



#8772

INDONESIA

Grade Levels: 6-12

21 minutes

AIMS MULTIMEDIA 1999

DESCRIPTION

Located in the Indian Ocean, Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands and over 200 million people. Uses its three largest islands--Sumatra, Java, and Jakarta--to explore Indonesia's religions, government, people groups, arts, industries, and natural resources. Touches on a funeral ceremony, gathering sulfur, and the Komodo dragon.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography

- ◆ Standard: Understands the physical and human characteristics of place
 - Benchmark: Knows the human characteristics of places (e.g., cultural characteristics such as religion, language, politics, technology, family structure, gender; population characteristics; land uses; levels of development)
- ◆ Standard: Understands the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
 - Benchmark: Understands the significance of patterns of cultural diffusion (e.g., the use of terraced rice fields in China, Japan, Indonesia, and the Philippines; the use of satellite television dishes in the United States, England, Canada, and Saudi Arabia)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To review the history and resources of Indonesia.
2. To study the geographic features of Indonesia.
3. To illustrate the diversity of the people in Indonesia.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This ancient and diverse nation is rich in natural resources and has a hardworking citizenry. Under Dutch rule until the 1940s, Indonesia is now an independent nation operating under a republican form of government with three distinct branches: executive, legislative and judicial.



Jakarta, the capital city and located on the island of Java, is bustling, growing metropolis and home to nearly 12 million people. It has thriving markets and fascinating landmarks.

Eight per cent of Indonesians are Muslim, but over its history, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity have each influenced the culture and life of this country. Ancient temples throughout the country stand in testimony to their role in the past.

Fifty-five per cent of the population work in the production of agricultural products such as rice, corn, soybeans, rubber, sugar, coffee, fruits and vegetables. Oil and gas production play an important role in the economy and prosperity of Indonesia. At present, it is OPEC's fifth-largest producer.

The ancient art of batik, or cloth painting, is also an important industry. Boats made of teak and shipping help to move people and products among this island nation. Many of Indonesia's islands are volcanic and many are still active.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. archipelago | 6. Hinduism |
| 2. bamboo | 7. Islam |
| 3. batik | 8. OPEC |
| 4. Buddhism | 9. sarong |
| 5. GNP | 10. sulfur |



BEFORE SHOWING

1. Locate Indonesia on a world map or globe, noting its size, location and if possible, geographic features.
2. Discuss what natural and political influences can affect life in Indonesia.
3. Discuss the implications for governance of a country that is so large and spread among so many individual islands. Also discuss the challenges this brings for economic development and national unity. Ask what kinds of things could help unite the country.

AFTER SHOWING

Applications and Activities

1. Create a simple outline of the main topics that were covered, and note one or two important facts or concepts under each topic. You may wish to have students work in pairs or small groups.
2. The Indonesian national motto is "Unity in Diversity." The glue that binds the diverse people of Indonesia together is the usage of the Bahasa Indonesia, the national language, and the national philosophy of Pancasila. The principles of this philosophy are: belief in one god; just and civilized humanity; the unity of Indonesia; democracy led by the wisdom of deliberations among representatives;

and social justice for all Indonesian citizens. Lead a discussion about how these factors could help unify such a widely dispersed and diverse citizenry.

3. A fancy Indonesian meal served in restaurants all over the world is a rijsttafel, a Dutch word meaning “rice table.” This feast consists of rice served with a large selection of Javanese and Sumatran dishes. Research your local community to determine if such a meal is available and find out what dishes are served. If a rijsttafel is not found, explore the components of this feast in cookbooks, the library or from an online resource.
4. Many Indonesians come to the U.S. to study. Most students, especially graduate students, are supported by their government. Research those cities that have a large number of Indonesians, either as students or as immigrants. Suggest using a map of the U.S. and develop a key to illustrate their findings. Lead a discussion as to why Indonesians are attracted to particular cities or regions in this country in which to study or live.
5. Use the Reader’s Guide to Periodic Literature or online resources to find articles in the news that have been written recently about Indonesia and report what has been happening in that country.
6. Batik is the most familiar form of textile production in Indonesia. Review the steps in batik production and develop a flowchart of the process. View the video segment again or finding craft books may be necessary.
7. Indonesia is the largest island group, or archipelago, in the world, covering an area of more than 735,000 square miles. Working in small groups, create a relief map of Indonesia, noting its latitude and longitude and nearby countries and oceans.
8. The size and area of Indonesia was given in metric measurements. Convert these figures into miles and square miles.
9. The success of a country’s economic policies can have a significant impact on the success of other programs. The economy supplies the money for the programs. Research how well the economy of Indonesia is performing and the status of national programs and development.
10. *Wayang* is the Javanese word meaning “shadow.” It also refers to one of the most popular forms of Indonesian theater: puppet shows. In addition to entertainment, they often portray life’s lessons, particularly the struggle between good and evil. Working in small groups, write a story on this theme and sketch out puppet characters.
11. Just about all of Indonesia’s islands are volcanic and hundreds of volcanoes dot the landscape. Over 70 of them are active and there is at least one major eruption each year. Research the cause of volcanic eruptions and the positive and negative effects a major eruption can have people living nearby, and the environment.
12. The first ships from the Netherlands arrived in Indonesia 1596 looking for spices. Eventually the Dutch East India Company and later, the Dutch government, took control of Indonesia. Working in small groups, research the history and influence of the Dutch on Indonesia. Report to the class.



13. Indonesia is a country rich in natural resources and hardworking people. Write a brief essay discussing the advantages and disadvantages of Indonesia developing into an industrialized nation. Consider the impact on the environment, wildlife and habitat, lifestyle, and others.

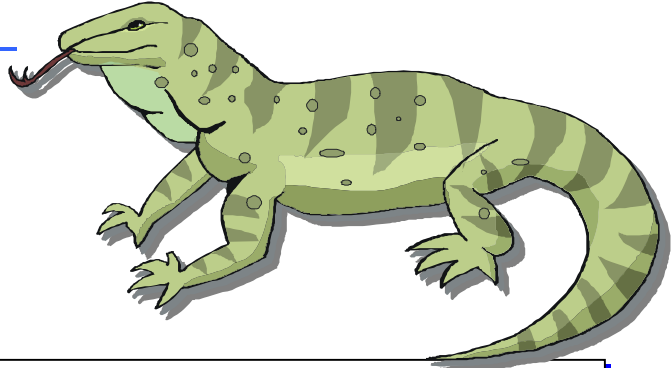
RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Destination: Southeast Asia #8696
- I Love My City: Yogyakarta #3482

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **INDONESIA**

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/id.html>

From the CIA World Factbook, presents facts about Indonesia's geography, people, government, and others.

- **QUICK BATIK**

<http://www.kinderart.com/textiles/qbatik.htm>

Step-by-step instructions on how to make batik based on your personal design or picture.

- **INDONESIAN RECIPES**

<http://soar.berkeley.edu/recipes/ethnic/indonesian/>

Over 90 different recipes on various Indonesian cuisine for you to make!