

Approaching Tibetan Studies About Tibet

Geography of Tibet

Geographical	Tibet
Names:	Bod (Tibetan name)
	Historical Tibet (refers to the larger, pre-1959 Tibet, see heavy black line marked on <i>Tibet: A Political Map</i>)
	Tibet Autonomous Region or Political Tibet (refers to the portion of Tibet named by People's Republic of China in 1965, see bolded broken line on <i>Tibet: A Political Map</i>)
	Khawachen (literary Tibetan name meaning "Abode of Snows")
	Xizang (the historical Chinese name for meaning "Western Treasure House")
	Land of Snows (Western term)
Capital:	Lhasa
Provinces:	U-Tsang (Central & Southern Tibet)
	Kham (Eastern Tibet)
	Amdo (Northeastern Tibet)
<i>Since the Chinese occupation of Tibet, most of the Tibetan Provinces of Amdo and Kham have been absorbed into the Chinese provinces of Qinghai, Sichuan, and Yunnan</i>	
Main Towns:	Lhasa, Shigatse, Gyantse, Chamdo
Area:	2,200,000 Sq. kilometers/850,000 sq. miles
Elevation:	Average 12-15,000 feet
<i>Tibet is located on a large plateau called the Tibetan Plateau.</i>	
Borders:	India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma (south) China (west, north, east)
Major Mountains and Ranges	Himalaya (range to south & west) Kunlun (range to north) Chomolungma (Mt. Everest) 29,028 ft. Highest peak in the world Kailas (sacred mountain in western Tibet to Buddhists, Hindus & Jains)
<i>The Tibetan Plateau is surrounded by some of the world's highest mountain ranges.</i>	
Major Rivers:	Ma Chu (Huzng He/Yellow) Dri Chu (Yangtze) Za Chu (Mekong) Ngul Chu (Salween) Tsangpo (Bramaputra) Ganges Sutlej

	Indus
<i>Almost all of the major rivers in Asia have their source in Tibet. Therefore, the ecology of Tibet directly impacts the ecology of East, Southeast and South Asia.</i>	
Natural Resources:	Uranium, Borax, Bold, Iron, Salt
Wildlife:	Wild Yak, Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Black Bear, Brown Bear, Lynx, Red Pandas, Kiang (Wild Ass), Antelope, Gazelle, Vulture, Finch, Doves, Robin, Duck
Temperature:	Winter temperature can drop to -40°F Average summer temperature in Lhasa is 63°F
Rainfall:	15-20 inches in Central Tibet
Language:	Tibetan is traditional language of Tibetans. Spoken Tibetan is part of Tibeto-Burmese language family. Written Tibetan was adapted from Indian Sanskrit during the 7 th century. Chinese is the current official language as mandated by the People's Republic of China.
Traditional Economy:	Agriculture (Barley, Wheat, Millet, Rapeseed) Animal Husbandry or Nomadic Pastoralism (Yaks, Sheep, Goats, Horses)
Population:	6 million (figures from the Tibetan Government in Exile) 2 million (figures from the People's Republic of China)
Religion:	Buddhist
Major Ethnographic Tibetan Regions outside Tibet:	Ladakh (Northern India) Zaskar (Northern India) Dolpo (Nepal) Mustang (Nepal) Sikkim (India) Assam (India) Bhutan
Major Tibetan Exile Communities	Dharmamsala, India (home to The 14 th Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in Exile) Mussoorie, India Mundgod, India Mysore, India Byliakuppe, India Kathmandu, Nepal

Note: For geographical location, refer to *Tibet: A Physical Map* or *Tibet: A Political Map*. These maps are designed to be used together for overhead presentations. Make overhead transparencies of both maps, and lay the physical map over the political map.