



**An Institute for Civil Services**

**IAS 2021**

**PRELIMS**

**SAMPORNA**

# **GEOGRAPHY MAPPING**

## **SEA & STRAITS**



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**SEA**

# 1

## Aral Sea

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- ❑ The Aral Sea a landlocked endorheic sea in Central Asia, straddles the boundary between Uzbekistan to the south and west and Kazakhstan to the north and east.
- ❑ The name roughly translates as "Sea of Islands," referring to more than 1,000 islands of 2.5 acres (one hectare) or more that dotted its waters.
- ❑ Once the fourth-largest lake on Earth, the Aral Sea shrank to less than 50 percent its original size in a matter of decades.
- ❑ This reduction came as a result of the diversion of its in-flowing rivers, the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya, by the Soviet Union for irrigation purposes.
- ❑ This loss of water turned the once freshwater lake into one as salty as the ocean.
- ❑ By the end of the twentieth century, the once great sea had been broken into two separate lakes.
- ❑ Its entire ecosystem suffered a near collapse due not only to diversion practices, but also to extreme pollution resulting from biological weapons testing during the Cold War, industrial projects, and fertilizer runoff.
- ❑ The health and livelihoods of thousands of people living in its ecosystem were severely comprised.

# ARAL SEA



# 2

## Azov Sea

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- ❑ Sea of Azov is an inland sea situated off the southern shores of Ukraine and Russia.
- ❑ It forms a northern extension of the Black Sea, to which it is linked on the south by the Kerch Strait.
- ❑ Into the Sea of Azov flow the great Don and Kuban rivers and many lesser ones such as the Mius, the Berda, the Obitochnaya, and the Yeya.
- ❑ In the sea's western part lies the Arabat Spit, a 70-mile- (113-kilometre-) long sandbar that separates it from the Syvash, a system of marshy inlets that divides the Crimean Peninsula from the Ukrainian mainland.
- ❑ With a maximum depth of only about 46 feet (14 m), the Azov is the world's shallowest sea.
- ❑ Vast quantities of silt are brought down by the Don and Kuban rivers, so that in the Taganrog Gulf in the northeast, the sea's depth is 3 feet (1 m) or less.
- ❑ The discharge of these rivers ensures that the sea's waters are low in salinity, being almost fresh in the Taganrog Gulf.
- ❑ The Sea of Azov handles much freight and passenger traffic, although the progress of heavy oceangoing craft is hampered by shallowness at some points. Icebreakers assist in winter navigation. Principal ports are Taganrog, Mariupol, Yeysk, and Berdyansk.





# 3

## Caspian Sea

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- ❑ The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland sea.
- ❑ It is called a sea and not a lake because when the Ancient Romans arrived there, they discovered that the water was salty (about a third as salty as regular seawater); they named the sea after the Caspian tribe that lived there.
- ❑ The countries of Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Iran presently border the sea.
- ❑ The Caspian is about ninety feet below sea level, and at its deepest it is a little over three thousand feet deep.
- ❑ The Volga River accounts for about eighty percent of the inflow of water into the Sea, the remainder being from other smaller rivers.
- ❑ Because the Volga accounts for so much of the Caspian's water, the damming and diversion of the Volga's water for industrial, agricultural and residential purposes have led to the lowering of the Caspian's water level.



# 4

## Mediterranean Sea

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- ❑ Mediterranean Sea, an intercontinental sea that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean on the west to Asia on the east and separates Europe from Africa.
- ❑ It has often been called the incubator of Western civilization.
- ❑ This ancient “sea between the lands” occupies a deep, elongated, and almost landlocked irregular depression lying between latitudes 30° and 46° N and longitudes 5°50' W and 36° E.
- ❑ Its west-east extent—from the Strait of Gibraltar between Spain and Morocco to the shores of the Gulf of Iskenderun on the south-western coast of Turkey—is approximately 2,500 miles (4,000 km), and its average north-south extent, between Croatia’s southernmost shores and Libya, is about 500 miles (800 km).
- ❑ The western extremity of the Mediterranean Sea connects with the Atlantic Ocean by the narrow and shallow channel of the Strait of Gibraltar
- ❑ To the northeast the Mediterranean is connected with the Black Sea through the Dardanelles (with a sill depth of 230 feet [70 metres]), the Sea of Marmara, and the strait of the Bosphorus (sill depth of about 300 feet [90 metres]). To the southeast it is connected with the Red Sea by the Suez Canal.



