



Pakistan

TERMS & NAMES

Mangla Dam

Tarbela Dam

Punjabi

Sindhi

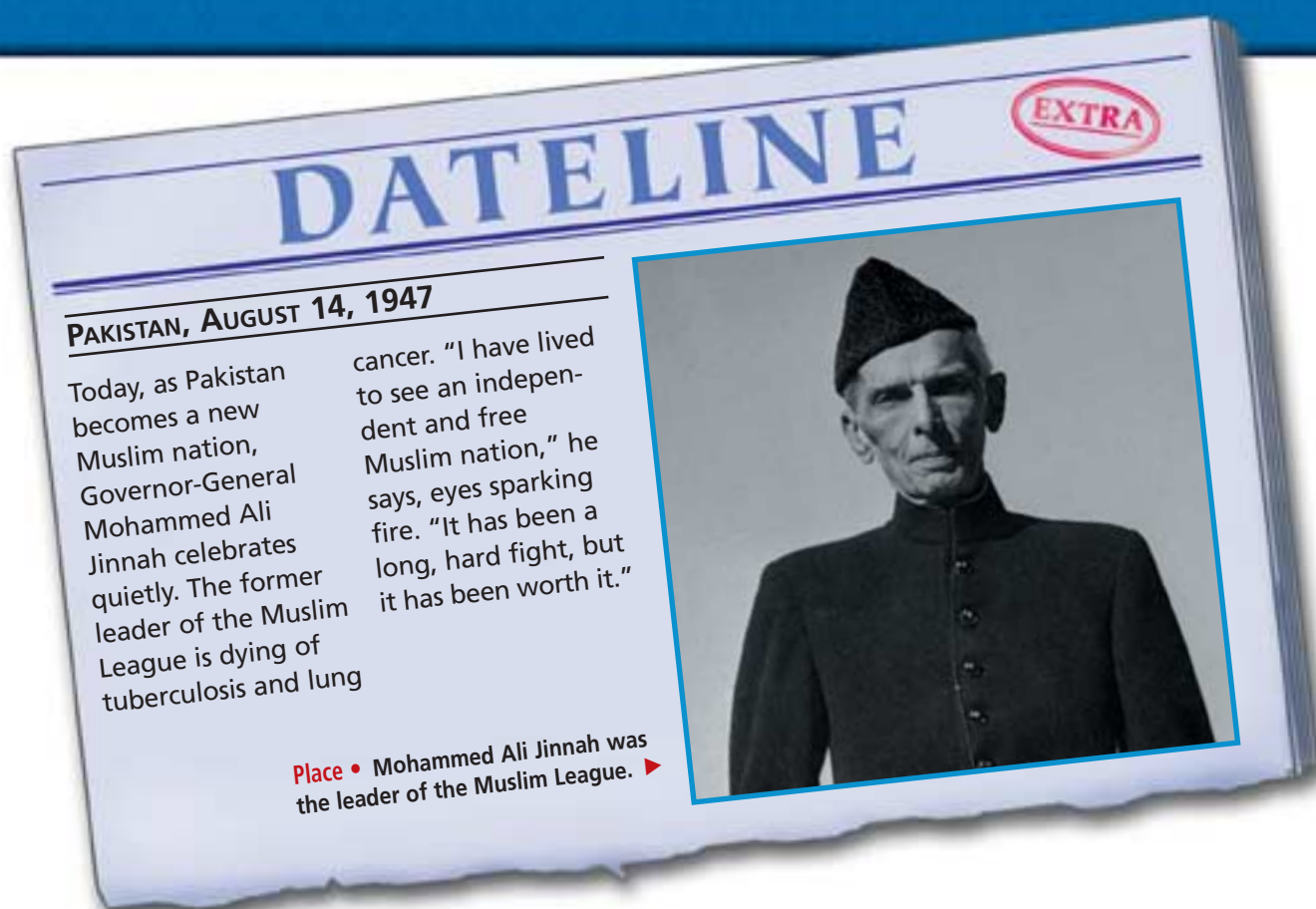
Urdu

MAIN IDEA

Conflict between Muslims and Hindus in colonial times led to the creation of Pakistan.

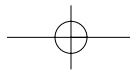
WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Political and religious conflict continues to make this region unstable.



History of Pakistan

Great Britain granted independence to Pakistan and India on the same day. Both South Asian countries have a long and sometimes common history. The Indus River flows through eastern Pakistan, from the mountains in the north to the Arabian Sea. This river valley was the site of one of the world's oldest civilizations. Over time, invaders and immigrants crossed the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush Mountains to reach this fertile area.



