Objectives

- Describe the geography of Southeast Asia.
- Understand the impact of India on the history of Southeast Asia.
- Summarize the characteristics of the new kingdoms and empires in Southeast Asia.
- Explain the emergence of Vietnam.
Terms and People

- **matrilineal** – familial inheritance through the mother
- **stupa** – a dome-shaped shrine
- **paddy** – a field for growing rice
How was Southeast Asia affected by the cultures of both China and India?

The region known as Southeast Asia, located between China and India, was strongly influenced by its neighbors.

Southeast Asia also retained its own unique identity. For example, the great temple complex at Angkor Wat, built by the Khmer empire, revealed the glory of its culture.
Southeast Asia is made up of two regions—the mainland and the islands.

- They are separated from most of Asia by mountains.
- The four main river valleys in Southeast Asia were home to early civilizations.
Southeast Asia was at the crossroads of trade for centuries.

- Sea traders going between China and India passed through its straits.
- Monsoons shaped trade patterns, and merchants often harbored their boats in Southeast Asian ports. Early on, the chief exports of the region were spices.
The people in this region of the world developed their own cultures long ago.

- In Thailand, archaeologists have found 5,000-year-old jars and bracelets.

- Many of the ancient societies were built around the nuclear family.

- Women had greater equality here than in other parts of Asia—they could become traders and even rulers. Matrilineal descent was an accepted custom in Southeast Asia.
Indian culture spread to Southeast Asia, reaching its peak of influence between 500 and 1000.

- Traders and monks from India came to the region first.
- In turn, people from Southeast Asia visited India.
- Indians also brought Islam to Southeast Asia.
The kingdom of Pagan arose in 1044 in present-day Myanmar.

- King Anawrahta united the region and brought Buddhism to the Burman people.

- He had beautiful **stupas** built all over his capital city. **Pagan lasted over 200 years** and the fell to the Mongols in 1287.
The Khmer empire reached its peak in the region between 800 and 1350.

The Khmer rulers adapted Indian writing and were Hindus.

In the 1100s, the Khmer king built the temple at Angkor Wat.
The empire called Srivijaya flourished in Indonesia from the 600s to the 1200s.

- It controlled the key trading Strait of Malacca.

- Although both Buddhism and Hinduism reached this empire, the local people blended Indian beliefs with their own.

- Later, Islam spread here, creating a bond with other Muslim trading centers.
Indian influence outweighed Chinese influence in most of Southeast Asia, but this was not the case in Vietnam.

- The Red River delta, which was full of fertile rice paddies, was invaded by Han armies in 111 B.C. It remained under Chinese control for 1,000 years.
- The Vietnamese nevertheless maintained a sense of their own identity and in 939 were able to break free.
Section Review

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Diverse Cultures of Southeast Asia