## The Greatest Places World GEOGRAPHY 8

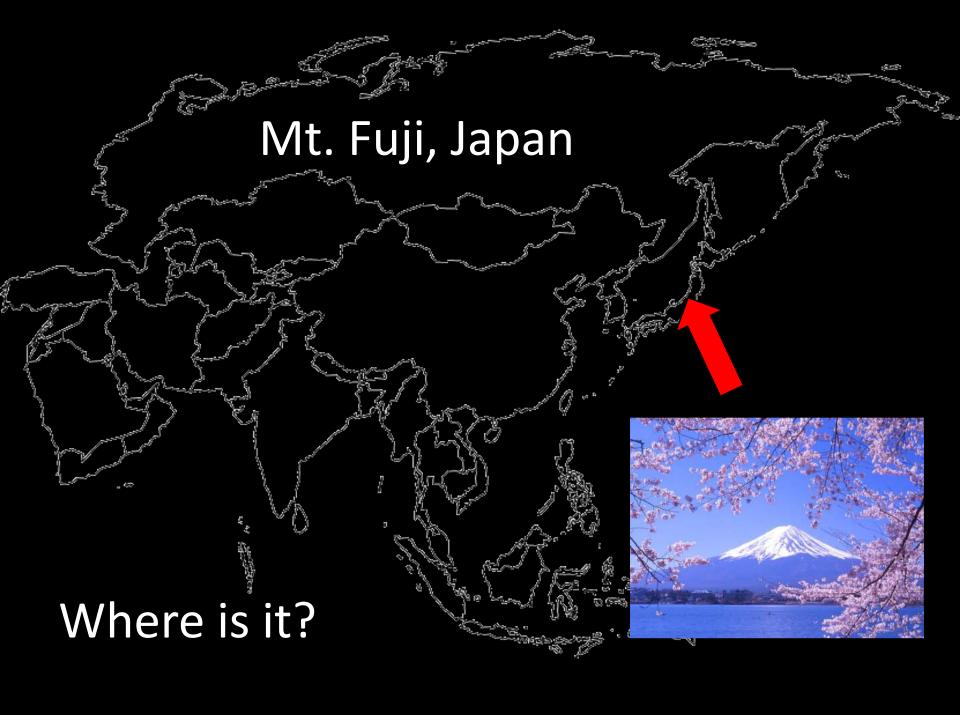




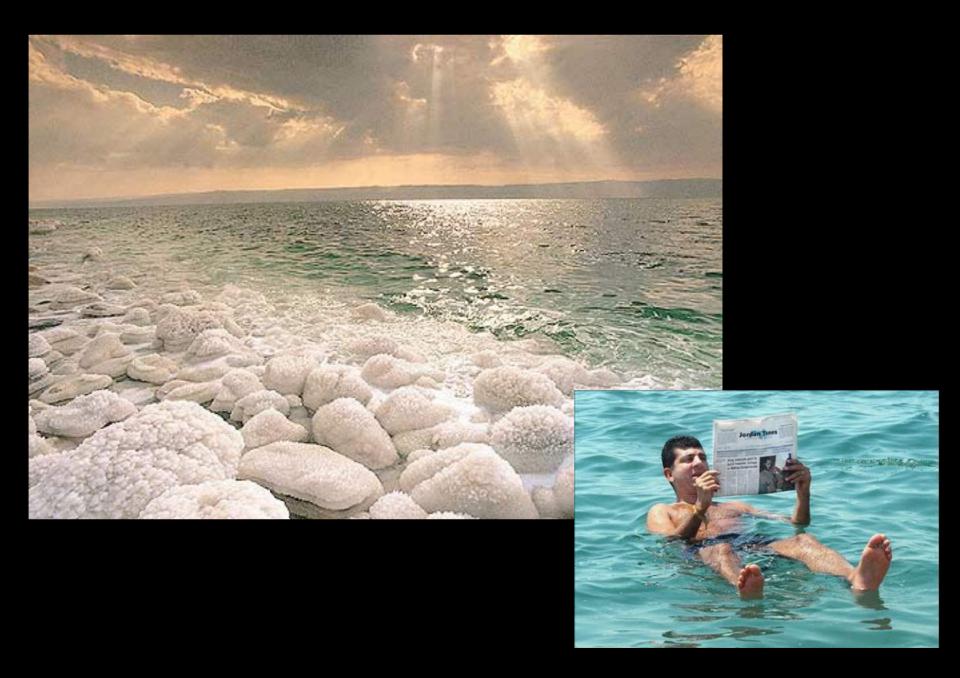
Mt. Fuji

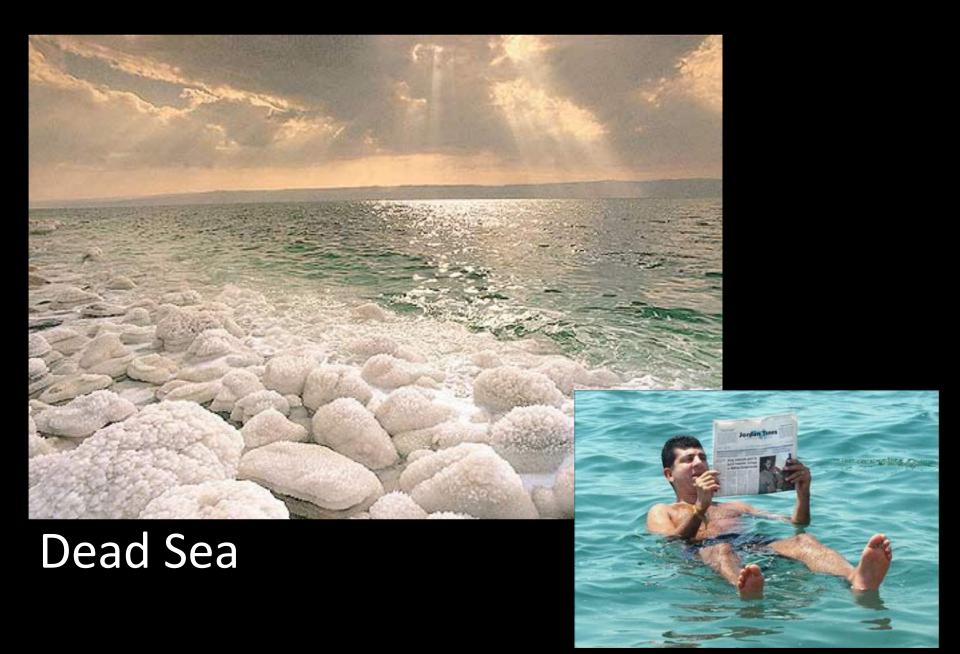


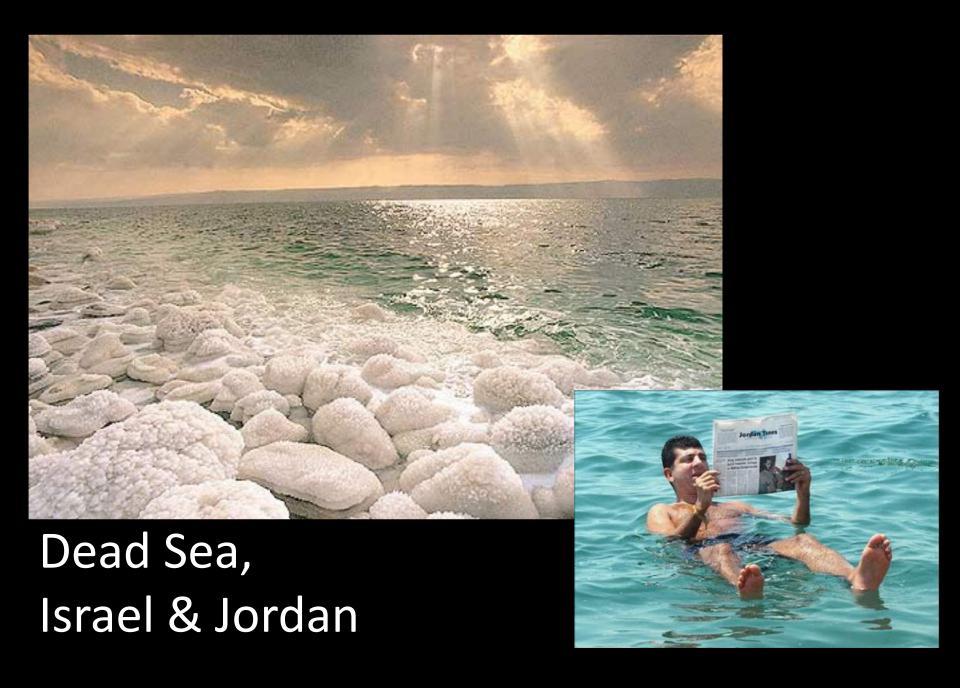
Mt. Fuji, Japan



The 12,388 foot Mt. Fuji was first climbed in the 663 AD by a monk. The name of this monk is not known and today he is referred to as "anonymous monk"...the first to summit Fuji!

