



# The Geography



# of the Middle East



## **Essential Questions: Geography of the Middle East**

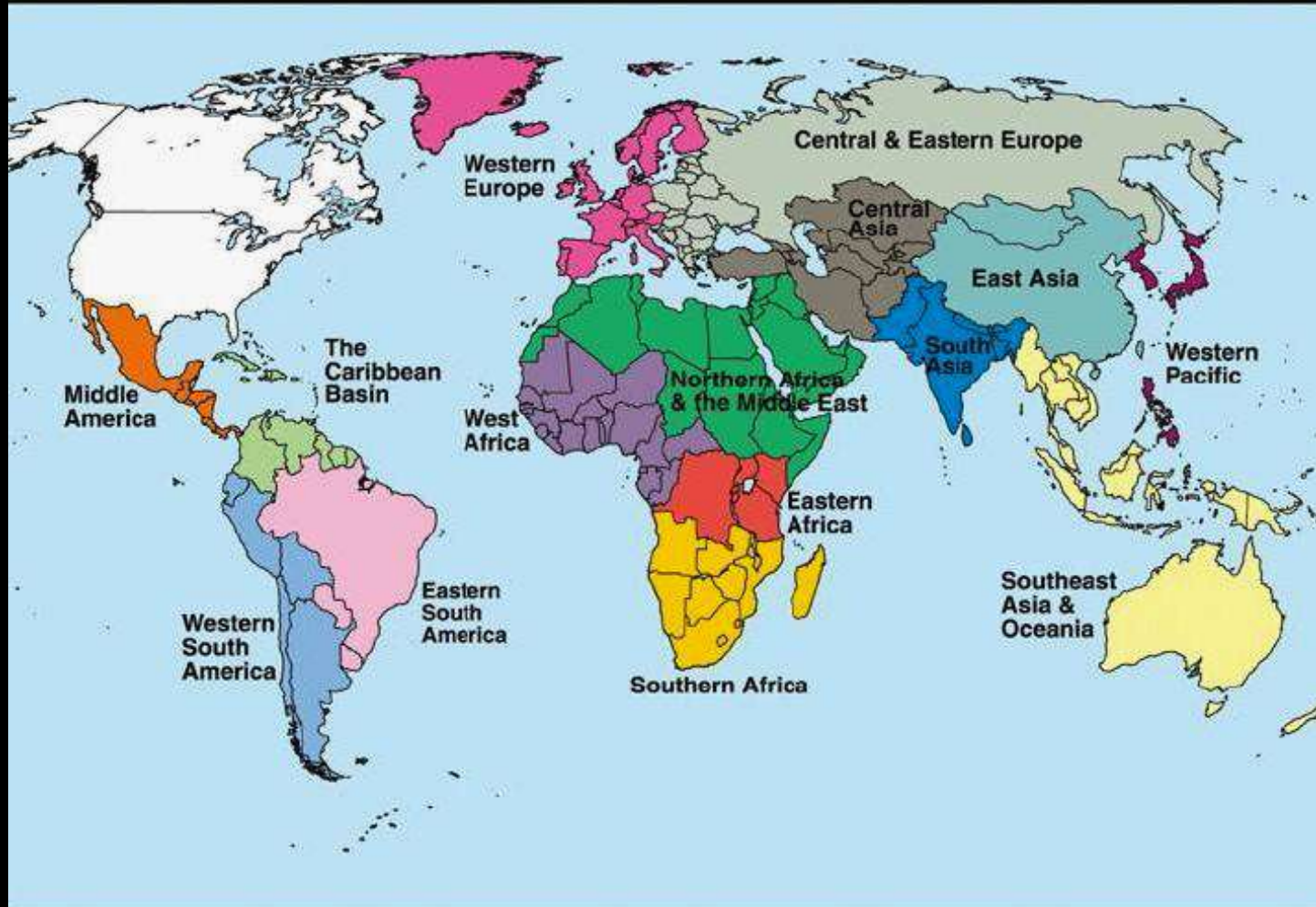
Provide several examples from the PowerPoint to answer each question.

1. Why is the Middle East such a strategic location?
2. How do water resources in the Middle East promote both conflict and cooperation in the region?
3. How do the major geographic features of the Middle East dictate **settlement patterns and population density**?
4. How have humans changed their environment in order to suit their needs?
5. To what extent does the United States rely on the Middle East for its oil consumption? How do rising oil prices influence America as well as the rest of the world? (use "Over a Barrel" to help you!)

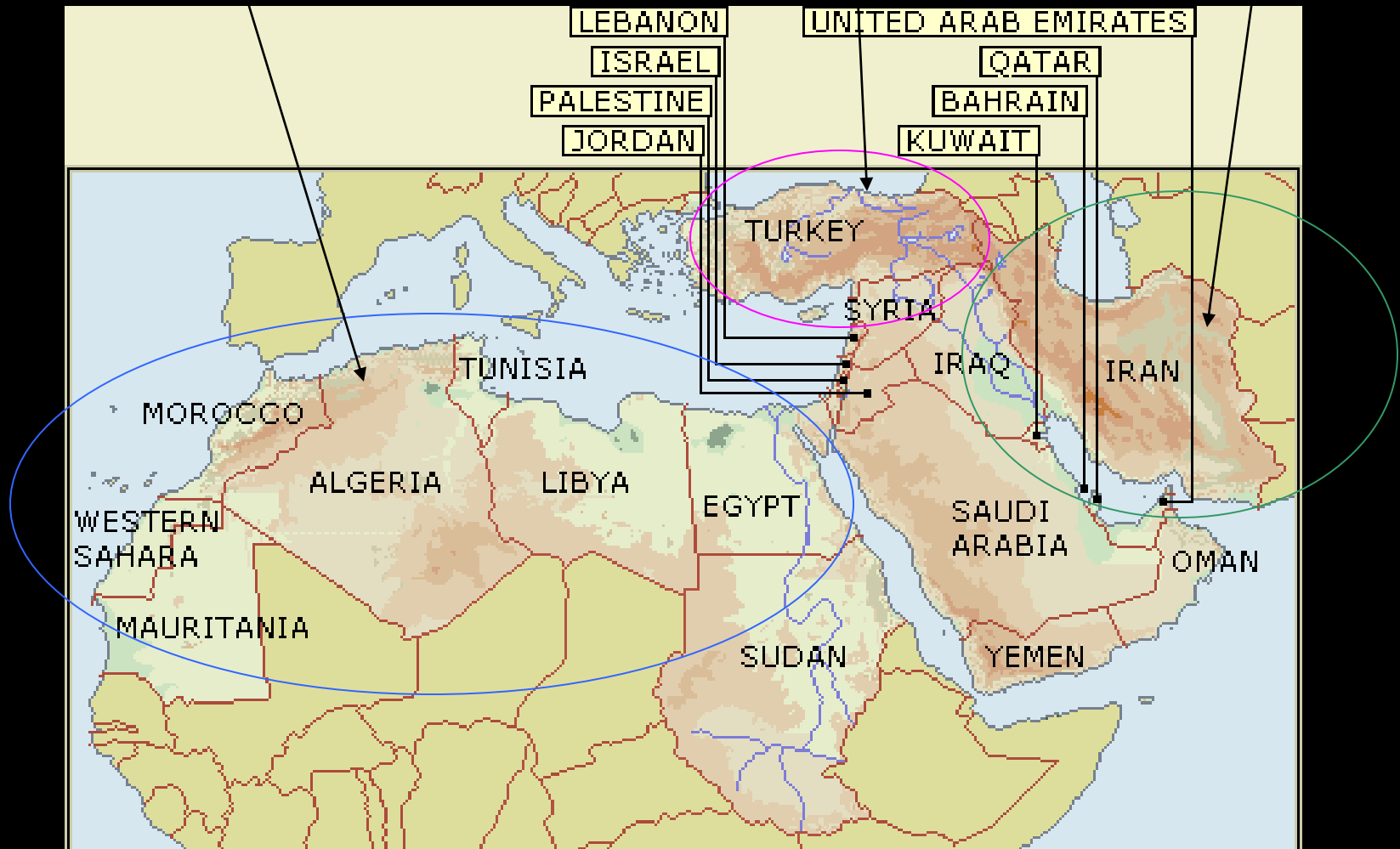
- Answer the 5 essential questions using 5 SPECIFIC details/examples from the PowerPoint and/or the article to support your answer.

