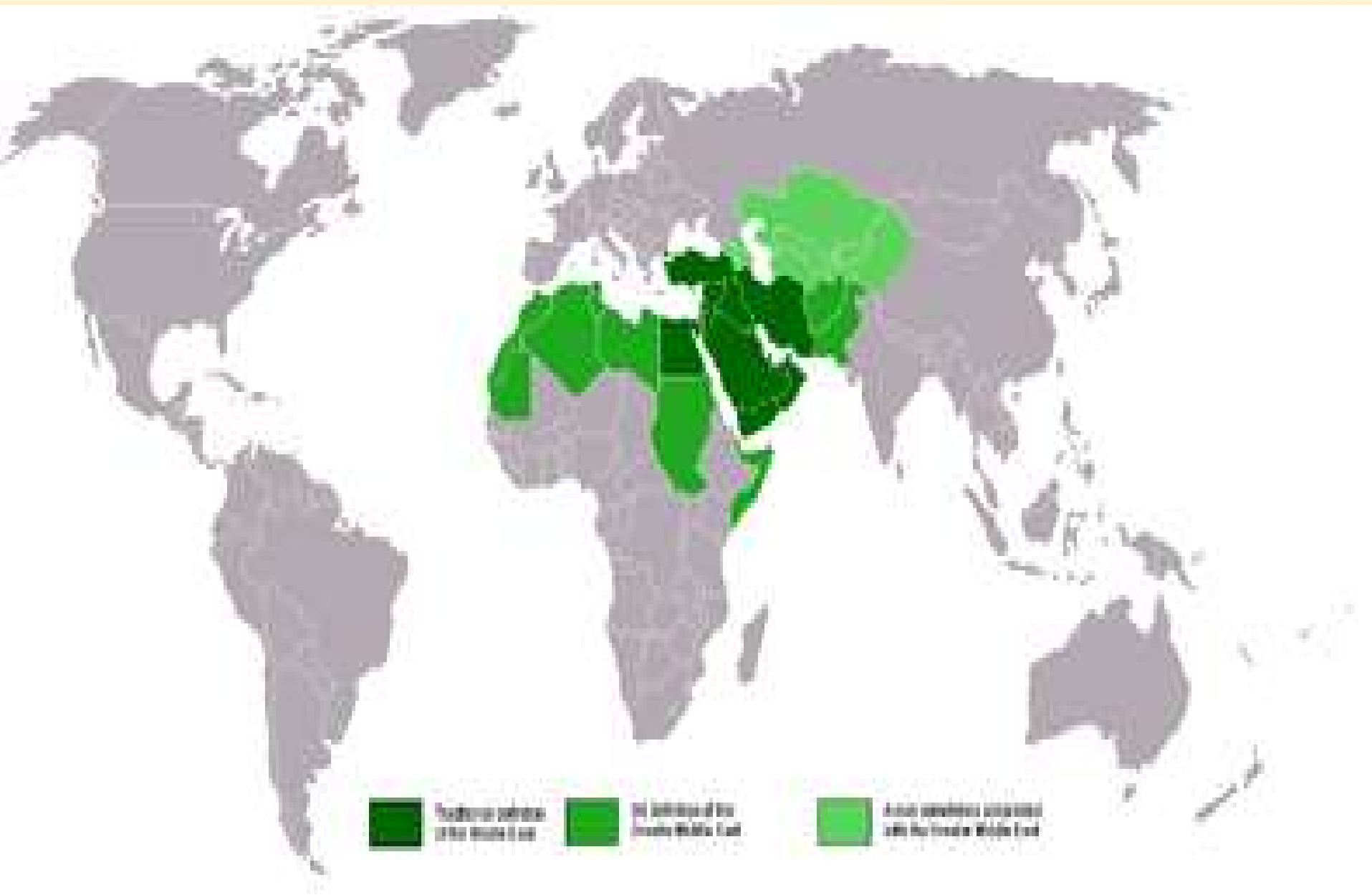


Southwest Asia (Middle East) Geographic Understandings



GPS STANDARD

- ✘ **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.



LOTS OF SAND!

- ✘ The Middle East is often called the “crossroads” of the world because it lies at the intersection of 3 continents: Europe, Asia & Africa.
- ✘ 66% of the area is comprised of deserts, the most common landform.



