

# Impact of Location, Climate, Physical Characteristics, Distribution of Natural Resources, and Population Distribution on SW Asia (Middle East)



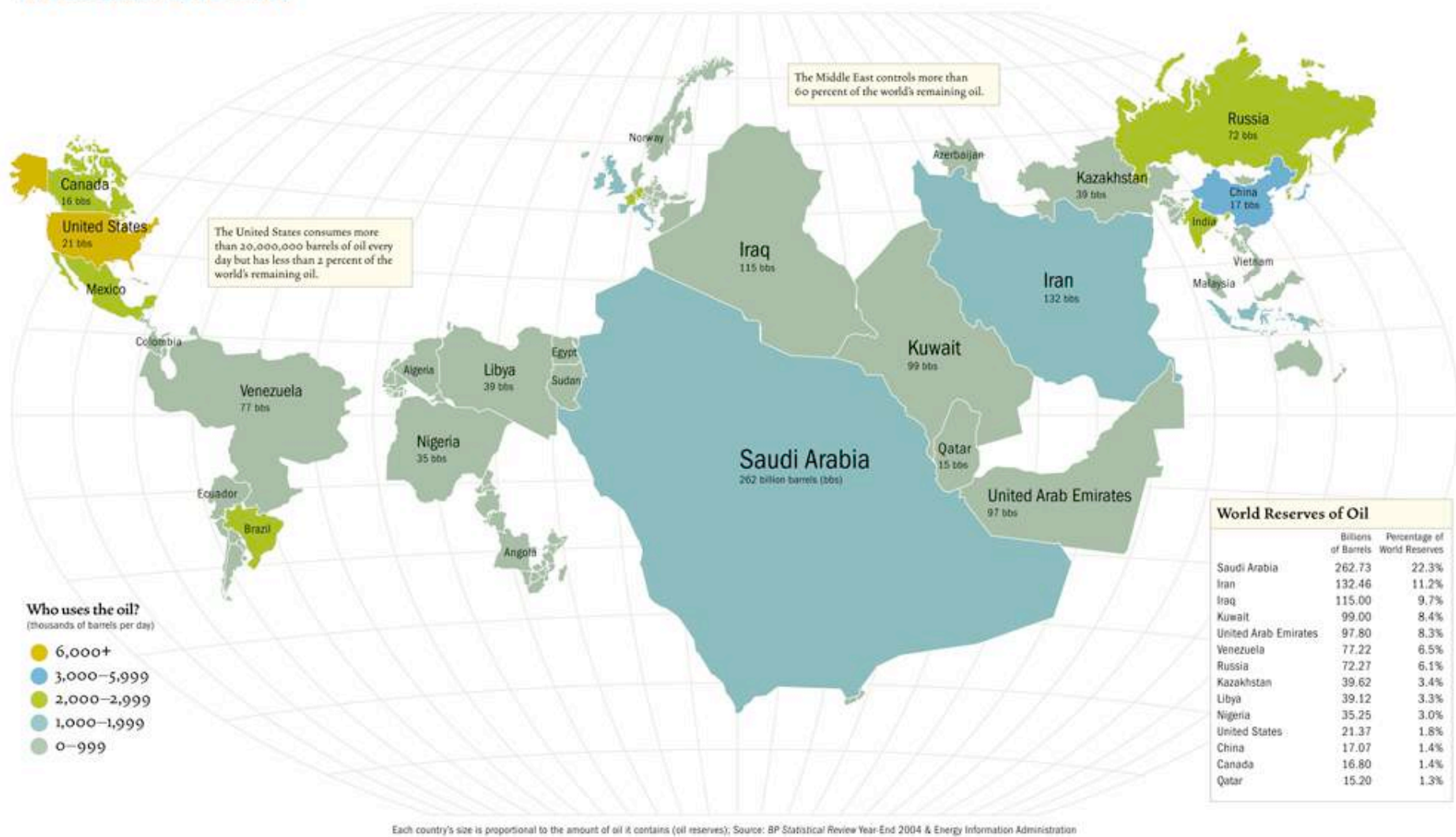
# Vocabulary

- **OPEC** – Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
- **Bedouins**: desert nomad
- **Nomad**: person who travels from place to place looking for food and water, often by camel
- **Subsistence agriculture**: growing small amounts of crops for personal use
- **Commercial agriculture**: growing large amounts of food to sell to industries
- **Hydroelectric power**: electricity generated by moving water
- **Qanat**: tunnel dug to carry water from hill to farm field