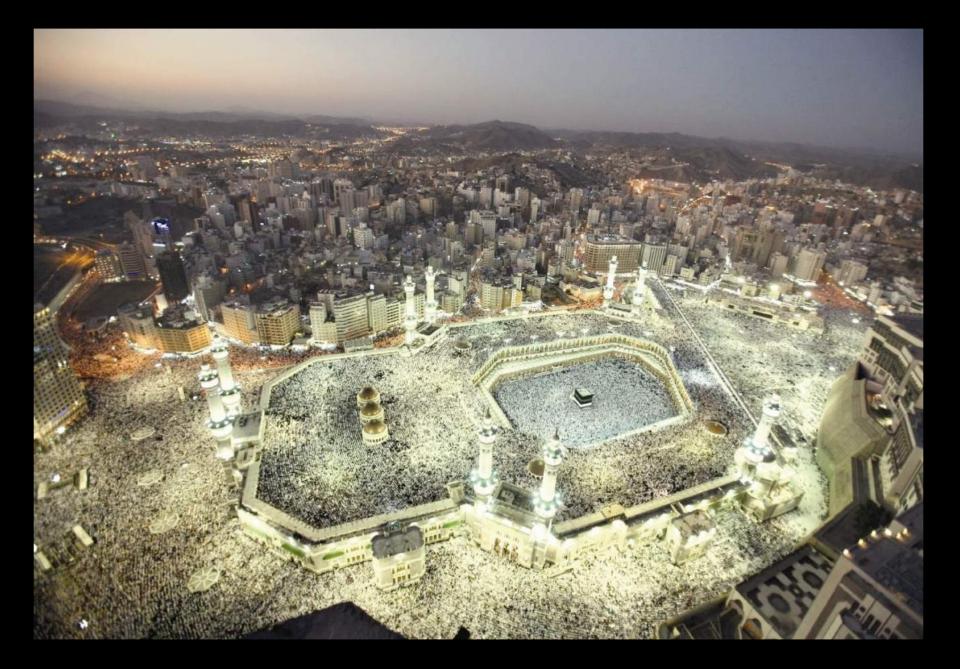








Since you are lighter (less dense) than water, the water pushes you up enough for you to float. The Dead Sea has a LOT of salt in it. Salt water is heavier (denser) than regular water. People can float in regular water, but since salt water is even denser, it is even easier to float in the Dead Sea!





Mecca



Mecca, Saudi Arabia



- When Muslims pray 5 times a day FACING Mecca...
- 1) After first light and before sunrise (Fajr)
- 2) Between the sun reaching its height and midafternoon (Dhuhr)
- 3) Between mid-afternoon and sunset (Asr)
- 4) After the sun has finished setting (Maghrib)
- 5) In the dark of the night (Isha)

FYI – Mecca, spelled Makkah by the Muslim world, is THE most holy site on earth to Muslims & is where followers takes a pilgrimage (journey) to during their lifetime.





Burj Khalifa



Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



The Burj Khalifa is 2,217 feet tall, making it the tallest building on earth by OVER 1,000 feet...it is almost TWICE as tall as the Empire State Building in NY.





Angkor Wat



Angkor Wat, Cambodia



The temples of Angkor were originally dedicated to the Hindu faith, but it was converted to a Buddhist temple in 1181 by the greatest Angkorian king, Jayavarman VII.

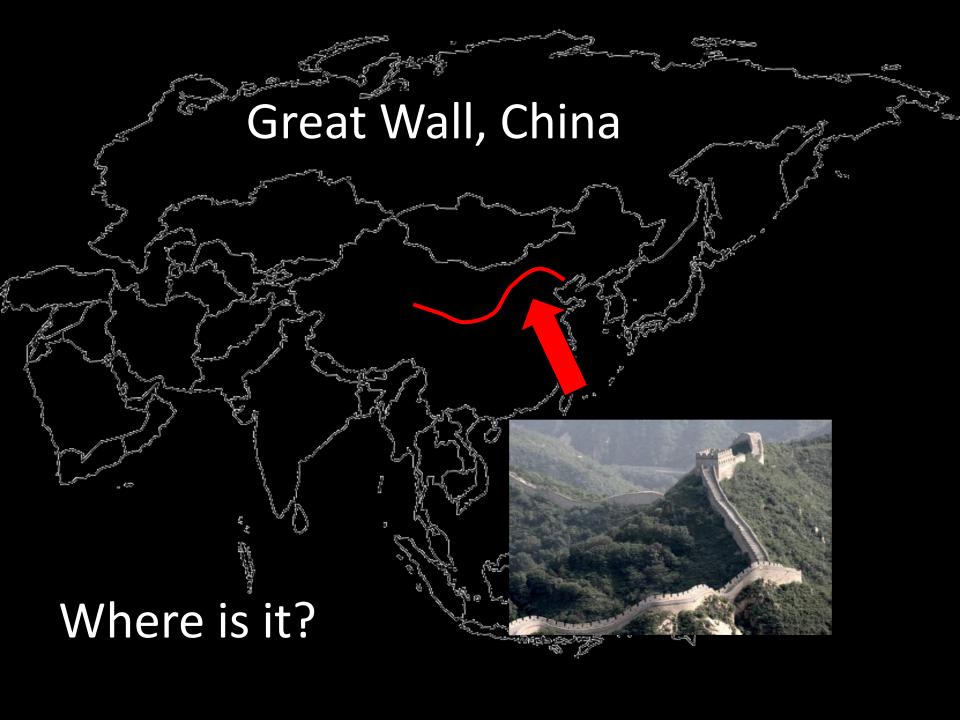




**Great Wall** 



Great Wall, China



Contrary to popular belief the Great Wall of China IS NOT visible from space!





Potala Palace



Potala Palace, Lhasa, Tibet, China



The Potala is the HIGHEST palace on earth at 11,482 feet above sea-level...it is often a stopping place for climbers on the way to Mt. Everest.





