

Name _____

Discovering the Marvels of Asia

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Himalayas, with their towering peaks, impact Asia in several ways. They influence the climate by blocking cold air masses from the north, resulting in the monsoon rains that sustain agriculture in parts of India and Southeast Asia. The mountains also provide a natural barrier between India and China, shaping regional geopolitics. Additionally, they are a source of freshwater for millions of people in the form of glaciers and rivers.
2. The Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE) in China was known for its cultural achievements, including advancements in art, literature, and science. They invented printing techniques, developed the first movable type, and created the world's first printed book, the Diamond Sutra. The Tang Dynasty's cosmopolitan capital, Chang'an, was a center of trade and cultural exchange along the Silk Road.
3. Asia, particularly China and India, plays a significant role in the global economy. China is a manufacturing powerhouse, producing a wide range of goods for export. India is a hub for information technology and software services. These countries' economic growth has led to increased trade and investment on a global scale, impacting various industries and supply chains.
4. Songkran, the Thai New Year festival, is celebrated with water fights and cleansing rituals. The water symbolizes purification and renewal, and the festival is a time for family reunions and honoring ancestors. People pour scented water on Buddha statues and seek blessings from elders. Songkran fosters unity and reflects Thai cultural values of respect and gratitude.