# Standard and E.Q.

- **SS7G7a.** Explain how the distribution of oil has affected the development of Southwest Asia (Middle East).
- **E.Q.: How has the distribution of oil affected the development of the Middle East?**

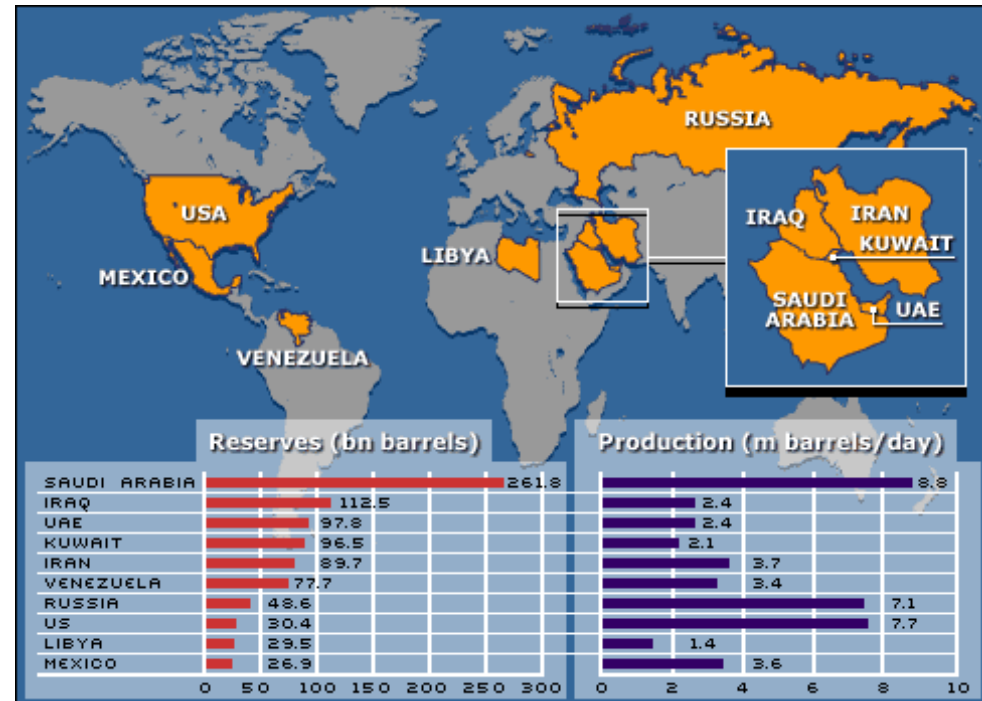
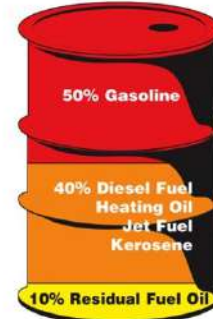
# Who has the oil?



# Middle East Natural Resources

- 2 of the most important resources (needed for much of the world's economy):
- Oil
- Natural gas
- Over  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the world's known oil reserves are in this area.
- Used to be controlled by Europe & U.S.

