

ASIA

THE world's largest continent is Asia, which stretches from the cold Arctic Ocean in the north

to the warm Indian Ocean in the south.

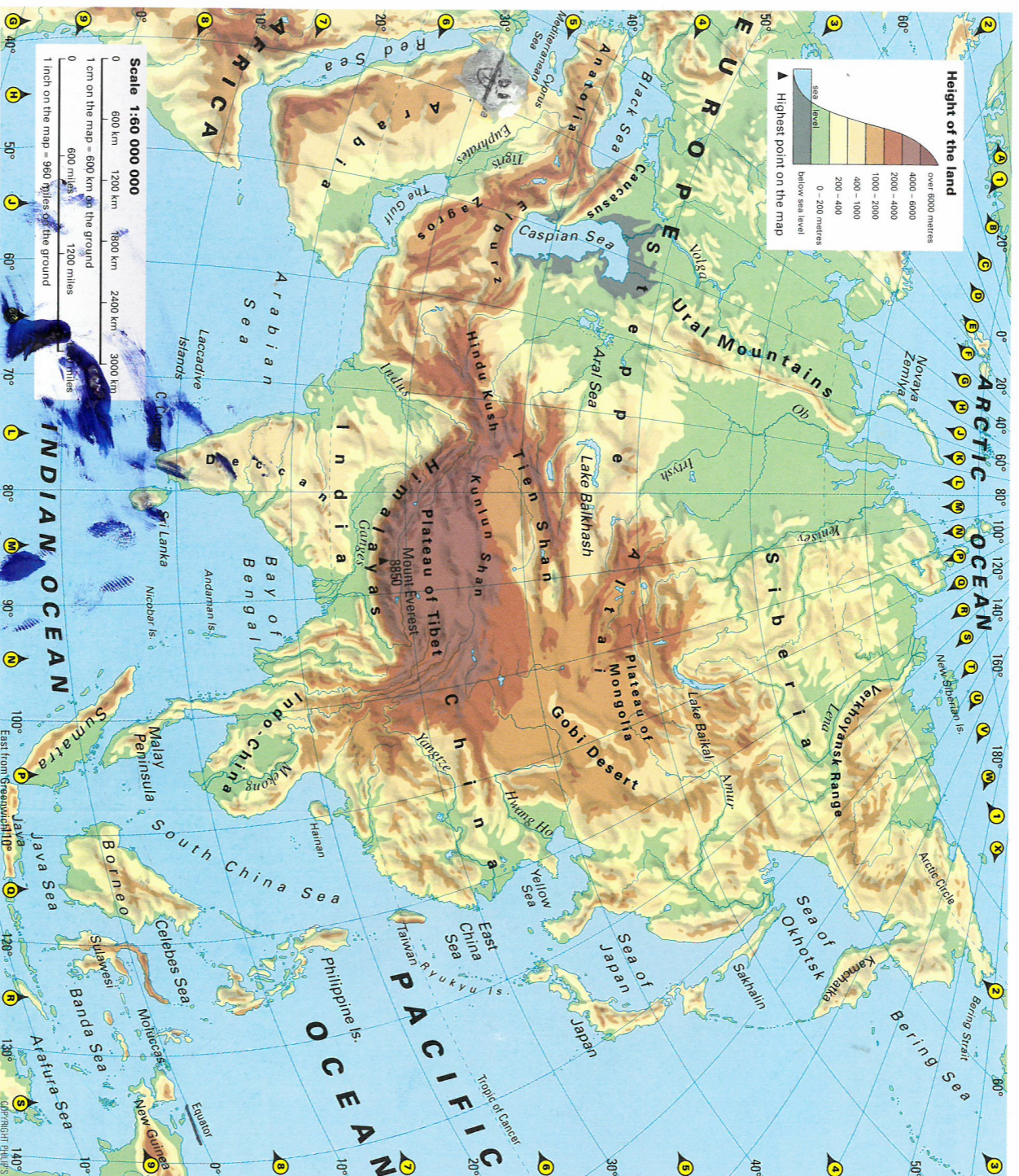
Mainland Asia nearly reaches the Equator in Malaysia. Several Asian islands are on the Equator: Sumatra, Borneo and Sulawesi. In the west, Asia reaches Europe and the Mediterranean, and in the east Asia reaches the Pacific Ocean. In the centre are the high, empty plateaus of Tibet and Mongolia, where winters are bitterly cold.

Two countries cover over half of Asia: Russia and China. India looks quite small – get it is over ten times as big as Italy or the UK! But some of Asia's important countries are very small indeed, such as Lebanon and Israel in south-west Asia (Middle East); Singapore and Brunei in south-east Asia (Far East).

Over half the world's population lives in Asia. Seven of the world's 'top ten' most populated countries are here (see page 9). The coastal areas of south and east Asia are the most crowded parts. But people in these areas are in danger from typhoons or cyclones (also called hurricanes) and tsunamis (huge waves caused by earthquakes under the sea).



▲ **This Buddhist shrine** is like many found in Nepal. It has been decorated with prayer flags and painted eyes.



1 澳
2 埃
3 香
4 美
5 台

Turn to page
which country
script here.

ASIA FACTS

- AREA** 44,387,000 sq km (including Asiatic Russia)
- HIGHEST POINT** Mount Everest (Nepal/China), 8850 metres (A world record as well as an Asian record.)
- LOWEST POINT** Shores of Dead Sea (Israel/Jordan), 400 metres below sea level (A world record as well as an Asian record.)
- LONGEST RIVERS** Yangtze (China), 6380 km; Yenisey (Russia), 5540 km
- BIGGEST COUNTRY** Russia, 17,075,400 sq km (A world record as well as an Asian record.)
- SMALLEST COUNTRY** The Maldives, 298 sq km
- LARGEST LAKE** Caspian Sea, 371,000 sq km (A world record as well as an Asian record.)
- The Caspian Sea is shared by five countries – which are they? (Answers on page 97.)



▲ **Himalayan Mountains, Nepal.** The photograph shows Annapurna I. Annapurna I is 8078 metres high and was first climbed in 1950. There are four other peaks in the group that are over 7500 metres high. The Himalayas are the world's highest mountain range, containing all the world's 'top ten' highest peaks, including Mount Everest.

ASIA

洲及港灣

97 to find out
are in Chinese

