

SS7G7b

# Southwest Asia

Where People Live,  
Work, & Travel



# Standards

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

b. 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.

# SW Asia's Deserts & Rivers

**Directions:** Complete the chart below while discussion the presentation.

	Description	Where People Live	Where People Work	How People Travel
Deserts				
Rivers				

# SW Asia's Deserts & Rivers - KEY

**Directions:** Complete the chart below while discussion the presentation.

	Description	Where People Live	Where People Work	How People Travel
<b>Deserts</b>	Most of SW Asia is covered in desert	Many people have moved out of the deserts & into cities in the past 50 years; Some Bedouins (nomads) still live there; food and water are scarce	Bedouins are animal herders—trade animals and hand-made goods; most people left desert life behind and moved to cities for work	Camel caravans; ATVs
<b>Rivers</b>	Tigris River, Euphrates River, Jordan River	Most people live in cities that are built around water sources (rivers); rivers provide water for drinking and bathing, irrigation for crops, and food (fish)	Many people work in factories or shipping industry in cities along rivers; farmers grow crops in river valleys	Boats

# Deserts: Where People...

**Travel**

**Work**

**Live**

# Rivers: Where People...

**Travel**

**Work**

**Live**

# Deserts

# SW Asia's Deserts

- There are 2.8 million miles of land in the Middle East, and a large number of it is covered by large desert areas.
- The Rub al-Khali (or “empty quarter”) is in southern Saudi Arabia.
- The Great Syrian Desert is located between Syria and Iraq.





# Where People Live

- The desert areas are not a favorable place to live due to the extremely hot and arid climate.
- Food and water is difficult to find; however, oases provide a temporary water source.
- Bedouins (desert nomads) have called the desert home for thousands of years.
- They live in tent camps and in huts.



# Where People Live

- Since the discovery of oil, most people have moved away from the desert areas.
- Over the last 50 years, residents have been exchanging the harsh nomadic life for work in the cities.
- In Saudi Arabia, only about 1% of the population remains as nomadic herders.





# Where People Work

- Many Bedouins are sheep, camel, and goat herders.
- They trade animals and hand-made goods with people who live in towns along the desert's edge.
- Most people have left the desert behind and have moved to cities to find work.



# How People Travel

- People travel across the desert in camel caravans.
- Some even use All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) to maneuver across the sand.





# Rivers

# SW Asia's Rivers

- The Tigris River runs through Turkey and Iraq and joins with the Euphrates to become the Shatt al Arab, which empties into the Persian Gulf.
- The Euphrates River runs through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.
- The Jordan River forms part of the border for Syria, Jordan, and Israel.





# Where People Live

- Cities are built near rivers to take advantage of the scarce water sources in Southwest Asia.
- Access to water for bathing and drinking make the area much easier to live in.
- Farmers grow crops by rivers and in river valleys because they provide a source of irrigation.
- Rivers also provide a good source of food (fish).

# Baghdad, Iraq & the Tigris River



# Where People Work

- Cities and towns on rivers have become major hubs of industry.
  - Most people in these cities make a living working in industrial factories.
- Rivers are also important trade routes for people in cities to use to ship goods to other merchants.
- Farming and fishing are also important areas of income for people who live near rivers.





## Al Aqaba, Jordan & the Jordan River





# How People Travel

- Rivers have always provided important routes for transportation.
- People use boats for travel and trade along rivers.



# Teacher Info – Venn Diagram

- Have the students compare and contrast how people use deserts and rivers to live, work, & travel on the Venn diagram.