Typical U.S. Refinery Yield from a Barrel of Crude Oil

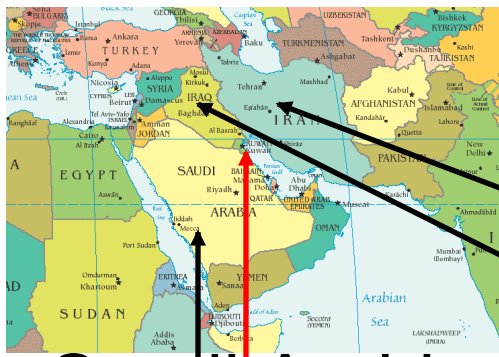


# OPEC

- Oil/gas fields are now owned by the countries who have the oil.
- 1960s – formed confederation called Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- Purpose: to have more control over the price of oil on the world market
- OPEC has had embargos in the past to get political & economic agreements from other countries
- Oil sales have made some Middle East countries very rich.

OPEC





# Main Players

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – Then and Now

- Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, and Kuwait – have most oil reserves in the Middle East.
- They have had tremendous economic growth in the last 50 years and have improved their standards of living.
- This has caused conflicts with other Middle Eastern countries who have less oil and less money.





Dubai

# Haves vs. Have Nots



Kabul, Afghanistan



Yemen





# How OPEC Affects Us

- Americans drive three trillion miles a year, equal to 820 trips between Pluto and the sun.
- The United States uses 178 million gallons of gasoline a day.
- A spike in gas prices affects everything from the cost of bread to the amount of taxes available for community needs.
- A sharp rise or fall can have a huge impact on the world's economy.

- Gas prices are largely controlled by OPEC.
- The organization's 12 countries control 40% of the world's crude oil supply.
- This puts it in the unique position of having a lot of influence on the price of gas around the world.

- OPEC controls gas prices by either increasing or decreasing the amount of oil available.
- If the amount available goes down, the prices go up.
- This is the law of supply and demand.

- The purpose of OPEC is to try preventing any sudden, extreme changes in gas prices.
- If one country is not producing as much oil as normal, they have other countries pick up the slack to stabilize the market.
- They are responsible for keeping the gas prices from falling too low, normally trying to avoid prices of below \$50 US Dollars a barrel.

- This increase or decrease in supply can affect the cost of oil in indirect ways as well.
- If the amount of oil is decreased, the price of crude oil increases, but not only due to the amount of oil available.
- Gas production companies may get nervous over a decrease in crude oil coming from these countries.
- To protect their profits from further decreases, they may raise gas prices even more.
- Just the threat of decreases in oil production can raise gas prices.



- The cost of crude oil controls more than just the price of gasoline; heating costs are also affected.
- Higher gas prices also influence the cost of travel.
- If gas prices are high, car buyers are more likely to buy smaller, more gas efficient vehicles.
- Fewer families can afford to travel, decreasing the money brought into the economy by tourism.

# Ticket Out The Door Questions

1. What are the 2 most valuable natural resources in Southwest Asia?

- A. water and cotton
- B. phosphates and oil
- C. oil and natural gas
- D. sulfur and natural gas

2. How much of the world's oil supply is found in Southwest Asia?

A. 25%

B. 40%

C. 50%

D. 75%

3. How has the discovery of oil in some SW Asian countries affected the economic development of this area?

A. Those with oil need less water than the other countries around them.

B. Having oil has made very little difference in the economy of this region.

C. The discovery of oil has meant that no other industries have developed in this region.

D. Those countries with oil reserves are much richer than those countries that have not found oil in their territory.

4. Which countries are the most oil-rich in the SW Asian region?

A. Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Israel

B. Iraq, Kuwait, Israel, Lebanon

C. Jordan, Israel, Syria, Lebanon

D. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia



5. Why does OPEC play a powerful role in the world economy today?

A. OPEC controls the oil in the world market.

B. This organization is part of the United Nations.

C. OPEC builds dams along rivers shared by several countries.

D. OPEC membership includes many oil companies owned by firms in the U.S.

# Standard and E.Q.

- **SS7G7b.** Describe how the deserts and rivers of Southwest Asia (Middle East) have affected the population in terms of where people live, the type of work they do, and how they travel.