# 5

## Red Sea

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- ❑ The Red Sea lies in a fault depression that separates two great blocks of Earth's crust—Arabia and North Africa.
- ❑ The Red Sea contains some of the world's hottest and saltiest seawater.
- ❑ With its connection to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal, it is one of the most heavily travelled waterways in the world, carrying maritime traffic between Europe and Asia.
- ❑ Its connection to the ocean is in the south, through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden. To its north lie the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal). It is underlain by the Red Sea Rift, which is part of the Great Rift Valley.
- ❑ Its name is derived from the colour changes observed in its waters.
- ❑ Normally, the Red Sea is an intense blue-green; occasionally, however, it is populated by extensive blooms of the algae *Trichodesmium erythraeum*, which, upon dying off, turn the sea a reddish brown colour.



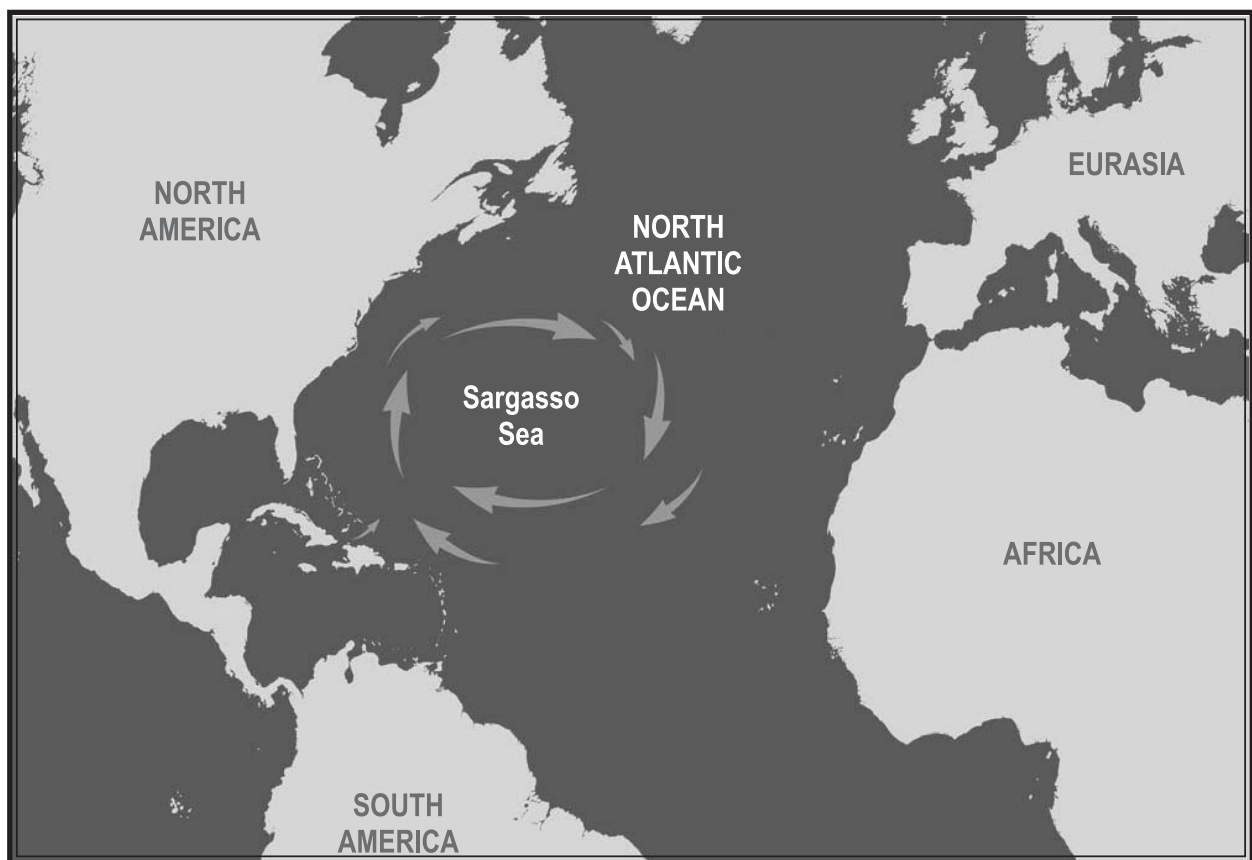
# 6

## Sargasso Sea

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- ❑ The Sargasso Sea is a vast patch of ocean named for a genus of free-floating seaweed called Sargassum.
- ❑ While there are many different types of algae found floating in the ocean all around world, the Sargasso Sea is unique in that it harbors species of sargassum that are 'holopelagi' - this means that the algae not only freely floats around the ocean, but it reproduces vegetatively on the high seas. Other seaweeds reproduce and begin life on the floor of the ocean.
- ❑ The Sargasso Sea is a spawning site for threatened and endangered eels, as well as white marlin, porbeagle shark, and dolphinfish. Humpback whales annually migrate through the Sargasso Sea. Commercial fish, such as tuna, and birds also migrate through the Sargasso Sea and depend on it for food.
- ❑ While all other seas in the world are defined at least in part by land boundaries, the Sargasso Sea is defined only by ocean currents. It lies within the Northern Atlantic Subtropical Gyre.
- ❑ The Gulf Stream establishes the Sargasso Sea's western boundary, while the Sea is further defined to the north by the North Atlantic Current, to the east by the Canary Current, and to the south by the North Atlantic Equatorial Current.
- ❑ Since this area is defined by boundary currents, its borders are dynamic, correlating roughly with the Azores High Pressure Center for any particular season.