Mt. Everest



Mt. Everest, Nepal & China



Mt. Everest is highest place on planet earth...29,029 ft. It was first summited by Sir Edmond Hillary and Tenzig Norgay on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1953.

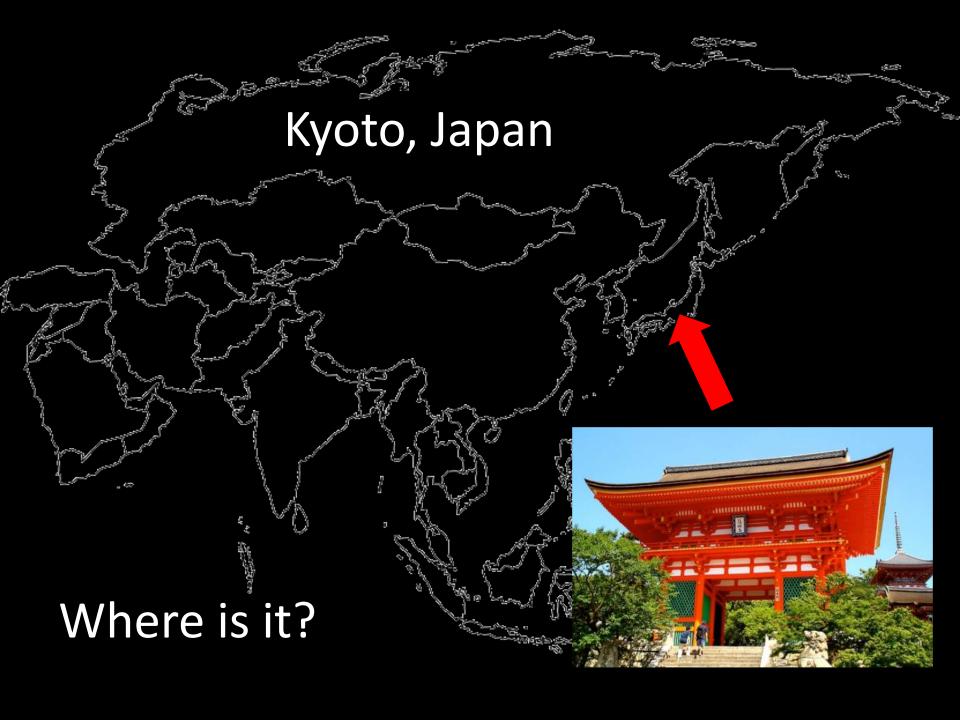




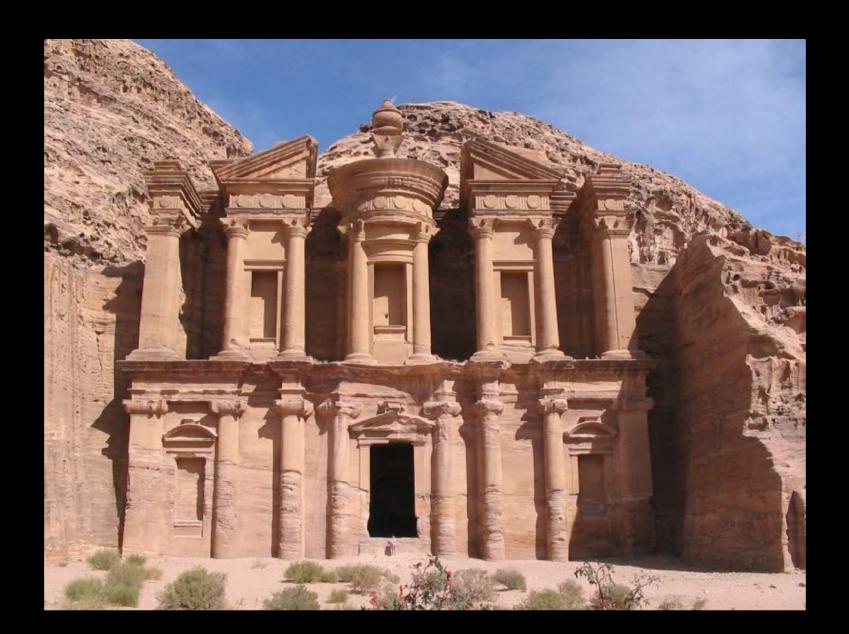
Kyoto

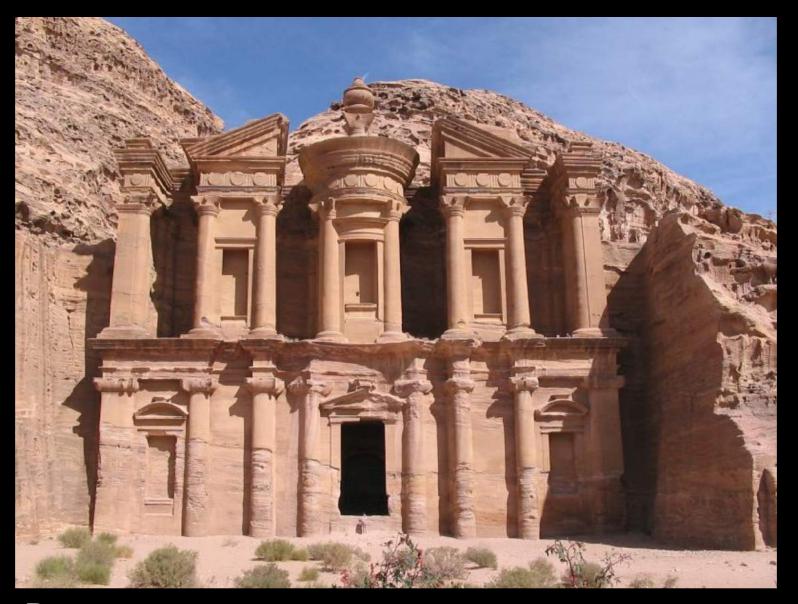


Kyoto, Japan

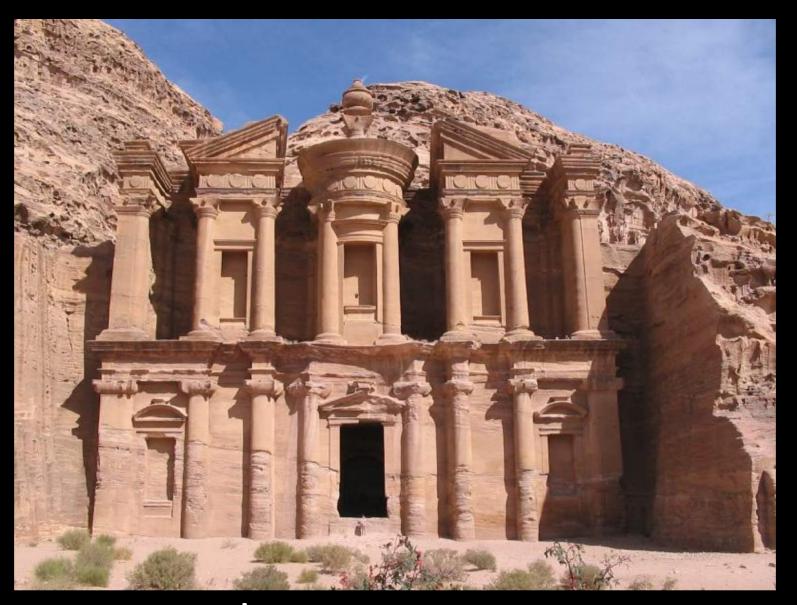


For 1,100 years Kyoto was the home of the Japanese Emperor, the center of Japanese civilization, and the Capital of Japan...transfer to Tokyo took place in 1868. (Kyoto is also the home city to Nintendo, unfortunately I think 8<sup>th</sup> graders will remember this fact and not the capital fact..sad)





Petra



Petra, Jordan



Petra means "rock" in Greek, which makes perfect sense because the city was craved out of sandstone.





**Grand Palace** 



Grand Palace, Bangkok, Thailand





In order to Visit Thailand's most sacred Buddhist temple, the Grand Palace, you must follow a strict dress code...Men must wear long pants, shirts with sleeves, and NO Bare Feet & Women must be similarly modestly dressed. FYI – if you show up improperly dressed there is a booth near entrance that can provide you proper clothing!





