

A topographic map of Southwest Asia, showing the Arabian Peninsula, the Persian Gulf, and the surrounding regions. The map uses color to represent elevation, with greens and yellows for lower elevations and browns and oranges for higher elevations. The Persian Gulf is a prominent dark blue feature in the center-right. The Red Sea is visible on the left. The text "Southwest Asia's Geography" is overlaid in a large, orange, bold font with a black outline.

# Southwest Asia's Geography

## STANDARDS:

**SS7G5 The student will locate selected features in Southwestern Asia (Middle East).**

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: Euphrates River, Jordan River, Tigris River, Suez Canal, Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and Gaza Strip.
- b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the nations of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

# Countries to label on map 1

- Iraq
- Iran
- Afghanistan
- Saudi Arabia
- Turkey
- Israel

Turkey

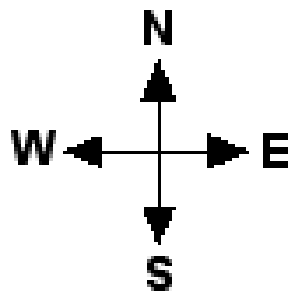
Afghanistan

Iraq

Iran

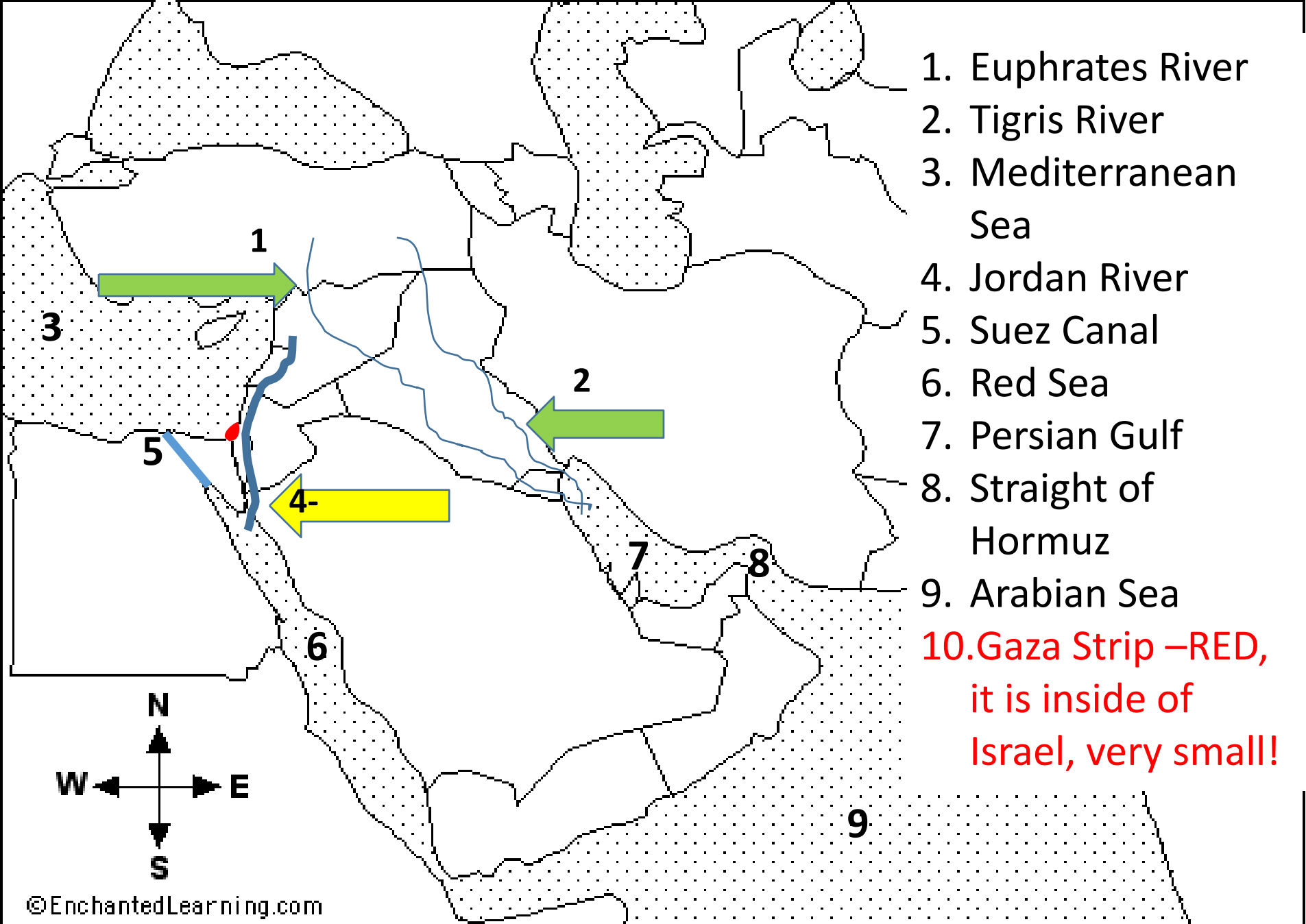
Saudi  
Arabia

Israel



# PHYSICAL FEATURES-to label on map 2

- Euphrates River
- Jordan River
- Tigris River
- Suez Canal
- Persian Gulf
- Strait of Hormuz
- Arabian Sea
- Red Sea
- Gaza Strip



# SW Asia's Physical Features

**Directions:** Complete the chart below with information that you learn during the presentation. If time allows, color your illustrations.

Euphrates River		Persian Gulf	
What:		What:	
Where:		Where:	
Tigris River		Strait of Hormuz	
What:		What:	
Where:		Where:	
Jordan River		Arabian Sea	
What:		What:	
Where:		Where:	
Suez Canal		Red Sea	
What:		What:	
Where:		Where:	

# SW Asia's Physical Features

**Directions:** Complete the chart below with information that you learn during the presentation. If time allows, color your illustrations.

Gaza Strip	Mediterranean Sea
What:	What:
Where:	Where:



# Middle East

- The Middle East is also known as the “crossroads of the world” because of its location in the center of three continents – Asia, Africa, and Europe.
- Deserts are the most common physical feature here and make up 66% of the area.
