



GEOnotes

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The Extra Credit Opportunity of a Lifetime

South Asia

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Based on the text (pg. 216-217), site starts with pronunciation, and basic statistics. There is a link about the Capitol City of Colombo. Colombo specialty is gem cutting and as-well as other businesses. It is a manmade harbor. Plus tells about the city and gives a background on the development of the city of Colombo. <http://kids.infoplease.lycos.com/ce6/world/A0846407.html> The site also has links describing the people. The majority of people are Buddhists. Also the official language of Sri Lanka is Sinhalese, but English is used for government. Another interesting fact is that literacy rate is about 90%.

Kendra Slocum <slocumk@citrine.indstate.edu> <http://www.nytimes.com/2001/01/26/world/26BRIE.html>

According to the text on page 216, Sri Lanka has two dominant religions, the Buddhist Sinhalese and the Hindu Tamils. Tensions between these two groups have dated back to 1948. Many of the Tamils were virtually forced to move to India. The Tamils that stayed in Sri Lanka who continue to resist Sinhalese domination, set up an independence movement and still fight for their future. Currently, (the Tamils are asking for a cease-fire. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka said no to a cease-fire declared by Tamil rebels until the rebels entered peace talks.

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Based on the text (p.217), Sri Lanka remains poor in general and continues to go through difficult times. The cost of living is high in relation to earnings. A house in a prime locality in Colombo costs more than one in an equivalent locality in an American city and has to be paid for in full, without loans-despite lower incomes. According to a Associated Press article http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/aponline/20010209/aponline234210_000.htm Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched into Colombo Friday with banners and placards reading, "Prices are soaring" and "We cannot bear the cost of living", to protest against spiraling food and utility prices. Taxes and utility prices have been increased in recent months to fund the fight against the separatist insurgency of the Tamil rebels

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Based on the text, Pakistan is among the world's poorest countries. The text also stated that the government is trying to improve Pakistan's economy. According to the [Economic Survey Pakistan \[http://www.finance.gov.pk/\]](http://www.finance.gov.pk/) suggests ways in which the economy is changing. The web site explains how Pakistan's economy is facing multidimensional challenges which include restoring investor's confidence, reinvigorating growth, restoring macroeconomics stability, reducing poverty, improving social indicators and improving governance. Pakistan's current economic situation is also accessible from this site.

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According to the text (P.211) the country of Pakistan is a country of arid lowlands and high mountains. In Pakistan, the management of scarce water resources is a major problem. Since agriculture makes up 60% of the labor force, severe drought is a big problem. According to Haroon Rashid of the BBC news (http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/newsid_713000/713429.stm) many people are being faced with the threat of famine. Some experts are saying that this crisis could be on the same scale as the famine in Ethiopia. It also was stated that 90% of the local livestock and agriculture were affected.



The Next GeoNote is on East Asia