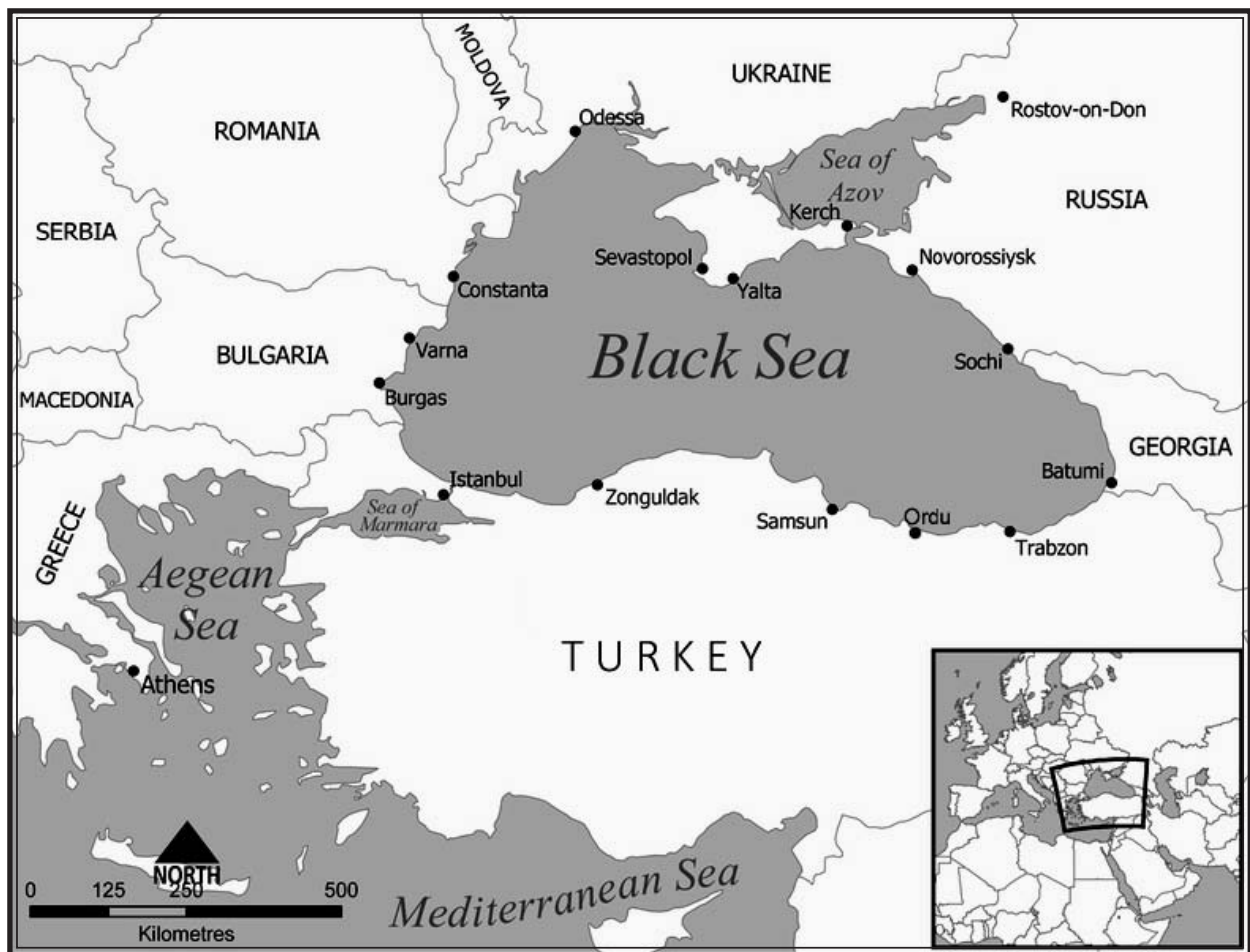


# 7

## Black Sea

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- ❑ Black Sea is a large inland sea situated at the south-eastern extremity of Europe.
- ❑ It is bordered by Ukraine to the north, Russia to the northeast, Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.
- ❑ The roughly oval-shaped Black Sea occupies a large basin strategically situated at the southeastern extremity of Europe but connected to the distant waters of the Atlantic Ocean by the Bosphorus (which emerges from the sea's southwestern corner), the Sea of Marmara, the Dardanelles, the Aegean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❑ The Crimean Peninsula thrusts into the Black Sea from the north, and just to its east the narrow Kerch Strait links the sea to the smaller Sea of Azov.



# 8

## Sea of Marmara

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- ❑ Sea of Marmara is an inland sea partly separating the Asiatic and European parts of Turkey.
- ❑ It is connected through the Bosphorus on the northeast with the Black Sea and through the Dardanelles on the southwest with the Aegean Sea.
- ❑ It has no strong currents.
- ❑ Salinity, which averages 22 parts per thousand, is greatest at the end nearest the Dardanelles.
- ❑ The sea was formed as a result of crustal movements that occurred about 2.5 million years ago.
- ❑ It is an area of frequent earthquakes.
- ❑ The sea has two distinct island groups.
- ❑ The first is the Kızıl Islands in the northeast near Istanbul; these islands are primarily resort areas. The second group consists of the Marmara islands proper in the southwest, off Kapıdağı Peninsula; these have granite, slate, and marble that have been quarried since antiquity—hence the sea's name