# Rivers in the Middle East

- 3 major river systems

- Euphrates River

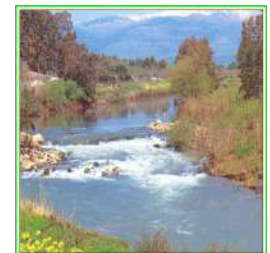
- runs through Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Kuwait

- Tigris River

- runs through Turkey, Iraq, and Kuwait

- Jordan River

- part of the border of Syria, Jordan, the West Bank, and Israel



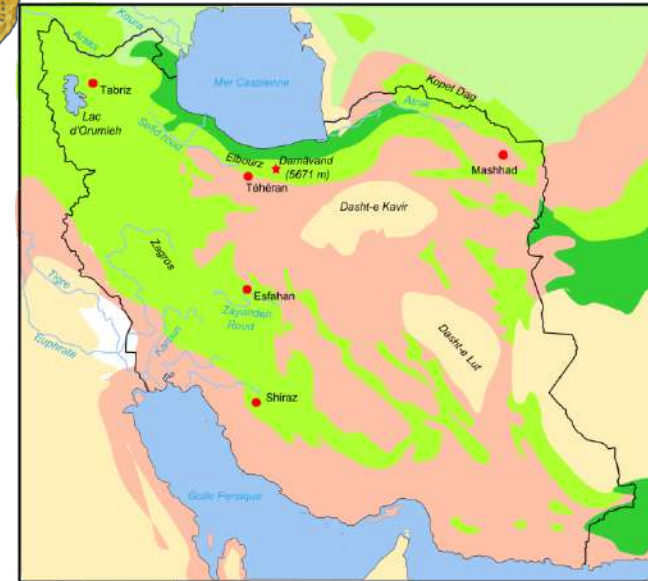
# Tigris, Euphrates, and Jordan Rivers

- Water for drinking
- Water for irrigation
- Water for transportation and trade
- Boundaries between nations
- Major cities are located on or near these rivers – centers of industry (jobs)



## A photograph showing two camels standing in a desert landscape. A woman in a blue dress is standing to the right of the camels. The background features rolling hills and a clear blue sky.

- [illegible]





# Importance of Deserts

- Deserts serve as a natural barrier against invasion.
- Deserts have also led to a way of life developed around surviving the harsh conditions
- People (**Bedouins** – desert nomads) have managed to live in the desert in tent camps and survive as sheep and camel herders.
  - They trade animals and handmade goods with those who live in towns on the desert's edge.



