Southwest and Central Asia
Huge Deserts
Southwest Asia is home to huge deserts such as the Rub’ al-Khali, or “Empty Quarter,” which is virtually uninhabited.

The Caspian Sea
The vast Caspian Sea, which is the world’s largest inland body of water, contains valuable resources like oil.

Great Mountains
In Central Asia, high mountain ranges such as the Tian Shan separate the region from other parts of Asia.
Explore the Satellite Image

Vast deserts, high mountains, and large rivers stand out clearly on this satellite image of Southwest and Central Asia. How do you think these features influence life in the region?
Place  Southwest and Central Asia are separated by mountains and plateaus in Iran and Afghanistan.

1. Name  What is the name of the large peninsula in Southwest Asia?
2. Explain  What country has a mountain with an elevation greater than 24,000 feet (7,300m)?
**Geographical Extremes: Southwest and Central Asia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Longest River</td>
<td>Euphrates River, Turkey/Syria/Iraq: 1,700 miles (2,735 km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Point</td>
<td>Qullai Ismoili Somoni, Tajikistan: 24,590 feet (7,495 m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Point</td>
<td>Dead Sea, Israel/Jordan: 1,348 feet (411 m) below sea level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Recorded Temperature</td>
<td>Tirat Tsvi, Israel: 129°F (53.9°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driest Place</td>
<td>Aden, Yemen: 1.8 inches (4.6 cm) average precipitation per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largest Country</td>
<td>Kazakhstan: 1,049,155 square miles (2,717,311 square km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallest Country</td>
<td>Bahrain: 257 square miles (666 square km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saltiest Lake</td>
<td>Dead Sea, Israel/Jordan: 33 percent salt content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Powerful Earthquake</td>
<td>Erzincan, Turkey, 1939: 8.0 magnitude</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Size Comparison: The United States and Southwest and Central Asia**

A high salt content keeps people afloat in the Dead Sea.
**Place** While Central Asia’s countries are landlocked, the countries of Southwest Asia have access to the sea.

**1. Name** What are the three largest countries in this region?

**2. Make Inferences** How do you think a country’s size relates to its population?
Place The key resource of this region is oil.

1. Name Around which body of water is most oil concentrated?

2. Explain Based on the map, how is oil transported out of Southwest Asia? How can you tell?
Place  In this region, most people live in plains and valleys.

1. Name  Compare this map to the political map. Which country has three cities over 2 million?
2. Compare  Compare this map to the physical map. How do physical features influence where people live in the region?
Regions  Hot and dry climates dominate Southwest and Central Asia.
1. Locate  Which climates are found in this region?

2. Make Generalizations  How do you think the region’s climate influences people’s daily lives?
### South West and Central Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area (sq mi)</th>
<th>Per Capita GDP (U.S.$)</th>
<th>Life Expectancy at Birth</th>
<th>TVS per 1,000 People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>🇦🇫</td>
<td>Kabul</td>
<td>33.6 million</td>
<td>250,001</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>🇧🇭</td>
<td>Manama</td>
<td>772,785</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>$37,300</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>🇨🇾</td>
<td>Nicosia</td>
<td>796,740</td>
<td>3,571</td>
<td>$28,600</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>🇮🇷</td>
<td>Tehran</td>
<td>66.4 million</td>
<td>636,296</td>
<td>$12,800</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>🇮🇶</td>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>28.9 million</td>
<td>168,754</td>
<td>$3,700</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>🇨🇮</td>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>7.2 million</td>
<td>8,019</td>
<td>$28,300</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>🇯🇴</td>
<td>Amman</td>
<td>6.3 million</td>
<td>35,637</td>
<td>$5,100</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>🇰🇿</td>
<td>Astana</td>
<td>15.3 million</td>
<td>1,049,155</td>
<td>$11,500</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>🇰🇼</td>
<td>Kuwait City</td>
<td>2.7 million</td>
<td>6,880</td>
<td>$57,400</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>🇰🇬</td>
<td>Bishkek</td>
<td>5.4 million</td>
<td>76,641</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>🇱🇧</td>
<td>Beirut</td>
<td>4 million</td>
<td>4,015</td>
<td>$11,100</td>
<td>73.5</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>🇸🇦</td>
<td>Muscat</td>
<td>3.4 million</td>
<td>82,031</td>
<td>$20,200</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>🇶🇦</td>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>833,285</td>
<td>4,416</td>
<td>$110,700</td>
<td>75.3</td>
<td>866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>🇸🇦</td>
<td>Riyadh</td>
<td>28.7 million</td>
<td>756,985</td>
<td>$20,500</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>🇸🇾</td>
<td>Damascus</td>
<td>20.1 million</td>
<td>71,498</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>🇺🇸</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>307.2 million</td>
<td>3,794,083</td>
<td>$46,900</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Analysis Skill: Analyzing Tables

1. How does the per capita GDP of countries in this region compare to the per capita GDP of the United States?
2. Based on the table, which countries seem to have the highest standard of living?

### Oil Giants

**World Oil Reserves**

- Southwest and Central Asia: 61%
- Rest of the World: 39%

**Largest Oil Reserves by Country**

- Saudi Arabia: 23%
- Iran: 12%
- Iraq: 9%
- Kuwait: 7%
- United Arab Emirates: 6%

The countries of Southwest and Central Asia contain more than 60 percent of the world’s oil. Saudi Arabia has by far the most oil, with about 23 percent of the world’s total.
Essential Question: How has religion shaped the development of the nations of the Eastern Mediterranean?

What You Will Learn...

In this chapter you will learn about the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region—their physical geography, history, government, economy, and culture.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography 412

The Big Idea: The Eastern Mediterranean, a region with a dry climate and valuable resources, sits in the middle of three continents.

SECTION 2: Turkey 416

The Big Idea: Although Turkey has historically been more Asian than European, its leaders are seeking to develop closer economic ties to Europe.

SECTION 3: Israel 420

The Big Idea: Israel and the Palestinian Territories are home to Jews and Arabs who continue to struggle over the region's land.

SECTION 4: Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan 426

The Big Idea: Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan are Arab nations coping with religious diversity.

Focus on Reading and Writing

Setting a Purpose: Good readers often set a purpose before they read. Ask yourself, “Why am I reading this chapter?” For example, you might want to learn about the geography of a country. Keeping your purpose in mind will help you focus on what is important. See the lesson, Setting a Purpose, on page R18.

Writing a Description: As you read this chapter, you will collect information about the lands and people in this region. Later you will write a description for readers who have not visited the region.

Geography: The Jordan River valley in Israel provides fertile soils for farming.
The Eastern Mediterranean: Political

In Turkey, a Muslim dervish spins around in a circle during a ritual dance.

Carved completely out of a sandstone cliff in Jordan, the ancient city of Petra dates back more than 2,000 years.

History

The Eastern Mediterranean region is located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia.

1. Locate What is Turkey’s capital?
2. Interpret Why is the region called the Eastern Mediterranean?

Place

The Eastern Mediterranean region is located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia.

Jesus’ Jerusalem

History

Culture

Map Zone

Geography Skills

HISTORY

Jesus’ Jerusalem

mapzone

Culture

In Turkey, a Muslim dervish spins around in a circle during a ritual dance.
Main Ideas

1. The Eastern Mediterranean’s physical features include the Bosporus, the Dead Sea, rivers, mountains, deserts, and plains.
2. The region’s climate is mostly dry with little vegetation.
3. Important natural resources in the Eastern Mediterranean include valuable minerals and the availability of water.

The Big Idea

The Eastern Mediterranean, a region with a dry climate and valuable resources, sits in the middle of three continents.

Key Terms and Places

Dardanelles, p. 412
Bosporus, p. 412
Jordan River, p. 413
Dead Sea, p. 413
Syrian Desert, p. 414

If YOU lived there...

You live in Izmir, Turkey, on the Aegean Sea, but are traveling into the far eastern part of the country called eastern Anatolia. At home you are used to a warm, dry Mediterranean climate. You are surprised by the colder and wetter climate you’re experiencing. Two mountain ranges come together here, and you notice that the peaks are covered with snow.

How does geography affect climate in these two places?

Building Background

The Eastern Mediterranean region lies at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and Asia. In ancient times, Greek colonists settled here, and it was later part of the Roman Empire. Geographically, however, it is almost entirely in Southwest Asia.

The countries of the Eastern Mediterranean make up part of a larger region called Southwest Asia. This region is sometimes referred to as the Middle East. Europeans first called the region the Middle East to distinguish it from the Far East, which included China and Japan.

Physical Features

As you can see on the physical map on the next page, a narrow waterway separates Europe from Asia. This waterway is made up of the Dardanelles (dahrd-uhn-ELZ), the Bosporus (BAH-S-puh-ruhs), and the Sea of Marmara (MAHR-muh-ruh). Large ships travel through the waterway, which connects the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. The Bosporus also splits the country of Turkey into two parts, a small part lies in Europe and the rest in Asia. The Asian part of Turkey includes the large peninsula called Anatolia (a-nuh-TOH-lee-uh).
Rivers and Lakes

The **Jordan River** begins in Syria and flows south through Israel and Jordan. The river finally empties into a large lake called the **Dead Sea**. As its name suggests, the Dead Sea contains little life. Only bacteria lives in the lake’s extremely salty water. The world’s saltiest lake, its surface is 1,312 feet (400 m) below sea level—the lowest point on any continent.

Mountains and Plains

As you can see on the map, two mountain systems stretch across Turkey. The Pontic Mountains run east–west along the northern edge. The Taurus Mountains run east–west along the southern edge.

Heading south from Turkey and into Syria lies a narrow plain. The **Euphrates River** flows southeast from Turkey through the plains to Syria and beyond.

Dead Sea

Because of its high salt content, swimmers do not sink in the Dead Sea.

**ANALYZING VISUALS**

What appears on the shore of the Dead Sea?
Farther inland lies plateaus, hills, and valleys. A rift valley that begins in Africa extends northward into Syria. Hills rise on both sides of the rift. Two main mountain ridges run north–south. One runs from southwestern Syria through western Jordan. The other, closer to the coast, runs through Lebanon and Israel.

**Reading Check** Summarizing: What are the region’s main physical features?

### Climate and Vegetation

The Eastern Mediterranean is a mostly dry region. However, there are important variations. As you can see on the map on the next page, Turkey’s Black Sea coast and the Mediterranean coast all the way to northern Israel have a Mediterranean climate. Much of interior Turkey experiences a steppe climate. Central Syria and lands farther south have a desert climate. A small area of northeastern Turkey has a humid subtropical climate.

The region’s driest areas are its deserts. Much of Syria and Jordan is covered by the **Syrian Desert**. This desert of rock and gravel usually receives less than five inches (12.7 cm) of rainfall a year. Another desert, the Negev (N-E-gev), lies in southern Israel. Here the temperatures can reach as high as 114°F (46°C), and annual rainfall totals barely two inches.

In such dry conditions, only shrubs grow scattered throughout the region’s deserts. However, in other areas vegetation is plentiful. In Israel, more than 2,800 species of plants thrive throughout the country’s various environments.

**Reading Check** Generalizing: What are climates like in the Eastern Mediterranean?

### Natural Resources

Because the Eastern Mediterranean is so dry, water is a valuable resource. The people of this region are mostly farmers. The region lacks oil resources, but does have valuable minerals.

### Land and Water

In this dry region the limited availability of water limits how land is used. Commercial farms can only grow crops where rain or irrigation provides enough water.
In drier areas, subsistence farming and livestock herding are common. In the desert areas, available water supports a few nomadic herders, but no farming.

**Mineral Resources**

The region’s resources include many minerals, including sulfur, mercury, and copper. Syria, Jordan, and Israel all produce phosphates—mineral salts that contain the element phosphorus. Phosphates are used to make fertilizers. This region also produces asphalt—the dark tarlike material used to pave streets.

