

MALAYSIAN CULTURE

CHUI PING HO

11 November 2013 | 1430 - 1630

Introduction: Geography

- Where is Malaysia?



People

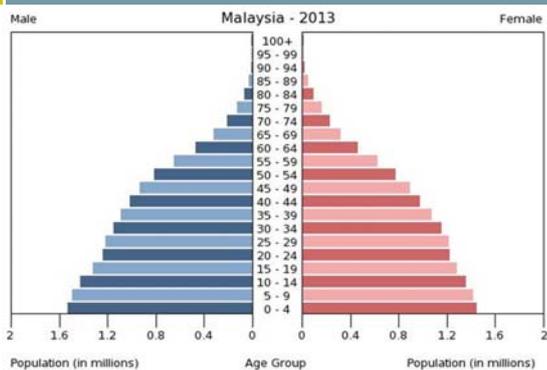
- What is the population of Malaysia?
 - 29,628,392
 - 127,253,075
 - 61,482,297
 - 5,460,302

People

- Malaysia a multiracial country. Who lives in Malaysia?
 - Malay 50.4%, Chinese 23.7%, indigenous 11%, Indian 7.1%, others 7.8% (2004 est.)



People



Language

- What is the official language of Malaysia? Can you name the languages spoken in Malaysia?
- Bahasa Malaysia (official), English, Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien, Hakka, Hainan, Foochow), Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Panjabi, Thai, indigenous languages (Iban and Kadazan)



Religion

- What is the official religion of Malaysia?
- Can you name the following structure?



Religion



Let's Discuss!
Q&A

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN MALAYSIA

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Environmental issues in Malaysia

- Part One: Environmental issues in Borneo
- Part Two: Rare Earth Mining

Part One: Environmental issues in Borneo

Borneo: Quiz 1

- Where is Borneo?



Image obtained from http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/0a/Asia_location_map2.svg/800px-Asia_location_map2.svg.png

Borneo: Quiz 2



- Borneo is occupied by how many countries?
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 7
- Can you name the country/ countries?

Borneo: Quiz 3

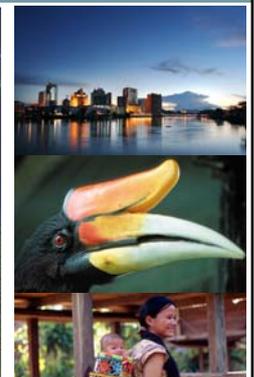
- As you've probably noticed, Borneo is an island. It is the _____
 - Largest island in the world
 - Second largest island in the world
 - Third largest island in the world
 - Fourth largest island in the world
 - Smallest island in the world

Borneo: Quiz 4

- Which of these are found in Borneo?
 - Orang utan
 - The largest cave chamber in the world
 - The largest single flower in the world
 - The highest mountain in the Malay Archipelago
 - All of the above



Borneo: an introduction



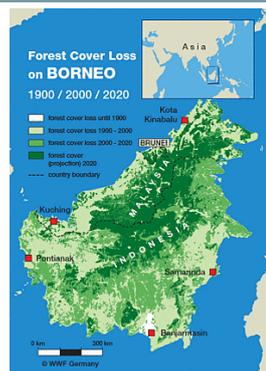
Environmental problems in Borneo

- Borneo's rainforests are being cut and degraded for timber, palm oil, pulp, rubber and minerals.
 - ▣ Deforestation
 - ▣ Land conversion
 - ▣ Water
 - ▣ Wildlife hunting and trade

Environmental problems in Borneo: Deforestation (1)

- Illegal logging
 - ▣ The way of life for some communities → lack of sufficient alternative economic development
- Scale of problem
 - ▣ 56% (29,000 km²) of protected lowland tropical rainforests in Kalimantan were cut down between 1985 and 2001.
 - ▣ Protection laws exist, but inadequate & flagrantly violated
- Driven by oil palm development
 - ▣ About half of all presently productive plantations (>6m ha) were established in secondary forest and bush areas in Malaysia and Indonesia.

The scale of deforestation



Environmental problems in Borneo: Deforestation (2)

- What are the impacts of deforestation?
 - On wildlife
 - ▣ Large mammals
 - ▣ Small mammals
 - ▣ Poaching
 - Impacts on watersheds

Environmental problems in Borneo: Land conversion (1)

- Malaysia and Indonesia account for >90% of the world's total oil palm production area. Likely to increase.
- The HoB is not suitable for oil palm plantations (slope, soil and access constraints)



© naturepl.com / Juan Carlos Munoz / WWF

Land conversion: what are the impacts?

- Water catchment area
- Threatens region's unique biodiversity.
- Unsuitability of the terrain may cause large-scale soil erosion, flooding and increase the risk of fire.
 - ▣ Left undisturbed, Borneo's forests are not very prone to fires. But as forests are cleared, they dry out.

