



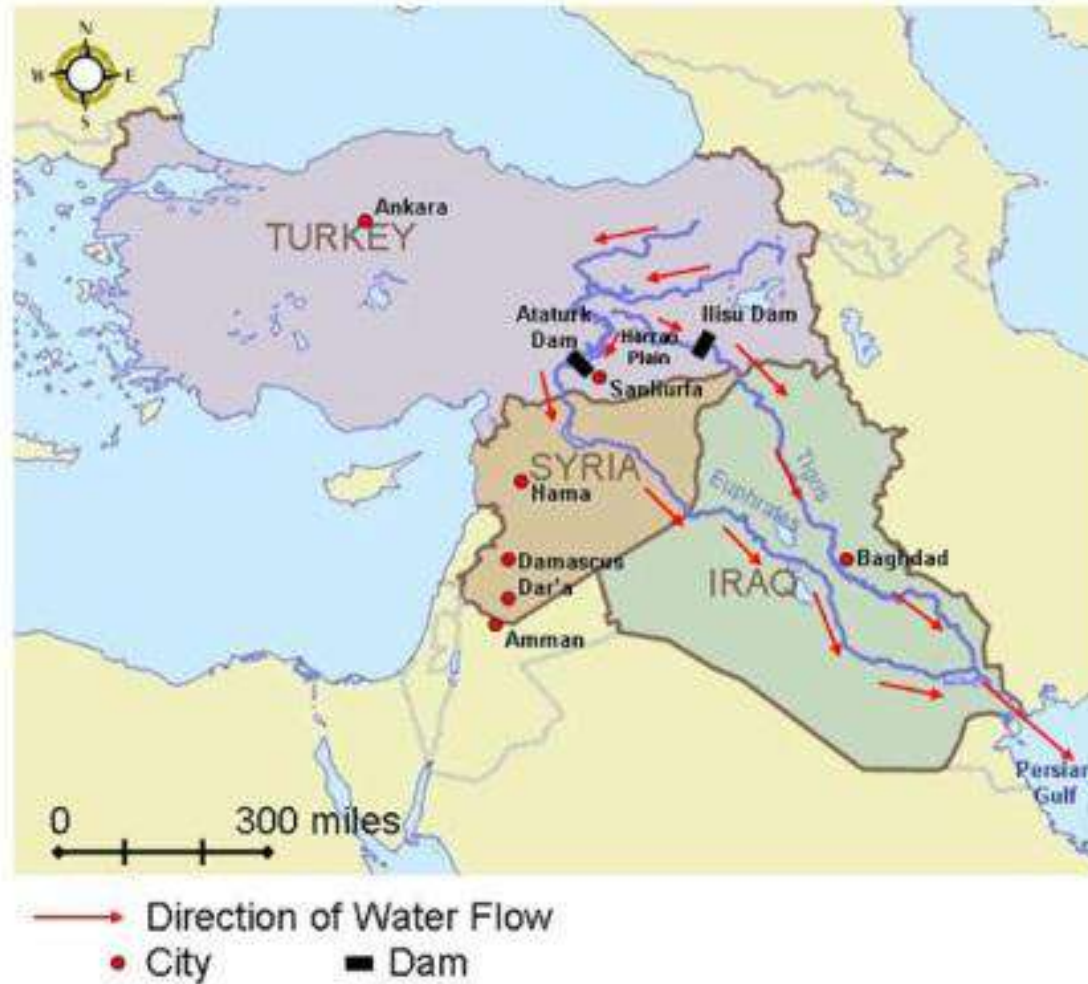
Water in a Dry Landscape

Large bodies of water border the arid landscapes in the Middle East. Notice how many river systems begin in the highlands areas of Turkey, Iran, and Iraq.

Thinking like a Geographer:

- Name five large bodies of water that border Middle Eastern lands.
- Name three rivers that begin in the highlands areas. Trace the course of each river. Which large body of water does the river drain into?

The Tigris and Euphrates in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq



Water Always Flows Downhill

The Euphrates River flows through Turkey, Syria and Iraq on its way to the Persian Gulf.

Thinking like a Geographer

- How might the dams in Turkey benefit those living downstream?
- Why might Syrian and Iraqi governments want a say in the operation of the dams?
- Use the direction of river flow shown on this map to identify the highest elevations.

The Tigris and Euphrates Watershed



Watershed Area

A watershed is an example of a **functional region**. Decisions made by people within this area affect the lives, opportunities and activities of others in the region, even when they live hundreds of miles away.

Functional regions are defined by the way people use the space, and the borders of the functional region can cross over **formal regions** like countries.

- How many countries share the Tigris-Euphrates Watershed?