**Middle East? OR Near East?**

**OR Southwest Asia? OR....?**

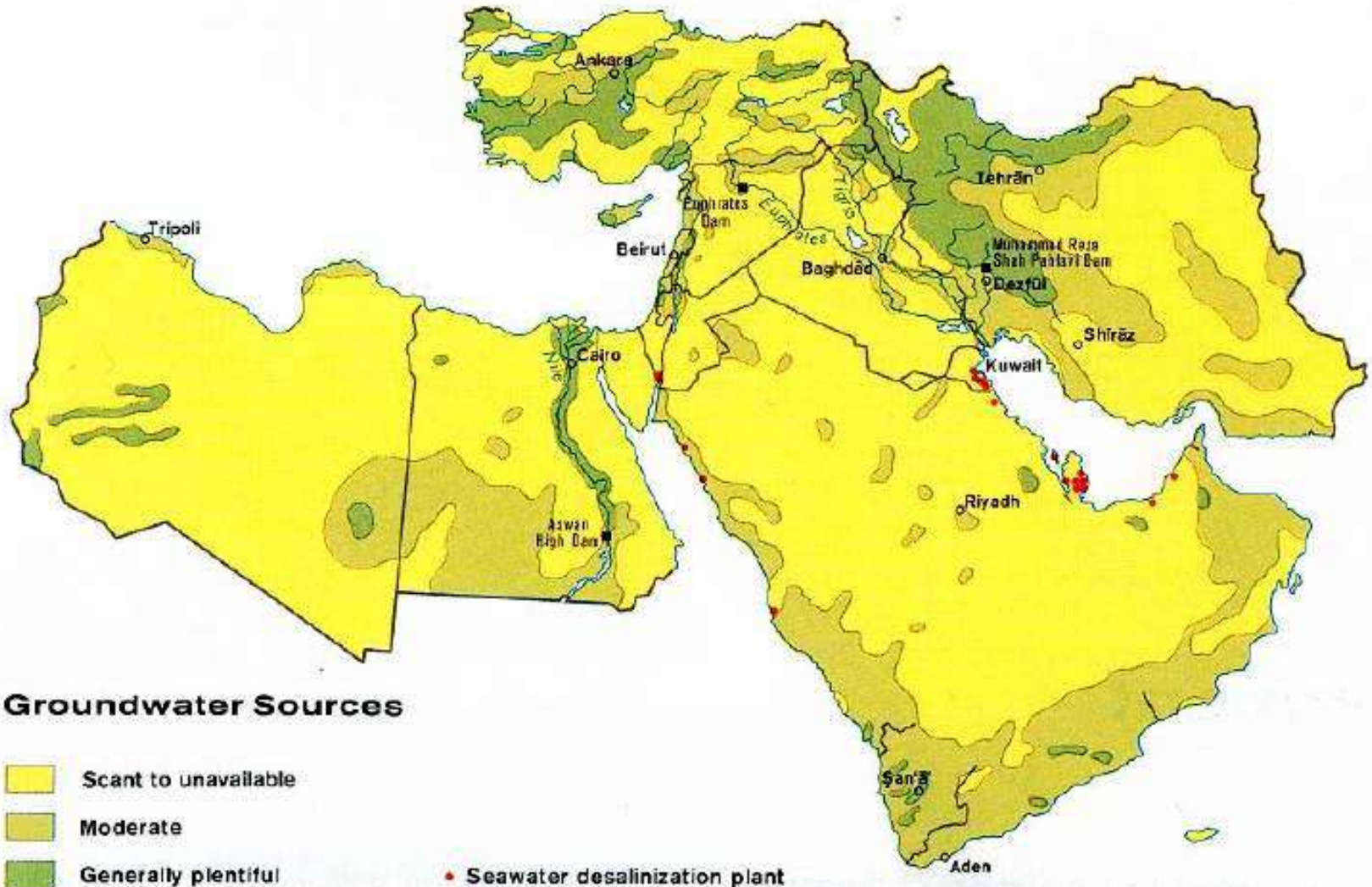


# Crossroads of Continents: connects Europe, Africa and Asia





# Fresh Groundwater Sources



- Water is the most precious resource for this region of deserts and steppe areas.
  - Many areas (ie. Nile River Valley) dependent on seasonal floods.
  - The alluvial soil around the river and the delta regions are especially good for farming
  - Some countries control other countries' water supply –  
This leads to conflict

# Desalinization Plants





# Major Geographic Regions of the Middle East

- Northern Tier (Turkey, Iran)
- Arabian Peninsula
- Nile Valley
- Fertile Crescent
- Maghreb (Northern Africa)

# The Arabian Peninsula is primarily steppe and desert climate



# The Arabian Peninsula is mostly desert

- The Rub 'al-Khali, or "Empty Quarter" is a large desert in Saudi Arabia. It is the largest area of continuous sand in the world.
- **The climate is extremely arid. Few places receive more than 7 in of rain a year, and no permanent streams exist. Summer temperatures reach as high as 130 F in some areas**

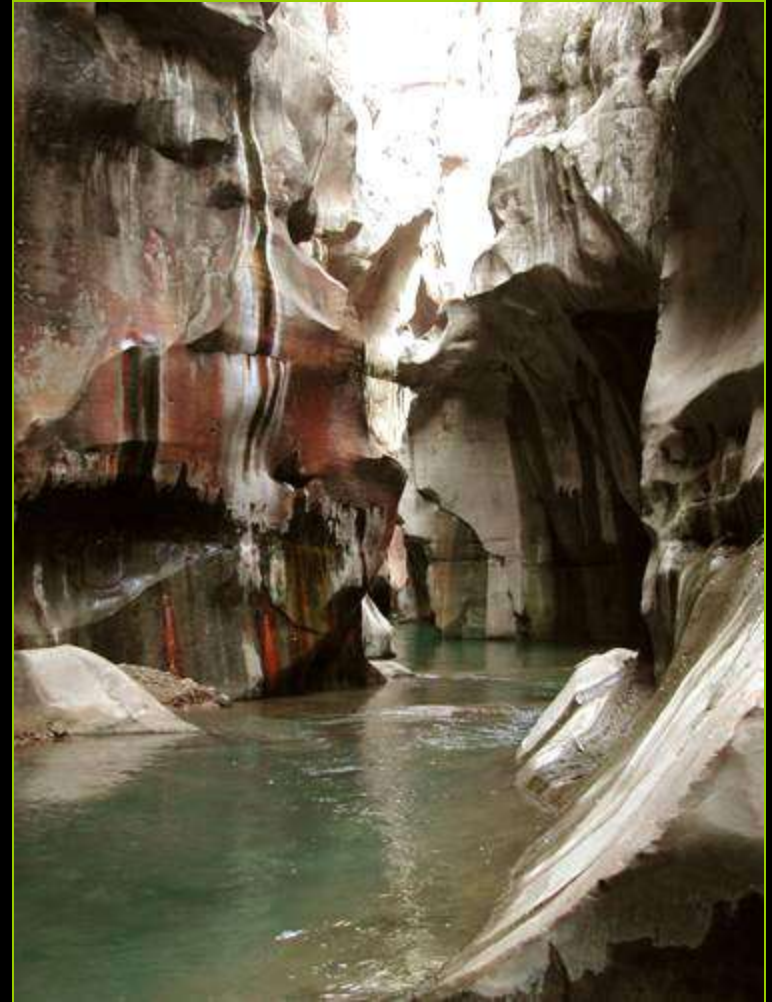
# Rub al-Khali:

## “The Empty Quarter”





# *Wadis* – Instant Springs



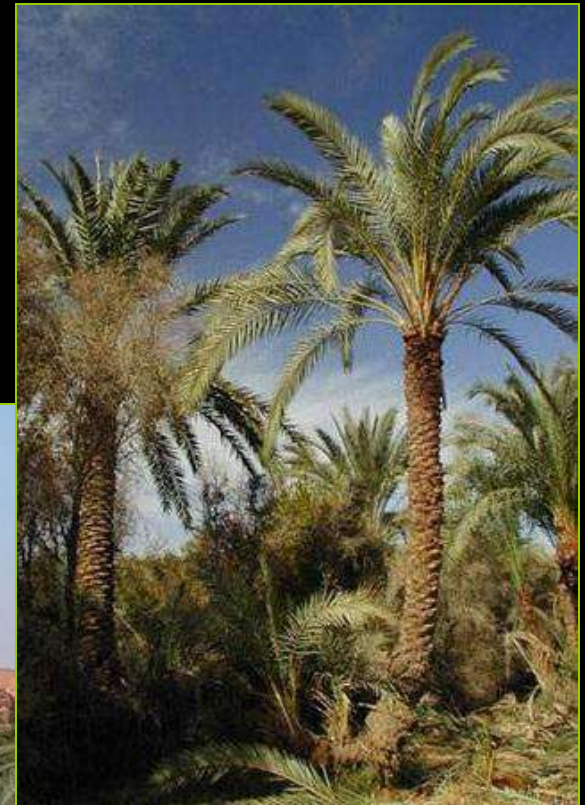
- **Wadis** dry stream beds that fill with water only after rainfall in a desert or steppe region.