# SEA OF MARMARA

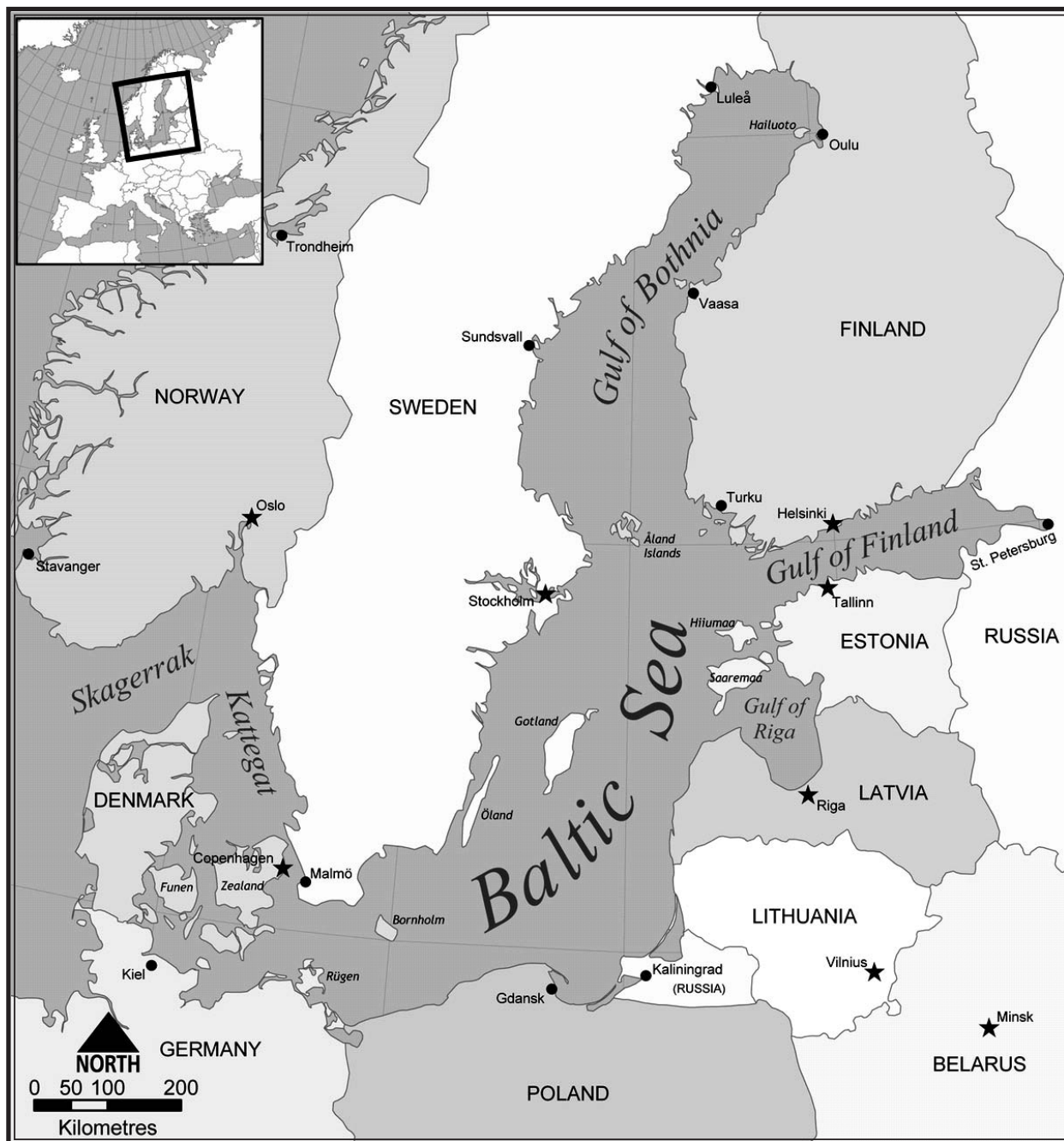


# 9

## Baltic Sea

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- ❑ Baltic Sea is an arm of the North Atlantic Ocean, enclosed by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, northeast Germany, Poland, Russia and the North and Central European Plain.
- ❑ The largest expanse of brackish water in the world, the semi-enclosed and relatively shallow Baltic Sea is of great interest to scientists, while to historians it represents the economic core of the Hanseatic League, the great medieval trading group of northern European ports.
- ❑ The many names for the sea attest to its strategic position as a meeting place of many countries.
- ❑ The catchment area drained by the rivers bringing fresh water into the Baltic is about four times as large as the sea itself.
- ❑ It includes the Gulf of Bothnia, the Bay of Bothnia, the Gulf of Finland, the Gulf of Riga and the Bay of Gdansk.



