

How have the physical features and the distribution of oil impacted the people of the Middle East?

Standards:

SS7G7a. Explain how the distribution of oil has affected the development of Southwest Asia (Middle East).

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.

SS7E7c. Explain the role of oil in these countries' economies.

Activating Strategy

Which would have the greatest impact on your life, water or oil? Explain your answer to a friend.

**Impact of Oil and
Physical Features
on People in the
Middle East
Jigsaw Activity**

**Let's review some of
the findings from the
jigsaw activity.**

Part I: Distribution of Oil



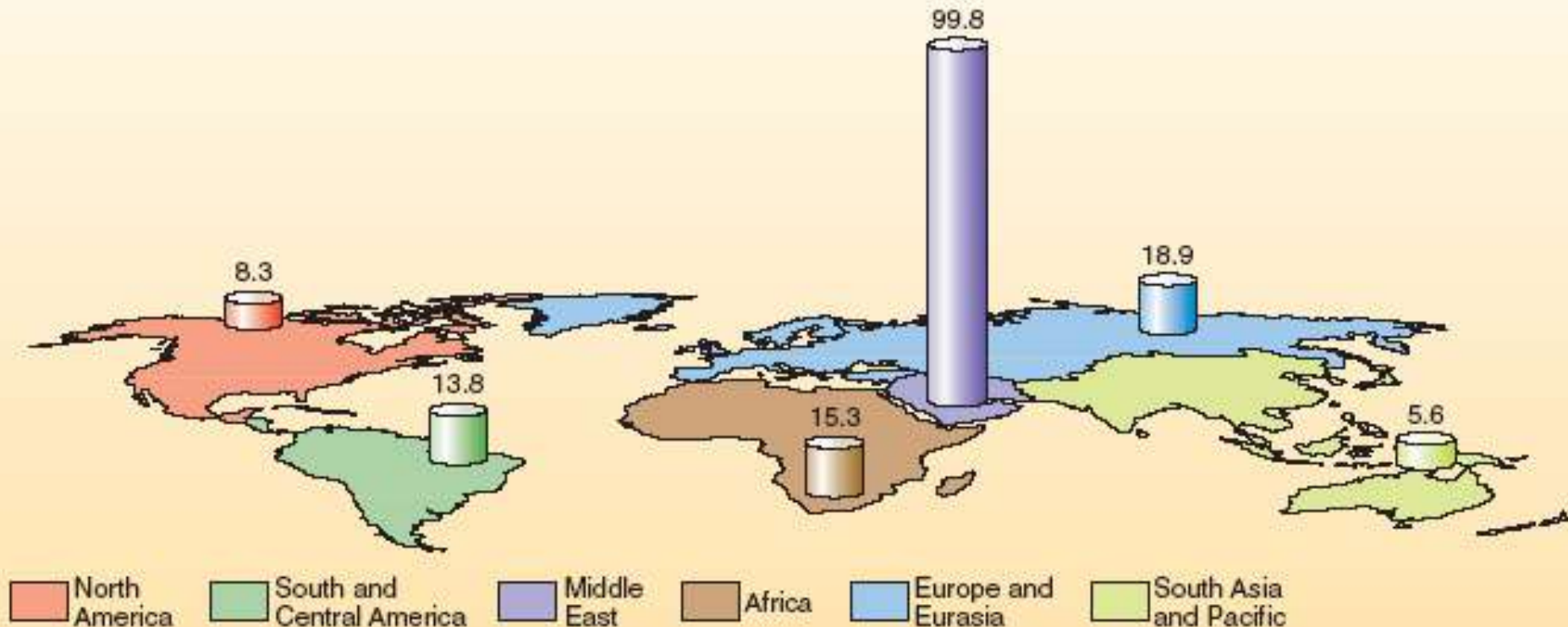
Why is oil important?

<http://www.theatlantic.com/video/archive/2013/08/whats-in-crude-oil-and-how-do-we-use-it/278645/>

**How would our lives
be different if we
didn't have oil?**

According to the image below, 99.8% of the world's oil comes from the Middle East.

What does this mean for countries in the Middle East? What is the problem then?



Oil in the Middle East

- Oil is not distributed equally in the Middle East. Some countries have a lot of oil and some countries very little oil.
- Identify a country in the Middle East that has a lot of oil.
- Identify a country in the Middle East that has very little oil.
- The sale of oil has earned extraordinary amounts of money for oil rich countries; however, not all countries have prospered.
- Oil rich Iran and Iraq have suffered from war and the mismanagement of oil money; whereas, Saudi Arabia has used money from oil to transform from a poor society to a wealthy one.

What is the link between oil fields or refineries and population density?



Populations are larger near oil fields or refineries. Cities grow in these areas and more jobs are available.



Part II: Water in the Middle East



What is the link between water and population density?



Water in the Middle East

- The Middle East is mostly dry (arid) land or desert; therefore, the majority of people live near a source of water.
- Large cities have grown near water sources such as rivers or along the coast.
- Populations have grown around port cities as well because of employment opportunities in transportation, ship building, and repair.
- There is little land for farming. If farming occurs, it occurs near rivers and river valleys or extensive irrigation is used.

Part III: Climate in the Middle East



How does climate affect people in the Middle East?

- Much of the Middle East is desert or very dry land; therefore, most cities and people are located near water.
- There is little rainfall in the Middle East. Evaporation exceeds precipitation which makes the scarcity of water more serious.
- There are huge stretches of desert where few people live or work.

Part IV: Transportation in the Middle East



Transportation in the Middle East

- Getting around the Middle East is often challenging. Many means of transportation have been adapted for different conditions.
- Many countries use buses. However, the extent and condition of public transportation varies by country. Turkey has a more modern bus system whereas Iraq has an outdated system.
- In several countries, cars are used most frequently. In fact, countries such as Israel and Iraq have had to develop plans to deal with traffic jams and pollution from cars.
- Turkey and Iran have extensive road systems and train systems that connect cities.
- Afghanistan has the least modernized system of transportation. Most cities lack public transportation. People ride on bicycles, pile into buses or trucks [even on the roofs], walk, or use donkeys, horses and camels.

Impact of Oil and Physical Features on the Middle East Summarizer

Impact of Oil and Physical Features on the Middle East

Name _____ Date ____ Period ____

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graph TD; A((People in the Middle East)) --- B[Impact of Oil]; A --- C[Impact of Water]; A --- D[Impact of Climate]; A --- E[Transportation];
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Impact of Oil

Impact of Water

People in the Middle East

Impact of Climate

Transportation