

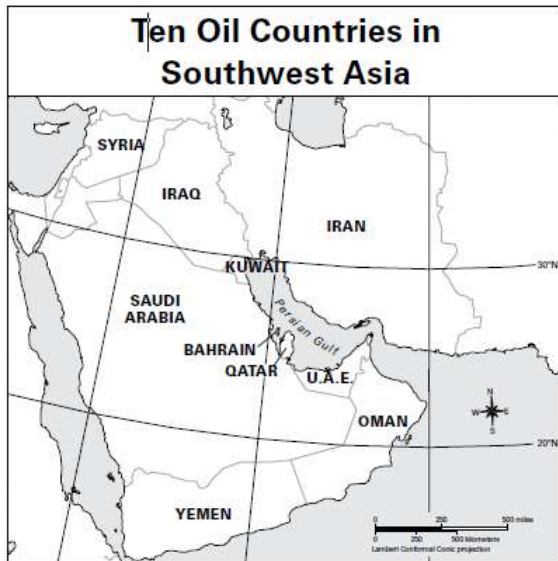
# Oil in the Middle East

***SS7G7 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, distribution of natural resources and population distribution on Southwest Asia (Middle East).***

*a. Explain how the distribution of oil has affected the development of Southwest Asia (Middle East).*

Country	Total Literacy	GDP-Gross Domestic Product, total	GDP-Gross Domestic Product, per capita	Main Export
<b>Bahrain</b>	94.6%	\$33.63 billion	\$32,000	Petroleum
<b>Iran</b>	77%	\$1.016 trillion	\$13,300	Petroleum
<b>Iraq</b>	78.2%	\$242.5 billion	\$7,200	Petroleum
<b>Israel</b>	97.1%	\$252.8 billion	\$32,800	Machinery & equipment
<b>Jordan</b>	92.6%	\$39.29 billion	\$6,100	Clothing
<b>Kuwait</b>	93.3%	\$153.4 billion	\$40,500	Petroleum
<b>Lebanon</b>	87.4%	\$64.22 billion	\$16,000	Jewelry
<b>Oman</b>	81.4%	\$91.54 billion	\$29,600	Petroleum
<b>Qatar</b>	96.3%	\$191 billion	\$103,900	Natural gas
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	86.6%	\$921.7 billion	\$31,800	Petroleum
<b>Syria</b>	79.6%	\$107.6 billion	\$5,100	Petroleum
<b>Turkey</b>	87.4%	\$1.142 trillion	\$15,200	Apparel
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	77.9%	\$275.8 billion	\$49,800	Petroleum
<b>Yemen</b>	63.9%	\$60.06 billion	\$2,300	Petroleum
<b>United States (for comparison)</b>	99%	\$15.94 trillion	\$50,700	Agricultural products

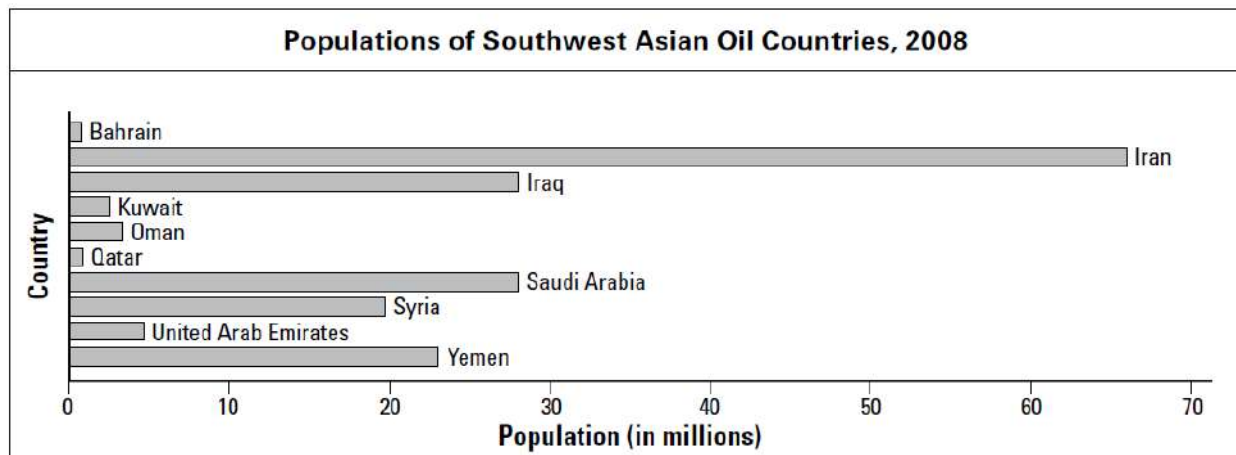
1. Which countries in the Middle East export petroleum?
2. Which two Middle Eastern countries have the highest GDPs? Which of the oil countries have the lowest?
3. Which two Middle Eastern countries have the highest GDP per capita? Which has the lowest?
4. Which three Middle Eastern countries have the highest literacy rates?
5. Which countries have benefited from having oil as a natural resource?
6. How can having oil as a natural resource benefit a country?
7. Which type of information—GDP or per capita GDP—do you think might give better information about the well-being of a country's people? Why?
8. Which countries do not appear to have benefited from having oil as a natural resource? Why do you think that is?
9. What are some generalizations you could make based on the information in the chart?



