

Combinations illustrated in South Asia

12

very approximate grade level

K/1

2 a big geographic idea
(and a good place to study it)

Combinations

are worth studying in South Asia because combinations of conditions can have different effects than conditions acting alone.

Trace effects of post-colonial partition interacting with culture and environment.

Identify consequences of monsoons interacting with terrain and soil at different scales.

Explain how mountains, deserts, canyons combine to make natural "fences" around South Asia.

Learn position words: direction, downstream (Which way do rivers flow?) (Which way do winds blow?)

(clearly identified as geography)

History: chronology of European colonialism

Science: weather - Jet-stream interactions with the high Himalayas

Science: wind blows from high air pressure toward low air pressure

Science: plate tectonics - South Asia is "crashing" into Eurasia

(previous classes or collaboration with other disciplines)

Map skill: interpret map of air pressure

Map skill: identify avenues and barriers

(map skills)

3 some important consequences of the big idea

Floods in Bangladesh are results of multi-scale causes: global climate change, regional land use, and local engineering.

Good schools + ability to use English helped India become a tech center.

Rivers + post-colonial "partition" make environmental problems hard to solve.

Cotton + British factories + naval power made India an especially valuable colony.

Monsoons + extensive lava flows make great places for cotton fields.

Mountains + deserts + canyons kept South Asia somewhat isolated.

(positioned where appropriate in the curriculum)

High mountains + plenty of rain make big rivers flowing to the ocean.

A discussion question:

What are some implications of the fact that longstanding disputes over control of land, water, and people threaten to escalate in a region where both sides have nuclear weapons?



1 a scaffold of thinking skills and background knowledge that supports the big idea