, are used to the streets flooding with almost half a meter (1.5 feet) of water every summer. However, when the summer monsoon is stronger than expected, floods can devastate the region. In cities like Mumbai, entire neighborhoods can be drowned. In rural areas, mudslides can bury villages and destroy crops.

The Indian Ocean's winter monsoon, which lasts from October to April, is less well-known than its rainy summer equivalent. The dry winter monsoon blows from the northeast. These winds start in the air above Mongolia and northwestern China.

Winter monsoons are less powerful than summer monsoons in Southeast Asia, in part because the Himalaya Mountains prevent much of the wind and moisture of the monsoons from reaching the coast. The Himalayas also prevent much of the cool air from reaching places like southern India and Sri Lanka, keeping them warm all year. Winter monsoons are sometimes associated with droughts.

5. What is a drought?

Answers

1. The summer monsoon is associated with heavy rainfall. It usually happens between April and September. As winter ends, warm, moist air from the southwest Indian Ocean blows toward countries like India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. The summer monsoon brings a humid climate and torrential rainfall to these areas.

2. Water for agriculture

   Water for people

   Water for animals

3. Energy from the power of water in motion.

4. Food production decreases

   Import food

   Electricity becomes more expensive

5. A period of little rainfall, leading to a shortage of water

   would aggravate inflation/increased prices; shutting down businesses may cost workers wages

Reflection

June 9 [1984]

. . . At midnight a stifling silence descended. Air conditioners hiccuped to a halt as electric-power rationing reached home consumers in [the city of] Trivandrum. All power to heavy industrial users had already been severed. Now, movie houses were restricted to one showing a day, neon display lights were outlawed, and stores were compelled to close by sundown. . . .

Across India reservoirs dwindled into puddles as the rains hovered offshore. About half of the nation's electricity is generated by hydropower, and thus by the monsoons. Government officials confessed to newspapers in anxiety that late rains would impede [interfere with] food production, aggravate inflation, and increase prices—and all this in a preelection year. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, touring in Europe, asked for monsoon forecasts to be added to her daily political briefings. . . .

6. State two problems people in India face when the monsoons are late, based on the excerpt.

6. Electricity is rationed/movie houses are restricted to one showing a day/neon display lights can be outlawed/stores may be forced to close by sundown/power to heavy industrial users might be cut off; reservoirs may dwindle into puddles; late rains would interfere with food production/limited food production; late rains would aggravate inflation/increased prices; shutting down businesses may cost workers wages