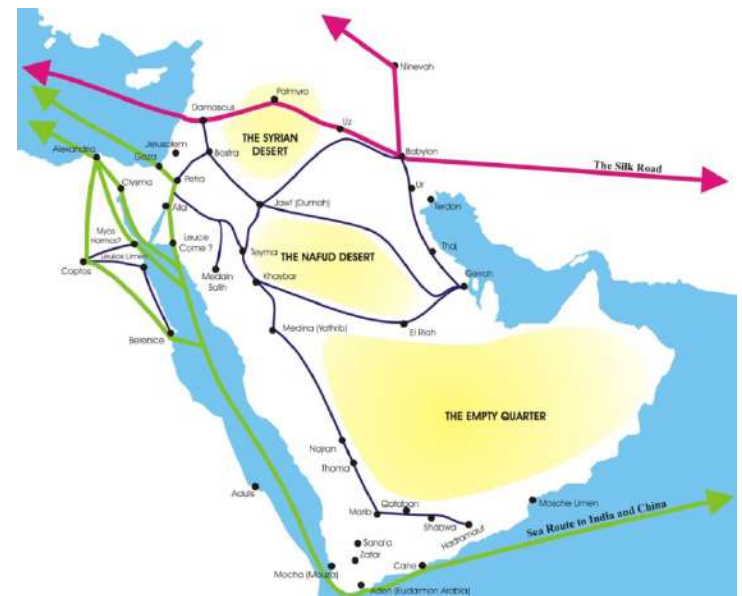
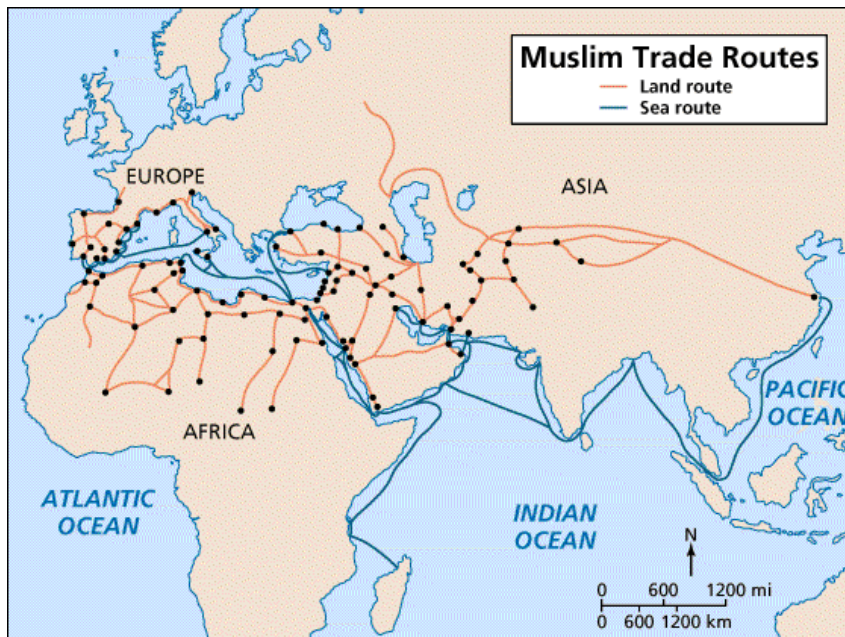
# Middle East Climate

- Usually very hot and dry
- Mountain ranges block moisture coming from the oceans and seas nearby; most of the interior is desert ( it can reach 140° F in the desert!)
- Coastal areas and river areas have enough water to support agriculture and large towns/cities



# Location

- SW Asia is between 3 major continents: Europe, Africa, Asia
- Played a major role in trade among continents through the centuries





- Ships loaded with goods (& plague in the 1300s...) came from Asia to the Middle East.
- Goods traveled from there by caravan to the Mediterranean and Red Seas.



- Today the Suez Canal in Egypt links the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.
- Goods can travel from Asia to Europe by ship without using camel caravans.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNCWpFmCpIY>

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# Farming is Difficult

- Many people in the ME practice **subsistence agriculture** (growing small amounts of crops to take care of local needs).
- Because the climate is hot and dry, farmers must irrigate their fields.
- There is some **commercial agriculture** (growing crops for industrial markets) , but it is limited by lack of water.