**Drawing Conclusions**

How do people use the region’s mineral resources?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW**

In this section you learned about the physical geography of the Eastern Mediterranean. Next, you will learn about Turkey.
Main Ideas

1. Turkey’s history includes invasion by the Romans, rule by the Ottomans, and a twentieth-century democracy.
2. Turkey’s people are mostly ethnic Turks, and its culture is a mixture of modern and traditional.
3. Today, Turkey is a democratic nation seeking economic opportunities as a future member of the European Union.

What you will learn…

SECTION 1

Turkey’s history includes invasion by the Romans, rule by the Ottomans, and a twentieth-century democracy. Turkey’s people are mostly ethnic Turks, and its culture is a mixture of modern and traditional. Today, Turkey is a democratic nation seeking economic opportunities as a future member of the European Union.

SECTION 2

Although Turkey has historically been more Asian than European, its leaders are seeking to develop closer economic ties to Europe.

Key Terms and Places

Ankara, p. 418
Istanbul, p. 419
secular, p. 419

The Big Idea

Although Turkey has historically been more Asian than European, its leaders are seeking to develop closer economic ties to Europe.

If YOU lived there...

Your cousins from central Turkey are coming to visit your hometown, Istanbul. You think your city is both beautiful and interesting. You like to stroll in the Grand Bazaar and smell the spices for sale. You admire the architecture of the Blue Mosque, whose walls are lined with thousands of tiny tiles. You also like to visit the elegant Topkapi Palace, where sultans once lived.

What sights will you show your cousins?

Building Background

Many sites in Turkey reflect the country’s long and diverse cultural history. Throughout the country you will find the ruins of ancient Greek temples and Roman palaces. You can also see magnificent early Christian buildings and art, as well as the palaces and mosques of Ottoman rulers.

Early Farming Village

The village of Çatal Höyük in modern Turkey is one of the earliest farming villages discovered. Around 8,000 years ago, the village was home to about 5,000–6,000 people living in more than 1,000 houses. Villagers farmed, hunted and fished, traded with distant lands, and worshipped gods in special shrines.

Villagers used simple channels to move water to their fields.

Wheat, barley, and peas were some of the main crops grown outside the village.

hmhsocialstudies.com

Taking Notes

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes on Turkey.
History

Around 8,000 years ago the area that is now Turkey was home to one of the world’s earliest farming villages. For centuries invasions from powerful empires shaped the region. By the 1920s Turkey was a democratic nation.

Invasions

When the Romans invaded the area, they captured the city of Byzantium and later renamed it Constantinople. Its location at the crossroads between Europe and Asia made Constantinople an important trading port. After the fall of Rome, Constantinople became the capital of the Byzantine Empire.

In the AD 1000s a nomadic people from central Asia called the Seljuk Turks invaded the area. In 1453 another Turkish people, the Ottoman Turks, captured the city of Constantinople and made it the capital of their Islamic empire.

The Ottoman Empire

During the 1500s and 1600s the Ottoman Empire was very powerful. The empire controlled territory in northern Africa, southwestern Asia, and southeastern Europe.

In World War I the Ottomans fought on the losing side. When the war ended, they lost most of their territory.

Biography

Kemal Atatürk
(1881–1938)

Known as the Father of the Turks, Kemal Atatürk was Turkey’s first president. As president, he modernized Turkey, which dramatically changed Turkish way of life. Atatürk separated all aspects of Islam from Turkey’s government. He even closed Islamic schools. Turkey’s people were also encouraged to wear Western dress and adopt surnames.

Generalizing
How did Ataturk change Turkey’s government?
Military officers then took over the government, led by a war hero, Mustafa Kemal. He later adopted the name Kemal Atatürk, which means Father of Turks. Atatürk created the democratic nation of Turkey and moved the capital to **Ankara** from Constantinople, which was renamed Istanbul.

**Modern Turkey**
Atatürk believed Turkey needed to modernize and adopt Western **methods** in order to be a strong nation. For example, he banned the fez, the traditional hat of Turkish men, and required that they wear European-style hats. Reforms urged women to stop wearing traditional veils. Women were also encouraged to vote, work, and hold office. Other ways Atatürk modernized Turkey included replacing the Arabic alphabet with the Latin alphabet, and adopting the metric system.

**People and Culture**
Most of Turkey’s people are mostly ethnic Turks. Kurds are the largest minority and make up 20 percent of the population.

Turkey’s culture today is a reflection of some of Kemal Atatürk's changes. He created a cultural split between Turkey's urban middle class and rural villagers. The lifestyle and attitudes of middle-class Turks have much in common with those of the European middle class. In contrast, most rural Turks are more traditional. Islam strongly influences their attitudes on matters such as the role of women.

Turkish cooking features olives, vegetables, cheese, yogurt, and bread. Kebabs—grilled meats on a skewer—are a favorite Turkish dish.

**Reading Check**
- **Finding Main Ideas** How did Atatürk modernize Turkey?
- **Contrasting** How are urban Turks different from rural Turks?
**Turkey Today**

Turkey’s government meets in the capital of Ankara, but Istanbul is Turkey’s largest city. Istanbul’s location will serve as an economic bridge to Europe as Turkey plans to join the European Union.

**Government**

Turkey’s legislature is called the National Assembly. A president and a prime minister share executive power.

Although most of its people are Muslim, Turkey is a secular state. Secular means that religion is kept separate from government. For example, the religion of Islam allows a man to have up to four wives. However, by Turkish law a man is permitted to have just one wife. In recent years Islamic political parties have attempted to increase Islam’s role in Turkish society.

**Economy and Resources**

As a member of the European Union, Turkey’s economy and people would benefit by increased trade with Europe. Turkey’s economy includes modern factories as well as village farming and craft making.

Among the most important industries are textiles and clothing, cement, and electronics. About 30 percent of Turkey’s labor force works in agriculture. Grains, cotton, sugar beets, and hazelnuts are major crops.

Turkey is rich in natural resources, which include oil, coal, and iron ore. Water is also a valuable resource in the region. Turkey has spent billions of dollars building dams to increase its water supply. On one hand, these dams provide hydroelectricity. On the other hand, some of these dams have restricted the flow of river water into neighboring countries.

**Reading Check** Finding Main Ideas What kind of government does Turkey have?

**Summary and Preview** In this section you learned about Turkey’s history, people, government, and economy. Next, you will learn about Israel.

**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. Recall What city did both the Romans and Ottoman Turks capture?  
   b. Explain In what ways did Atatürk try to modernize Turkey?
2. a. Recall What ethnic group makes up 20 percent of Turkey’s population?  
   b. Draw Conclusions What makes Turkey secular?  
   c. Elaborate Why do you think Turkey wants to be a member of the European Union?

**Critical Thinking**

3. Summarizing Using the information in your notes, summarize Turkey’s history and Turkey today.

**Focus on Writing**

4. Describing Turkey A description of Turkey might include details about its people, culture, government, and economy. Take notes on the details you think are important and interesting.
**Main Ideas**

1. Israel’s history includes the ancient Hebrews and the creation of the nation of Israel.
2. In Israel today, Jewish culture is a major part of daily life.
3. The Palestinian Territories are areas within Israel controlled partly by Palestinian Arabs.

**What You Will Learn…**

1. **Main Ideas**
   - Israel’s history includes the ancient Hebrews and the creation of the nation of Israel.
   - In Israel today, Jewish culture is a major part of daily life.
   - The Palestinian Territories are areas within Israel controlled partly by Palestinian Arabs.
2. **Building Background**
   - Modern Israel was formed in 1948. Since then immigrants from many parts of the world have made the population of Israel very diverse. Many Jews emigrated to Israel from Russia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas.

**What do you like about living in Israel?**

When you were only six years old, your family moved to Israel from Russia. You are learning Hebrew in school, but your parents and grandparents still speak Russian at home. When you first moved here, your parents worked in an office building, but you now live on a farm where you grow oranges and tomatoes.

**If YOU lived there…**

The Big Idea

Israel and the Palestinian Territories are home to Jews and Arabs who continue to struggle over the region’s land.

**Key Terms and Places**

- Diaspora, p. 420
- Jerusalem, p. 420
- Zionism, p. 421
- kosher, p. 422
- kibbutz, p. 422
- Gaza, p. 423
- West Bank, p. 423

**History**

Do you know that Israel is often referred to as the Holy Land? Some people call Israel the Holy Land because it is home to sacred sites for three major religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. According to the Bible, many events in Jewish history and in the life of Jesus happened in Israel.

**The Holy Land**

The Israelites, the descendants of the Hebrews and ancestors of the Jews, first established the kingdom of Israel about 1000 BC. It covered roughly the same area as the modern state of Israel. In the 60s BC the Roman Empire conquered the region, which was called Judea. After several Jewish revolts, the Romans forced many Jews to leave the region and renamed it Palestine in AD 135. This dispersal of the Jewish population is known as the Diaspora.

Muslims conquered Palestine in the mid-600s. However, from the late 1000s to the late 1200s, Christians from Europe launched a series of invasions of Palestine called the Crusades. The Crusaders captured the city of **Jerusalem** in 1099. In time the Crusaders were pushed out of the area. Palestine then became part of the Ottoman Empire. After World War I, it came under British control.
Creation of Israel

Zionism, a nationalist movement calling for Jews to establish a Jewish state in their ancient homeland, began in Europe in the late 1800s. Tens of thousands of Jews from around the world began moving to the region.

In 1947 the United Nations voted to divide Palestine, then under British control, into Jewish and Arab states. While Arab countries rejected this plan, the Jews accepted it, and a year later created the State of Israel. Arab armies then invaded Israel. In a very short war, the Israelis defeated the Arabs.

After Israel’s victory, many Palestinians fled to neighboring Arab countries. Israel and Arab countries have fought each other in several wars since then. Disputes between the two sides continue today.

Reading Check  Summarizing  What two groups played a large role in Israel’s history?

Israel Today

Jews from all over the world, including many who fled from Arab lands, have settled in Israel hoping to find peace and stability. Yet, they have faced continual conflicts with neighboring countries. Despite these problems, Israelis have built a modern, democratic country.

Government and Economy

Israel has a prime minister and a parliament—the Knesset. There are several major political parties and many smaller ones.

Israel’s government has built a strong military. At age 18 most Israeli men and women must serve at least one year.

Primary Source

HISTORIC DOCUMENT

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Written by Jews about 2,000 years ago, the Dead Sea Scrolls include prayers, commentaries, letters, and passages from the Hebrew Bible. Hidden in caves near the Dead Sea, these scrolls were not found until 1947. Here are two passages from a prayer written on one of the scrolls.

“With knowledge shall I sing out my music, only for the glory of God, my harp, my lyre for His holiness established; the flute of my lips will I lift, His law its tuning fork.”

“When first I begin campaign or journey, His name shall I bless; when first I set out or turn to come back; when I sit down or rise up, when I spread my bed, then shall I rejoice in Him.”

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

What does this prayer from the Dead Sea Scrolls reveal about the people who wrote it?

Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem is sacred to three world religions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.
Israel’s economy is modern and diverse. Items like high-technology equipment and cut diamonds are important exports. Israel has increased food production by irrigating farmland. Israel’s economy also benefits from the millions of visitors who come to Israel to see the country’s historic sites.

Cities, Diversity, and Languages
Most of Israel’s population lives in cities. Jerusalem, the capital, and Tel Aviv are Israel’s largest cities.

About 75 percent of Israel’s population is Jewish. The rest of the country’s people are mostly Arab. About three-fourths of Israeli Arabs are Muslim, but some are Christian. Israel’s Jewish population includes Jews from all parts of the world. Many arrive not knowing Hebrew, one of Israel’s official languages. To assist these new citizens, the government provides language classes. Israeli Arabs speak Arabic, Israel’s other official language.

Culture and Rural Settlements
Israeli Jewish culture is rich in holidays and special foods. For Jews, the Sabbath, from sunset Friday until sundown Saturday, is a holy day. Yom Kippur, a very important Jewish holiday, is celebrated in the fall. Passover, in the spring, celebrates the Israelites’ escape from captivity in ancient Egypt.