## Wadis





# Desert Oases: Water at a Premium!



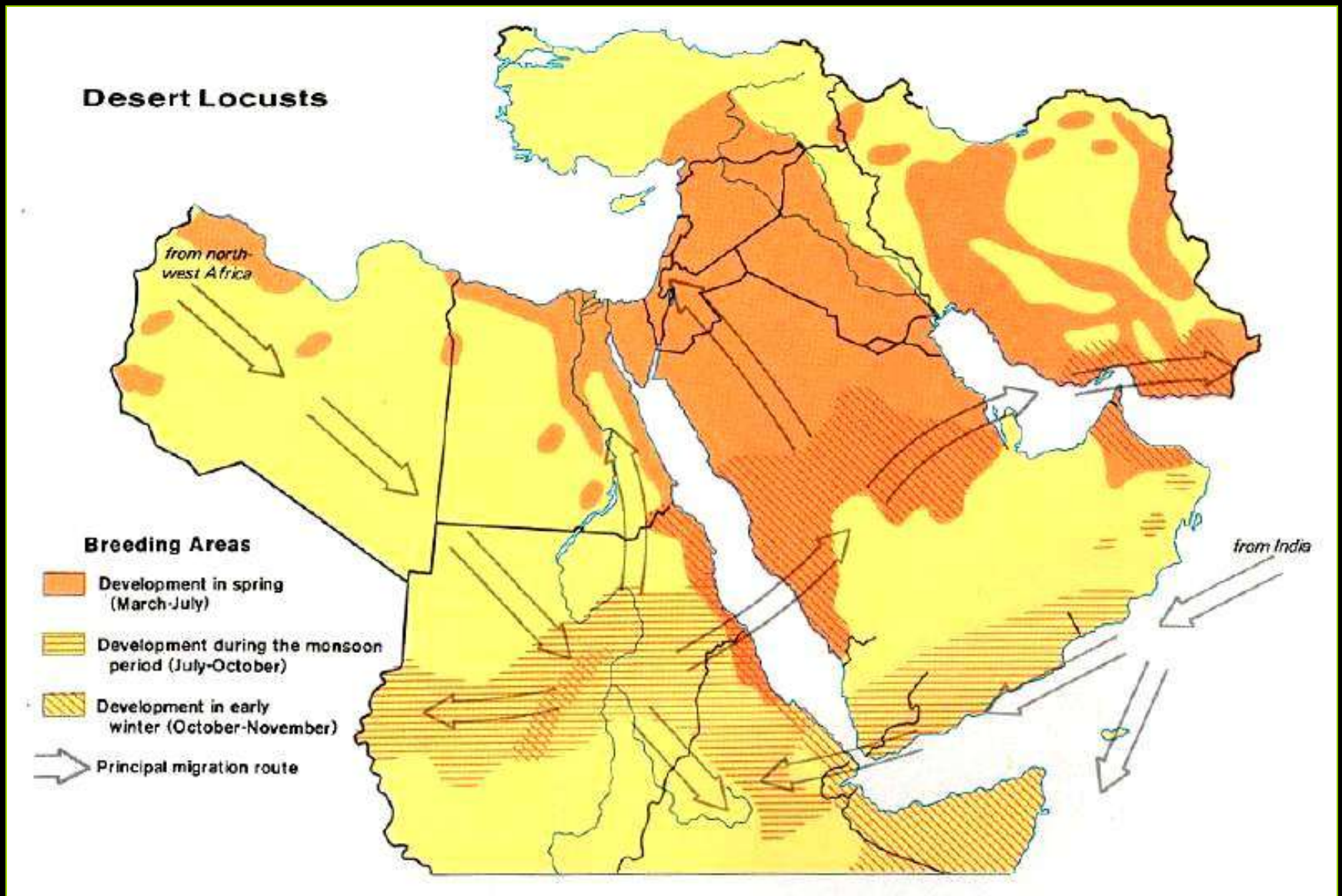
# OASES

- Oasis is a place where water comes to the surface in desert area.
- "oasis" is believed to come from an ancient Egyptian word, "wah," meaning "fertile place in the desert."
- About 75 percent of the Sahara's population live in oases





# Breeding Areas of Desert Locusts



# Swarms of Desert Locusts!



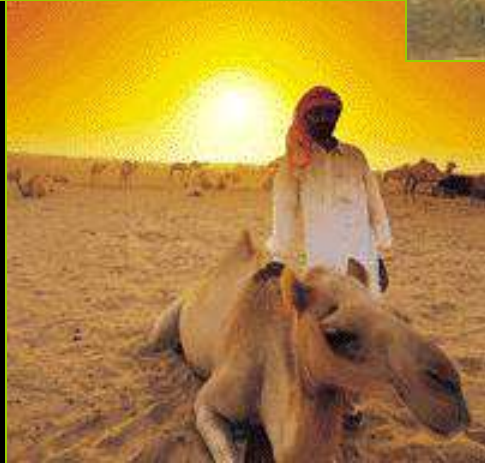
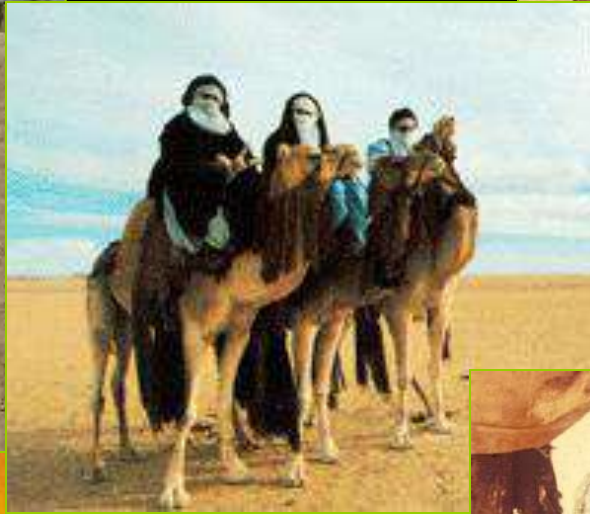
**Locusts Swarm  
the Pyramids  
Complex at  
Giza!**

**Israel Hit By Worst  
Locust Plague Since  
the 1950s!**





# Desert Bedouins



# The Mighty Nile River:

## “Longest River in the World”



The Landsat image (left) shows the Nile flowing into its delta. An outline of the continental United States (right) shows the length of the Nile's course. The actual length of the Nile with all its twists and turns is more than **4,100 miles.**

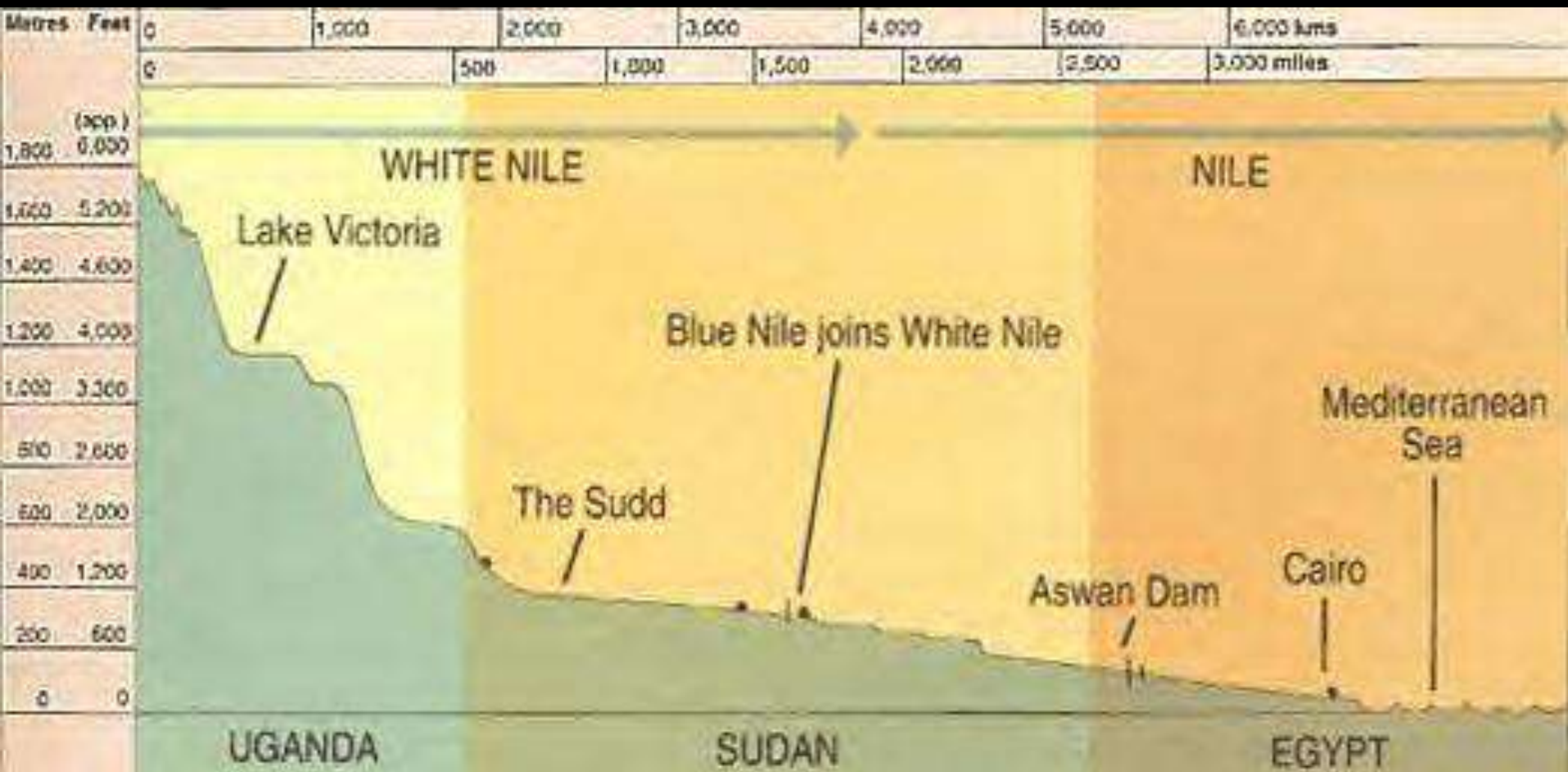






**\*The Nile and its tributaries flow through nine countries.**

The Nile River flows South to North, where accumulation of sediment forms a delta.