Dome of the Rock



Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, Israel

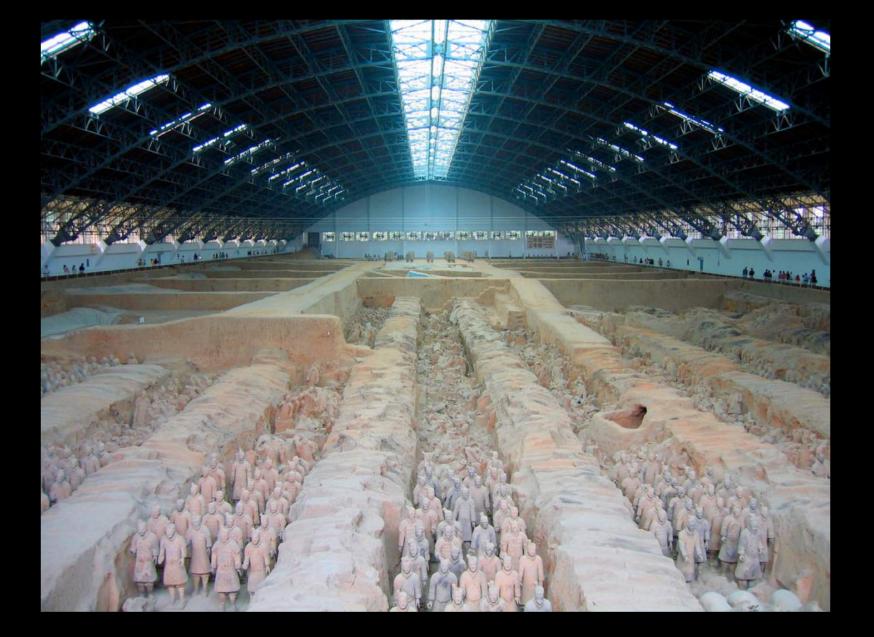


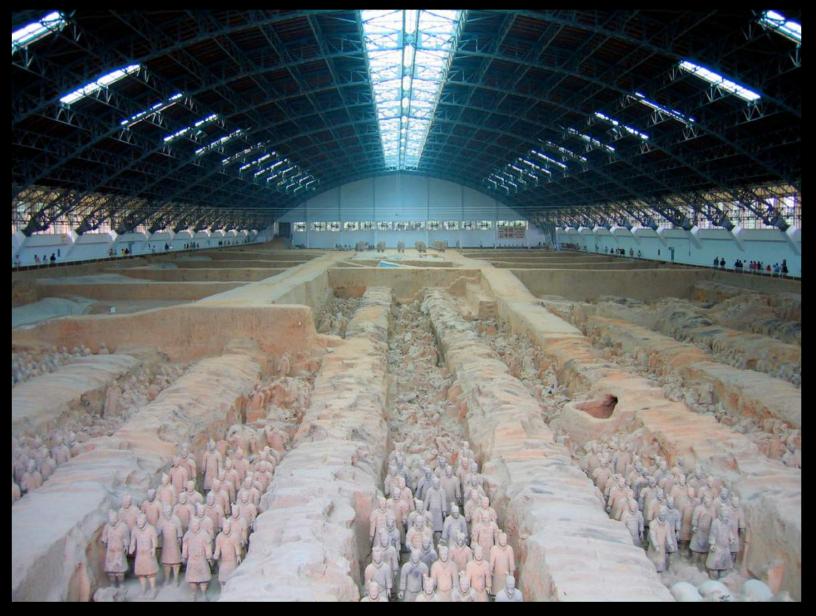
According to the followers of Islam, the Dome of the Rock marks the spot where Mohammad ascended to Heaven to pray with Abraham, Moses & Jesus...when he returned he called all who would believe and join him to become Muslim.

According to followers of Judaism, the stone is the site where Abraham sacrificed his son Isaac.

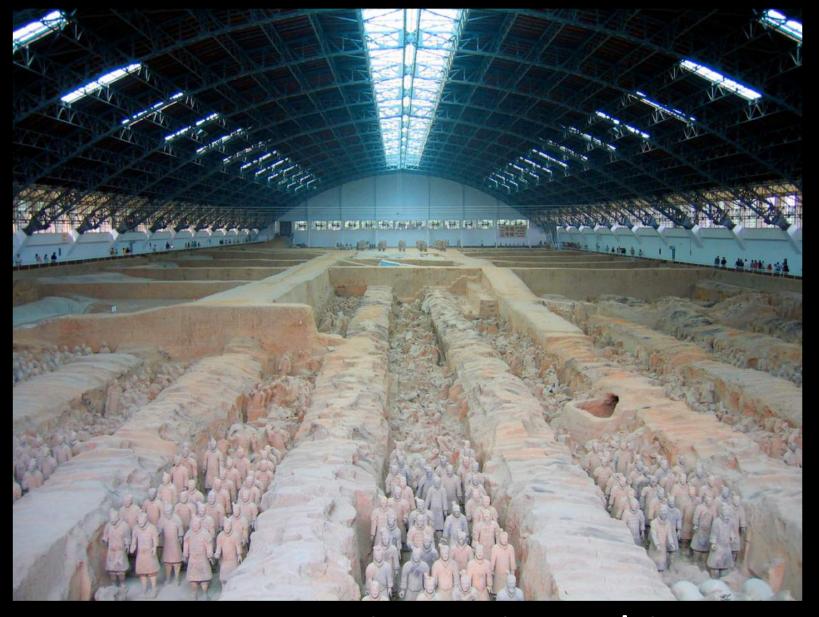
Christians believe it is the spot where Constantine's mother built a church called the Church of St. Cyrus & St. John.

In other words...it is a VERY special site for 3 major world religions. FYI – it is also know as the Temple Mount





Terracotta Warriors



Terracotta Warriors, Xian, China



Over 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots, & 600 horses make up the collection of terracotta sculptures built to accompany the 1st Emperor of China in the "after life". The Terracotta Army (funeral art) was built around 210 BC & was not discovered until 1974...was literally found by a couple of farmers digging in their field!





Wailing Wall



Wailing Wall, Jerusalem, Israel



Also known as the Western Wall, the Wailing Wall is the last remnant of King Solomon's Temple, which was home to the "Ark of the Covenant"...this is the most holy place to the Jewish people due to the Muslim control of the Dome of the Rock.