- Water is scarce in the region, with countries often competing over access to the rivers and seas.



# Euphrates River

- **WHAT:** The Euphrates is the birthplace of the ancient civilizations of Sumer, Babylon, & Assyria. It is a source of water for Iraq, Syria, and Turkey today.
- **WHERE:** begins in the mountains of Turkey, flows into the Persian Gulf
- It then flows along the border between Kuwait and Iran and empties into the Persian Gulf.



# Tigris River

- **WHAT:** Along with the Euphrates, the Tigris was part of ancient Middle Eastern civilizations. The rivers provide water for both drinking and farming.
- **WHERE:** The Tigris River flows through Turkey to Iraq and into the Persian Gulf
- **The countries that share these rivers have had problems over how the water should be shared.**





# Jordan River

- **WHAT:** The Jordan river is a main source of water for Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, parts of Syria, & many of those living in the West Bank & the Gaza Strip.
- The Jordan River is also important because it is the political boundary between Israel, the West Bank, & Jordan.
- **WHERE:** The Jordan River starts in the mountains of Israel, Lebanon, and Syria, and flows south until it reaches the Dead Sea.
- It is only 20 feet wide at some parts and only 17 feet deep at its deepest point.







# Suez Canal

- **WHAT:** It is a 120-mile man-made waterway that is used to transport goods to and from Asia, Africa, & Europe. It is an important shortcut because it allows trade between all three continents.
- **WHERE:** The Suez Canal connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
- At the northern end of the Red Sea, ships can enter the canal and can get to the Mediterranean Sea without having to sail all around the continent of Africa.

1956

*Mediterranean Sea*

SYRIA

Tel Aviv-Yafo

Jerusalem

★ Amman

Gaza Strip

ISRAEL

JORDAN

Port Said

Suez Canal

Bi'r al Jifjafah  
(Bir Gifgafa)

Mitla Pass

Sinai

1949 Armistice Line

★ Cairo

Suez

EGYPT

Nile

Gulf of Suez

Gulf of Aqaba

SAUDI  
ARABIA

Strait of  
Tiran

*Red Sea*

0 25 50 Kilometers  
0 25 50 Miles

Boundary representation is  
not necessarily authoritative.