### Land Area of Oil Countries of Southwest Asia

10. Name 10 oil countries in Southwest Asia. Which is the largest? Which is the smallest?

11. What might be the relationship between a country's size and the amount of its oil reserves?



Source: Central Intelligence Agency.

### Population of Oil Countries of Southwest Asia

12. Which oil country has the largest population in Southwest Asia? Which has the smallest?

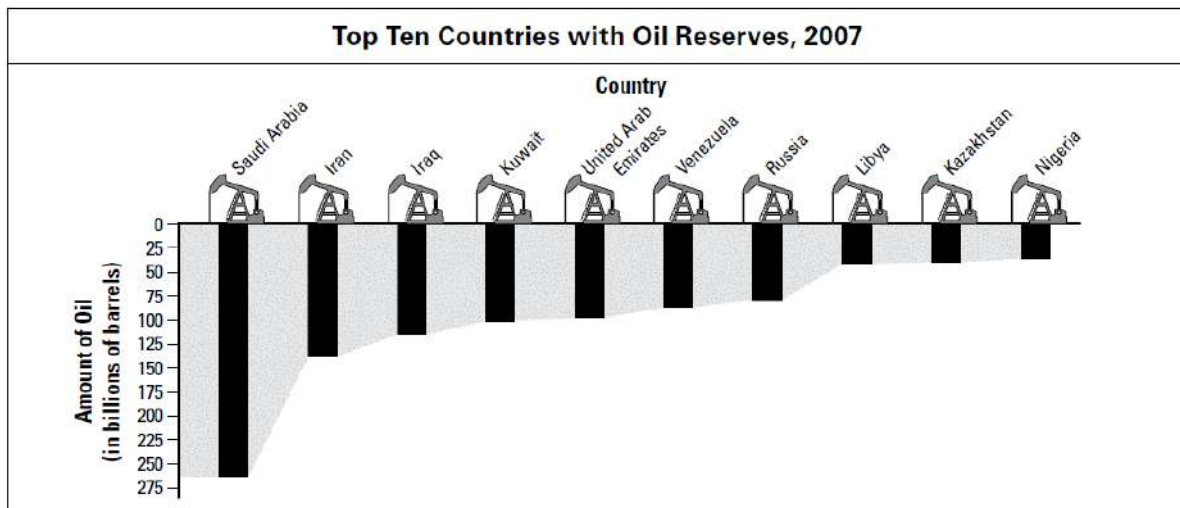
13. What might be the relationship between a country's population and the amount of its oil reserves?

### Critical Thinking Question

Think about what you have discovered about the size and population of oil countries in Southwest Asia.

14. Based on that information, which set of countries below do you think has the largest oil reserves? Why? Be ready to justify your choice to the class.

Set 1: Iran, Qatar, United Arab Emirates  
 Set 2: Oman, Yemen, Syria  
 Set 3: Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait

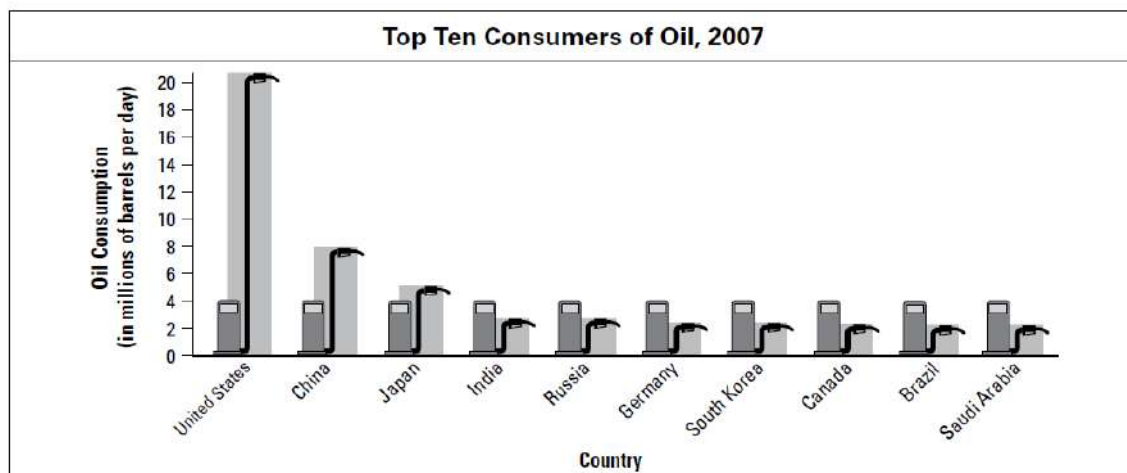


Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2008.

### World Oil Reserves

The bar graph below highlights the countries around the world with the largest known oil reserves. The length of the bars show the size of each country's reserves. Closely examine the graph, and answer these questions:

15. Which countries have the largest oil reserves?
16. Why might countries with large oil reserves be interested in controlling the price and supply of oil?