Because Judaism is a way of life, religious laws address every aspect of daily life, including what Jews should eat. These laws are ancient and appear in the Hebrew Bible. Kosher, which means “fit” in Hebrew, is the term used for food allowed under Jewish dietary laws. Jews eating a kosher diet do not eat pork or shellfish. They also do not mix meat and milk products.

About 100,000 Israeli Jews live in rural settlements. Each settlement, or kibbutz (ki-boohts), is a large farm where people share everything in common. Israeli Jews live in more than 250 kibbutzim.

READING CHECK Generalizing What is Jewish culture in Israel like?
**The Palestinian Territories**

In 1967 during the Six-Day War, Israel captured areas from Jordan and Egypt inhabited by Palestinian Arabs—Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Since then, Jews and Arabs have fought over the right to live in these areas.

**Gaza**

Gaza is a small, crowded piece of coastal land where more than a million Palestinians live. The area has almost no resources. However, citrus fruit is grown in irrigated fields. Unemployment is a problem for the Palestinians living in Gaza. In 2005, Israel withdrew from Gaza, which is now under Palestinian control.

**West Bank**

The West Bank is much larger than Gaza and has a population of about 2.4 million. It is mostly rural, but the territory has three large cities—Nablus, Hebron, and Ramallah. The West Bank’s economy is mostly based on agriculture. Farmers rely on irrigation to grow their crops.

Since Israel took control of the West Bank, 280,000 Israelis moved into settlements there. Israelis and Palestinians dispute the territory. Peace agreements have tried to divide the land fairly. This conflict over land and terrorist attacks against Israel are the greatest sources of tension between Arabs and Israelis.

**East Jerusalem**

Other disputed land includes Israel’s capital, Jerusalem. Control of Jerusalem is a difficult and emotional issue for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. The city has sites that are holy to all three religions. Areas of the old city are divided into Jewish, Muslim, and Christian neighborhoods.

Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as their capital. However, Israel annexed East Jerusalem in 1980. Even before this, the Israeli government had moved its capital to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. Most foreign countries have chosen not to recognize this transfer.

**The Future of the Territories**

In the 1990s Israel agreed to turn over parts of the territories to the Palestinians. In return, the Palestinian Authority agreed to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism. In 2005 the Israelis transferred Gaza to the Palestinian Authority.
Focus on Culture

Israeli Teens for Peace

Peace between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs has not been easy in the past. Moreover, some believe peace in the region might be impossible ever to accomplish. But don’t tell that to a group of 2,000 Jewish and Arab teenagers who are making a difference in Israel. These teens belong to an organization called Seeds of Peace. To learn more about each other’s cultures and thus understand each other better, these teens meet regularly. For example, Jews teach Arabs Hebrew and Arabs teach Jews Arabic. They also participate in community service projects.

By bridging the gap between their two cultures, these teens hope they can one day live peacefully together. A Palestinian boy in the group expressed his hope for the future. He explained, “I realize that peace is not a dream when you truly get to know who you are making peace with.”

Drawing Conclusions How are Jewish and Arab teenagers in Israel working toward peace?

The future of the peace process is uncertain. Some Palestinian groups have continued to commit acts of terrorism. Jewish Israelis fear they would be open to attack if they withdrew from the territories.

Reading Check Analyzing Why have the Palestinian Territories been a source of conflict?

Summary and Preview In this section you learned about Israel’s history, people, government and economy, and the future of the Palestinian Territories. In the next section you will learn about the history and culture of Israel’s neighbors—Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Section 3 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Define What is the Diaspora?
b. Explain How did Zionism help create the nation of Israel?
2. a. Recall What is food allowed under Jewish dietary laws called?
b. Draw Conclusions Why have Israeli leaders built up a strong military?
c. Elaborate Why do you think Jews from around the world migrate to Israel?
3. a. Identify Which territory is fully controlled by Palestinians and which is partly controlled?
b. Make Inferences How might, or might not, giving land to the Palestinians help or not help achieve peace in Israel?

Critical Thinking

4. Categorizing Use the chart below to separate your notes on Israel into categories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Israel Today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity and Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Culture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on Writing

5. Describing Israel What features make Israel unique? Take notes on how you might describe these features for your readers.
An area this size represents 1 million people.

**Learn**

For statistical information like population figures, geographers sometimes create a special map called a cartogram. A cartogram displays information about countries by the size shown for each country. In contrast, a political map like the one on the right reflects countries' actual physical size. Here are some guidelines for reading and analyzing a cartogram.

- Read the title of the map to determine the subject area covered.
- Compare the political map to the cartogram. Notice how some countries are much different in size on the cartogram compared to the map.
- Read the cartogram’s legend and think about what the information means.

**Practice**

1. Which country has the largest population?
2. How is the size of Saudi Arabia’s land area different from the size of its population?
3. Using the cartogram legend, what is the approximate population of Lebanon?

**Apply**

Draw your own cartogram using the gross domestic product, or GDP, of each country in Southwest and Central Asia. Use a reference source or the Internet to find these statistics. Then determine the scale for sizing each country by GDP. For example, you might use one square unit of area per $10 billion or $100 billion. Countries with a high GDP should appear larger than countries with a low GDP.
If YOU lived there...

You live in Beirut, Lebanon. Your grandparents often tell you about the years before civil wars destroyed the heart of Beirut. The city then had wide boulevards, parks, and elegant shops. It was popular with tourists. Even though much of Beirut has been rebuilt, you find it hard to imagine what the city used to look like.

What hopes do you have for your country?

Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan have been tangled together since the countries gained independence in the 1940s. Syria is a large nation with a strong military. Syria has often dominated Lebanon’s political life. Other conflicts in the region have also spilled over into Lebanon.

Look again at the map at the beginning of this chapter. Notice that Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan all border Israel. Because of their location near Israel, these countries have been involved in conflicts in the region. In addition, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan also share a similar history, religion, and culture.

Syria

The capital of Syria, Damascus, is believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. For centuries it was a leading regional trade center. Syria became part of the Ottoman Empire in the 1500s. After World War I, France controlled Syria. Syria finally became independent in the 1940s.

History and Government

From 1971 to 2000, the Syrian government was led by a dictator, Hafiz al-Assad. As president, Assad increased the size of Syria’s military. He wanted to match Israel’s military strength
and protect his rule from his political enemies within Syria. After Assad’s death in 2000, his son, Bashar, was elected president. One of Bashar al-Assad’s main goals was to improve Syria’s economy.

Syria has a socialist government, which owns the country’s oil refineries, larger electrical plants, railroads, and some factories. Syria’s key manufactured goods are textiles, food products, and chemicals. Agriculture remains important. Syria has only small deposits of oil and natural gas. It is rich in iron ore, basalt, and phosphates.

**Syria’s People**

Syria’s population of more than 20 million is about 90 percent Arab. The other 10 percent includes Kurds and Armenians. About 74 percent of Syrians are Sunni Muslim. About 16 percent are Druze and Alawites, members of small religious groups related to Islam. About 10 percent of Syrians are Christian. There are also small Jewish communities in some cities.

**Lebanon**

Lebanon is a small, mountainous country on the Mediterranean coast. It is home to several different groups of people. At times these different groups have fought.

**Lebanon’s History and People**

During the Ottoman period, many religious and ethnic minority groups settled in Lebanon. After World War I, France controlled Lebanon and Syria. Lebanon finally gained independence in the 1940s. Even so, some aspects of French culture influenced Lebanese culture. For example, in addition to Arabic, many Lebanese also speak French.

Lebanon’s people are overwhelmingly Arab, but they are divided by religion. Most Lebanese are either Muslim or Christian. Each of those groups is divided into several smaller groups. Muslims are divided into Sunni, Shia, and Druze.

The Maronites are the largest of the Christian groups in the country. Over time, however, Muslims have become Lebanon’s majority religious group.
Conflict and Civil War
After independence, Christians and Muslims shared power in Lebanon. Certain government positions were held by different religious groups. For example, the president was always a Maronite. However, over time tensions between Christians and Muslims mounted.

In the 1970s civil war broke out. Lebanon’s Muslims, including many Palestinian refugees, fought against Christians. Syria, Israel, and other countries became involved in the conflict. During the fighting, many people died and the capital, Beirut, was badly damaged. Warfare lasted until 1990.

After 1990, Syria continued to maintain a strong influence in Lebanon. In fact, Syrian troops stayed in Lebanon until they were pressured to leave in 2005. In 2006, cross border attacks by Lebanese guerrillas against Israel led to fighting between the two countries.

Jordan
Jordan’s short history has been full of conflict. The country has few resources and several powerful neighbors.

Jordan’s History and Government
The country of Jordan was created after World War I. The British controlled the area and named an Arab prince as the monarch of the new country. In the 1940s the country became fully independent.

At the time of its independence, Jordan’s population was small. Most Jordanians lived a nomadic or semi-nomadic life. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arab refugees fled Israel and came to live in Jordan. From 1952 to 1999 Jordan was ruled by King Hussein. The king enacted some democratic reforms in the 1990s.

Jordan’s People and Resources
Many of Jordan’s people are Bedouins, or Arabic-speaking nomads who mostly live in the deserts of Southwest Asia. Jordan produces phosphates, cement, and potash. Tourism and banking are becoming impor-
ONLINE QUIZ
Section 4 Assessment
Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places
1. a. Recall What is the capital of Syria?
   b. Explain What does Syria’s government own?
   c. Elaborate Why did Hafiz al-Assad want to increase the size of Syria’s military?
2. a. Identify What European country ruled Lebanon after World War I?
   b. Analyze How was Beirut damaged?
   c. Elaborate What is the history of political divisions between religious groups in Lebanon’s government?
3. a. Define Who are the Bedouins?
   b. Summarize Who provides economic aid to Jordan?

Critical Thinking
4. Comparing and Contrasting Use your notes to identify similarities and differences among the people in the three countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on Writing
5. Describing Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan If you could only include two details about these countries, what would they be?

summary and preview In this section you learned about the history, government, and people of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. In the next chapter you will learn about Iraq and Iran and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Oman.

Lebanon After more than two decades of civil war, Lebanon’s people are rebuilding their capital, Beirut. The city’s people now enjoy a new public square.

Jordan Jordan’s people value education and equal rights for women. Jordanian teenagers like these girls are required to attend school until age 15.

significant industries. Jordan depends on economic aid from the oil-rich Arab nations and the United States. Amman, the capital, is Jordan’s largest city. Jordanian farmers grow fruits and vegetables and raise sheep and goats. A shortage of water is a crucial resource issue for Jordan.

Reading Check Summarizing How did King Hussein affect Jordan’s history?
About the Poem  In “Red Brocade,” Arab-American writer Naomi Shihab Nye tells about an Arab custom. As a part of this custom, strangers are given a special welcome by those who meet them at the door. Since the poet is Arab-American, she is suggesting that we go “back to that” way of accepting new people.

AS YOU READ  Identify the special way that Arab people in Southwest Asia greet strangers at their door.

The Arabs 1 used to say, When a stranger appears at your door, feed him for three days before asking who he is, where he’s come from, where he’s headed. That way, he’ll have strength enough to answer. Or, by then you’ll be such good friends you don’t care.

Let’s go back to that. Rice? Pine nuts?

Here, take the red brocade pillow. 2 My child will serve water to your horse.

No, I was not busy when you came!
I was not preparing to be busy. That’s the armor everyone put on to pretend they had a purpose in the world.

I refuse to be claimed. Your plate is waiting. We will snip fresh mint into your tea.

Guided Reading

Word Help

pine nuts  a small sweet edible seed of some pine trees
brocade  a heavy fabric of silk, cotton, or wool woven with a raised design, often using metallic threads
mint  a plant with aromatic leaves that grows in northern temperate regions and is often used for flavoring

1. Arabs are a cultural group that speak Arabic. They live mostly in Southwest Asia and North Africa.

2. When entertaining, Arabs often sit on pillows on the floor.

Connecting Literature to Geography

1. Describing  What details in the second verse show us that the Arab speaker is extending a warm welcome to the stranger?

