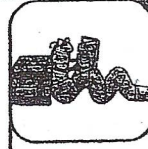


# Rain, Rain, Go Away

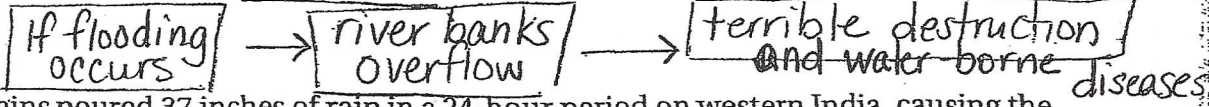
"50/50"

Monsoons are a mixed blessing for India. While farmers depend on the rain for their crops, and the huge amounts of water are used to generate electricity, the monsoons are often responsible for heavy floods. The monsoon season arrives in India each year in June and spreads heavy rain until September. If flooding occurs, rivers overflow their banks, leading to terrible destruction and water-borne disease.



## Word Definition

**monsoon:** a seasonal wind bringing heavy rainfall that can lead to flooding



In 2005, monsoon rains poured 37 inches of rain in a 24-hour period on western India, causing the airport to close, animals to drown, and power lines to fall. In August 2008, a dam in Nepal burst and flooded one of India's most heavily populated states. Houses and cattle were buried. People died and water-borne illnesses posed a serious threat while workers tried to rescue stranded citizens.



## Background Check

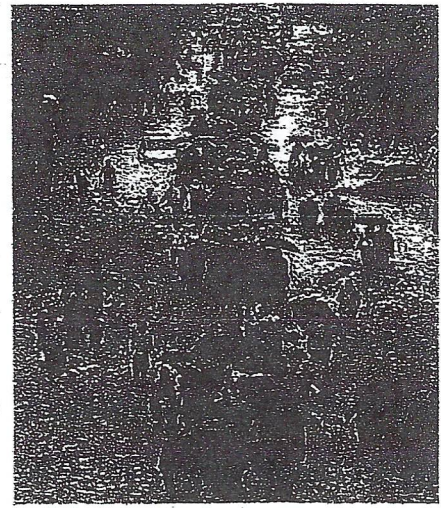
If monsoon flooding is not severe, farmers benefit as rivers overflow their banks. Nourishing silt and algae are left behind, providing fertile soil for next year's crops.

# 2,000 Years, 1,000 Floods

(yearly) (good)

Annual monsoon rains in China are beneficial to farmers, but also cause floods, usually every two to three years. In China, the monsoon season runs from March through August. Flooding from China's Huang He (Yellow) River has killed more people than flooding from any other river in the world. In 1887, nearly two million people died because of flooding from the Huang He, and in 1931, almost four million people died.

The Huang He River flows through China's major farming area and picks up the fertile yellow topsoil along its path. This silt continually builds up so that the river is higher than the surrounding plains. The Chinese have constructed dikes to manage the river. However, when the dikes fail and the river floods, homes and crops are buried and lives are lost. This river is known as "China's Sorrow".



Monsoon flooding  
Photo by sublimablog.com

The monsoon rains also swell the Yangtze River and its tributaries.

Over the years, loggers working upstream on the Yangtze have cut down trees that used to help contain flooding, and farmers downstream have drained wetlands that used to act as sponges during floods. These two actions multiply the effects of the storm water runoff. Because of this deforestation and wetlands loss, it now takes much less water to cause a flood.

## FLOODING IN

# INDIA & CHINA

"Water water everywhere, but not a drop to drink..."

		Causes	Effects
INDIA	The "Sacred River" in India (that is SUPER polluted) is called the Ganges River	monsoon weather patterns (summer months) (happens each year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• muddy waters</li> <li>• effects travel</li> <li>• helps farmland/harms farmland</li> <li>• fishing is harder</li> <li>• damaging property</li> <li>• mud slides</li> </ul>
CHINA	The river in China that is named for the silt that its flood waters bring is called the Huang He (Yellow River)	glaciers melt on the Tibetan Plateau (happens each year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fertile silt (that is yellow) is good for farming</li> <li>• damage property</li> <li>• kills people</li> </ul>