

Unit 7 Study Guide – SW Asia/The Middle East

Use your Geography Notebook to define and/or explain the importance of each of the following terms:

Oil - The most important resource in SW Asia. The region holds over half of the world's oil reserves

Salt Flat Desert – Very hot, windy, and uninhabitable (unlivable) plain of salt slabs

Judaism – The first monotheistic (One God) religion with many followers. Israel is the homeland.

Desalinization – The process of removing salt from sea water for the purpose of watering crops.

Christianity – The belief that Jesus Christ is God and came into the world to die for the sins of all.

Taliban – Political group in Afghanistan with strict Islamic control of the country.

Islam – The belief that there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah.

Guest Workers – Unskilled workers from other countries, who work in the oil fields of SW Asia.

5 pillars – The basic beliefs of all faithful Muslims. Faith, Prayer 5 times/day, pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca, Fasting during the month of Ramadan, and Charity

Dead Sea – The lowest point on the Earth's exposed crust. A concentration of minerals makes it the saltiest water in the world by far. Jordan River flows into it.

Mesopotamia – The ancient civilization that occupied the Fertile Crescent between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.

Suez Canal – The man-made canal that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, reducing travel time dramatically, especially for trading.

Muhammad – The prophet of Islam, the founder of Islam. Born in Mecca.

Mecca – The birthplace of Muhammad and destination of the pilgrimage (hajj)

OPEC – The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Mostly SW Asian countries.

Western Wall – Also called the Wailing Wall, it is the most sacred place of Jews in Jerusalem.

PLO – Palestinian Liberation Organization – will stop at no cost to ensure the freedom of Palestinians and land for Palestinians in Israel. Labeled a terrorist organization by the U.S.

Strategic Commodity – A resource that nations are willing to go to war over. Oil in SW Asia.

Stateless nation – A group of people who do not have a home country. Palestinians and the Kurds are both examples of this in SW Asia.

Osama Bin-laden – Leader of Al-Qaeda and mastermind behind the 9/11/2001 attacks on U.S. soil.

Theocracy – A government that is ruled by religious leaders and religious sacred texts.

Please respond to the following questions in your Geography Notebook.

1. What three types of landforms in Southwest Asia restrict movement? **Deserts, Mountains, and the lack of waterways.**
2. What are Southwest Asia's two most valuable resources? **Oil & Water**
3. How does the Mediterranean coast differ from other areas of Southwest Asia geographically? **The Mediterranean coast gets more rain and has a 365-day-a-year growing season. Many fruits, nuts, etc. grow easily and rapidly in the Mediterranean climate.**

4. Why do water projects cause political problems in Southwest Asia? **Water is a very limited/scarce resource. If one country makes changes to a waterway upstream, it impacts the countries downstream.**
5. Why is there continued conflict between Israel and Palestine? **Both people believe that Israel is their homeland.**
6. What is the purpose of an oil refinery? **To take crude oil and turn it into useful products, like gasoline.**
7. The transportation of crude oil provides what risks? **Spills on the ocean, spills overland, fires.**
8. What is the dominate climate of the Middle East? **Desert**
9. What country was invaded by Iraq to start the first Gulf War in 1990? **Kuwait. Many countries, including the U.S.A. came to help Kuwait defeat Sadaam Hussein and the Iraqis.**
10. The Middle East covers what three continents? **Asia, Africa, & Europe**
11. Jerusalem is the holy city for what religious groups? **Judaism, Christianity, & Islam**
12. What is needed for large-scale farming to take place in Southwest Asia? **More than just dams and irrigation. There aren't enough rivers for that to be enough. They need desalinization of seawater, and wastewater treatment.**
13. Which group has considered themselves a stateless nation since the nation of Israel was created? **Palestine**
14. What is name of a Palestinian land on the west side of Jordan River? **The West Bank**