2. Comparing and Contrasting  Do you think this poem about greeting a stranger at the door would be different if it had taken place in another region of the world? Explain your answer.
Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

The eastern Mediterranean is a dry region, and water is a key resource. The region’s history includes conflict between three major religions. Most people living in the eastern Mediterranean are Arab Muslims.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Fill in the blanks with the correct term or place from this chapter.

1. The______ is the lowest point on any continent and the world’s saltiest body of water.
2. A desert located in southern Israel is called the______.
3. A______ is a way of doing something.
4. Turkey’s largest city is______.
5. ________ means that religion is kept separate from government.
6. The dispersal of the Jewish population is known as______.
7. A______ is a large farm where people share everything in common.
8. ________ is Lebanon’s capital that was badly damaged during the country’s civil war.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 412–415)

9. a. Describe How is the Eastern Mediterranean considered a part of the Middle East?
   b. Draw Conclusions How would the region’s dry climates affect where people lived?
   c. Predict What would happen if the region’s people did not have access to water?

SECTION 2 (Pages 416–419)

10. a. Recall How was control of Constantinople important?
    b. Make Inferences How did modernization change Turkey?
    c. Elaborate Why do you think Turkey wants to be a member of the European Union?

SECTION 3 (Pages 420–424)

11. a. Define What is Zionism?

Geography’s Impact

Review the video to answer the closing question:
Why do you think the conflict in Jerusalem today is difficult to solve?
SECTION 3 (continued)

b. Make Inferences Why does Israel need a strong military?
c. Elaborate How has Israel's history affected the country today?

SECTION 4 (Pages 426–429)

12. a. Identify What is the capital of Syria? Why is it historically significant?
b. Analyze Why did Lebanon have a civil war?
c. Evaluate How do you think Jordan survives with so few resources?

Using the Internet

13. Creating an Exhibit Jerusalem is a city rich in tradition, history, and culture dating back thousands of years. Through the online book, travel back in time to historic Jerusalem. Explore its history, archaeology, buildings, daily life, food, and more. Then create a museum exhibit to highlight the artifacts, information, and stories you encounter in your journey through Jerusalem's past. Some things you may want to include are artifacts, models, time lines, maps, small placards providing information, and an exhibit guide for viewers.

Social Studies Skill

Analyzing a Cartogram Use the cartogram and political map of Southwest and Central Asia on this chapter's Social Studies Skills page to answer the following questions.

14. Why do you think Turkey’s size on the political map is similar to its size on the cartogram?
15. How does the cartogram show the high population density of Israel and the Palestinian Territories?
16. From looking at the cartogram, is the population density of Kazakhstan, high or low? Explain your answer.

Map Activity

17. The Eastern Mediterranean On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

- Bosporus
- Negev
- Jordan River
- Euphrates River
- Dead Sea

Setting a Purpose Use the information in this chapter to answer the following questions.

18. How does setting a purpose before you read help you become a better reader?
19. How is your purpose in reading this chapter different from your purpose when you read a newspaper comic strip?
20. How can looking at headings and main idea statements help you set a purpose for reading?
21. Writing a Description Look over your notes and choose one Eastern Mediterranean country to describe. Organize your notes by topic—physical features, people, culture and government. Then, write a one-to-two-paragraph description of the country. Include information you think would be interesting to someone who knows nothing about the country. Add details that will help your readers picture the country.
DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. The climate of most of Israel, Jordan, and Syria is
   A. desert.
   B. steppe.
   C. humid subtropical.
   D. Mediterranean.

2. Turkey’s government wants to be more like countries on what continent?
   A. Asia
   B. South America
   C. Australia
   D. Europe

3. Jews and Palestinian Arabs make up most of what country’s population?
   A. Jordan
   B. Israel
   C. Turkey
   D. Lebanon

4. What city is sacred to Jews, Muslims, and Christians?
   A. Istanbul
   B. Tel Aviv
   C. Jerusalem
   D. Damascus

5. Most people living in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan are
   A. Arabs.
   B. Jews.
   C. European.
   D. Christians.

6. Based on the map above, what physical features surround most of Turkey?
   A. mountains
   B. seas
   C. plateaus
   D. lakes

7. Many of Jordan’s people are
   A. Bedouins.
   B. Lebanese.
   C. Jewish.
   D. Turkish.

8. Extended Response Based on the map above and your knowledge of the region, write a brief essay explaining how Turkey’s location has influenced its history and the country today.
CHAPTER 18

The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran

Essential Question What are the common cultural and geographic characteristics of the Islamic Middle East?

What You Will Learn...

In this chapter you will learn about the Arabian Peninsula. You will also learn about the history and people of Iraq and Iran.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography ................. 436
The Big Idea The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran make up a mostly desert region with very valuable oil resources.

SECTION 2: The Arabian Peninsula ................. 440
The Big Idea Most countries of the Arabian Peninsula share three main characteristics: Islamic religion and culture, monarchy as a form of government, and valuable oil resources.

SECTION 3: Iraq ................................. 446
The Big Idea Iraq, a country with a rich culture and natural resources, faces the challenge of rebuilding after years of conflict.

SECTION 4: Iran ................................. 450
The Big Idea Islam is a huge influence on government and daily life in Iran.

Focus on Reading and Writing

Re-Reading Sometimes a single reading is not enough to fully understand a passage of text. If you feel like you do not fully understand something you have read, it may help to re-read the passage more slowly. See the lesson, Re-Reading, on page R19.

Creating a Geographer’s Log You are a geographer taking a journey of discovery through the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran. As you travel from place to place, create a geographer’s log, a written record of what you see on your journey.

Culture Islam is a major part of the culture in every country in the region. These women pray at a mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran: Political

**Geography** Much of the region is covered with huge, sandy deserts.

**History** Stone sculptures of Persians making offerings to their king line the steps of the ancient city of Persepolis in present-day Iran.
### Physical Geography

**If YOU lived there...**

You are in a plane flying over the vast desert areas of the Arabian Peninsula. As you look down, you see some tents of desert nomads around trees of an oasis. Sometimes you can see a truck or a line of camels crossing the dry, rocky terrain. A shiny oil pipeline stretches for miles in the distance.

**What is life like for people in the desert?**

**Building Background**

Iran, Iraq, and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula are part of a region sometimes called the “Middle East.” This region lies at the intersection of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Much of the region is dry and rugged.

### Physical Features

Did you know that not all deserts are made of sand? The **Arabian Peninsula** has the largest sand desert in the world. But it also has huge expanses of desert covered with bare rock or gravel. These wide desert plains are a common landscape in the region that includes the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran.

The countries of this region appear on the map in sort of a semicircle, with the **Persian Gulf** in the center. The Arabian Peninsula is also bounded by the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and the Red Sea. The Caspian Sea borders Iran to the north.

The region contains four main landforms: rivers, plains, plateaus, and mountains. The **Tigris** (TY-gruhs) and **Euphrates** (yoooh-FRAY-teez) rivers flow across a low, flat plain in Iraq. They join together before they reach the Persian Gulf. The Tigris and Euphrates are what are known as exotic rivers, or rivers that begin in humid regions and then flow through dry areas. The rivers create a narrow fertile area, which in ancient times was called Mesopotamia, or the “land between the rivers.” The Arabian Peninsula has no permanent rivers.
The vast, dry expanse of the Arabian Peninsula is covered by plains in the east. The peninsula's desert plains are covered with sand in the south and volcanic rock in the north. As you can see on the map, the surface of the peninsula rises gradually from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. Near the Red Sea the landscape becomes one of plateaus and mountains, with almost no coastal plain. The highest point on the peninsula is in the mountains of Yemen.

Plates and mountains also cover most of Iran. In fact, Iran is one of the world's most mountainous countries. In the west, the land climbs sharply to form the Zagros Mountains. The Elburz Mountains and the Kopet-Dag lie in the north. Historically, this mountainous landscape has kept towns there isolated from each other.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing What are the major physical features of this area?

**Focus on Reading**
After you read this paragraph, re-read it to make sure you understand Iran's landscape.
Climate and Vegetation

As you have already read, most of this region has a desert climate. The desert can be both very hot and very cold. In the summer, afternoon temperatures regularly climb to over 100°F (38°C). During the night, however, the temperature may drop quickly. Nighttime temperatures in the winter sometimes dip below freezing.

The world’s largest sand desert, the Rub’ al-Khali (ROOB ahl-KAH-lee), covers much of southern Saudi Arabia. Rub’ al-Khali means “Empty Quarter,” a name given to the area because there is so little life there. Sand dunes in the desert can rise to 800 feet (245 m) high and stretch for nearly 200 miles! In northern Saudi Arabia is the An Nafud (ahn nah-FOOD), another large desert. These deserts are among the driest places in the world. The Rub’ al-Khali receives an average of less than 4 inches (10 cm) of rainfall each year.

Some plateau and mountain areas do get winter rains or snow. These higher areas generally have semiarid steppe climates. Some mountain peaks receive more than 50 inches (130 cm) of rain per year.

Rainfall supports vegetation in some parts of the region. Trees are common in mountain regions and in scattered desert oases. An oasis is a wet, fertile area in a desert that forms where underground water bubbles to the surface. Most desert plants have adapted to survive without much rain. For example, the shrubs and grasses that grow on the region’s dry plains have roots that either grow deep or spread out far to capture as much water as possible. Still, some places in the region are too dry or too salty to support any vegetation.

READING CHECK Finding the Main Idea
What climate dominates this region?
Resources

Water is one of the region’s two most valuable resources. However, this resource is very scarce. In some places in the desert, springs provide water. At other places, water can come from wells dug into dry streambeds called wadis. Modern wells can reach water deep underground, but the groundwater in these wells is often fossil water. Fossil water is water that is not being replaced by rainfall. Wells that pump fossil water will eventually run dry.

While water is scarce, the region’s other important resource, oil, is plentiful. Oil exports bring great wealth to the countries that have oil fields. Most of the oil fields are located near the shores of the Persian Gulf. However, although oil is plentiful now, it cannot be replaced once it is taken from Earth. Too much drilling for oil now may cause problems in the future because most countries of the region are not rich in other resources. Iran is an exception with its many mineral deposits.

Critical Thinking

4. Comparing and Contrasting Using your notes and a graphic organizer like the one here, note physical characteristics unique to each area. Then list characteristics shared by all three areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabian Peninsula</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Iran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Describing Physical Geography Take notes on the physical features, climate and vegetation, and resources that you could record in your log. What would you see and feel if you were in this region?
If YOU lived there...

You are a financial adviser to the ruler of Oman. Your country has been making quite a bit of money from oil exports. However, you worry that your economy is too dependent on oil. You think Oman’s leaders should consider expanding the economy. Oman is a small country, but it has beautiful beaches, historic palaces and mosques, and colorful markets.

How would you suggest expanding the economy?

BUILDING BACKGROUND

Oman and all the countries of the Arabian Peninsula have valuable oil resources. In addition to oil, these countries share two basic characteristics: Islamic religion and monarchy as a form of government. The largest country, and the one with the most influence in the region, is Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is by far the largest of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. It is also a major religious and cultural center and has one of the region’s strongest economies.

People and Customs

Nearly all Saudis are Arabs and speak Arabic. Their culture is strongly influenced by Islam, a religion founded in Saudi Arabia by Muhammad. Islam is based on submitting to God and on messages Muslims believe God gave to Muhammad. These messages are written in the Qur’an, the holy book of Islam.

Nearly all Saudis follow one of two main branches of Islam. **Shia** Muslims believe that true interpretation of Islamic teaching can only come from certain religious and political leaders called imams. **Sunni** Muslims believe in the ability of the majority of the community to interpret Islamic teachings. About 85 percent of Saudi Muslims are Sunni.
Islam influences Saudi Arabia’s culture in many ways. For example, in part because Islam requires modesty, Saudi clothing keeps arms and legs covered. Men usually wear a long, loose shirt. They often wear a cotton headdress held in place with a cord. Saudi women traditionally wear a black cloak and veil in public, although some now wear Western-style clothing.