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# Persian Gulf

- **WHAT:** The Persian Gulf holds some of the most important oil fields in the world and is one of the main ways oil is shipped from the Middle East
- **WHERE:** The Persian Gulf is a shallow body of water between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.
- All of the countries that produce oil in that region depend on the Persian Gulf as a shipping route.







# Strait of Hormuz

- **WHAT:** It is a critically important shipping channel because much of the world's oil supply passes through this strait.
- **WHERE:** The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway that connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.
- Any ships coming out of or into the Persian Gulf must navigate through this very narrow waterway.







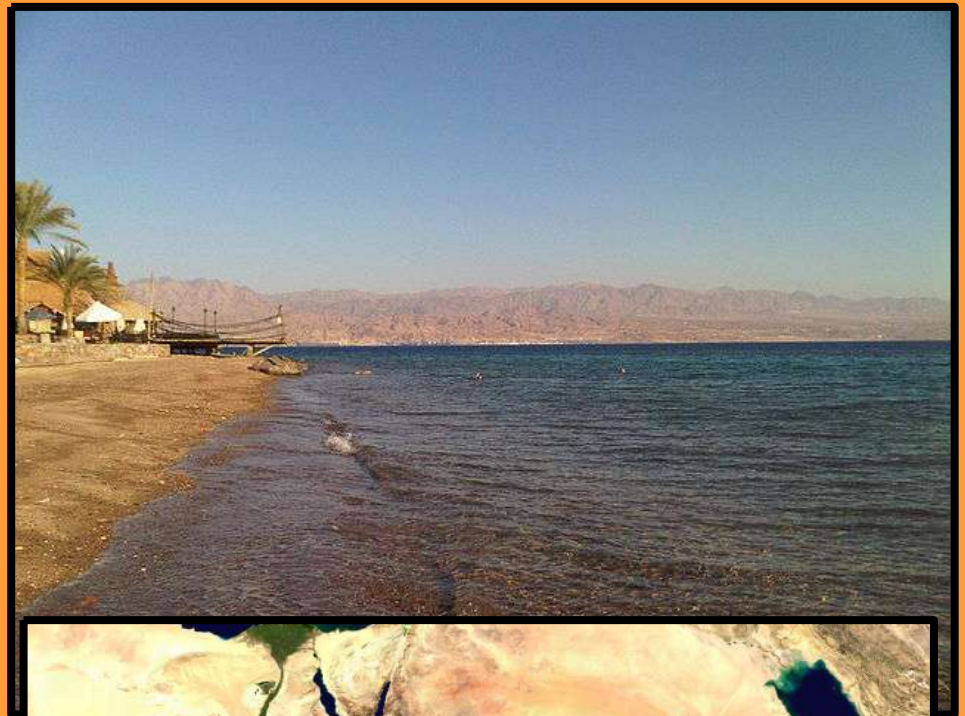
# Arabian Sea

- **WHAT:** It is a key shipping route between Europe and India through the Suez Canal.
- **WHERE:** located north of the Indian Ocean and is bordered by India to the east, Pakistan and Iran to the north, and the Arabian Peninsula to the west.



# Red Sea

- **WHAT:** It is linked to the Mediterranean Sea by the Suez Canal.
  - Because of the Red Sea's location between Europe and East Asia, heavy shipping traffic takes place here.
- **WHERE:** The Red Sea is an arm of the Indian Ocean that lies between northeast Africa and Asia.





# Gaza Strip

- **WHAT:** The Gaza Strip is often politically unstable and there have been many outbreaks of violence over the last 60 years. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world
- **WHERE:** Located within Israel, the Gaza Strip is a rectangular territory that is about 25 miles long and 4 to 5 miles wide
- Disputes over this territory continue between Israel and surrounding countries.

1956







# Mediterranean Sea

- **WHAT:** An important body of water for trade. The location of the Mediterranean Sea is essential for exchanges between 3 major continents.
- **WHERE:** It is bordered to the north by Europe, east by Asia, and the south by Africa