Environmental problems in Borneo: Water

- 14 of Borneo's 20 major rivers originate from the HoB.
- Deforestation → soil is left exposed to the rain → erosion in the upper catchments of all the big river systems → water pollution, flooding downstream
- Affects hydro-electric facilities, filling up dams with sediment and damaging turbines. → huge costs



Krayan river in the Highlands Borneo. The plateau is located at the HoB. Photo: WWF-Indonesia / Andi Paul

Environmental problems in Borneo: Wildlife hunting and trade (1)

- A number of animals that live in Borneo are threatened by wildlife hunting. Can you name these commonly poached animals?



Environmental problems in Borneo: Wildlife hunting and trade (2)

- Rampant poaching threatens Borneo's endangered species.
 - ▣ Made worse by the increasing number of roads, logging trails and deforestation.
- Wildlife and animal parts are trafficked like illegal drugs and arms by dangerous international networks. According to TRAFFIC, the illegal trade is worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Environmental problems in Borneo: Wildlife hunting and trade (Pangolins)

- Pangolins are the most common species of mammal in international trade.
- 2010 TRAFFIC report: a group in Sabah poached 22,000 pangolins over 18 months.
- The Sunda pangolin, found in Borneo, is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.



Environmental problems in Borneo: Wildlife hunting and trade (Pangolins)

Targeted body parts	Why?
Meat	Has general health benefits. Pangolin fetuses is a delicacy.
Scales	Used to treat ailments such as rheumatism and arthritis, and also to reduce swelling and discharge pus.



Environmental problems in Borneo: Wildlife hunting and trade (Arowana)

- The arowana is one of the world's most desirable aquarium fish
- Believed to bring luck, wealth, prosperity and strength. Some believe the arowana has supernatural powers, others think it symbolises wealth and refinement.
- In Japan, the Super Red Arowana can cost \$2,000-\$200,000.
- The Super Red Arowana has been fished almost to extinction in West Kalimantan.

Environmental problems in Borneo: Wildlife hunting and trade (Orangutan)

Why are orangutans hunted?

- A. As pets
- B. Orangutan parts
- C. For food
- D. All of the above



Discussion

- For a developing country like Malaysia, which is more important: development or the preservation and conservation of nature?
- If preservation and conservation are more important, what should be done?
- What can be done to curb poaching and the illegal trading of wildlife?

Part Two: Rare Earth Mining

Rare earth mining: Quiz 1

- Which of the following are rare earth elements?
 - A. Zinc
 - B. Scandium
 - C. Yttrium
 - D. Europium
 - E. Radium
 - F. All of the above

Rare earth mining: answer to Quiz 1

Rare Earth Elements

La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	Y
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	39
Lanthanides															

H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Tr	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	Lu	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac	Lr														

Image obtained from <http://www.daviddarling.info/encyclopedia/L/lanthanide.html>

Rare earth mining: Quiz 2

- Are rare earth elements rare or abundant? Why?
- Why are rare earth elements important?



Rare earth oxides, clockwise from top center: praseodymium, cerium, lanthanum, neodymium, samarium and gadolinium.

Rare earth mining in Malaysia

- Rare earth elements are important in different technology-based products such as computer displays, hybrid and electric vehicles, energy-saving light bulbs etc.
- However, mining rare earth minerals results in radioactive waste which remain for decades.

Rare earth mining: a lesson

- In 1979, a rare earth mining factory was set up in Bukit Merah.
- Asia Rare Earth (ARE) is a collaboration between Mitsubishi Chemicals and local businessmen. Partially funded by state-owned investment vehicles.
- Bukit Merah became a dumpsite for radioactive waste → birth defects and eight leukemia cases within five years in a community of 11,000 — after many years with no leukemia cases. 7/8 leukemia victims have since died.



Rahman Roslan for The New York Times. Lai Kwan prepares to bathe her son, Cheah Kok Leong, who was born with severe mental disabilities.

Rare earth mining: more problems?

- April 2011 Perak state development corporation signed a agreement with CVM Minerals to mine rare earth and other minerals in Bukit Merah. → protests → quickly cancelled
- 2011 Australian company Lynas Corp built a rare earth refinery in Kuantan.
 - ▣ Heavy protests but tests by a third party laboratory concluded that it is safe and meets regulatory requirements.
 - ▣ Lynas has commenced commercial production and shipments at its Advanced Materials Plant in Kuantan.

Discussion

- Should countries pursue rare earth mining?
- Are there any ethical issues to be considered in rare earth mining?
- Whose responsibility is it to ensure that it is not harmful to the environment and the people? The mining company? Shareholders? The government?

Q&A