# What is this?

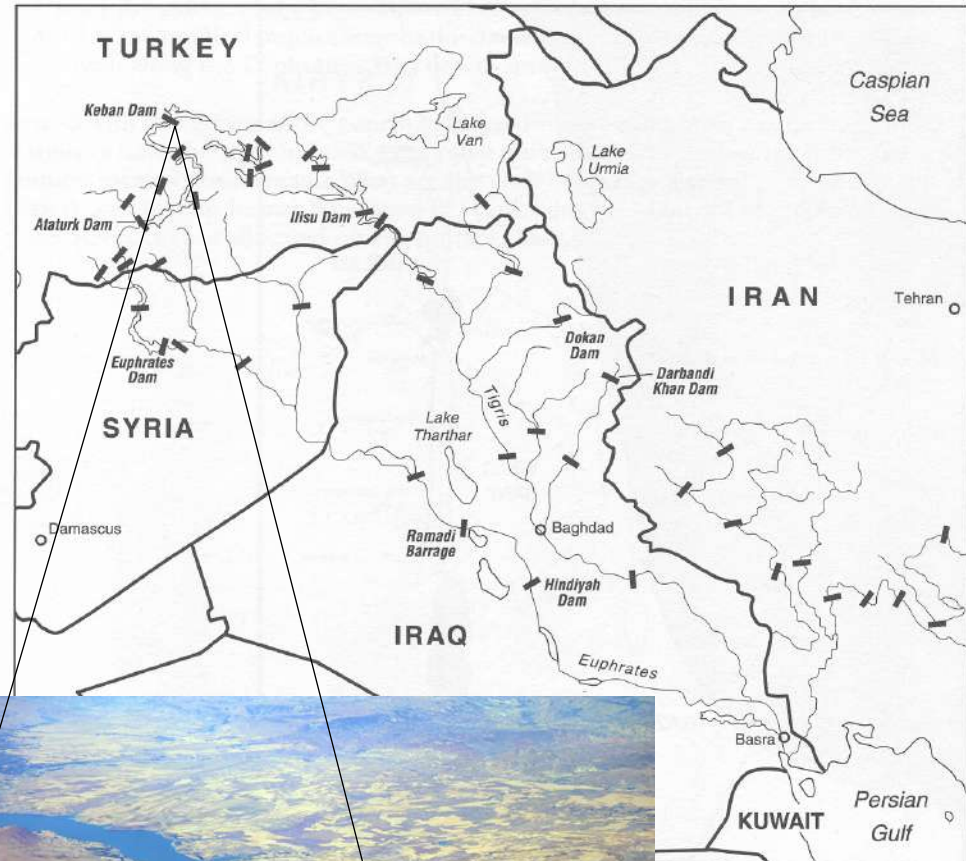


- **Water** is a critical resource as a source of life and a route for trade.
- The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers have been a source of many political conflicts because they are shared by more than one country.

# Conflict

- Several countries have built dams across their portions of the rivers to create lakes for irrigation and to generate hydroelectric power.
- Each dam cuts down on water available to countries downstream.

MAP OF TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVER VALLEYS



# Problem: No farming or animal herding can happen without adequate water.

- Irrigation:

- Water wheels

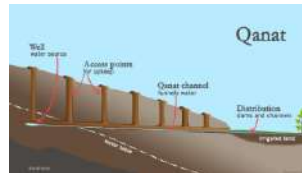


- Pumps powered by animals or electricity



- Wells

- Qanats (underground tunnels that bring water to the fields from hills)

