



# Schools Handout # 3

## Modern Day Cambodia

### GEOGRAPHY

- There are 24 provinces in Cambodia
- The Mekong River flows through Cambodia, and Tonle Sap is a lifeline to many people, being one of the richest sources of freshwater fish in the world.
- Cambodia is a mostly flat country, which makes it easy to ride bicycles through. There are three main mountain ranges, the Cardamom mountains in the South West, the Dangkrek Mountains in the North and the Annamite Mountains in the East



### POPULATION

- Around 16 million people currently live in Cambodia
- 90% are ethnic Khmers
- There are several other ethnicities, such as the Chams (Khmer Islam), Vietnamese and Chinese
- Hill-tribes still exist in the mountain ranges

### CLIMATE

- Cambodia has three seasons; hot, cool and rainy
- The 'cool' season lasts from November to March, though this has been changing in recent years
- April and May are the hottest months of the year
- June to October features rain, floods and high humidity.





## RELIGION

- Theravada Buddhism is the official religion of Cambodia.
- Approximately 90% of Cambodians are Buddhist
- The rest of the population is made up primarily of Muslims and Christians
- You will find many Buddhist temples, old and new, in Cambodia.

## LANGUAGE

- The official language of Cambodia is Khmer
- The second language was official French, however English is very popular nowadays
- As tourism increases, you will find Cambodians striving to learn other languages such as Mandarin, Korean and German



## ECONOMY

- Agriculture is the main industry in Cambodia, with around 70% of the population working in rice cultivation, rubber, pepper and cassava
- The garment industry is also big in Cambodia, with an estimated half a million Cambodians working in it
- You will also find many people working in tourism, particularly in Siem Reap

## TRANSPORT

- Most Cambodians travel around by motorbike, remork (tuk tuk) or bicycle, though there has been an increase in the number of cars on the road in recent years
- Unfortunately, Cambodia has a high death rate on the roads, with an average of six people dying each day in road accidents