Saudi laws and customs limit women’s activities. For example, a woman rarely appears in public without her husband or a male relative. Also, women are not allowed to drive cars. However, women can own and run businesses in Saudi Arabia.

**Government and Economy**

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy. Members of the Saud family have ruled Saudi Arabia since 1932. Most government officials are relatives of the king. The king may ask members of his family, Islamic scholars, and tribal leaders for advice on decisions. The country has no elected legislature. Local officials are elected, but only men are allowed to vote.

Saudi Arabia’s economy is based on oil. In fact, Saudi Arabia has the world’s largest reserves, or supplies, of oil and is the world’s leading exporter of oil. Because it controls so much oil, Saudi Arabia is an influential member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC. OPEC is an international organization whose members work to influence the price of oil on world markets by controlling the supply.

Oil has brought wealth to Saudi Arabia. The country has a sizable middle class, and the government provides free health care and education to its citizens. Even so, Saudi Arabia faces economic challenges. For example, it must import much of its food because freshwater needed for farming is scarce. The country uses desalination plants to remove salt from seawater, but this requires an extremely expensive procedure.
Another economic challenge for Saudi Arabia is its high unemployment rate. One reason for the lack of jobs is the high population growth rate. About 38 percent of Saudis are younger than 15. Another reason for unemployment is that many young Saudis choose to study religion instead of the technical subjects their economy requires.

**READING CHECK**  Finding Main Ideas  What religion influences Saudi Arabia’s culture?

### Other Countries of the Arabian Peninsula

Saudi Arabia shares the Arabian Peninsula with six smaller countries. Like Saudi Arabia, these countries are all influenced by Islam. Also like Saudi Arabia, most have monarchies and economies based on oil.

**Kuwait**

Oil was discovered in Kuwait in the 1930s. Since then it has made Kuwait very rich. In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait to try to control its oil, starting the Persian Gulf War. The United States and other countries defeated Iraq, but the war caused major destruction to Kuwait’s oil fields.

Although Kuwait’s government is dominated by a royal family, the country did elect a legislature in 1992. Only men from certain families—less than 15 percent of Kuwait’s population—had the right to vote in these elections. However, Kuwait recently gave women the right to vote.

**Bahrain and Qatar**

Bahrain is a group of islands in the Persian Gulf. It is a monarchy with a legislature. Bahrain is a rich country. Most people there live well in big, modern cities. Oil made Bahrain wealthy, but in the 1990s the country began to run out of oil. Now banking and tourism are major industries.

Qatar occupies a small peninsula in the Persian Gulf. Like Bahrain, Qatar is ruled by a powerful monarch. In 2003 men and women in Qatar voted to approve a new constitution that would give more power to elected officials. Qatar is a wealthy country. Its economy relies on its oil and natural gas.

**Oil Wealth**

Big, modern cities such as Dubai, UAE, were built with money from oil exports. Many people in the region’s cities can afford to buy luxury items.

**ANALYZING VISUALS** What kind of luxury items is this man selling?
The United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates, or UAE, consists of seven tiny kingdoms. Profits from oil and natural gas have created a modern, comfortable lifestyle for the people of the UAE. Partly because it is so small, the UAE depends on foreign workers. In fact, it has more foreign workers than citizens.

Oman and Yemen

Oman covers most of the southeastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Oman’s economy is also based on oil. However, Oman does not have the great oil wealth of Kuwait or the UAE. Therefore, the government is attempting to develop new industries.

Yemen is located on the southwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula. The country has an elected government, but it has suffered from corruption. Oil was not discovered in Yemen until the 1980s. Oil and coffee generate much of the national income, but Yemen is still the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula.

Summary and Preview

Islam is a major influence on the people and culture of Saudi Arabia and the other countries of the Arabian Peninsula. The other major influence in the region is oil. Oil has brought wealth to most countries on the peninsula. In the next section you will learn about Iraq, a neighboring country with similar influences.

Section 2 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Define What is OPEC?
   b. Compare and Contrast How are Sunni and Shia Muslims similar, and how are they different from each other?
   c. Elaborate What do you think Saudi Arabia would be like if it did not have such huge oil reserves?
2. a. Identify What resource is the most important to the economies of countries on the Arabian Peninsula?
   b. Analyze How does its small size affect the United Arab Emirates?
   c. Predict How might Yemen change now that oil is a major part of its economy?

Critical Thinking

3. Summarizing Look at your notes on the countries of the Arabian Peninsula. Then copy the graphic organizer here and for each topic, write a one-sentence summary about the region.

   Summary
   | Culture | Government | Economy |

Focus on Writing

4. Writing About the Arabian Peninsula If you were traveling through these lands, what would you see or experience? Write some notes in your log.
Oil in Saudi Arabia

**Background** Try to imagine your life without oil. You would probably walk or ride a horse to school. You would heat your home with coal or wood. You would never fly in a plane, walk in rubber-soled shoes, or even drink out of a plastic cup.

Our society depends on oil. However, oil is a nonrenewable resource. This means that supplies are limited, and we may one day run out of oil. In fact, the United States no longer produces enough oil to satisfy its own needs. We now depend on foreign countries, such as Saudi Arabia, for oil.

**Oil Reserves in Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia has the world’s largest supply of oil. This important resource, found naturally in the environment, has had a huge impact on Saudi Arabia’s society.

Before the discovery of oil there in the 1930s, Saudi Arabia was a poor country. But income from oil exports has given the government money to invest in improvements such as new apartments, communications systems, airports, oil pipelines, and roads.
For example, in 1960 Saudi Arabia had only about 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of roads. By 2005 it had over 94,000 miles (152,000 km) of roads. These improvements have helped modernize Saudi Arabia’s economy.

Oil exports have also affected Saudi society. Rising incomes have given many people there more money to spend on consumer goods. New stores and restaurants have opened, and new schools have been built throughout the country. Education is now available to all citizens. Increased education means the literacy rate has increased also—from about 3 percent when oil was discovered to about 85 percent today. Health care there has also improved.

The oil industry has also increased Saudi Arabia’s importance in the world. Since it is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Saudi Arabia influences the price of oil on the world market. Countries around the world want to have good relations with Saudi Arabia because of its vast oil reserves.

What It Means Today Saudi Arabia’s government has a lot of money. This wealth has come almost entirely from the sale of oil. However, since the world’s oil supplies are limited, Saudi Arabia’s economy may be at risk in the future. Many countries are beginning to research other types of energy that can one day be used in place of oil. Until then, the many countries buying oil from Saudi Arabia will continue to pump wealth into Saudi society.

1. How has oil changed Saudi Arabia’s society?
2. What are some advantages and disadvantages for a society that relies on oil?
3. Other Types of Energy Research other types of energy we can get from the environment. Based on your findings, do you think other types of energy will replace oil in the near future? Why or why not?
If YOU lived there...

You are a student in a school in Iraq’s capital, Baghdad. During the war, your school and its library were badly damaged. Since then, you and your friends have had few books to read. Now your teachers and others are organizing a project to rebuild your library. They want to include books from all countries of the world as well as computers so students can use the Internet.

What would you like to have in the new library?

Building Background

In spite of its generally harsh climate, the area that is now Iraq was one of the ancient cradles of civilization. Mesopotamia—the “land between the rivers”—was part of the “Fertile Crescent.” Thousands of years ago, people there developed farming, domesticated animals, and organized governments.

History

Did you know that the world’s first civilization was located in Iraq? Thousands of years ago people known as Sumerians settled in Mesopotamia—a region that is part of Iraq today. The country’s recent history includes wars and a corrupt leader.

Early Civilization

Throughout Mesopotamia’s history, different cultures and empires conquered the region. As you can see on the map on the next page, the Sumerians settled in southern Mesopotamia. By about 3000 BC, the Sumerians built the world’s first known cities there. The Persians then conquered Mesopotamia in the 500s BC. By 331 BC Alexander the Great made it part of his empire. In the AD 600s Arabs conquered Mesopotamia, and the people gradually converted to Islam.

In the 1500s Mesopotamia became part of the Ottoman Empire. During World War I Great Britain took over the region. The British set up the kingdom of Iraq in 1932 and placed a pro-British ruler in power. In the 1950s a group of Iraqi army officers overthrew this government.
**Saddam Takes Power**

In 1968, after several more changes in Iraq’s government, the Baath (BAHTH) Party took power. In 1979, a Baath leader named Saddam Hussein became Iraq’s president. Saddam Hussein was a harsh ruler. He controlled Iraq’s media, restricted personal freedoms, and killed an unknown number of political enemies.

**Invasions of Iran and Kuwait**

Under Saddam’s leadership, Iraq invaded Iran in 1980. The Iranians fought back, and the Iran-Iraq War dragged on until 1988. Both countries’ economies were seriously damaged, and many people died.

In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait, Iraq’s oil-rich neighbor to the south. This event shocked and worried many world leaders. They were concerned that Iraq might gain control of the region’s oil. In addition, they worried about Iraq’s supply of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons.

**War and Its Effects**

In 1991, an alliance of countries led by the United States forced the Iraqis out of Kuwait. This six-week event was called the Persian Gulf War. Saddam, who remained in power after the war, would not accept all the United Nations’ (UN) terms for peace. In response, the UN placed an embargo, or limit on trade, on Iraq. As a result, Iraq’s economy suffered.

Soon after the fighting ended, Saddam faced two rebellions from Shia Muslims and Kurds. He brutally put down these uprisings. In response, the UN forced Iraq to end all military activity. The UN also required that Iraq allow inspectors into the country. They wanted to make sure that Saddam had destroyed the weapons of mass destruction. Iraq later refused to cooperate completely with the UN.

Ten years after the Persian Gulf War, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, led to new tensions between the United States and Iraq. U.S. government officials believed that Iraq aided terrorists. In March 2003, President George W. Bush ordered U.S. forces to attack Iraqi targets. Within a few weeks the Iraqi army was defeated and Saddam’s government was crushed. Saddam went into hiding, but U.S. soldiers later found Saddam hiding in an underground hole in Iraq. Saddam was arrested, tried, and executed for his crimes.

**READING CHECK**

**Summarizing** What are some key events in Iraq’s history?
People and Culture

Iraq is about the size of California, with a population of about 29 million. Most Iraqis live in cities. Ethnic identity, religion, and food are all important elements of Iraqi culture.

Ethnic Groups

Most of Iraq’s people belong to two major ethnic groups—Arabs and Kurds. Arabs are the largest group and make up more than 75 percent of Iraq’s population. Iraqi Arabs speak the country’s official language, Arabic. The smaller group, the Kurds, make up some 15 to 20 percent of the population. The Kurds are mostly farmers and live in a large region of northern Iraq. Most Iraqi Kurds speak Kurdish in addition to Arabic.

Religion

Like ethnic identity, religion plays a large role in the lives of most Iraqis. Nearly all Iraqis, both Arab and Kurdish, are Muslim. Within Iraq, the two different branches
of Islam—Shia and Sunni—are practiced. About 60 percent of Iraqis are Shia and live in the south. Some 35 percent of Iraqis are Sunnis and live in the north.

**Reading Check** Summarizing What ethnic groups do most Iraqis belong to?

**Iraq Today**

Despite years of war, Iraq is slowly rebuilding. However, the country faces many challenges, such as ongoing fighting.

**Rebuilding Baghdad**

Iraq’s capital, Baghdad, was severely damaged in the overthrow of Saddam’s government. For example, the city’s 6 million people lost electricity and running water. To help the city’s residents, U.S. military and private contractors worked with the Iraqis to restore electricity and water and to rebuild homes, businesses, and schools. However, violence in Baghdad continued, disrupting efforts to rebuild.

