

# MONSOONS



Most of the rain in India falls during the monsoon.

## THE WIND OF INDIA

In summer, the people of India wait for a special wind. It is called the *monsoon*.

Monsoon wind blows from oceans onto land in the summer. The wind brings rain. Farmers in India need the rain to water plants. Then they can feed the people.

At the end of summer, the wind changes direction again. Now it blows from the land out to the ocean. There is no more rain. This is the end of the monsoon.

### Rainfall in India



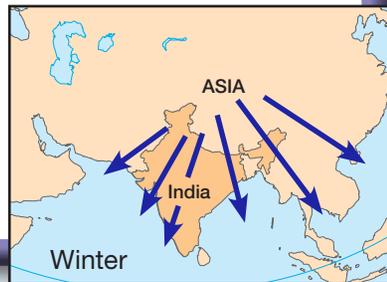
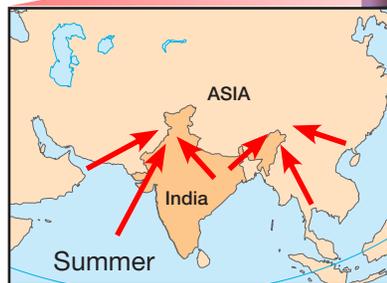
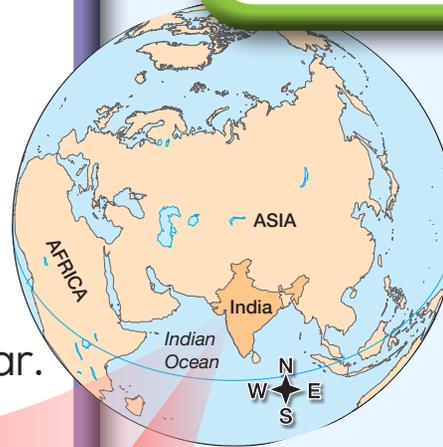
Farmers in India wait for the monsoon rains before they plant summer crops.

# Why Does the Monsoon Wind Blow?

Air always moves from cold areas to warm areas. This happens naturally.

India is in Asia. In summer, Asia gets hot. Wind blows north from the cooler ocean toward the hotter land. The wind picks up and carries water to the land. It moves at speeds as fast as a car. In India, this is the rainy season.

In winter, Asia gets cold. The ocean is warmer than the land. So the wind changes direction. Dry air moves south from the land to the ocean. This is the dry season in India.



## Wowser!

The record for most monsoon rain was in Cherrapunji, India. It rained more than 9 meters (30 ft.) in just one month. That's enough rain to reach the top of a three-story building!

## Do You Know?

The U.S. Southwest also has a monsoon. In summer, winds bring rain to the desert. Sometimes they bring too much rain too fast!



In summer, wind blows from the ocean to the land.

In winter, wind blows from the land to the ocean.