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2008.

### World Oil Consumption

The graph below highlights the countries in the world that consume the most oil. The height of the bars reflects the amount of oil each country uses each day. Analyze the graph, and answer these question:

17. Which countries consume the most oil? What is similar about them?
18. Why might countries that consume a lot of oil be interested in controlling the price and supply of oil?
19. Analyze the two graphs. What generalization can you form from the two sets of data?

## Oil, OPEC, and the Middle East

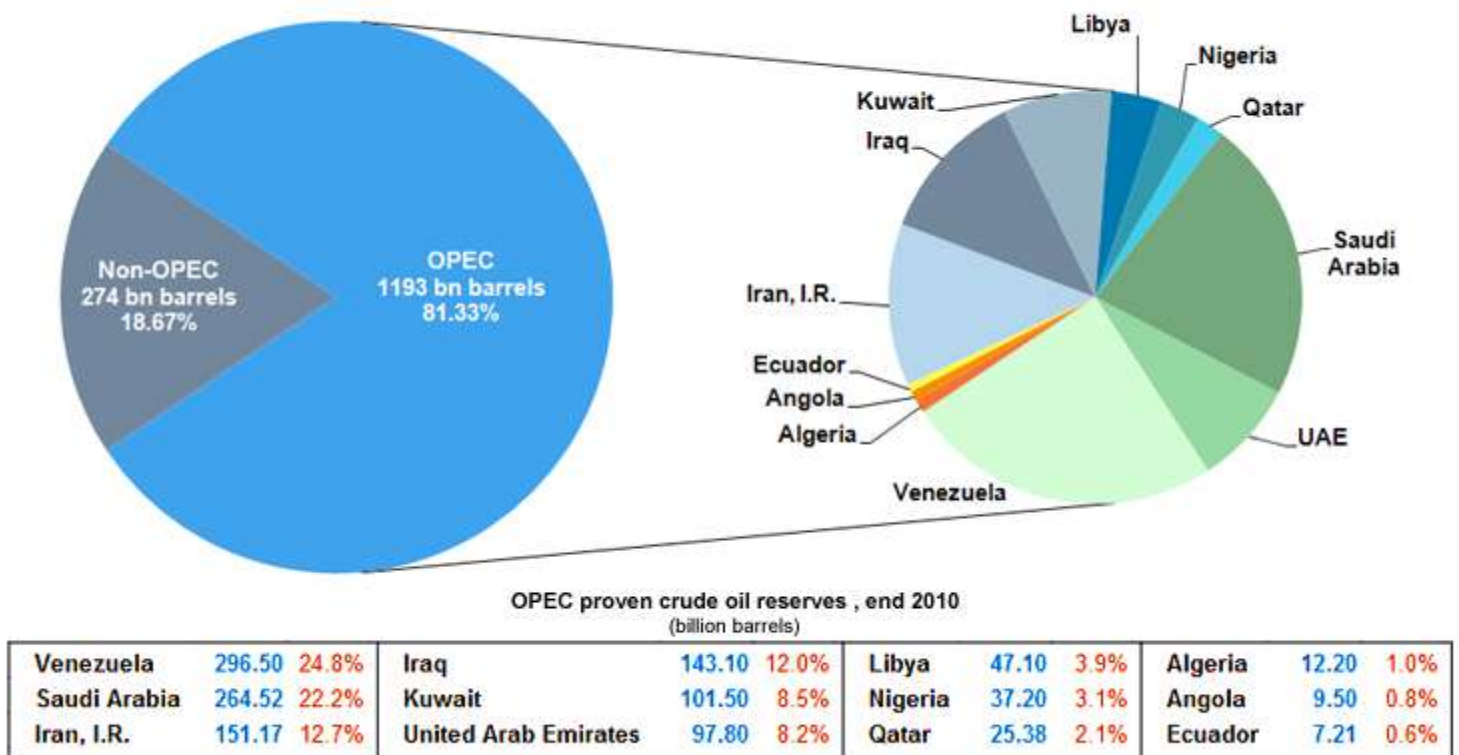
Two of the biggest natural resources in the Middle East are natural gas and oil. Discovered in the early 1900s, over half of the world's oil supply has been found in this region. This has made some Middle Eastern countries very rich. The largest reserves of natural gas are found in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and Kuwait. While some countries are rich others are very poor, countries with low reserves of gas or oil have had a difficult time.

20. What are the two biggest natural resources in the Middle East?

21. Are all of the countries in the Middle East rich? Why or why not?

In the 1960's Southwest Asian countries teamed up to create OPEC; The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. OPEC was formed by oil producing nations of the world as an international confederation for influencing the price of oil in world markets through control of the supply (their job is to control over the supply and price of oil).

### OPEC Share of World Crude Oil Reserves 2010



Source: OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin 2010/2011 edition

22. What does OPEC stand for?

23. What information does the graphic show?

24. Which four members of OPEC have the largest crude oil reserves?