Culture •
The city of Mohenjo-Daro thrived over 4,000 years ago in the Indus River valley. ◀

In A.D. 712, Arab Muslims brought Islam to the Indus Valley region. Then, around the year 1000, Muslims from Central Asia built their own kingdom in the Indus River valley. Lahore (luh•HAWR), today one of the biggest cities in Pakistan, was the capital of their kingdom and a major center of Muslim culture.

The British Influence In the 1600s, the British East India Company set up trading posts in India, which then included the region that is now Pakistan. When the Mughal Empire, which had been ruling India, grew weak in the 1700s, the company took control of India.

With British rule, the Muslims lost power in the government, and over time, the Hindus gained power. The Indian National Congress was controlled by Hindus, so Muslims formed the Muslim League in 1906 as a way of keeping some political power. As India moved closer to independence from Great Britain, the Muslim League, led by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, called for an independent Muslim state.

Pakistan Becomes a Nation Differences between Hindus and Muslims led to violence. Neither the British nor the Indian National Congress could find a way to settle the differences between the two groups. So on August 14, 1947, at the same time that India gained independence, Pakistan was declared a separate Muslim nation. Millions of Muslims living in India moved to Pakistan, and Hindus in Pakistan moved to India.



Reading Social Studies

A. Using Maps

Use the map below to find the locations of Bangladesh (East Pakistan) and Pakistan (West Pakistan).

Pakistan Divides When Pakistan became a nation, it included two regions—East Pakistan and West Pakistan—separated from each other by 1,000 miles. This distance made Pakistan a difficult country to rule. Although most people of East and West Pakistan were Muslim, they had many differences. Many East Pakistanis were angry that West Pakistan was in charge of the government. War broke out between East and West Pakistan. When the war ended, over a million people had lost their lives. In 1971, East Pakistan became the country of Bangladesh.

The Land of Pakistan

BACKGROUND

The Indus River valley covers about 386,000 square miles. More than 150 million people live in this area. Sixty percent of the nation's farmable land is irrigated by the Indus River system.

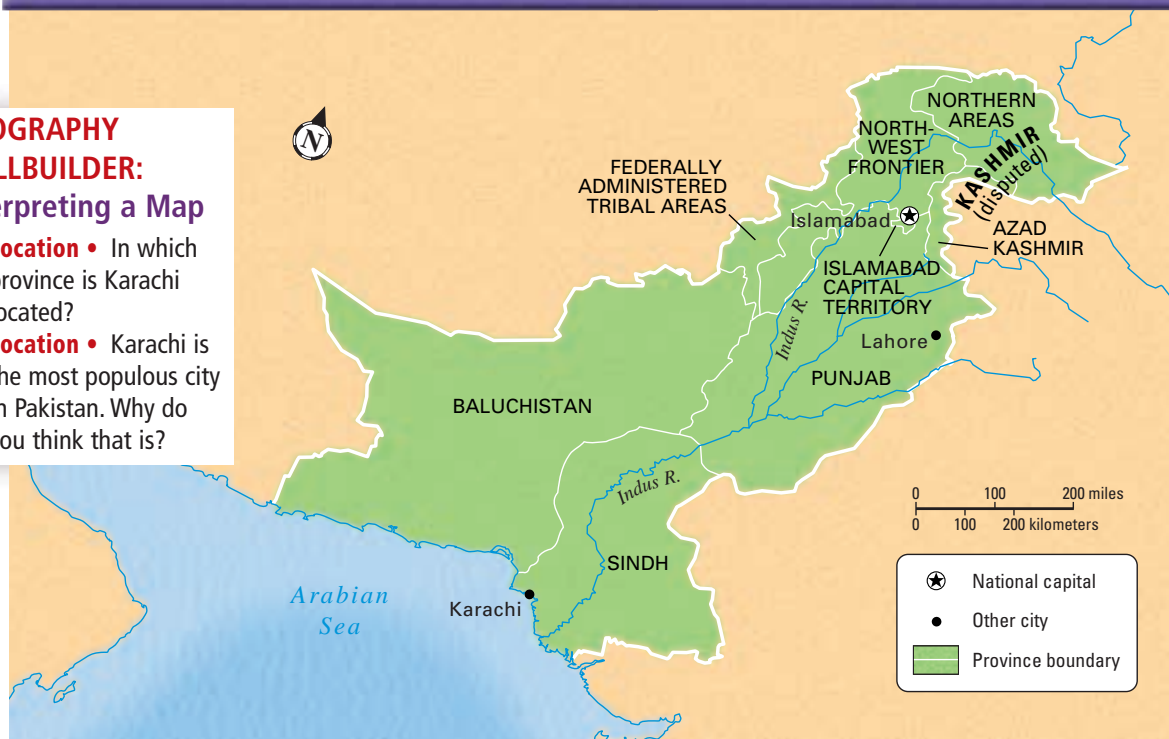
Pakistan (once West Pakistan) is divided into four provinces: Baluchistan, North-West Frontier, Punjab, and Sindh. Most Pakistanis live in the northeast province of Punjab. Punjab is where the capital, Islamabad, is located.