# 10

## Bering Sea

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- ❑ The Bering Sea roughly resembles a triangle with its apex to the north and its base formed by the 1,100-mile-long arc of the Alaska Peninsula in the east; the Aleutian Islands, which constitute part of the U.S. state of Alaska, in the south; and the Komandor (Commander) Islands in the west.
- ❑ It forms, along with the Bering Strait, the divide between the two largest landmasses on Earth: Eurasia and The Americas.
- ❑ The Bering Sea is named for Vitus Bering, a Danish navigator in Russian service, who, in 1728, was the first European to systematically explore it, sailing from the Pacific Ocean northward to the Arctic Ocean



# BERING SEA



# 11

## Chukchi Sea

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- ❑ Chukchi Sea is a part of the Arctic Ocean, bounded by Wrangel Island (west), northeastern Siberia and northwestern Alaska (south), the Beaufort Sea (east), and the Arctic continental slope (north).
- ❑ It has an area of 225,000 square miles (582,000 square km) and an average depth of 253 feet (77 m).
- ❑ The sea is navigable between July and October both eastward and westward from the shallow Bering Strait, and ice-bearing currents flow southeastward along the Siberian coast.
- ❑ Seals of several species and walrus are indigenous, and whales and many seabirds are summer visitors.

# CHUKCHI SEA



# 12

## Adriatic Sea

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- ❑ Adriatic Sea is an arm of the Mediterranean Sea, lying between the Italian and Balkan peninsulas.
- ❑ The Strait of Otranto at its south-easterly limit links it with the Ionian Sea.
- ❑ The Adriatic has been of great importance in the historical development of Mediterranean Europe and is of considerable scientific interest in itself.
- ❑ There is a striking contrast between its two shores. The Italian coast is relatively straight and continuous, having no islands, whereas the Croatian coast is full of both large and small islands, generally oblong in shape and running parallel to the continental shore.
- ❑ Many tortuous straits form inlets between the islands similar to those of the Norwegian fjords and make the coastline very intricate.
- ❑ The Adriatic has two types of rather special sea bottoms, difficult to arrange in a rigorous classification but very common in the Mediterranean, namely, inlet-derived sediments and heat-altered sediments of the sea bottom proper.



# 13

## Tyrrhenian Sea

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- The Tyrrhenian Sea is part of the Mediterranean Sea, located off of the western coast of Italy.
- It's bordered in the west by Corsica and Sardinia, in the north by the Isle of Elba, and in the south by Sicily.
- The southwestern boundaries are an estimate at best, as it depends on where the sea actually ends.
- In addition to Corsica, Elba, Sardinia and Sicily, it contains many popular small islands, including Capri, Elba and Ustica, and the active volcano of Stromboli. Cagliari, Civitavecchia, Naples and Palermo are its chief ports.





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# STRAITS

## Bab-el-Mandeb

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- Bab el-Mandeb Strait is a strait between Arabia (northeast) and Africa (southwest) that connects the Red Sea (northwest) with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean (southeast).
- With the building of the Suez Canal, the strait assumed great strategic and economic importance, forming a portion of the link between the Mediterranean Sea and East Asia.
- The flow through this strait provides for the circulation between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, since no flow takes place through the Suez Canal.
- The strait's Arabic name means "**the gate of tears,**" so called from the dangers that formerly attended its navigation.

## Map of Yemen and the Bed el-Mandeb Strait



## Bosphorus Strait

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- ❑ The Bosphorus, which is popularly known as the strait of Istanbul is a natural strait that is located in the north-western part of Turkey.
- ❑ This strait is internationally recognized as the narrowest strait used for navigation in the world and it forms part of the borders between Europe and Asia, thus it is one of the most important and significant straits in the world.
- ❑ The straits connect the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara.