# The Nile River

- **Length: From White Nile Source to Mouth- 4184 miles, longest river in the world**
- **Name: The Nile gets its name from the Greek word "Nelios", meaning River Valley.**
- **Sources: The White Nile: Lake Victoria, Uganda.  
The Blue Nile: Lake Tana, Ethiopia.**



# Egypt: The “Gift of the Nile”



**95% of the  
Egyptian people  
live on 5% of the  
land!**

**Annual Nile  
Flooding**



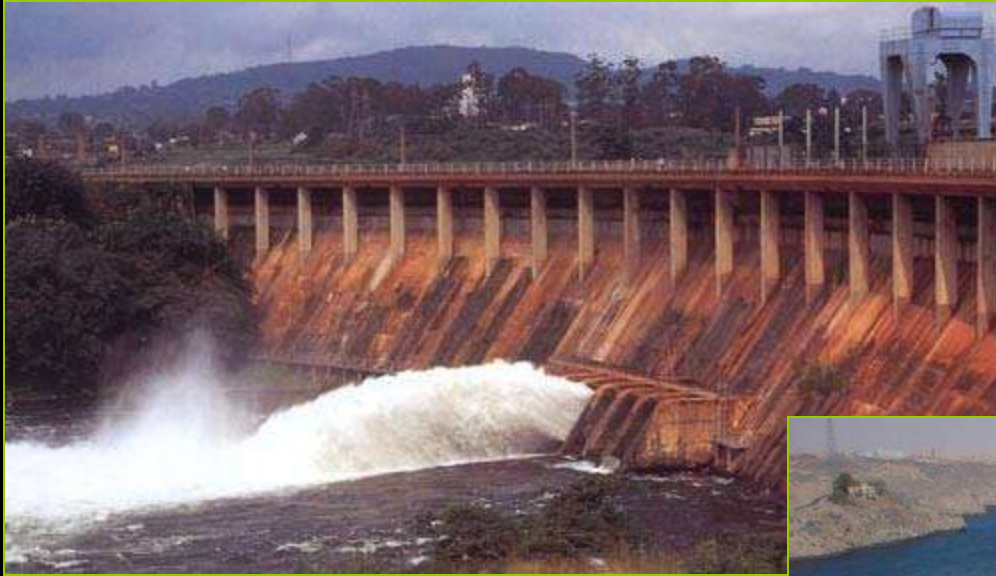


# Everyday Activities on the Nile

- **Tourism**
- **Farming**
- **Fishing**



# Aswan High Dam, Egypt



**Hydroelectric  
Power Plant**

# ASWAN DAM

## on the Nile River

- The Dam was created in 1971
- The Dam wall is 365 feet high
- Created artificial lake- Lake Nasser, which covers 300 miles



# Positive effects of Dam

- Prevents flooding
- Controls irrigation
- Can plant 3 crops instead of only 1 a year
- Creates Hydroelectric power- supplies Egypt with 40% of its electricity
- Amount of farmland has increased by 2.9 million acres

# Negative Effects of Dam

- New layer of fertile soil no longer deposited by annual flood, must use fertilizers
  - Very expensive
  - Run off pollutes river, pollution kills fish
- New soil not added to Delta, which causes erosion

- **Water flow has decreased.**
  - **Stagnant water allows disease to increase.**
  - **Salt content has increased, which can ruin crops**
  - **Some experts think weight of Lake Nasser may be producing earthquakes**





**Sinai Peninsula  
located between  
Egypt and the  
Arabian Peninsula**

# Suez Canal



**Completed by the British  
in 1869**



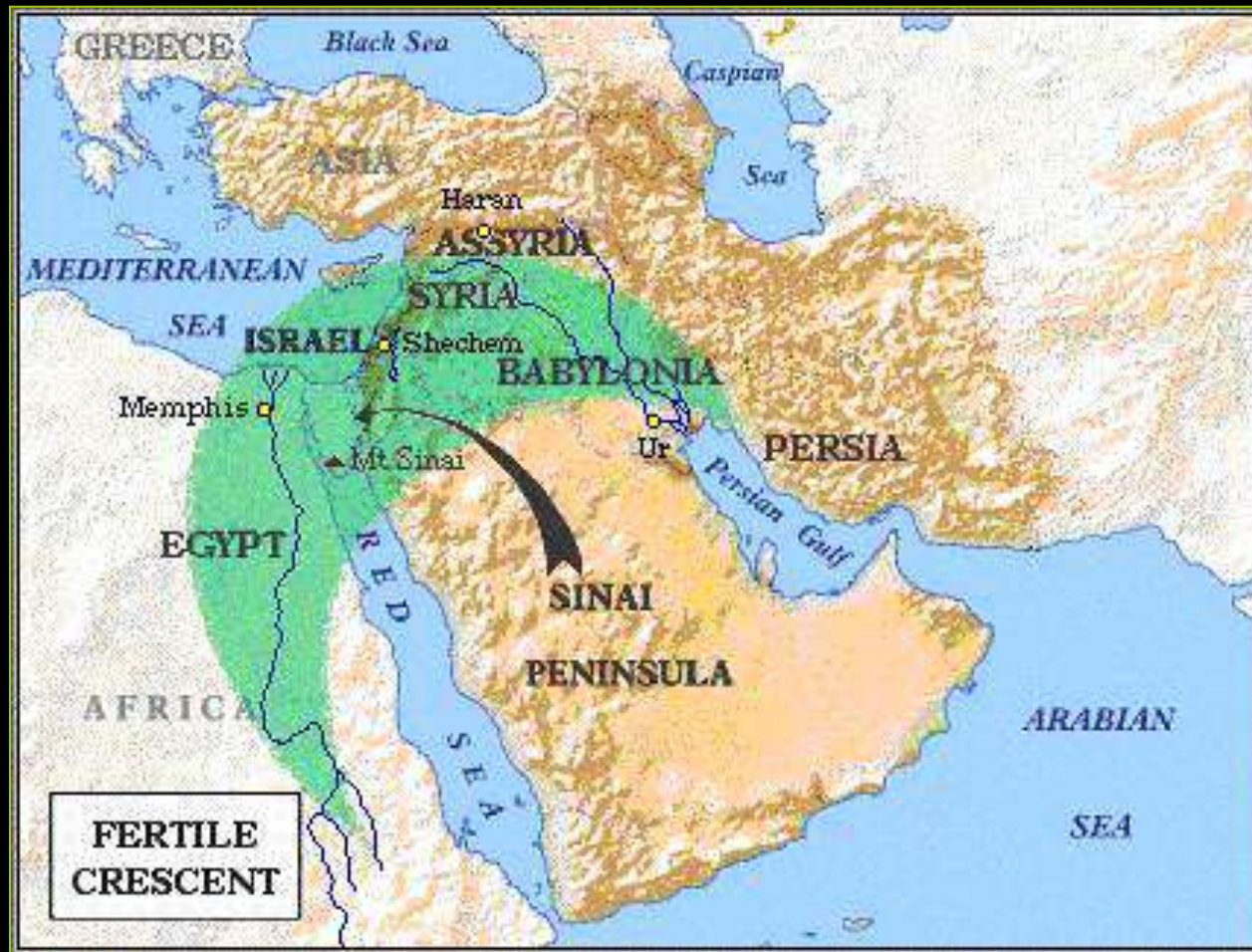
# Suez Canal

\*The 101-mile waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.

\* The Suez Canal is used to transport goods to and from all three continents.

