Name: Answer Key

Southeast Asia Regional Analysis Questions

Use your Regional Study Framework, and the one completed by the class, to answer the following questions about Southeast Asia.

1. How have the dominant physical features in this region affected the distribution of culture groups here? Is this region culturally homogenous or diverse, and why would this be?

2. How have the dominant physical features affected the types of economic activities found in this region?

3. Have the physical features in this region hindered or slowed interaction with other regions in the past or have they promoted or helped it?

4. Which external cultures have played the largest role in shaping this region? What evidence is there of their interaction?

5. Do you believe this region is highly developed, moderately developed, or developing? Which cultural and physical features have played the largest role in determining the level of development found here?

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Note to teacher: Since textbook content can vary widely, make sure to peruse your students' book before determining the "correct" answers to the following questions. Vague, general answers are provided here, but the answers may vary depending upon the information your students have access to.

1. How have the dominant physical features in this region affected the distribution of culture groups here? Is this region culturally homogenous or diverse, and why would this be? Southeast Asia is dominated by mountains, rivers, peninsulas and islands, which have all served to divide the people in this region. As a result, this region is incredibly culturally diverse.
2. How have the dominant physical features affected the types of economic activities found in this region? How have people adapted the environment for their economic activities? The climate supports a wide variety of agricultural products, but the mountainous terrain limits the ability of people to farm. Many people have terraced mountains in order to farm. The many islands and waterways in this region make it ideal for shipping lanes and ports.
3. Have the physical features in this region hindered or slowed interaction with other regions in the past or have they promoted or helped it? Before advanced transportation, the mountains and water separated this region from its neighbors. After the development of shipping vessels, however, this region became easily connected with other world regions and developed as a crossroads between many other regions.
4. Which external cultures have played the largest role in shaping this region? What evidence is there of their interaction? Initially, this area was shaped primarily by South Asian traders who brought Hinduism and Buddhism. Muslim traders also arrived, bringing Islam. Parts of this region have been influenced by East Asia, which spread Confucianism and resulted in the arrival of many Chinese settlers. The last major cultures to arrive were the European colonial powers, which brought Christianity, imperialism, commercial agriculture, and largely created the political boundaries seen today.
5. Do you believe this region is highly developed, moderately developed, or developing? Which cultural and physical features have played the largest role in determining the level of development found here? Parts of this region are developed, particularly the major cities, but much of it is still developing. Fragmentation, isolation, and the impact of colonialism have kept this region from advancing as quickly as it might have otherwise.