**Government and Economy**

In January 2005 Iraqis participated in democracy for the first time. Millions of Iraqis went to the polls to elect members to the National Assembly. One of the Assembly’s first tasks was to create a new constitution. Deep divisions among Iraqis led to fierce internal fighting, however, and threatened the new government’s stability.

Iraqis also began trying to rebuild their once strong economy. In the 1970s Iraq was the world’s second-largest oil exporter. Time will tell if Iraq can again be a major oil producer.

Oil isn’t Iraq’s only resource. From earliest times, Iraq’s wide plains and fertile soils have produced many food crops. Irrigation from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers allows farmers to grow barley, cotton, and rice.

After decades of a harsh government and wars, Iraq’s future remains uncertain. As the United States military transfers control back to the Iraqis, the country’s government faces huge challenges in creating a free and prosperous society.

**Reading Check** Drawing Conclusions What happened to Iraq’s oil industry?

**Summary and Preview** In this section, you have learned about Iraq’s ancient history, rich culture, and efforts to rebuild. Next, you will learn about Iran, which also has an ancient history but is otherwise quite different from Iraq.

**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Recall** Where was the world’s first civilization located?
   b. **Sequence** What events led to the embargo on Iraq by the United Nations?

2. a. **Identify** What are two major ethnic groups in Iraq?
   b. **Contrast** What is one difference between Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims?

3. a. **Describe** How was Baghdad damaged by war?
   b. **Draw Conclusions** What natural resource may help Iraq’s economy recover?
   c. **Predict** What kind of country do you think Iraq will be in five years?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Summarizing** Use your notes on Iraq today to fill in this table by summarizing what you have learned about Baghdad and Iraq’s government and economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baghdad</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Focus on Writing**

5. **Writing about Iraq** Add details about Iraq’s people, culture, and the country today to your notes. What sights have you seen that you might record in your log?
If YOU lived there...

You are a student in Tehran, the capital of Iran. In school, you are taught that the way of life in the West—countries of Europe and the Americas—is bad. News reports and newspapers are filled with negative propaganda about Western countries. Yet you know that some of your friends secretly listen to Western popular music and watch American television programs that they catch using illegal satellite dishes at home. This makes you very curious about Western countries.

What would you like to know about life in other countries?

BUILDING BACKGROUND  Like Iraqis, Iranians have a proud and ancient history. While most people living in the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq are Arabs, the majority of Iranians are Persian. They have a distinct culture and language.

History

The early history of the country we now call Iran includes the Persian Empire and a series of Muslim empires. Iran’s recent history includes an Islamic revolution. Today Iran is an Islamic republic, which limits the rights of many Iranians.

Persian Empire

Beginning in the 500s BC, the Persian Empire ruled the region around present-day Iran. For centuries Persia was a great center of art and learning. The Persian Empire was known for its spectacular paintings, carpets, metalwork, and architecture. In the empire’s capital, Persepolis, walls and statues throughout the city glittered with gold, silver, and precious jewels.

The Persian Empire was later conquered by several Muslim empires. Muslims converted the Persians to Islam, but most people retained their Persian culture. They built beautiful mosques with colorful tiles and large domes.
Iran Today

Iranian culture differs from many other cultures of Southwest Asia. Unlike most of the Arab peoples living in the region, more than half of all Iranians are Persian. They speak Farsi, the Persian language.

People and Culture

With about 66 million people, Iran has one of the largest populations in Southwest Asia. Iran’s population is very young. The average age in Iran is about 27 years old. It is also ethnically diverse. Iranian ethnic groups other than the Persian majority include Azerbaijanis, Kurds, Arabs, and Turks.

Most Iranians belong to the Shia branch of Islam. Only about 10 percent are Sunni Muslim. The rest of Iran’s people practice Christianity, Judaism, or other religions.

In addition to the Islamic holy days, Iranians celebrate Nowruz—the Persian New Year. Iranians tend to spend this holiday outdoors. As a part of this celebration, they display goldfish in their homes to symbolize life.
Iranian culture also includes close-knit families and respect for elders. Most family gatherings in Iran are centered around Persian food, which includes rice, bread, vegetables, fruits, lamb, and tea.

**Economy and Government**

Huge oil reserves, which are among the largest in the world, make Iran a wealthy country. In addition to oil, the production of beautiful woven carpets contributes to Iran’s economy. The country’s strong agricultural sector employs nearly one-third of the Iranian workforce.

The current government of Iran is a **theocracy**—a government ruled by religious leaders. These religious leaders, or **ayatollahs**, control Iran’s government. The head of the **ayatollahs**, or supreme leader, has unlimited power. Even though religious leaders control Iran, its government has an elected president and parliament.

---

**Life in Iran and the United States**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iran</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daily Life</strong></td>
<td><strong>Daily Life</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ An Iranian woman has to cover her head and most of her body with clothing in public.</td>
<td>■ Americans are free to wear any type of clothing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Iranians are forbidden to view most Western Web sites, and Internet use is monitored by the government.</td>
<td>■ Americans are free to surf the Internet and view most Web sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Boys and girls have separate schools, and they can not be alone with each other without adult supervision.</td>
<td>■ Boys and girls can attend the same school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Iran is a theocracy.</td>
<td>■ The United States is a democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ A supreme religious leader rules Iran.</td>
<td>■ A president is the leader of our country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Only candidates approved by the government can run for political office.</td>
<td>■ Any U.S. citizen can run for political office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic Rights</strong></td>
<td><strong>Basic Rights</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>■ Freedom of speech, religion, and the press is limited.</td>
<td>■ Freedom of speech, religion, and the press is allowed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contrasting** In what ways does Iran’s government differ from the U.S. government?

---

Unlike Iranians, Americans are free to speak in public. Here a teenager speaks on the steps of the Texas State Capitol in Austin.
Iran’s government has supported many hard-line policies. For example, it has called for the destruction of Israel. It has also supported terrorist groups in other countries. With a newly elected president in 1997, some signs indicated that Iran’s government might adopt democratic reforms. This government attempted to improve Iran’s economy and rights for women.

However, in 2005 Iranians moved away from democratic reforms by electing Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (mah-MOOD ah-mah-di-nee-ZHAHID) president. He wants Iranians to follow strict Islamic law. After the election, a reporter asked the new president if he had any plans for reforms. He responded, “We did not have a revolution in order to have a democracy.”

More recently, international debate arose over Iran’s expansion of its nuclear program. The United States and some of its allies feared that Iran was building nuclear weapons, which could threaten world security. Iran claimed it was using nuclear technology to create energy.

**Biography**

**Shirin Ebadi**

(1947–)

Iranians hoping for more democratic reforms were encouraged in 2003 when Shirin Ebadi received the Nobel Peace Prize. Ebadi is a lawyer, judge, and author. However, her work attempting to improve human rights in Iran has at times made her unpopular with the country’s government leaders. Ebadi’s goals include to attain better conditions for women, children, and refugees.

**Drawing Inferences** Why would Iran’s government be opposed to Ebadi’s human rights efforts?

**Summary and Preview** In this section you learned about Iran’s history, people, culture, economy, and government. In the next chapter, you will learn about the countries of Central Asia that lie to the north and east of Iran.

**Section 4 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Define** What is a revolution?
   b. **Explain** What was the Persian Empire known for?
   c. **Elaborate** What changes were made in Iran after the Islamic Revolution?

2. a. **Recall** What kind of leaders have authority over their people in a theocracy?
   b. **Compare** In what ways does Iran’s culture differ from cultures in other countries of Southwest Asia?
   c. **Predict** How do you think the United States and other nations will deal with Iran’s nuclear weapons program?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Finding Main Ideas** Use your notes on Iran today to fill in this diagram with the main ideas of Iran’s people, culture, economy, and government.

**Focus on Writing**

4. **Writing About Iran** Record details about Iran in your log. What types of things would you see if you were traveling around Iran?
Analyzing Tables and Statistics

Learn

Tables provide an organized way of presenting statistics, or data. The data are usually listed side by side for easy reference and comparison. Use the following guidelines to analyze a table:

- Read the table’s title to determine its subject.
- Note the headings and labels of the table’s columns and rows. This will tell you how the data are organized.
- Locate statistics where rows and columns intersect by reading across rows and down columns.
- Use critical thinking skills to compare and contrast data, identify relationships, and note trends.

Practice

Use the table here to answer the following questions.

1. Which country has the highest total literacy rate? Which country has the lowest?
2. Which country has the largest difference between the literacy rate among men and the literacy rate among women?
3. What inference, or educated guess, can you make about education in these countries?

Apply

Using the Internet, an encyclopedia, or an almanac, locate information on the population density, birthrate, and death rate for each country listed in the table above. Then create your own table to show this information.
Chapter Review

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

Deserts cover much of the Arabian Peninsula. The region also has a lot of valuable oil reserves.

Many people in Iraq, such as this woman, enjoy more freedoms now that the country has a new government.

Iran is a theocracy. Islam is an important part of the country’s government and culture.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Match the words in the columns with the correct definitions listed below.

1. wadis
2. revolution
3. embargo
4. procedure
5. fossil water
6. OPEC
7. shah
8. theocracy

a. the Persian title for a king
b. dry streambeds
c. a limit on trade
d. a series of steps taken to accomplish a task
e. water that is not being replaced by rainfall
f. an organization whose members try to influence the price of oil on world markets
g. a drastic change in a country’s government
h. a government ruled by religious leaders

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 436–439)

9. a. Identify Through what country do the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow?
   b. Analyze Based on the landforms and climate, where do you think would be the best place in the region to live? Explain your answer.
   c. Evaluate Do you think oil or water is a more important resource in the region? Explain your answer.

SECTION 2 (Pages 440–443)

10. a. Describe What kind of government does Saudi Arabia have?
    b. Analyze In what ways does religion affect Saudi Arabia’s culture and economy?
    c. Elaborate What challenges might countries on the Arabian Peninsula face in attempting to create new industries in addition to oil?
**SECTION 3 (Pages 446–449)**

11. **a. Recall** What is the region of Mesopotamia known for?
   
   **b. Draw Conclusions** Why did Iraq invade Kuwait in 1990?
   
   **c. Elaborate** How did war damage Baghdad?

**SECTION 4 (Pages 450–453)**

12. **a. Describe** What occurred at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran after the Islamic Revolution?
   
   **b. Compare and Contrast** How is Iran similar to or different from the United States?
   
   **c. Predict** Do you think Iran’s government will ever become more democratic? Why or why not?

**Social Studies Skills**

**Analyzing Tables and Statistics** Use the Facts about Countries table at the beginning of the unit to answer the following questions.

13. What is the population of Iraq?

14. What country is the smallest?

15. How many TVs per thousand people are there in Qatar?

**Using the Internet**

16. **Activity: Charting Democracy** Some countries face challenges as they work to promote a more democratic form of government. Iraq, for example, has struggled as it has begun to develop its own form of democracy. How does democracy in Iraq, or elections in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, affect the people of those countries? How do the media, literature, and arts in those areas reflect life in a democratic society? In what ways does democracy in Southwest Asia differ from democracy in the United States? Through the online book, create a chart or diagram that compares democratic life in the United States with democratic life in Iraq and other countries of Southwest Asia.

**Map Activity**

17. **The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran** On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

   - Rub’ al-Khali
   - Tehran, Iran
   - Persian Gulf
   - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
   - Tigris River
   - Euphrates River

**FOCUS ON READING AND WRITING**

18. **Re-Reading** Read the passage titled Resources in Section 1. After you read, write down the main ideas of the passage. Then go back and re-read the passage carefully. Identify at least one thing you learned from the passage when you re-read it and add the new information to your list of main ideas.

19. **Creating a Geographer’s Log** Imagine that you began your journey in Saudi Arabia. Write the name of the country at the top of your log. Under the country’s name, record details about what you saw as you traveled through the country. Then choose another country and do the same until you have created an entry in your log for each country. Look at your notes to help you remember what you saw. Be sure to include descriptions of the land and people.
**DIRECTIONS:** Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. Dry streambeds in the desert are known as
   A. wadis.
   B. salty rivers.
   C. exotic rivers.
   D. disappearing rivers.