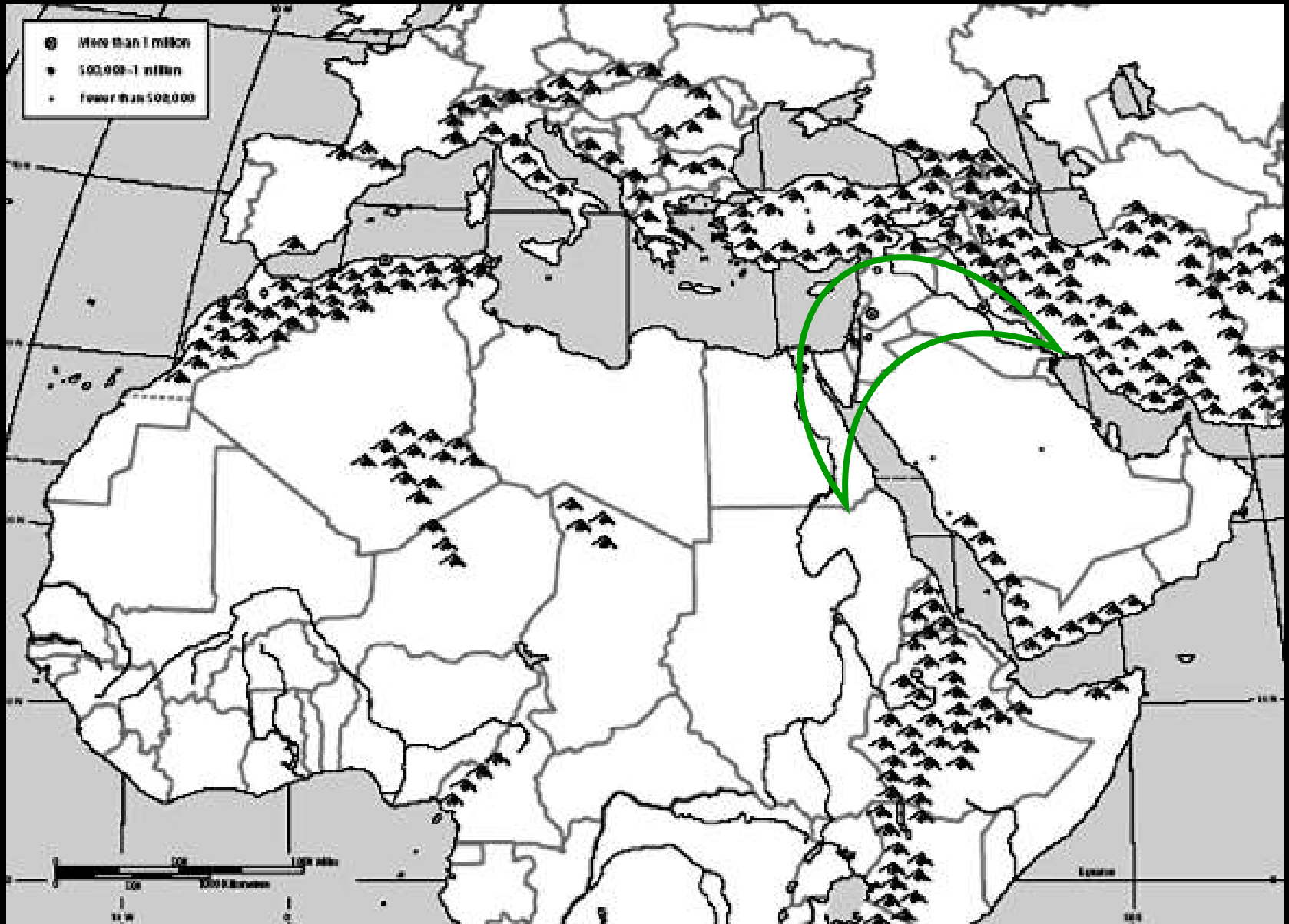


# The Fertile Crescent





# Fertile Crescent



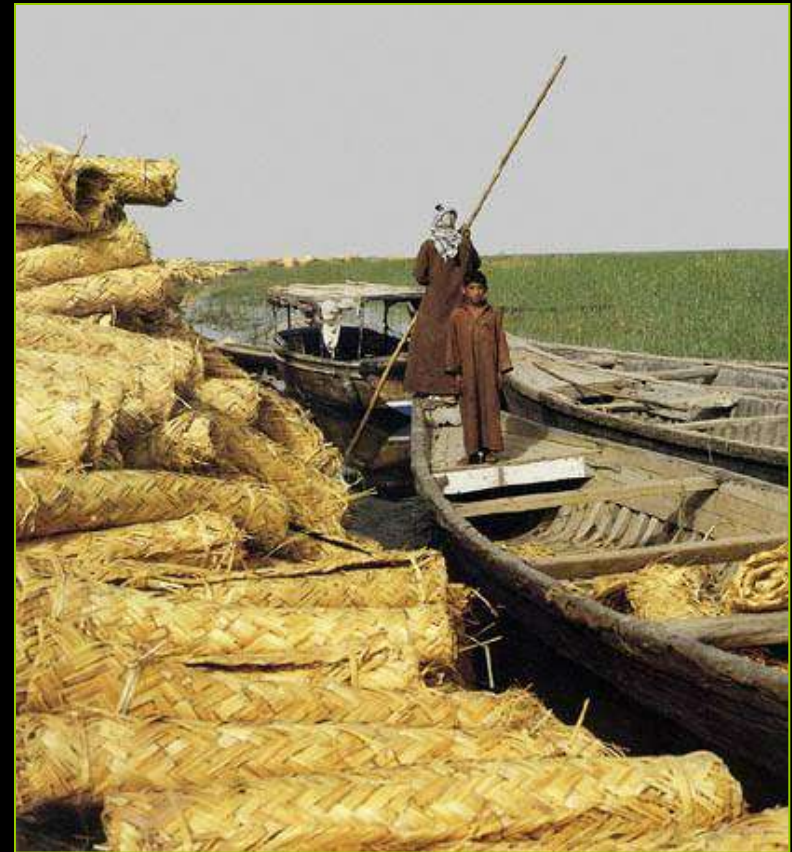
## The Fertile Crescent

- Greeks called this region Mesopotamia, which means "between the rivers."
- Many different civilizations developed in this small region because it is HIGHLY strategic and coveted
  - Sumerians, who were replaced in turn by the Assyrians and the Babylonians.
  - Today this land is known as Iraq

# The Tigris & Euphrates River System



**Mesopotamia:  
“Land Between the  
Two Rivers”**



**Marsh Arabs, So.  
Iraq**

# Dust Storms Along the Tigris-Euphrates Flood Plains





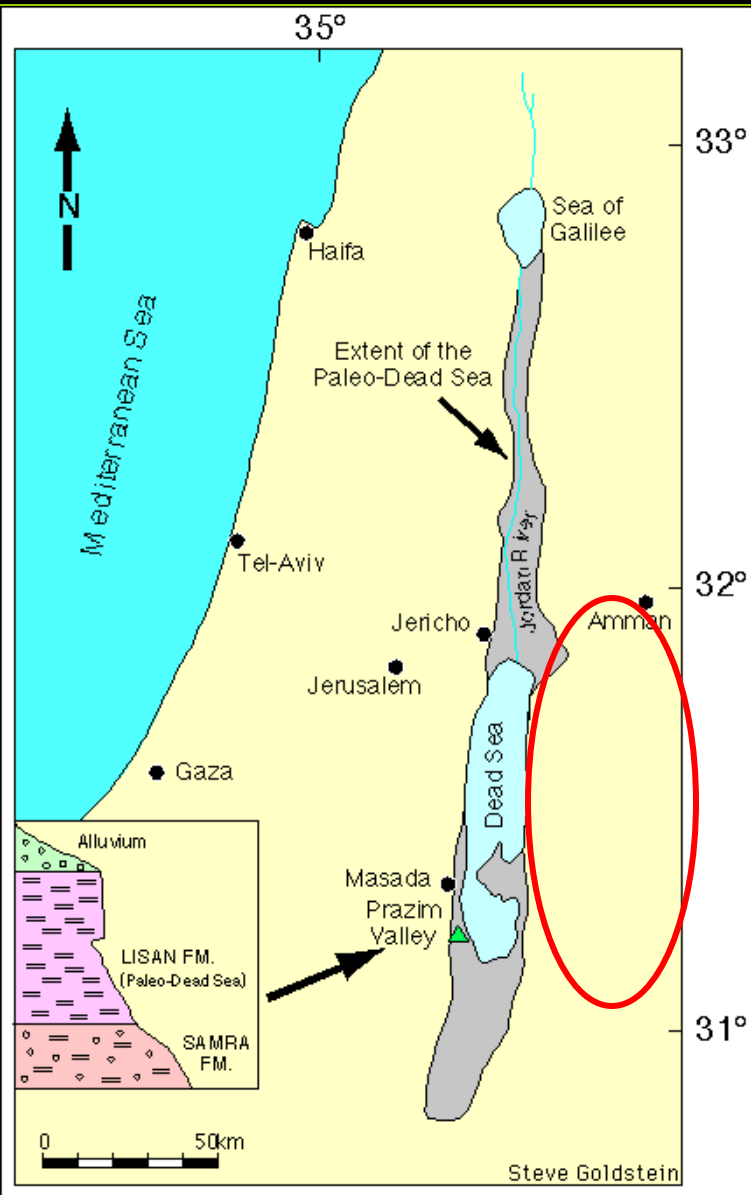


# Dead Sea: Lowest Point on Earth

**1,360' below sea level**



**Highest Salt Content (35%)**



## Dead Sea

- Lowest point on Earth- 1,360 feet below sea level
- Saltiest water in the world
- You float in its waters!
- Average of 330 days of full sunshine a year