IMPORTANT PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE MIDDLE EAST



JORDAN RIVER

- ✘ Originates in mountains of Israel, Lebanon & Syria
- ✘ Flows into the Dead Sea
- ✘ Key water source for Israel, Lebanon & Syria
- ✘ Only 20 feet wide & 17 feet deep at some points



TIGRIS RIVER



- ✘ Starts in the mountains of Turkey
- ✘ Parallels the Euphrates River in places
- ✘ Part of the cradle of ancient Middle Eastern civilizations
- ✘ Flows through Turkey into Iraq

EUPHRATES RIVER

- ✘ Starts in the mountains of Turkey
- ✘ Parallels the Tigris River in places
- ✘ Flows into Persian Gulf
- ✘ Birthplace of ancient civilizations of Assyria, Babylon & Sumer
- ✘ Turkey, Syria & Iraq compete for its water



SUEZ CANAL



- ✘ Connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea
- ✘ Called “crossroads of Europe, Africa & Asia” because it allows trade between the 3 continents
- ✘ During military disputes in the 20th century, Egypt closed it twice by sinking ships in it

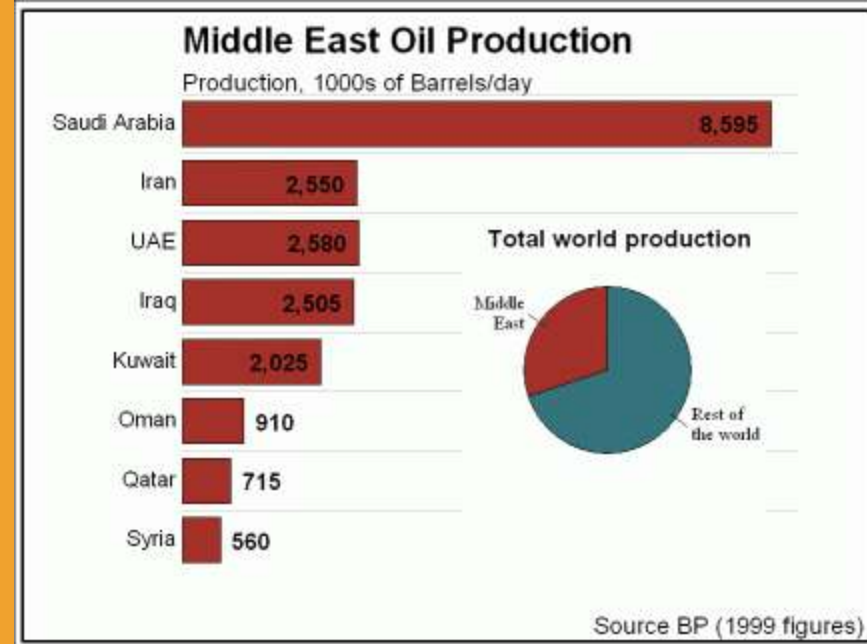
PERSIAN GULF

- ✘ Shallow arm of Arabian Sea
- ✘ Located between Iran & Arabian Peninsula
- ✘ Holds important oil fields
- ✘ Called Persian Gulf by western countries
- ✘ Called Arabian Gulf by Arab countries



Why is there so much oil around the Persian Gulf?

Crude oil is formed from the decayed remnants of aquatic plants and animals that lived hundreds of millions of years ago. Large portions of the modern day Middle East were once submerged under a large, now non-existent sea called the Tethys Sea. This sea eventually disappeared, sealing large deposits of organic matter under a salty crust. Over the eons, this crust was in turn covered by layer upon layer of sediment. As the sediment was compressed under the increasing weight of the layers above, it hardened into limestone. About 15 million years ago, the shifting of tectonic plates of the region formed large, underground fissures. As the organic matter migrated through the layers of limestone, much of it seeped into these fissures. These deposits of organic matter became crude oil.



STRAIT OF HORMUZ

- ✘ Narrow waterway between Gulf of Oman & the Persian Gulf
- ✘ Critically important shipping channel
- ✘ Much of world's oil supply goes through this strait



ARABIAN SEA

- ✘ Region of Indian Ocean bordered by India to the east, Pakistan & Iran to the north, & Arabian Peninsula to the west
- ✘ Has been part of the trade route between India & Europe for centuries



RED SEA

- ✘ Arm of Indian Ocean between northeast Africa & Asia
- ✘ Linked to Mediterranean Sea by the Suez Canal



GAZA STRIP

- ✘ 146 square miles bordered by Egypt on the south, the Mediterranean Sea on the west & by Israel on the north & east
- ✘ Disputes over this territory continue between Israel & surrounding nations



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

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



CAN YOU FIND.....???