2. What kind of government does Saudi Arabia have?
   A. monarchy
   B. legislature
   C. democracy
   D. republic

3. Iraq's official language is
   A. Persian.
   B. Arabic.
   C. French.
   D. Kurdish.

4. Saddam Hussein is the former president of
   A. Saudi Arabia.
   B. Iraq.
   C. Oman.
   D. Iran.

5. Iran's government is a theocracy ruled by
   A. Islamic religious leaders.
   B. priests.
   C. Christian ministers.
   D. democratic leaders.

6. Based on the graph above, about how many barrels of oil per day does Saudi Arabia produce?
   A. 9
   B. 9 thousand
   C. 9 million
   D. 9 billion

7. Based on the graph above, which country produces the second largest amount of oil in the region?
   A. United Arab Emirates
   B. Iran
   C. Iraq
   D. Kuwait

8. **Extended Response** Based on the graph above and your knowledge of the region, write a paragraph explaining the influence oil has on the region. Identify at least two ways in which oil affects the region.
CHAPTER 19
Central Asia

Essential Question  How have foreign invasion and influence affected the societies and cultures of Central Asia?

What You Will Learn...
In this chapter you will learn about the rugged physical geography of Central Asia. This physical geography has affected the region’s history. You will also learn about the many influences on Central Asia throughout history. Finally, you will see how these influences have affected the region’s culture, governments, and economies today.

SECTION 1: Physical Geography .......................... 460
The Big Idea  Central Asia, a dry, rugged, landlocked region, has oil and other valuable mineral resources.

SECTION 2: History and Culture ......................... 464
The Big Idea  The countries of Central Asia share similar histories and traditions, but particular ethnic groups give each country a unique culture.

SECTION 3: Central Asia Today ......................... 469
The Big Idea  Central Asian countries are mostly poor, but they are working to create stable governments and sound economies.

Focus on Reading and Viewing
Using Context Clues  As you read, you may come across words in your textbook that you do not know. When this happens, look for context clues that restate the unknown word in other words that you know. See the lesson, Using Context Clues, on page R20.

Giving a Travel Presentation  You work for a travel agency, and you are going to give a presentation encouraging people to visit Central Asia. Gather information from the chapter to help you prepare your presentation. Later you will view your classmates’ presentations and provide feedback to them.

Geography Much of Central Asia’s land is rugged. Here, mountains rise behind the city of Almaty, Kazakhstan.
Culture There are many different cultures in Central Asia. This farmgirl wears clothing typical of Uzbekistan.

History This mosque in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, shows Arab influence on the region.
You are flying in a plane low over the mountains of Central Asia. You look down and notice that the area below you looks as if a giant hand has crumpled the land into steep mountains and narrow valleys. Icy glaciers fill some of the valleys. A few silvery rivers flow out of the mountains and across a green plain. This plain is the only green spot you can see in this rugged landscape.

How would this landscape affect people?

If YOU lived there...

Central Asia is a dry, rugged, landlocked region. There are many high mountain ranges, such as the Hindu Kush, stretch through Afghanistan. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are also very mountainous. Large glaciers are common in high mountains such as the Pamirs.

Like its landlocked location, Central Asia’s rugged terrain presents a challenge for the region. Throughout history, the mountains have made travel and communication difficult and have contributed to the region’s isolation. In addition, tectonic activity causes frequent earthquakes there.
Plains and Plateaus

From the mountains in the east, the land gradually slopes toward the west. There, near the Caspian Sea, the land is as low as 95 feet (29 m) below sea level. The central part of the region, between the mountains and the Caspian Sea, is covered with plains and low plateaus.

The plains region is the site of the fertile Fergana Valley. This large valley has been a major center of farming in the region for thousands of years.

Rivers and Lakes

The Fergana Valley is fertile because of two rivers that flow through it—the Syr Darya (sir duhr-YAH) and the Amu Darya (uh-MOO duhr-YAH). These rivers flow from eastern mountains into the Aral Sea, which is really a large lake. Another important lake, Lake Balkhash, has freshwater at one end and salty water at the other end.

READING CHECK  
Generalizing What challenges do the mountains present to this region?
Climate and Vegetation

Most places in Central Asia have harsh, dry climates. Extreme temperature ranges and limited rainfall make it difficult for plants to grow there.

One area with harsh climates in the region is the mountain area in the east. The high peaks in this area are too cold, dry, and windy for vegetation.

West of the mountains and east of the Caspian Sea is another harsh region. Two deserts—the Kara-Kum (kahr-uh-KOOM) in Turkmenistan and the Kyzyl Kum (ki-ZIL KOOM) in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan—have extremely high temperatures in the summer. Rainfall is limited, though both deserts contain several settlements. Rivers crossing this dry region make settlements possible, because they provide water for irrigation. Irrigation is a way of supplying water to an area of land.

The only part of Central Asia with a milder climate is the far north. There, temperature ranges are not so extreme and rainfall is heavy enough for grasses and trees to grow.

READING CHECK Generalizing Why is it hard for plants to grow in much of Central Asia?
Natural Resources

In this dry region, water is one of the most valuable resources. Although water is scarce, or limited, the countries of Central Asia do have oil and other resources.

Water

The main water sources in southern Central Asia are the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers. Since water is so scarce there, different ideas over how to use the water from these rivers have led to conflict between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Today farmers use river water mostly to irrigate cotton fields. Cotton grows well in Central Asia’s sunny climate, but it requires a lot of water. Irrigation has taken so much water from the rivers that almost no water actually reaches the Aral Sea today. The effect of this irrigation has been devastating to the Aral Sea. It has lost more than 75 percent of its water since 1960. Large areas of seafloor are now exposed.

In addition to water for irrigation, Central Asia’s rivers supply power. Some countries have built large dams on the rivers to generate hydroelectricity.

Oil and Other Resources

The resources that present the best economic opportunities for Central Asia are oil and gas. Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan all have huge reserves of oil and natural gas.

However, these oil and gas reserves cannot benefit the countries of Central Asia unless they can be exported. Since no country in the region has an ocean port, the only way to transport the oil and gas efficiently is through pipelines. But the rugged mountains, along with economic and political turmoil in some surrounding countries, make building and maintaining pipelines difficult.

In addition to oil and gas, some parts of Central Asia are rich in other minerals. They have deposits of gold, silver, copper, zinc, uranium, and lead. Kazakhstan, in particular, has many mines with these minerals. It also has large amounts of coal.

Focus on Reading

What context clues give you a restatement of the term **scarce**?

Reading Check Categorizing What are three types of natural resources in Central Asia?

Summary and Preview

In this section you learned about Central Asia’s rugged terrain, dry climate, and limited resources. In the next section you will learn about the history and culture of Central Asia.

Section 1 Assessment

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

1. a. Identify What fertile area has been a center of farming in Central Asia for many years?
   b. Make Inferences How does Central Asia’s terrain affect life there?
2. a. Describe Where do people find water in the deserts?
   b. Make Generalizations What is the climate like in most of Central Asia?
3. a. Recall What mineral resources does Central Asia have?
   b. Explain How have human activities affected the Aral Sea?
   c. Elaborate What kinds of situations would make it easier for countries of Central Asia to export oil and gas?

Critical Thinking

4. Finding Main Ideas
   Look at your notes on this section. Then, using a chart like the one here, write a main idea statement about each topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Features</th>
<th>Main Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate and Vegetation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus on Viewing

5. Describing Physical Geography Note information about physical features, climates, and resources of this region. Highlight information to include in your presentation.
If YOU lived there...

Your family has always farmed a small plot of land. Most days you go to school and work in the fields. One day you get news that invaders have taken over your country. They don’t look like you and they speak a different language, but now they are in charge.

How do you think your life will change under the new rulers?

Building Background

You may have noticed that the names of the countries in this region all end with stan. In the language of the region, stan means “land of.” So, for example, Kazakhstan means “land of the Kazakhs.” However, throughout history many different groups have ruled these lands.

History

Central Asia has been somewhat of a crossroads for traders and invaders for hundreds of years. As these different peoples have passed through Central Asia, they have each left their own unique and lasting influences on the region.

Trade

At one time, the best trade route between Europe and India ran through Afghanistan. The best route between Europe and China ran through the rest of Central Asia. Beginning in about 100 BC, merchants traveled along the China route to trade European gold and wool for Chinese spices and silk. As a result, this route came to be called the Silk Road. Cities along the road, such as Samarqand and Bukhara, grew rich from the trade.

By 1500 the situation in Central Asia had changed, however. When Europeans discovered they could sail to East Asia through the Indian Ocean, trade through Central Asia declined. The region became more isolated and poor.
Invasions
Because of its location on the Silk Road, many groups of people were interested in Central Asia. Group after group swarmed into the region. Among the first people to establish a lasting influence in the region were Turkic-speaking nomads who came from northern Asia in AD 500.

In the 700s Arab armies took over much of the region. They brought a new religion—Islam—to Central Asia. Many of the beautiful mosques in Central Asian cities date from the time of the Arabs.

Arabs, followed by other invaders, ruled Central Asia until the 1200s. Then, Mongol armies conquered Central Asia, destroying many cities with their violent attacks. Eventually, their empire crumbled. With the fall of the Mongols, various tribes of peoples, such as the Uzbeks, Kazakhs, and Turkmens moved into parts of the region.

Russian and Soviet Rule
In the mid-1800s the Russians became the next major group to conquer Central Asia. Although the Russians built railroads and expanded cotton and oil production, people began to resent their rule.

After the Russian Revolution in 1917, the new Soviet government wanted to weaken resistance to its rule. The new Soviet leaders did this by dividing the land into republics. The Soviets encouraged ethnic Russians to move to these areas and made other people settle on government-owned farms. The Soviets also built huge irrigation projects to improve cotton production.

The Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. As the Soviet government and economy fell apart, it could no longer control its huge territory. The Central Asian republics finally became independent countries.

READING CHECK Generalizing What groups of people influenced Central Asia?
Culture
The people who came through Central Asia influenced culture in the region. They brought new languages, religions, and ways of life that mixed with traditional ways of life in Central Asia.

Traditional Lives
For centuries, Central Asians have made a living by raising horses, cattle, sheep, and goats. Many herders live as nomads, people who move often from place to place. The nomads move their herds from mountain pastures in the summer to lowland pastures in the winter. Today most people in Central Asia live in more permanent settlements, but many others still live as nomads. The nomadic lifestyle is especially common in Kyrgyzstan.

Unique homes, called yurts, make moving with the herds possible. A yurt is a movable round house made of wool felt mats hung over a wood frame. Today the yurt is a symbol of the region’s nomadic heritage. Even people who live in cities may put up yurts for special events such as weddings and funerals.

Close-up
Inside a Yurt
Historically, the nomadic life required that all possessions be portable—even houses. Nomads moved their yurts with them from place to place.

Why would a yurt be easier to move than another type of house?

ANALYZING VISUALS

A hole at the top allows smoke from a fire to escape.

Nomads roll up part of the felt mat to create a door.

Traditional carpets provide decoration and warmth and are a yurt’s main furniture.
People, Languages, and Religion

Most people in Central Asia today belong to one of several ethnic groups that are part of a larger ethnic group called Turkic. Some of these ethnic groups are Kazakh (kuh-ZAHK), Kyrgyz (KIR-giz), Turkmen, and Uzbek (OOZ-bek). Another group, ethnic Russians, came to Central Asia when Russia conquered the region. They still live in every Central Asian country.

Each ethnic group speaks its own language. Look at the map above to see where a particular language is the primary language. In most countries in the region, more than one language is spoken.

When the Russians conquered Central Asia, they established their own language as the official language for business and government. It is still an official language in some Central Asian countries. The Russians also introduced the Cyrillic alphabet, the alphabet used to write the Russian language. Most countries in Central Asia now use the Latin alphabet, however, which is the one used to write English. Afghanistan also has its own alphabet. It is used for writing Pashto, one of that country’s official languages.