# Dead Sea Floater





# Mountain Ranges in Mid-East



**Elburz Mts., Iran**



**Zagros Mts., Iran**



**Lebanese Mts.**



**Taurus Mts., Turkey**

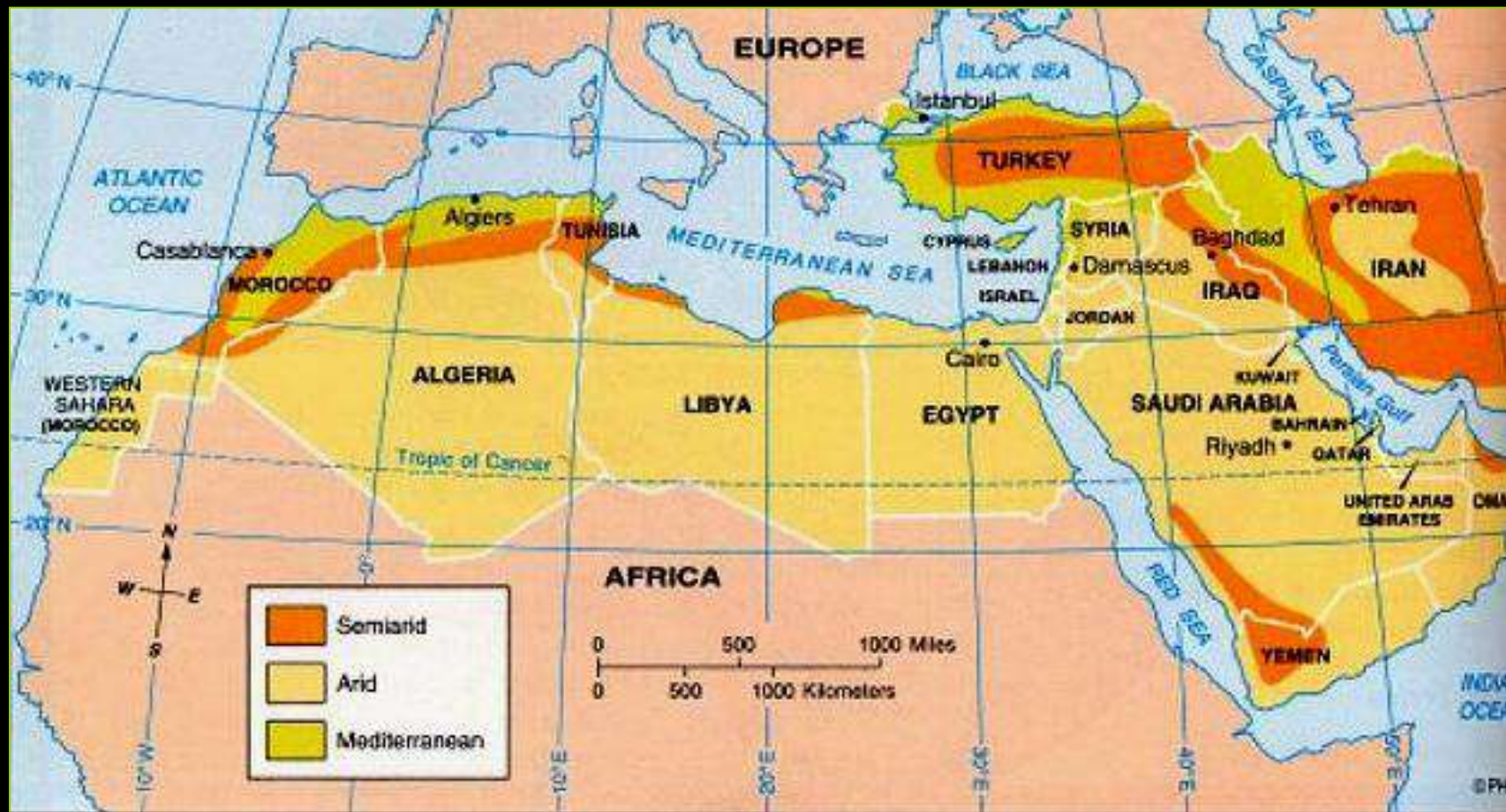
# The Middle East vs. the U. S.