Western and northern Pakistan are dry and mountainous, with few river valleys suitable for farming. The provinces of Sindh and Punjab are less mountainous, and although there is not much rain, the Indus River flows through them. About two-thirds of the people in Pakistan are farmers and herders who irrigate their land with water from the Indus River.

Pakistan, 2000

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

- Location** • In which province is Karachi located?
- Location** • Karachi is the most populous city in Pakistan. Why do you think that is?





River Power In 1967, Pakistan finished building the **Mangla Dam** on the Jhelum River in northeast Pakistan. The dam was built to control floodwaters and to provide hydroelectricity. In 1976, Pakistan opened one of the world's largest dams, the **Tarbela Dam**. Located on the Indus River, it is used for flood control and irrigation. In 1994, the Tarbela Dam began to produce hydroelectricity as well.

Connections to Technology

Drawbacks to Dams Dams can be useful for many things, such as irrigation and the production of electricity. Pakistan's Mangla Dam has stopped floods from destroying harvests (see below). Dams can also have negative effects. When a dam is built, hundreds of thousands of people may be forced to move because water that is held back by the dam covers nearby land and homes.

Fertile land can become unproductive because it becomes water-logged or because the salinity, or salt content, increases. Water has salt in it, and the salt stays behind in the soil. Over time, the salt content increases, and few plants will then grow in the soil. Wildlife suffers when rising waters disturb their natural habitats. In many countries, including Pakistan and India, there has been widespread opposition to dam building.



Language and Religion

Language divides the people of Pakistan, but the religion of Islam unites them. Each of Pakistan's four provinces has a unique culture with its own customs and languages.

Languages in Pakistan There are more than 20 languages spoken in Pakistan, of which **Punjabi** and **Sindhi** are the most common. Punjabi is spoken mostly in rural areas, and it is usually not written. **Urdu**, which is Pakistan's official language, is taught in schools. Students also learn their regional language. No single language is spoken by everyone in Pakistan, and in every province many different languages are spoken.

Movies made in Pakistan are usually in Punjabi or Urdu. The most popular newspapers are in Urdu, Sindhi, or English. This variety of languages has caused conflict among Pakistanis.



Culture • To read all the signs in Lahore, you would need to know several languages. ◀



Vocabulary

purdah:
the practice of
keeping women
secluded

Religion in Pakistan The country's official name is the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. More than 97 percent of Pakistanis are Muslim. Public schools base their teaching on Islam. Except in the homes of the wealthy and educated, women follow the rules of purdah.

Modern Conflict in Pakistan

In 1947, when India and Pakistan became independent, each nation claimed the region of Kashmir. Find Kashmir on the map on page 427. This region is important to both nations because of its water resources. India and Pakistan have failed to reach an agreement about the future of Kashmir. Within South Asia, Hindus and Muslims have fought over whether Kashmir should join India or Pakistan or become independent.

Relations between Pakistan and India grew increasingly tense in 1998 when both nations tested nuclear weapons and then refused to sign a nuclear test-ban treaty. Since then, both nations have tested nuclear weapons and relations have not improved, though efforts continue to be made by Pakistan and India, with help from other nations.



Culture • Benazir Bhutto became the leader of Pakistan in 1988. She was the first Muslim woman ever elected to lead an Islamic state. ▲

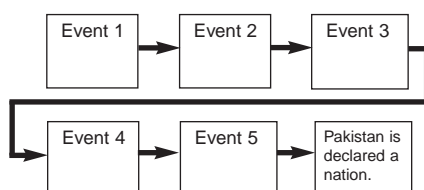
SECTION 5 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Identify: (a) Mangla Dam (b) Tarbela Dam (c) Punjabi
(d) Sindhi (e) Urdu

Taking Notes

2. Use a chart like the one below to outline the history of Pakistan from its earliest beginnings to its creation as a modern nation in 1947.



Main Ideas

3. (a) Why was Pakistan created in 1947?
(b) Why are rivers an important natural resource in Pakistan?
(c) What religion do most Pakistanis follow?

Critical Thinking

4. Drawing Conclusions

Why do you think it is important for India and Pakistan to solve the problem of Kashmir peacefully?

Think About

- the results of conflicts between India and Pakistan
- the reason relations between the two countries grew worse in 1998

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Draw a **political cartoon** that shows how the use of so many languages affects Pakistan.