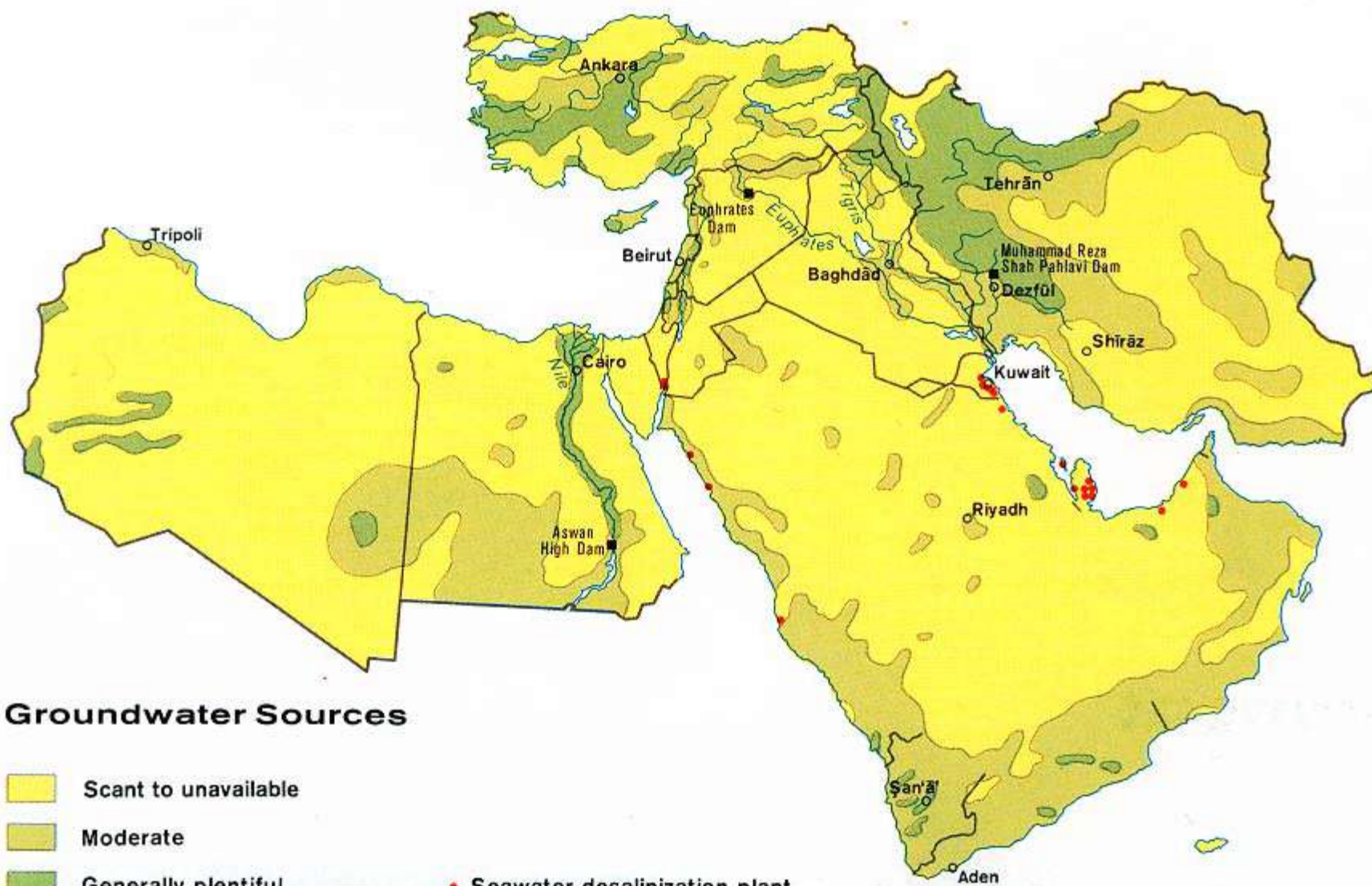


- Irrigated fields need chemical fertilizers.
- Chemical fertilizers cause salts to build up in the soil.
- Land that has been irrigated for a long time does not produce as well because of the salt build-up.