## Latitude Lines



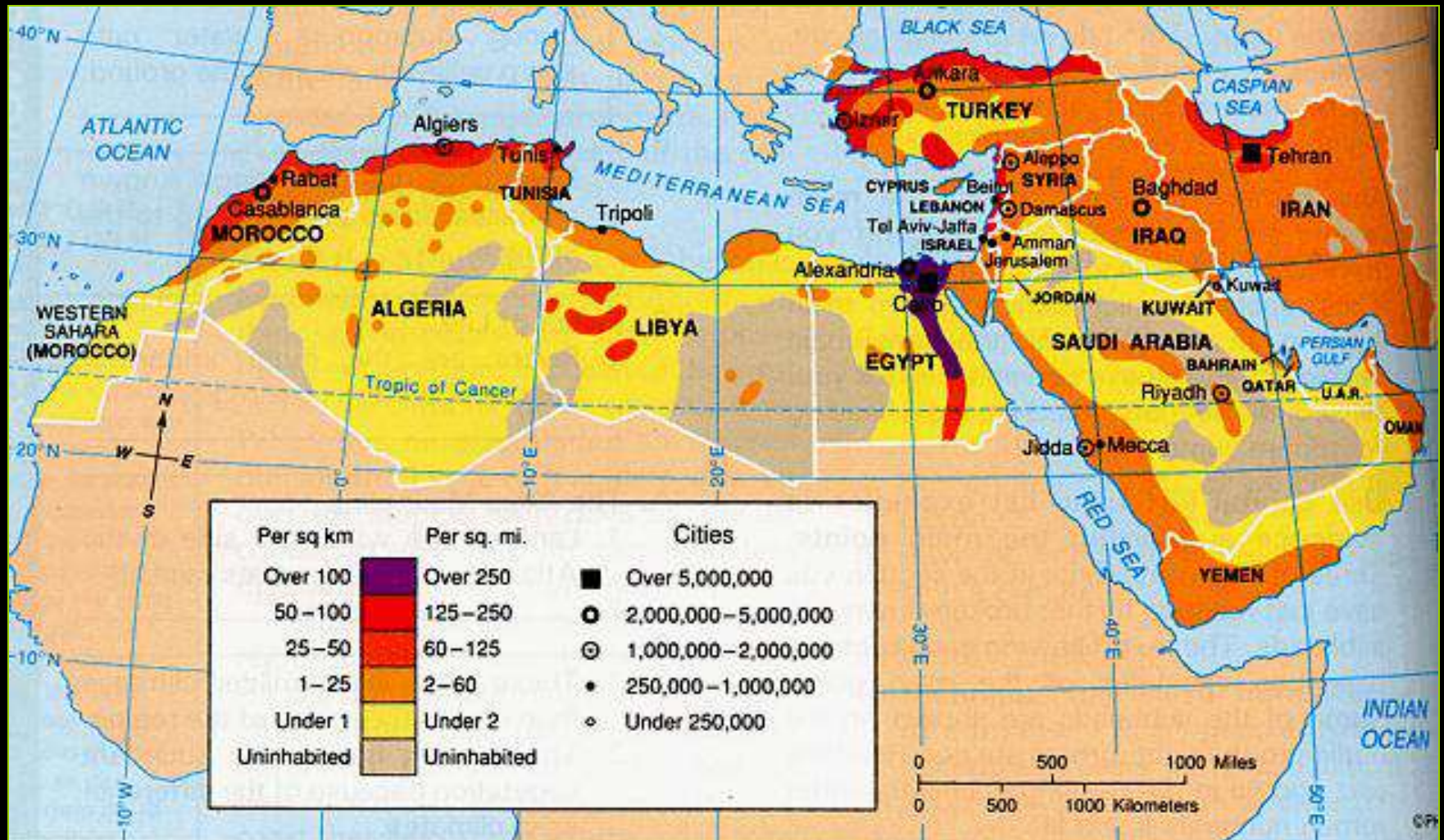


# Middle East: Climate Regions





# Middle East: Population Density



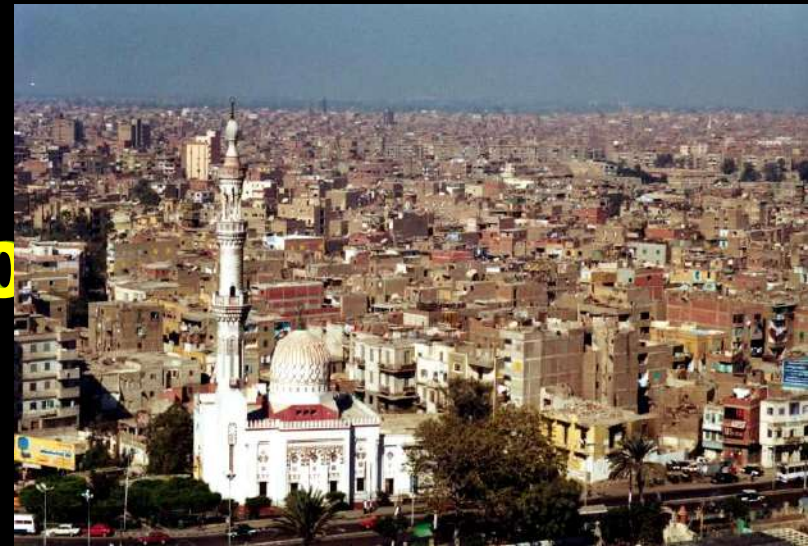


# Cairo, Egypt:

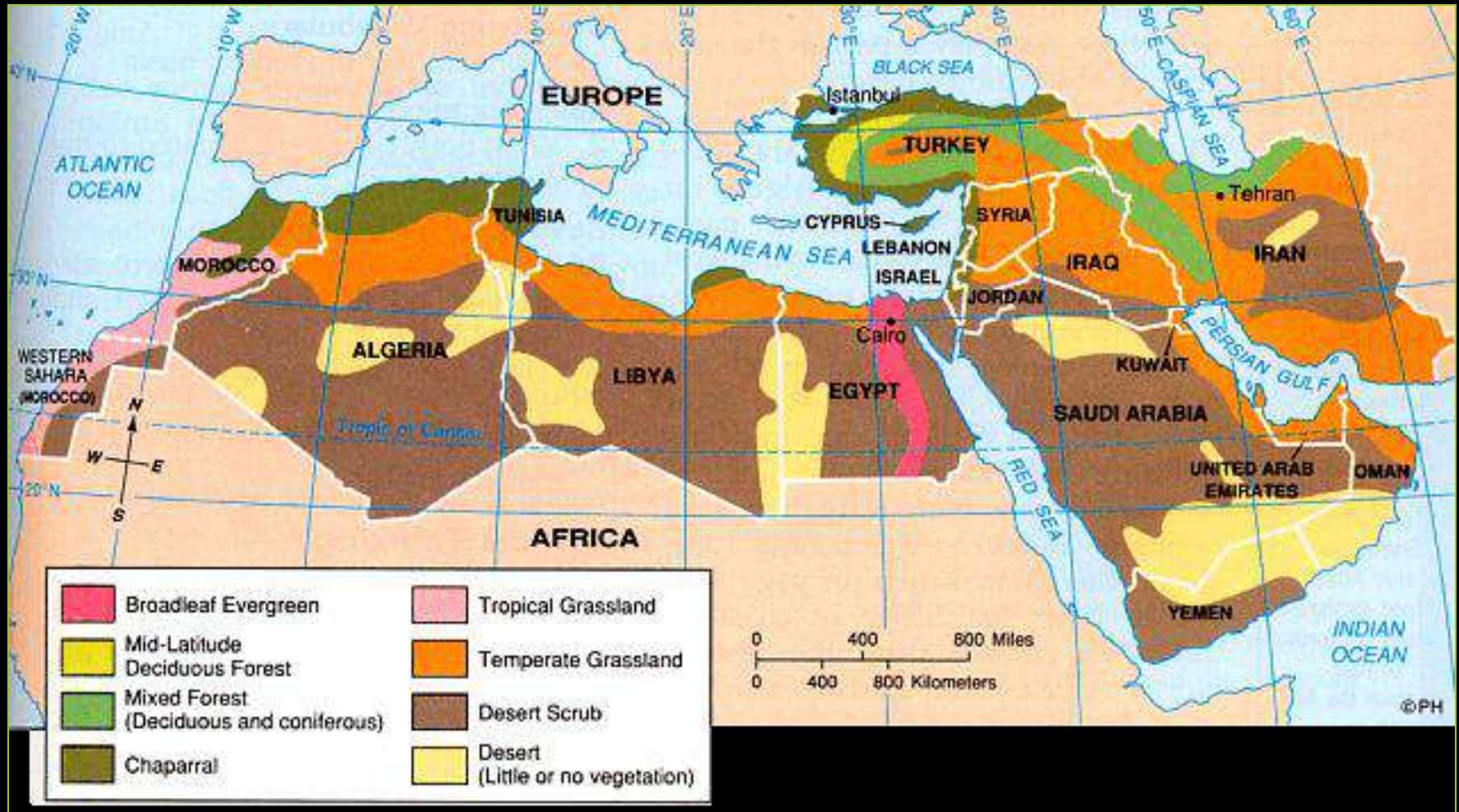
Most Populated City in the Middle East



**17,000,000**  
**+**  
**People!**

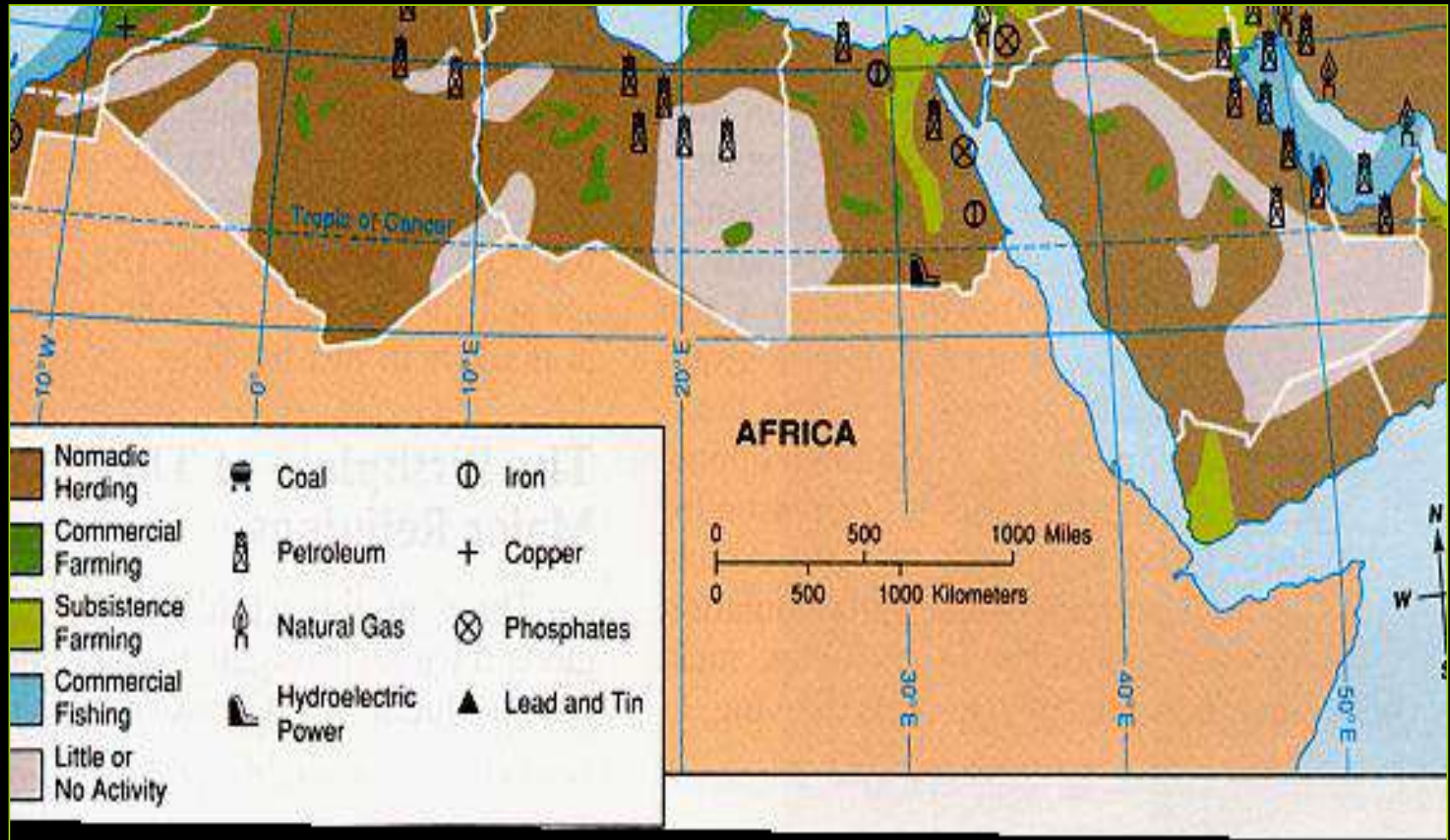


# The Middle East: Natural Vegetation

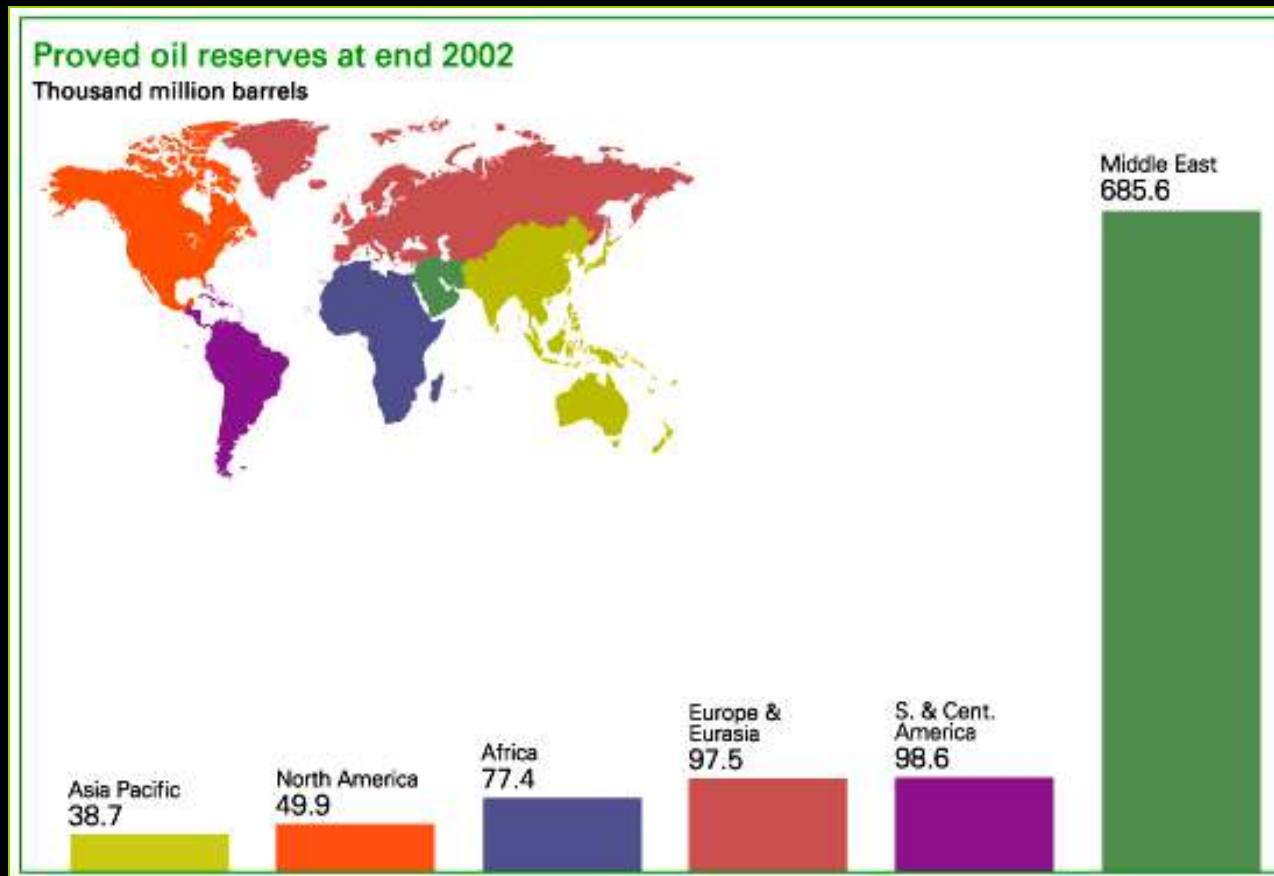




# The Natural Resources of the Middle East



# World Oil Reserves





# Persian Gulf Oil Exports (2003)



# Saudi Oil Fields & Refineries





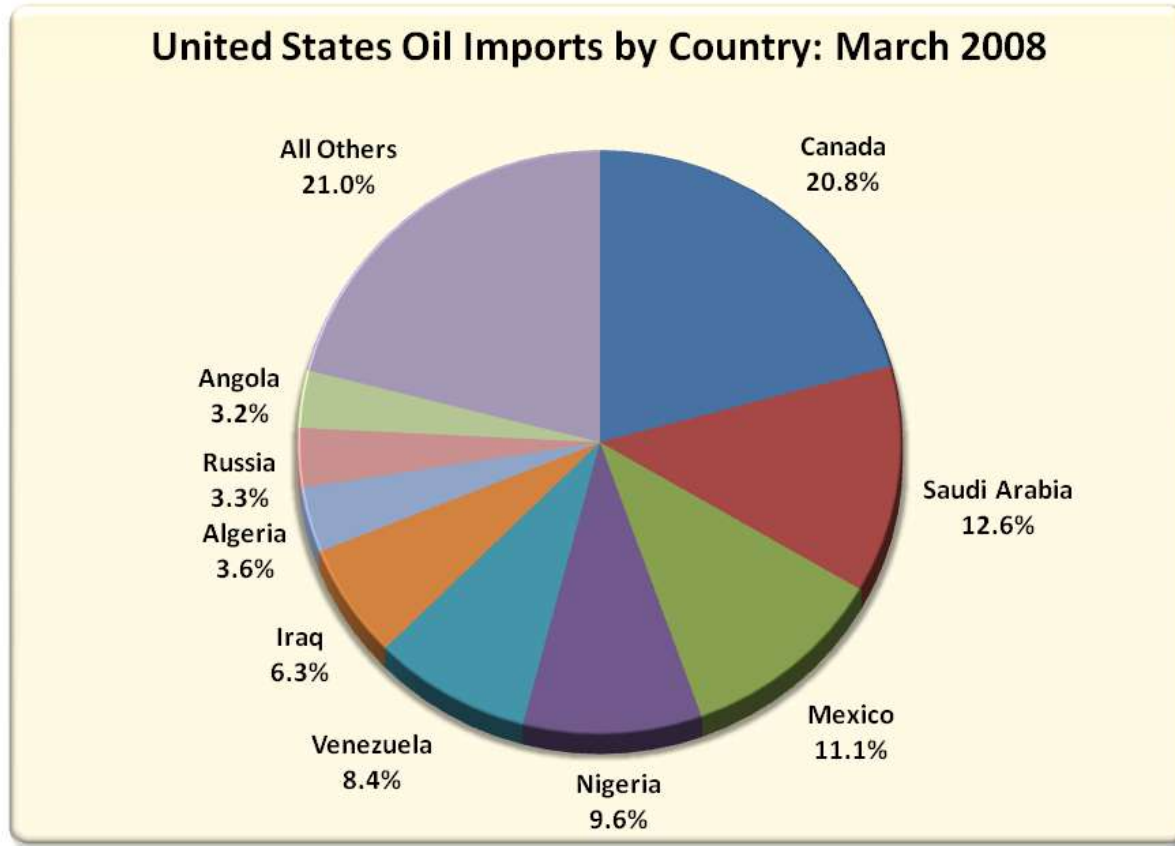
