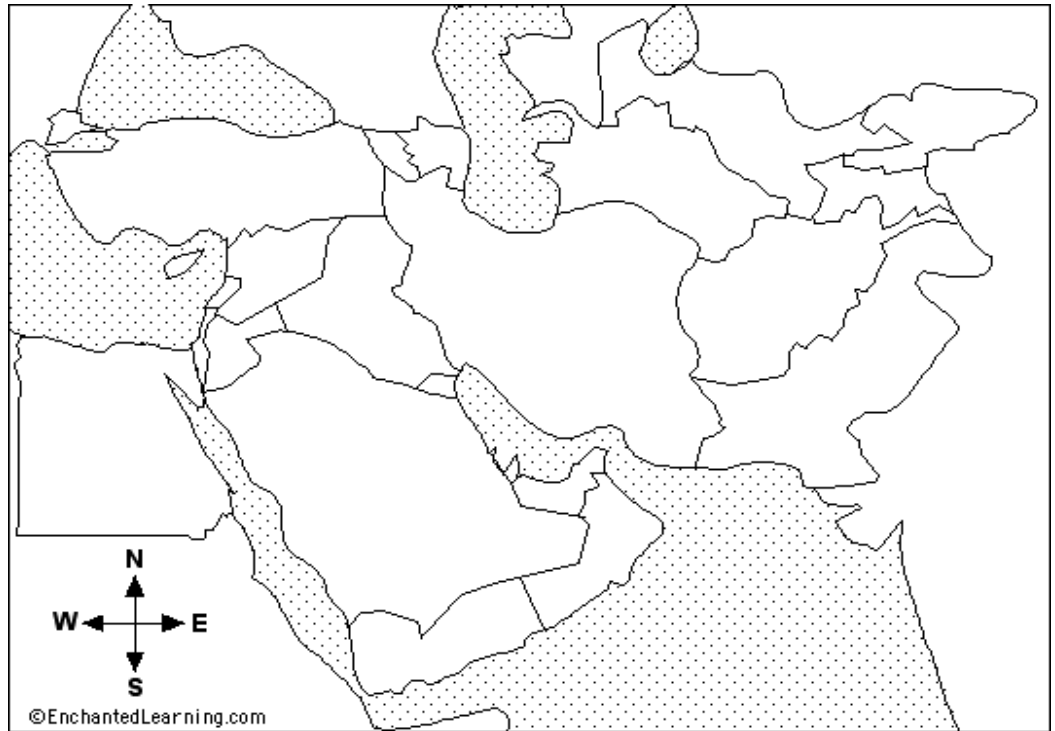


Southwest Asia (Middle East) Study Guide

Use the map to label the following physical features and countries:

- Euphrates River
- Jordan River
- Tigris River
- Suez Canal
- Persian Gulf
- Strait of Hormuz
- Arabian Sea
- Red Sea
- Gaza Strip
- Afghanistan
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Saudi Arabia
- Turkey




1. Describe the climate of Southwest Asia.
Hot and Dry
2. How do deserts in the Middle East affect the population density of a country?
Less people live in the desert because of the harsh conditions
3. Name the bodies of water connected to the Strait of Hormuz. **Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea**
4. Laws that say who can use the water in a region are called **“Water Rights”**
5. What countries are fighting over water rights in the Middle East?
 - a. **Turkey, Iraq, and Syria: Tigris and Euphrates**
 - b. **Jordan, Syria, and Israel: Jordan River**
6. Define Desalination. What country does desalination affect mostly? **Process of removing salt from water, Saudi Arabia**
7. List the causes and effects of water pollution in the Middle East.
 - a. **Oil: polluted water**
 - b. **Chemicals and fertilizers from farmers: polluted water, can cause salt in soil making soil unfit to farm**
 - c. **Growth of towns, population, factories: polluted water**



8. How has the building of dams created problems for countries sharing rivers in Southwest Asia?
 The building of dams has created problems for countries sharing the same river because the dams block the natural flow of the river, forcing the water to stay in a certain territory and not giving the countries that follow downstream the water that they should be receiving.
9. Which four countries are the most oil-rich in the Southwestern Asia (Middle East) region?
 1. Iran 2. Iraq
 3. Kuwait 4. Saudi Arabia
10. How has the discovery of oil in the Middle East affected economic development?
 Those countries with oil reserves are much richer than those countries that have not found oil in their territory which means a higher GDP for the country and a higher standard of living for its citizens
11. Ethnic Groups share many common characteristics such as language, similar physical features, customs, and traditions.
12. Religious Groups share a common belief system, usually in a supernatural being or force.

Complete the chart below:

ARAB	Country/Region: <i>Middle East and North Africa</i> Religion: <i>Islam</i> Language: <i>Arabic</i>
PERSIANS	Country: <i>Iran</i> Religion: <i>Islam (Shia)</i> Language: <i>Farsi</i>
KURDS	Countries: <i>Syria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq</i> Religion: <i>Islam (Sunni)</i> Language: <i>Kurdish</i>

Fill in the boxes with the correct information for each religion.

Religion	Building of Worship	Holy Text	Holy Days/ Cities	Origin	Major Beliefs
Judaism 	Synagogue Often on Saturdays	Torah (Old Testament)	Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, Hanukkah Jerusalem	Began 3700 years ago in what is now Iraq. Abraham considered father of the Jewish people	Worship One God Descendants of Abraham Jews are the chosen people of God 10 Commandments Moses is an important prophet

<u>Islam</u> 	Mosque Often on Fridays	Quran Parts of the Old Testament and parts of New Testament	Holy month of Ramadan is important holiday for Muslims Cities of Jerusalem and Mecca are holy places.	Began in 7 th Century AD. What is now Saudi Arabia by the prophet Muhammad	Worship one God. The 5 Pillars of faith and the 10 Commandments are a guide to ethical behavior Pray 5 times a day facing Mecca Take pilgrimage to Mecca Jesus, Moses and Abraham
<u>Christianity</u> 	Church Often on Sundays	Bible Old and New Testaments	Easter and Christmas City of Jerusalem is Holy place	Began in first century of Middle East Actually began as a sect of Judaism	Worship one god Anyone who believes in Jesus and teachings will have eternal life in Heaven 10 Commandments Moses and Abraham

13. What does monotheistic mean? **Belief in one god**
14. Name three monotheistic religions. **Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**
15. What caused the division between the Sunni and Shia Muslims? **The sides disagreed on who should lead Islam after Muhammad's death**
16. What is the dominant (most common) religion in the Middle East? **Islam**

Good Luck on your test! Study, study, study!!