✘ Afghanistan

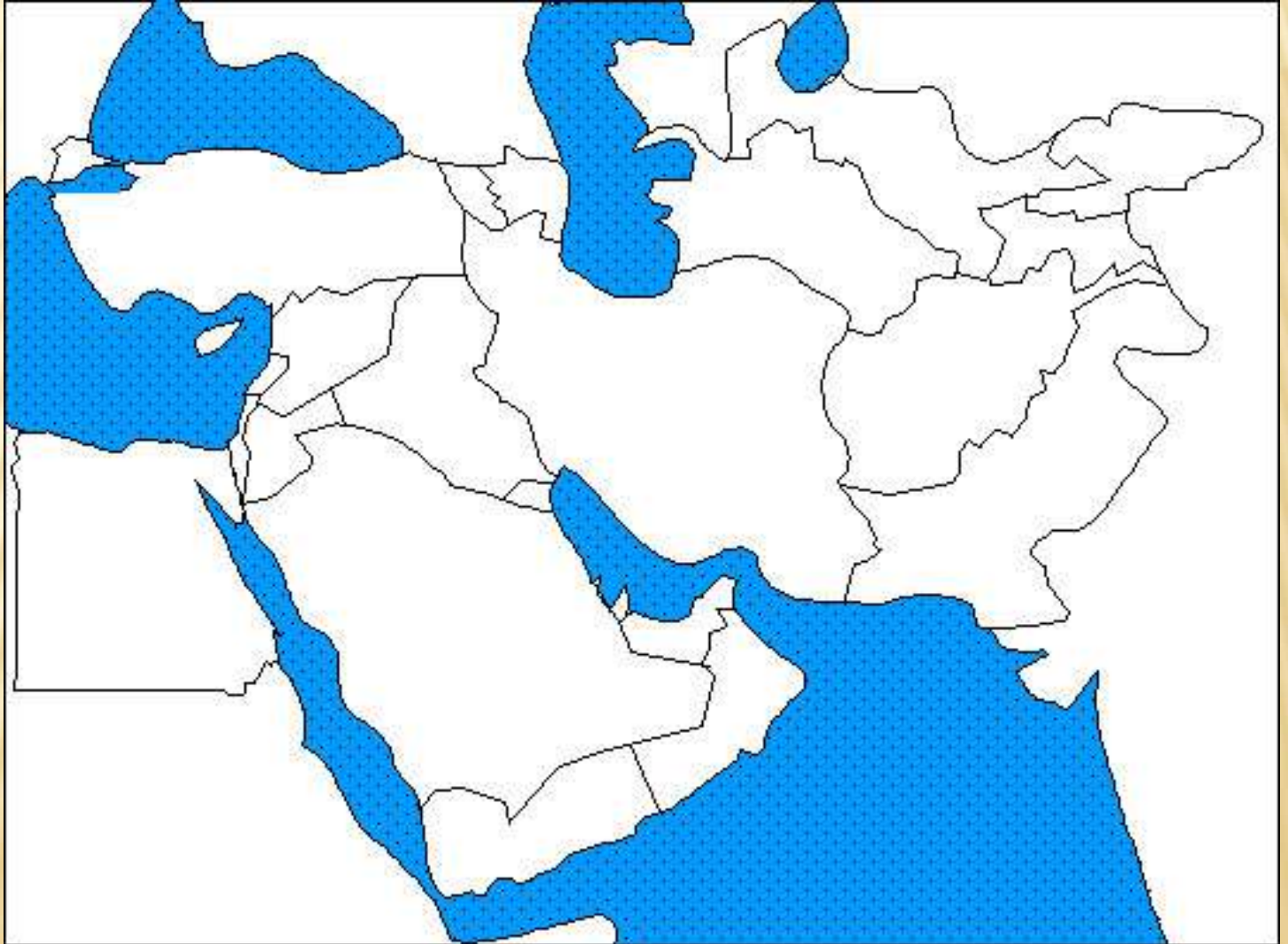
✘ Iran

✘ Iraq

✘ Israel

✘ Saudi
Arabia

✘ Turkey



CAN YOU FIND.....???