# Kuwait: *An Island Floating on a Sea of Oil*



## **Kuwait City**



# Leading U. S. Oil Suppliers



Source: US Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration (DOE/EIA)  
[http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_move\\_impcus\\_a2\\_nus\\_ep00\\_im0\\_mbb1\\_m.htm](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/pet_move_impcus_a2_nus_ep00_im0_mbb1_m.htm)

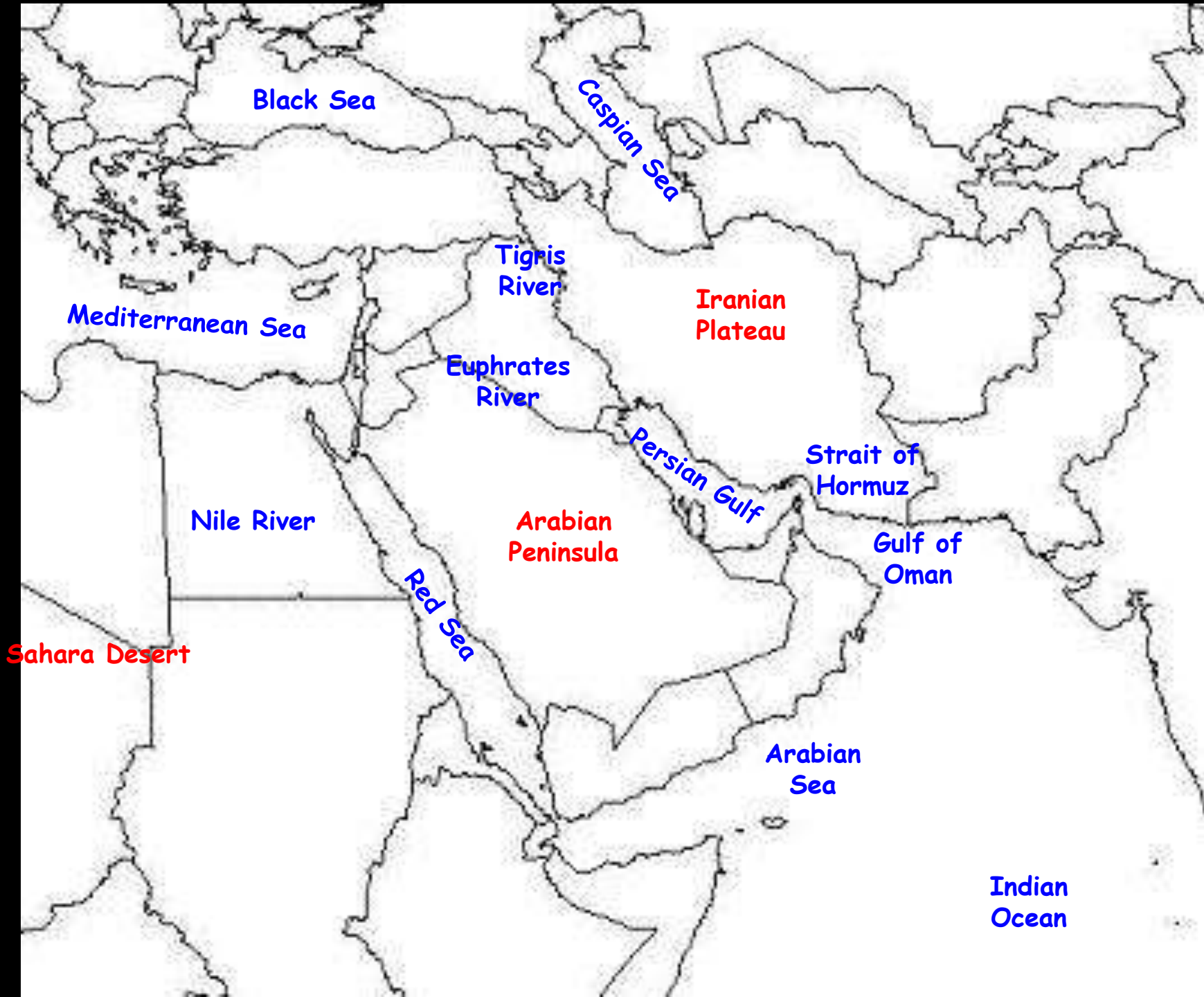
**The U. S. imports about 30% of its oil from the Middle East.**











Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Tigris River

Iranian Plateau

Euphrates River

Persian Gulf

Strait of Hormuz

Gulf of Oman

Arabian Peninsula

Nile River

Red Sea

Sahara Desert

Arabian Sea

Indian Ocean

Mediterranean Sea