

## **The Climate and Weather of Asia**

Asia is the largest continent on earth and it extends from just below the equator in the south to above the Arctic Circle in the north. In fact there are tens of thousands of Russian citizens who live in small cities north of the Arctic Circle. Needless to say, with this vast amount of area, some portion of Asia has every climate type that exists on earth. Parts of Asia have the some of the hottest, coldest, wettest and driest areas on the planet.

The Russia is the largest country in Asia, occupying 6.6 million square miles across the north of the continent. (Note: the western portion of Russia is in Europe.) The northern half of Russia is arctic and subarctic tundra. Areas of arctic tundra have a climate too cold to support the growth of trees and subarctic tundra is so cold that only a few species of hardy trees grow. Tundra environments are cold, reaching well below zero degrees F in winter. Summers are brief and the wind blows constantly all year long. Just south of the subarctic tundra the climate is similar to that of North America at the same latitude: four seasons with cold, snowy winters.

South Central Asia is dominated by the Himalaya Mountains, the tallest mountains on earth. The climate in these mountains is harsh and unpredictable, especially in the winter, and temperatures are cool year-round. Areas to the north and west of the Himalayas tend to arid because the extremely high mountains block moisture coming from the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The Gobi Desert covers huge areas of the country of Mongolia and northern China. The Arabian Desert is another major desert area of Asia. It is located far to the west on the Arabian Peninsula, which is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf and connects to the rest of Asia at the country of Iraq. Desert areas are characterized by extreme heat during the day and cold at night. Due to its northerly location temperatures in the Gobi Desert can be below freezing at night in the winter.

The areas of Asia in the vicinity of the Tropic of Cancer and the equator have a typical climate of high temperatures and ample rainfall. The Southeast Asia peninsula and the islands of Indonesia and Malaysia have a tropical climate.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. Which continent is larger than Asia?
  - a. Africa
  - b. Asia
  - c. North America
  - d. None of the above
  
2. Which of the following countries of Asian have a tundra climate somewhere?
  - a. China
  - b. India
  - c. Russia
  - d. All of the above
  
3. The climate in the Himalaya Mountains is
  - a. Cold and unpredictable
  - b. Always rainy
  - c. Mild and pleasant
  - d. Hot and humid
  
4. The continent of Asia borders on which of the following oceans?
  - a. Atlantic Ocean
  - b. Pacific ocean
  - c. Southern Ocean
  - d. All of the above
  
5. What is the name of the desert found in Mongolia and China?
  - a. Sahara Desert
  - b. Gobi Desert
  - c. Arabian Desert
  - d. Mojave Desert
  
6. Which of the following countries of Asia have a tropical climate?
  - a. Russia
  - b. China
  - c. Mongolia
  - d. Indonesia

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Asian Climate



From: [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

Locate the following influences on Asian climate on the map.

Arctic Circle

Tropic of Cancer

Equator

Indian Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Himalaya Mountains

Arabian Peninsula

Southeast Asia

Gobi Desert

Southeast Asia

## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. c.
3. a.
4. b.
5. b.
6. d.