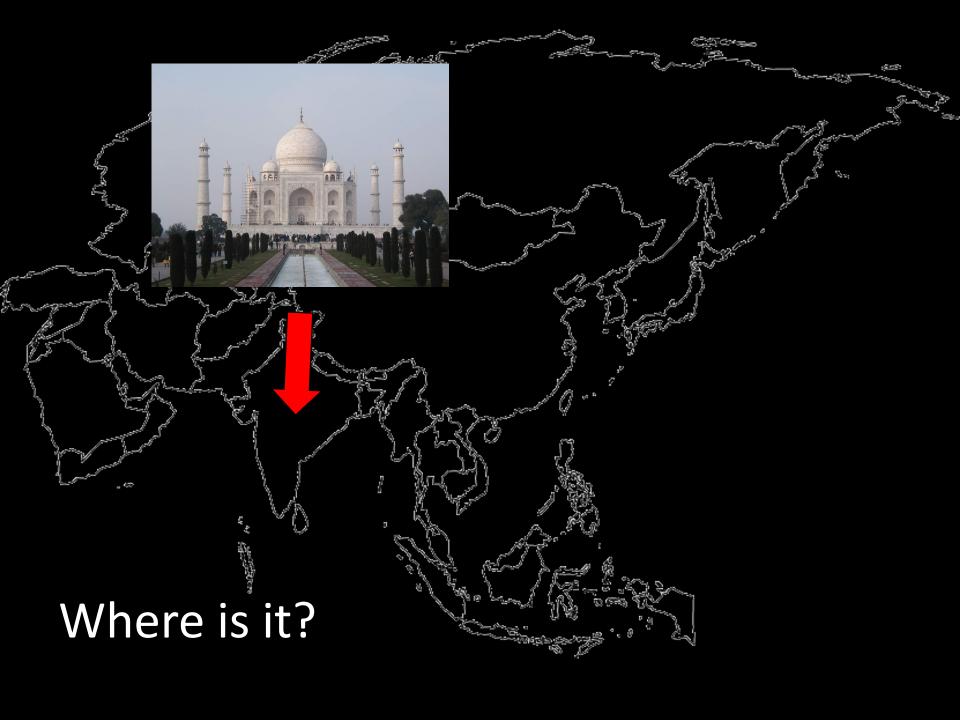




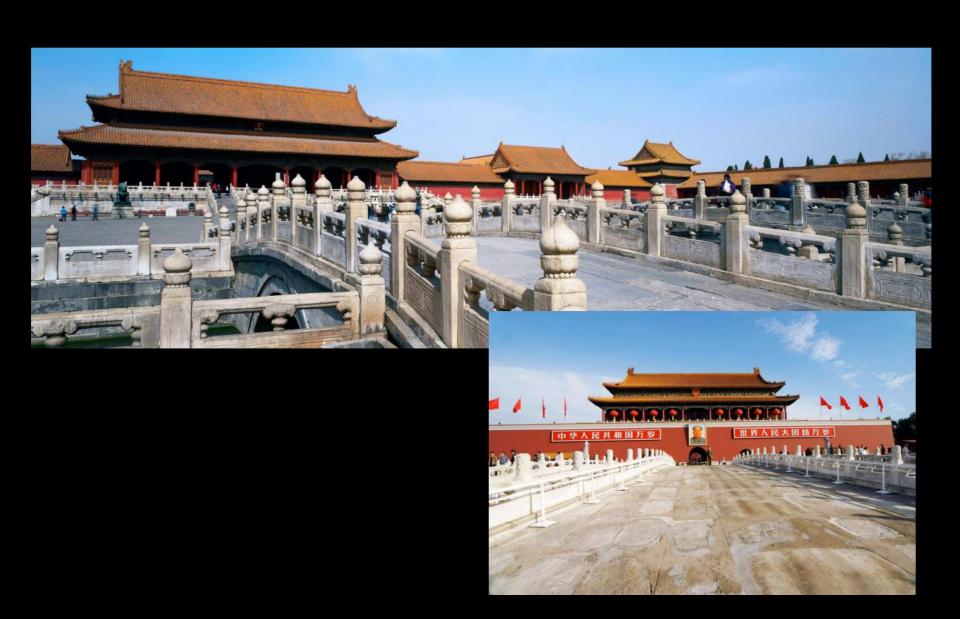
Taj Mahal

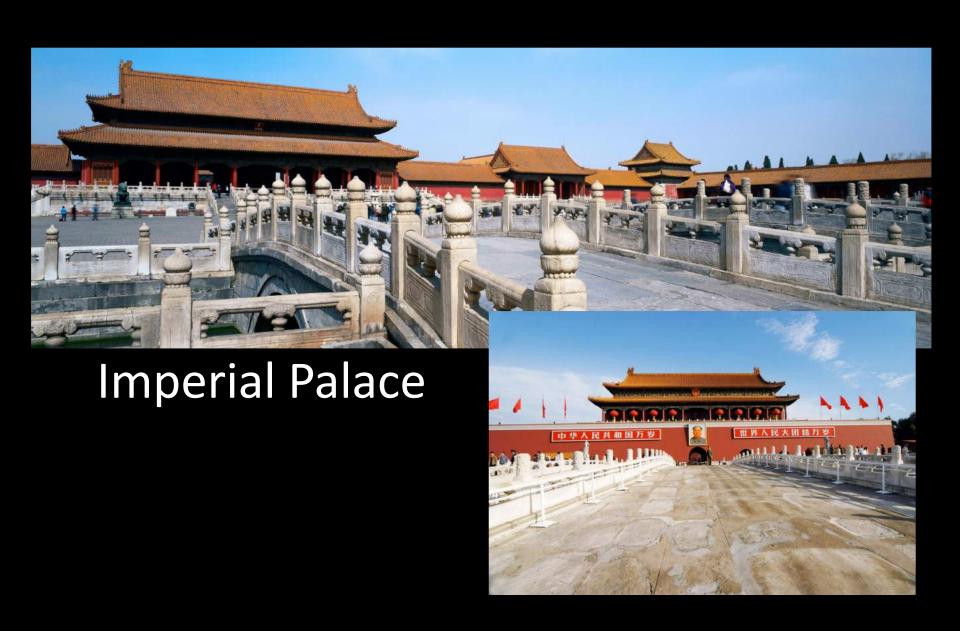


Taj Mahal, Agra, India



The Taj Mahal is hailed in popular culture as the "Epitome of Love & Beauty" due to the fact that it was built as a memorial to show the love of an Emperor for his wife who passed away. Taj construction started in 1632 & was finished 16 years later.