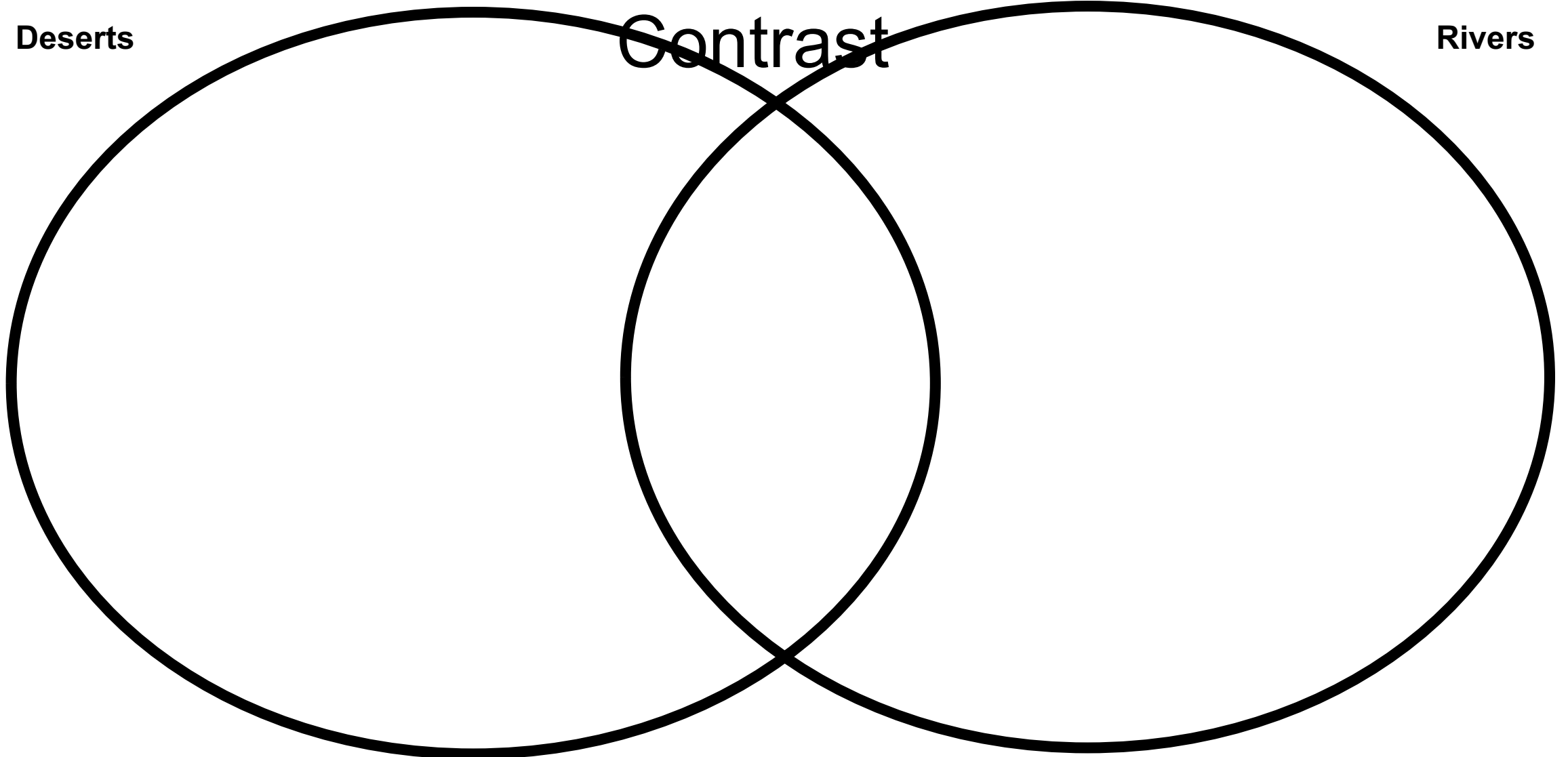
# Southwest Asia's Geography

Compare and

Contrast

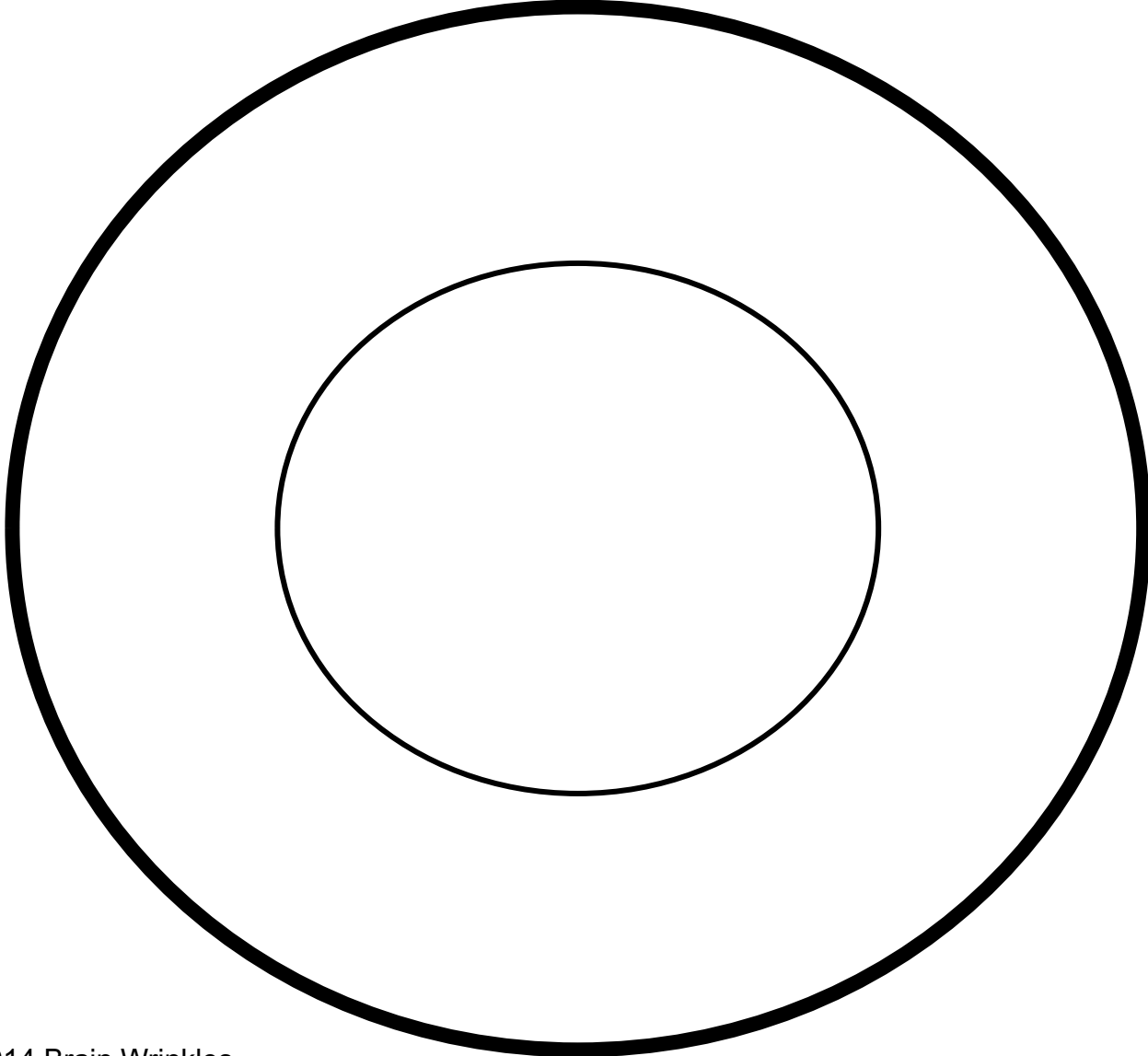
Deserts

Rivers



# Design A Plate

**Directions:** Design a plate that could be used in a Middle Eastern restaurant. The plate's design should include key symbols that relate to how people live, work, and travel along the rivers and deserts in Southwest Asia. In the textbox, you will explain your plate's design and the significance of the symbols.



Plate's Description:

# Fieldtrip Wish List

Wouldn't it be awesome to take a fieldtrip to visit the deserts and rivers of Southwest Asia? Write me a note to try and convince me to take your class there. Include at least THREE reasons based on where people live, work, and travel. Also, draw an illustration to go with your note.

From the Desk of...

# Fieldtrip Wish List

Wouldn't it be awesome to take a fieldtrip to visit the deserts and rivers of Southwest Asia? Write me a note to try and convince me to take your class there. Include at least THREE reasons based on where people live, work, and travel. Also, draw an illustration to go with your note.

From the Desk of...