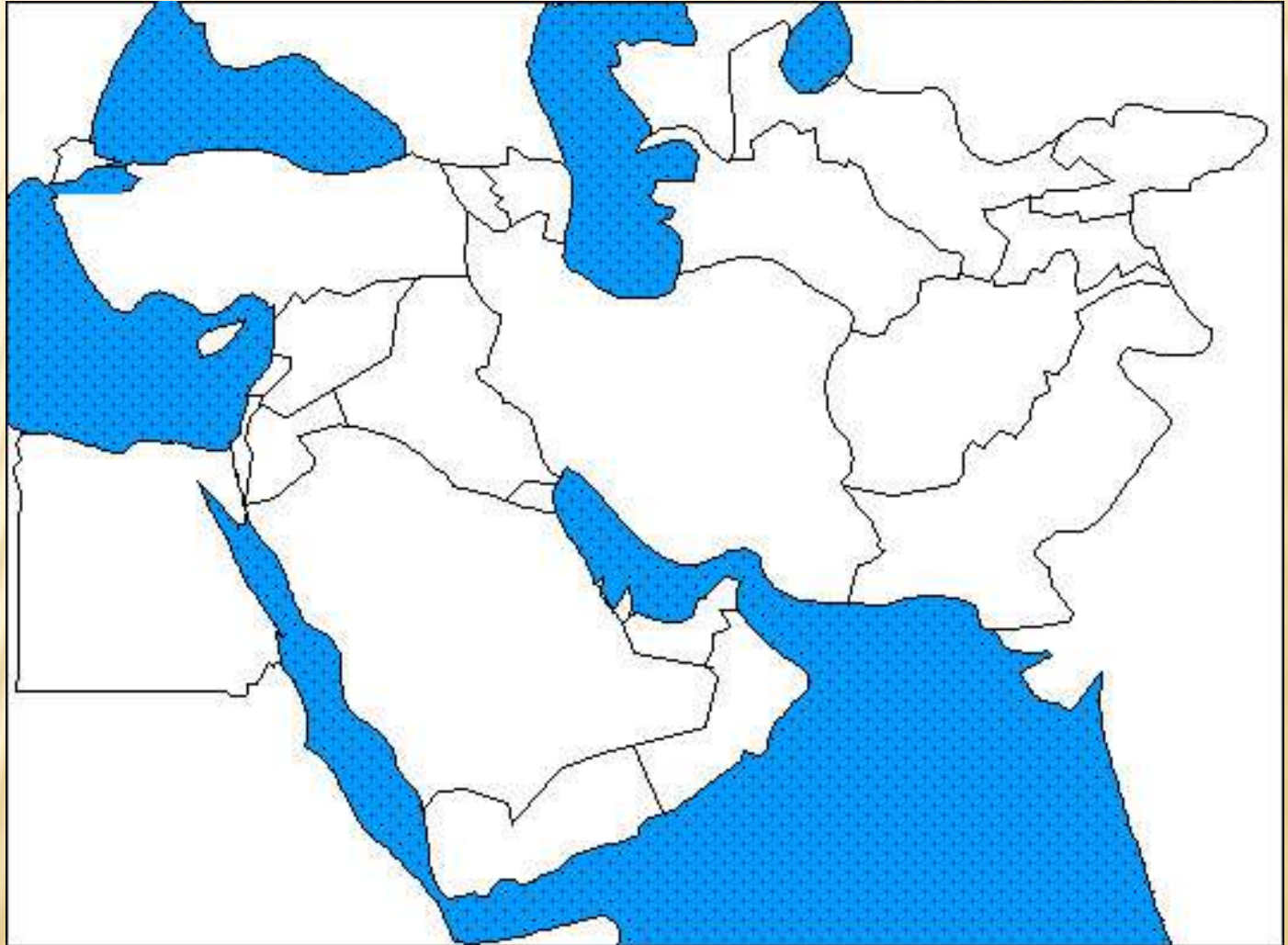
Rivers:

- ✘ Jordan
- ✘ Tigris
- ✘ Euphrates

Other Bodies of Water

- ✘ Suez Canal
- ✘ Persian Gulf
- ✘ Strait of Hormuz
- ✘ Arabian Sea
- ✘ Red Sea

Gaza Strip



QUICK QUIZ

1. Much of world's oil supply goes through this waterway

Word Bank

Red Sea

Suez Canal

Gaza Strip

Tigris

Persian Gulf

Strait of

Hormuz

Jordan River

Euphrates

2. Key water source for Israel, Lebanon & Syria

3. Disputes over this territory continue between Israel & surrounding nations

4. Body of water between northeast Africa & Asia

5. Manmade structure connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea

6. 2 rivers that were the birthplace of ancient civilizations & provide water to Middle East

7. Massive reserves of oil found here