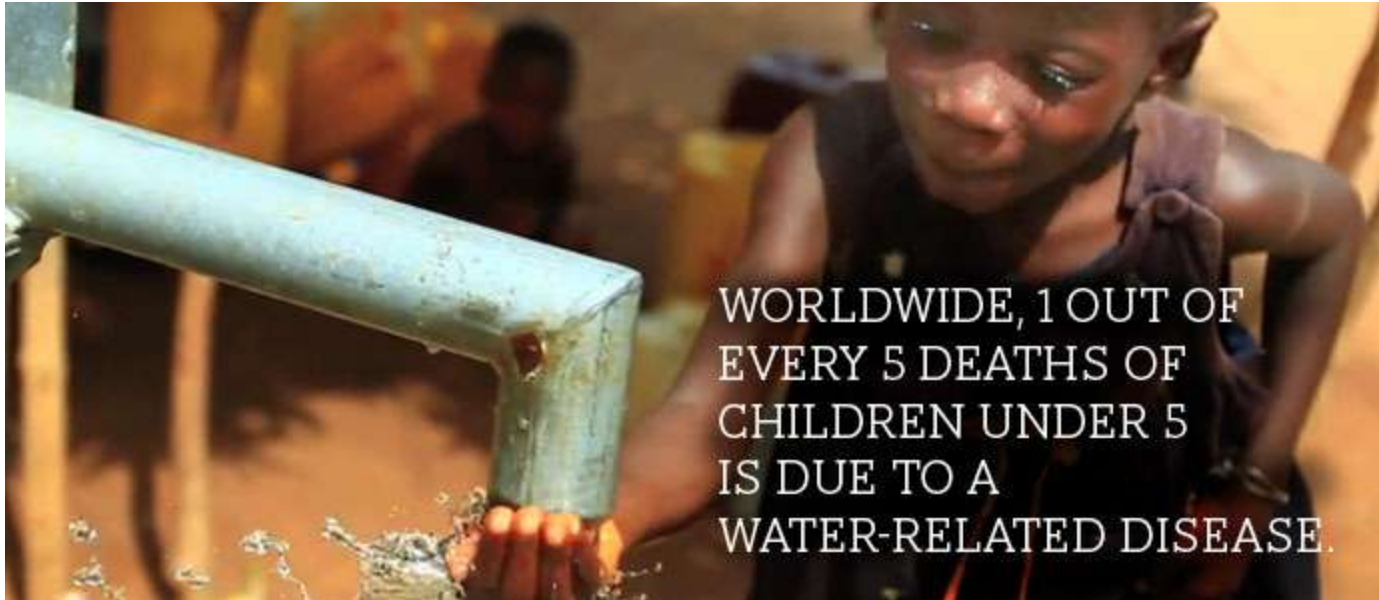
"Many of the wars of this century were about oil, but the wars of the next century will be about water."

–Former World Bank Vice President Ismail Serageldin



**Fresh Groundwater Sources**

# Facts about Water:



[http://thewaterproject.org/water\\_stats.php](http://thewaterproject.org/water_stats.php)



6. Many of the largest cities in SW Asia are located on or near

A. deserts.

B. major rivers.

C. large grasslands.

D. mountain ranges.

7. The “Bedouins” are SW Asians who have traditionally lived in and around

A. oil fields.

B. urban areas.

C. major deserts.

D. large river systems.

8. People living in the deserts in SW Asia have usually made their living by

A. farming.

B. mining and hired labor.

C. working in the oil industry.

D. trading animals and handmade goods.

9. How have the major rivers of SW Asia become a part of political conflict?

A. Many rivers dry up during the hot summers.

B. The rivers have nothing to do with the area's political conflict.

C. Most countries do not allow water to be taken out of the rivers for irrigation.

D. Several countries have built dams along their portion of the river, cutting off water to those living downstream.

10. Which describes the climate of much of SW Asia?

A. hot and dry

B. windy and cold

C. tropical and rainy

D. moderate and cool

11. Because mountains block winds coming from the oceans, much of the interior of SW Asia is

- A. desert.
- B. grasslands.
- C. inland lakes.
- D. rich farming areas.

12. The major rivers in SW Asia have become political issues because

A. deserts prevent the rivers from being large enough to be useful.

B. they can be used only for travel and trade but not for drinking water.

C. farmers have not been able to find ways to use the water for irrigation.

D. everyone needs to be able to use the water and there is only a limited amount.

13. People living along the rivers of SW Asia have built canals, qanats, and water wheels to use the water for

- A. irrigation.
- B. shipping.
- C. swimming.
- D. flood control.



14. Dams built along the rivers have caused problems for people living further downstream because

A. dams are expensive to build.

B. a river can only be dammed along one place in its path.

C. no fish can live in the rivers after they have been dammed.

D. less water comes down the river to those people once the dam has been built.

15. Which do Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Kuwait share?

A. Tigris River

B. Jordan River.

C. Euphrates River

D. Afghanistan River

# Water Resources Lab

- **<http://thewaterproject.org/resources/lesson-plans/water-water-anywhere.php>**

# TOTD Answers

1. C.
2. C.
3. D.
4. D.
5. A.
6. B.
7. C.
8. D.
9. D.
10. A.
11. A.
12. D.
13. A.
14. D.
15. C.