The Imperial Palace is the "crown jewel" of the Forbidden City...generally speaking it was the center of control for a variety of Dynasties & emperors throughout history starting around 1400 AD.

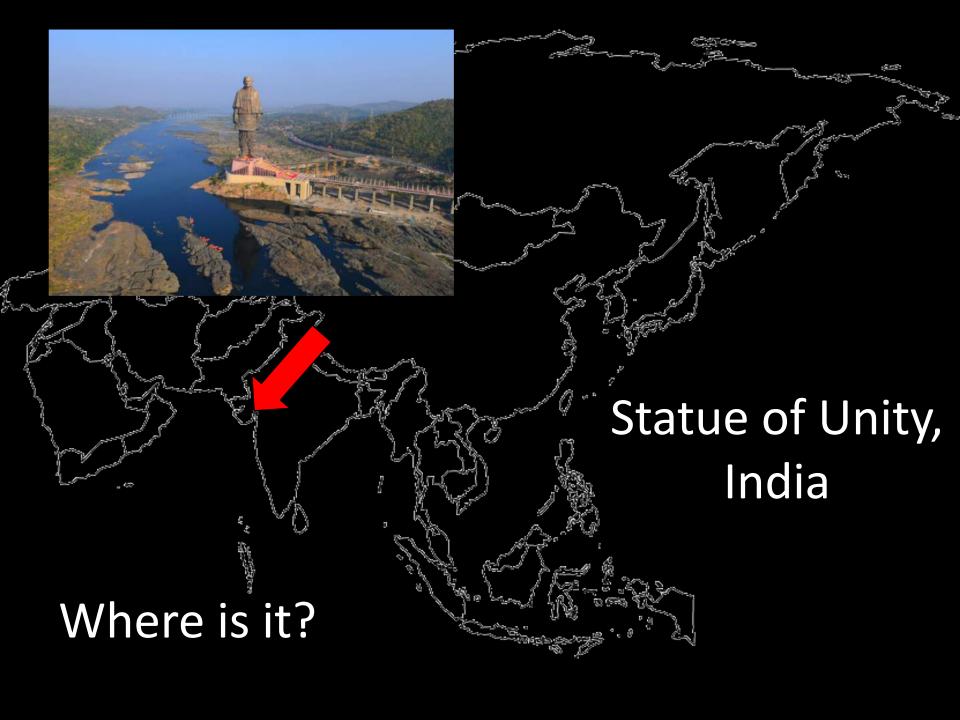


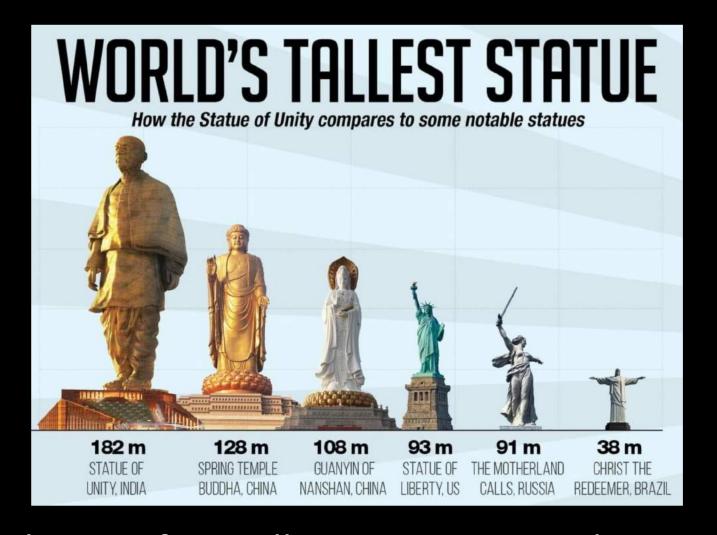


Statue of Unity



Statue of Unity, India





The 600-foot-tall Unity Statue is a bronze duplicate of India's first deputy prime minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel