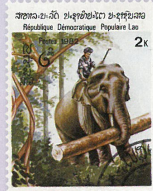


SOUTH-EAST ASIA

The mountains of South-east Asia are covered with thick tropical forest (look at the stamp of Laos). Rare animals and plants live here, but they will not survive if the forest is cut down. These areas are very difficult to reach and have few people. The large rivers are important routes inland. Their valleys and deltas are very crowded indeed.

Java, Bali and Singapore are among the most crowded islands in the world – yet several bigger islands, such as Sulawesi and Borneo, have very small populations.

▼ **Borneo** is a large island shared by 3 countries. Its forests are home to the rare Orang-utan.



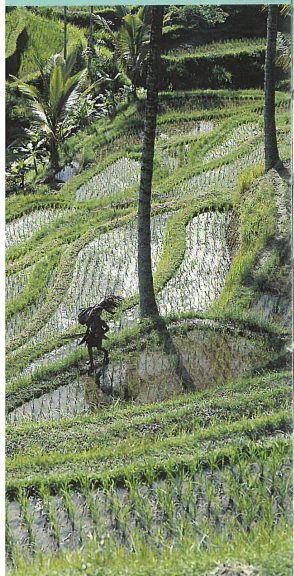
▲ **Laos.** Elephants carry huge logs from the jungle. Laos was called Lanxang – 'land of a million elephants'.



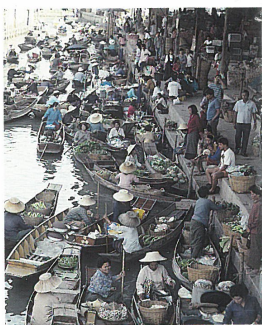
▲ **Vietnam.** These young children are learning to draw a map of their country.



▲ **Indonesia** is mainly an Islamic country. The moon and star (seen here above a mosque) are traditional symbols of Islam.



Rice grows on terraces cut Bali. Each terrace is sown Bali is a small island east of that it is the most beautiful in all the world!



▲ **Floating market in Thailand.** Farmers bring their fruit and vegetables by boat to a market at Damnoen Saduak, to the west of Bangkok. Fish are cooked on some of the boats and sold for lunch.