# 16

## Cook Strait

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- Cook Strait is the strait between the North and South Islands of New Zealand.
- It connects the Tasman Sea on the northwest with the South Pacific Ocean on the southeast, and runs next to the capital city, Wellington.
- The strait is named after James Cook, the first European commander to sail through it, in 1770.
- It is 22 kilometres (14 mi) wide at its narrowest point, and is considered one of the most dangerous and unpredictable waters in the world.



## Strait of Hormuz

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- ❑ Strait of Hormuz, also called Strait of Ormuz, channel linking the Persian Gulf (west) with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea (southeast).
- ❑ The strait separates Iran (north) from the Arabian Peninsula (south).
- ❑ It contains the islands of Qeshm (Qishm), Hormuz, and Hengam (Henjam) and is of great strategic and economic importance, especially as oil tankers collecting from various ports on the Persian Gulf must pass through the strait.
- ❑ About one-fifth of the world's oil supply passes through the strait, including about one-third of all seaborne trade.
- ❑ The strait also became important for the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG), accounting for one-third of all LNG trade.

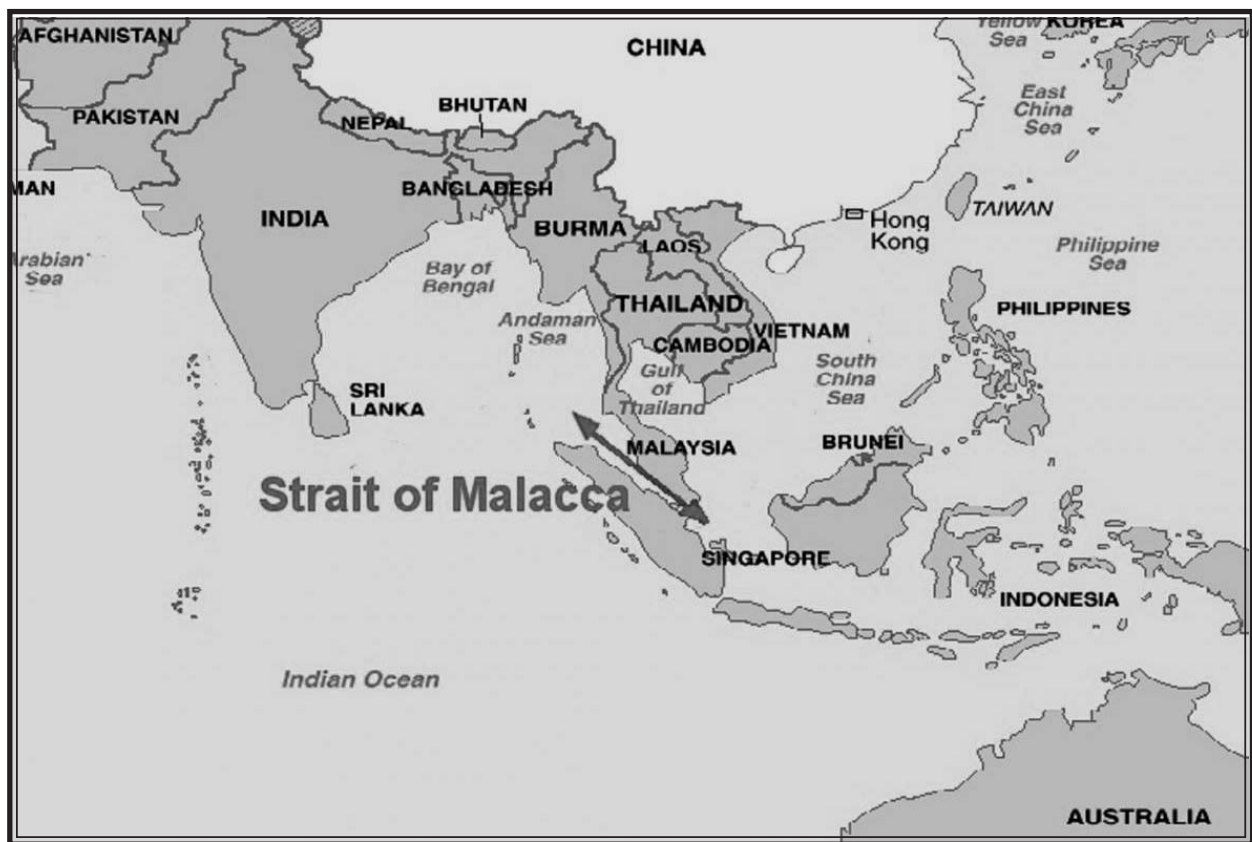




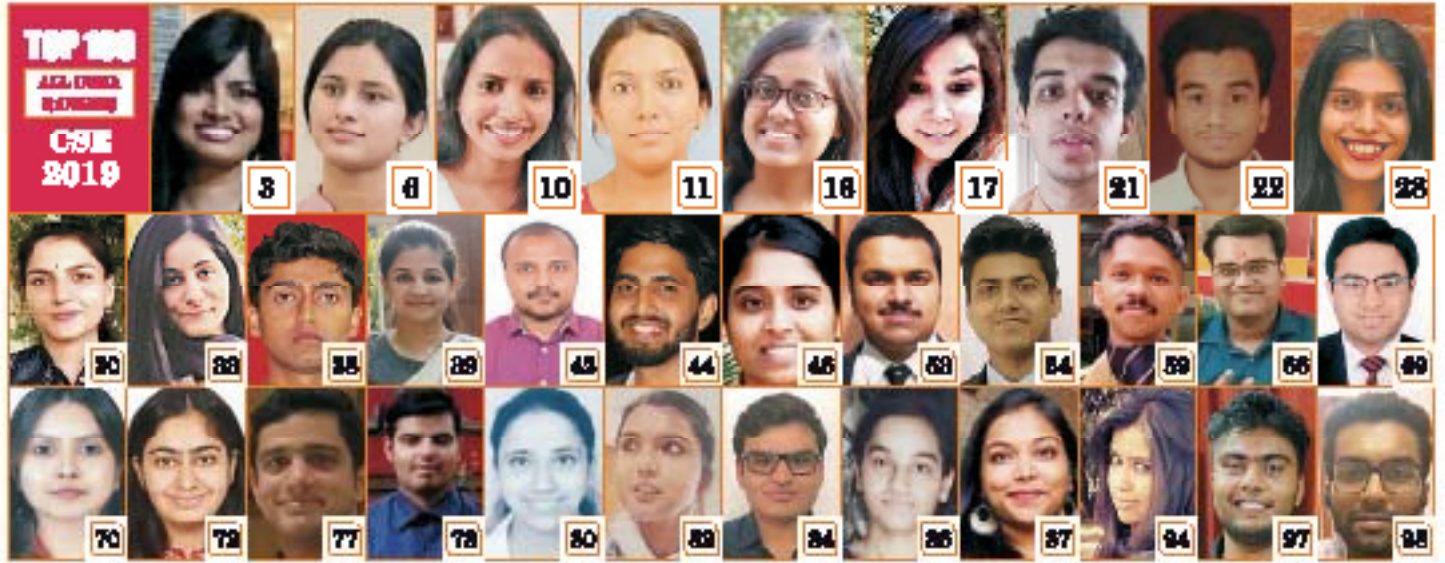
## Strait of Malacca

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- Strait of Malacca, waterway connecting the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) and the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean).
- The strait derived its name from the trading port of Melaka (formerly Malacca)—which was of importance in the 16th and 17th centuries—on the Malay coast.
- As the link between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, the Strait of Malacca is the shortest sea route between India and China and hence is one of the most heavily traveled shipping channels in the world.







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