Just as people in the region are of many ethnic groups and speak different languages, they also practice different religions. Traders and conquerors brought their religious beliefs and practices to the region. Islam, brought by the Arabs, is the main religion in Central Asia. Some people there also practice Christianity. Most of the region’s Christians belong to the Russian Orthodox Church.
During the Soviet era, the government closed or destroyed more than 35,000 religious buildings, such as mosques, churches, and Islamic schools. However, since the end of the Soviet Union in 1991, many religious buildings have reopened. They are in use once again and are also beautiful symbols of the region’s past.

**Summary and Preview** Many different groups of people have influenced the countries of Central Asia over the years. As a result, the region has a mixture of languages and religions. In the next section you will learn about the governments and economies of the countries of Central Asia today. You will also study some of the challenges these countries face.

**Section 2 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. **a. Identify** What people brought Islam to Central Asia?
   - **b. Analyze** What impact did the Silk Road have on Central Asia?
   - **c. Elaborate** How might Central Asia’s history have been different without the influence of the Silk Road?

2. **a. Define** What is a yurt?
   - **b. Analyze** What are some of the benefits of nomadic life, and what are some of the challenges of this lifestyle?
   - **c. Elaborate** How might the mix of ethnic groups, languages, and religions in Central Asian countries affect life there today?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Sequencing** Review your notes on the history of Central Asia. Then organize your information using a time line like the one below. You may add more dates if you need to.

   ![Time Line]

   100 BC  |  1991

**Focus on Viewing**

4. **Taking Notes on History and Culture** What information about the history and culture of the region might encourage travelers to visit Central Asia? What sites might they be interested in visiting? Jot down a few notes.
Central Asia Today

If YOU lived there...

Your country, Kyrgyzstan, has just had an election. You listen to the radio with your brother, anxiously awaiting the results of the election. When the radio announcer says that the same president has won again, your brother is very angry. He says the election was unfair, and he is going to protest outside the president’s palace. He expects there to be a big crowd.

Will you join your brother? Why or why not?

Building Background

Political protests have been fairly common in some Central Asian countries in recent years. Political instability is just one of the challenges facing Central Asia today as the region learns to deal with independence.

Central Asia Today

A history of invasions and foreign rule has made an impact on Central Asia. Because of years of fighting and changes in the region, today many countries of Central Asia face similar issues in building stable governments and strong economies.

Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan today is in many ways a result of a long war with the Soviet Union in the 1980s. The Soviets left in 1989. However, turmoil continued under an alliance of Afghan groups. In the mid-1990s a radical Muslim group known as the Taliban arose. The group’s leaders took over most of the country, including the capital, Kabul.

The Taliban used a strict interpretation of Islamic teachings to rule Afghanistan. For example, the Taliban severely limited the role of women in society. They forced women to wear veils and to stop working outside the home. They also banned all music and dancing. Although most Muslims sharply disagreed with the Taliban’s policies, the group remained in power for several years.
Eventually, the Taliban came into conflict with the United States. Investigation of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., led to terrorist leader Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda network, based in Afghanistan. U.S. and British forces attacked Taliban and al Qaeda targets and toppled Afghanistan’s Taliban government.

Since the fall of the Taliban, Afghanistan’s government has changed in many ways. The country has a new constitution. Also, all men and women age 18 and older can vote for the president and for the members of a national assembly. Some members of the assembly are appointed by the president, and the constitution requires that half of these appointees be women.

Many Afghans hope their government will be stable. However, political factions, or opposing groups, disagree with some of the recent changes. These groups threaten violence, which may make Afghanistan’s new government less stable.

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan was the first part of Central Asia to be conquered by Russia. As a result, Russian influence remains strong in that country today. About one-third of Kazakhstan’s people are ethnic Russians. Kazakh and Russian are both official languages. Many ethnic Kazakhs grow up speaking Russian at home and have to learn Kazakh in school.

Kazakhstan’s economy was once tied to the former Soviet Union’s. It was based on manufacturing. When the Soviet Union collapsed, the economy suffered. However, due to its valuable oil reserves and quick adaptation to the free market, Kazakhstan’s economy is now growing steadily. The country is the richest in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan also has one of the more stable governments in Central Asia. The country is a democratic republic with an elected president and parliament. In 1998 Kazakhstan moved its capital from Almaty to Astana, which is closer to Russia.
Kyrgyzstan
The word kyrgyz means “forty clans.” Throughout history, clan membership has been an important part of Kyrgyzstan's social, political, and economic life. Many people still follow nomadic traditions.

Many other people in Kyrgyzstan are farmers. Fertile soils there allow a mix of irrigated crops and dryland farming, or farming that relies on rainfall instead of irrigation. Farming is the most important industry in Kyrgyzstan. However, it does not provide much income for the country.

Although the standard of living in Kyrgyzstan is low, the economy shows signs of strengthening. Tourism might also help Kyrgyzstan's economy. The country has a Muslim pilgrimage site as well as the beautiful Lake Issyk-Kul.

Kyrgyzstan's government is changing. The country has been fairly stable for some years. However, protests in 2005 over what some people thought were unfair elections could signal that times are changing.

Tajikistan
Like other countries in Central Asia, Tajikistan is struggling to overcome its problems. In the mid-1990s the country's Communist government fought against a group of reformers. Some reformers demanded democracy. Others called for a government that ruled by Islamic law. The groups came together and signed a peace agreement in 1997. As a result, Tajikistan is now a republic with an elected president.

Years of civil war damaged Tajikistan's economy. Both industrial and agricultural production declined. Even with the decline in agricultural production, Tajikistan still relies on cotton farming for much of its income. However, only 7 percent of the country's land is arable, or suitable for growing crops. Lack of arable land makes progress there difficult.

Turkmenistan
Turkmenistan's president holds all power in the country. He was voted president for life by the country's parliament. He has used his power to name a month of the year after himself, and his face appears on almost everything in Turkmenistan.

The Turkmen government supports Islam and has ordered schools to teach Islamic principles. However, it also views Islam with caution. It does not want Islam to become a political movement.

Turkmenistan's economy is based on oil, gas, and cotton. Although the country is a desert, about half of it is planted with cotton fields. Farming is possible because Turkmenistan has the longest irrigation channel in the world.

Turkmen Carpets
Decorative carpets are an essential part of a nomad's home. They are also perhaps the most famous artistic craft of Turkmenistan. Carpet factories operate in cities all through Turkmenistan, but some women still weave carpets by hand. These weavers memorize hundreds of intricate designs so they can make rugs that look the same. Each of several different Turkmen tribes has its own rug design.

Analyzing Why are carpets good for a nomadic way of life?
Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has the largest population of the Central Asian countries. It also has the largest cities in the region. Two cities—Bukhara and Samarqand—are famous for their mosques and monuments.

As in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan’s elected president holds all the political power. The United States has criticized the government for not allowing political freedom or respecting human rights.

The government also closely controls the economy. Uzbekistan’s economy, based on oil, gold, and cotton, is fairly stable even though it is growing only very slowly.

**READING CHECK**

**Drawing Inferences** How does physical geography affect the economies of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan?

---

**Issues and Challenges**

As you have read, the countries of Central Asia face similar issues and challenges. Their greatest challenges are in the areas of environment, economy, and politics.

**Environment**

One of the most serious environmental problems is the shrinking of the Aral Sea. Winds sweep the dry seafloor and blow dust, salt, and pesticides hundreds of miles. Also, towns that once relied on fishing are now dozens of miles from the shore.

Another problem is the damage caused by Soviet military practices. The Soviets tested nuclear bombs in Central Asia. Now people there suffer poor health because of radiation left over from the tests.

---

**Challenges for Central Asia**

Most countries in Central Asia face environmental, economic, or political challenges. How the Central Asian countries face these challenges will shape their future.

---

**Standard of Living in Central Asia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TVs (Per 1,000 People)</th>
<th>Radios (Per 1,000 People)</th>
<th>Per Capita GDP (U.S.$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>$700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>$11,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>$2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>$6,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>$2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>2,116</td>
<td>$46,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Another environmental problem has been caused by the overuse of chemicals to increase crop production. These chemicals have ended up ruining some farmlands. Instead of increasing crop production, the chemicals have hurt the economy.

**Economy**

Many of Central Asia’s economic problems are due to reliance on one crop—cotton. Suitable farmland is limited, so employment in the cotton industry is limited. Also, the focus on cotton has not encouraged countries to develop manufacturing.

Some countries have oil and gas reserves that may someday make them rich. For now, though, outdated equipment, lack of funds, and poor transportation systems slow development in Central Asia.

**Politics**

The other main challenge in Central Asia today is lack of political stability. In some countries, such as Kyrgyzstan, people do not agree on the best kind of government. People who are dissatisfied with their government sometimes turn to violence. These countries today are often faced with terrorist threats from different political groups within their own countries.

**Summary**

Central Asia is recovering from a history of foreign rule. The region is struggling to develop sound economies and stable governments.

---

**Section 3 Assessment**

**Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places**

1. a. **Describe** How did the Taliban affect Afghanistan?
   b. **Contrast** What are some major differences between Afghanistan and Kazakhstan?
   c. **Elaborate** What is one way a country might create more arable land?

2. a. **Identify** What three types of challenges does Central Asia face today?
   b. **Make Generalizations** Why does much of Central Asia face political instability?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Categorizing** Using your notes and a chart like the one here, categorize your information on each Central Asian country. You will have to add more lines as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Economy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Focus on Viewing**

4. **Describing Central Asia Today** Write notes about each country in Central Asia. Which countries might you suggest travelers visit? What details might encourage them?
The Aral Sea

In 1960 the Aral Sea was the world’s fourth-largest lake. However, human activities over the years have caused the Aral Sea to shrink drastically. The lake’s former seafloor is now a desert of sand and salt. Also, towns that once benefited from their lakeside location are now left without access to the water. Area governments have built dams to control the flow of water to restore parts of the lake, but so far their efforts have had little success.

Effect
Stranded boats are a reminder of the fishing industry once based near the Aral Sea. The fishing industry is dying with the sea.

Cause
Farmers have taken water from the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya to irrigate cotton fields. Now, less water flows into the sea than evaporates from it.
A Shrinking Sea
These satellite images show changes in the size of the Aral Sea over a period of 33 years.

1. Place How much wider was the Aral Sea in 1977 than it is now?
2. Human-Environment Interaction How might the shrinking of the sea affect towns that were once on its shore?
Using Scale

Learn
Mapmakers use scales to represent distances between points on a map. On each map legend in this book, you will notice some lines marked to measure miles and kilometers. These lines are the map’s scale.

To find the distance between two points on a map, place a piece of paper so that the edge connects the two points. Mark the location of each point on the paper with a line or dot. Then compare the distance between the two dots with the map’s scale.

Practice
Use the maps here to practice using scale and to answer the following questions.

1. Which map shows a larger region?
2. About how many miles does one inch represent on the map of Kyrgyzstan? on the map of Bishkek?
3. How far is it from Dubovy Park to Victory Square in Bishkek?

Apply
Use the map of Southwest Asia in the unit opener to answer the following questions.

1. How many miles does one inch represent? How many kilometers does one inch represent?
2. How long is the Caspian Sea from north to south?
3. How far is Turkmenistan from the Persian Gulf?
Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and Places

Unscramble each group of letters below to spell a term that matches the given definition.

1. mnnodsa—people who move often from place to place
2. yrddnal mrignaf—farming that relies on rainfall, not irrigation
3. tryu—a moveable round house of wool felt mats hung over a wood frame
4. ssblhlieat—to set up or create
5. fgrenaa vlyela—fertile region that has been a center of farming for thousands of years
6. tlbania—a radical Muslim group
7. dknadcledo—completely surrounded by land with no direct access to the ocean
8. kluba—the capital of Afghanistan
9. aabler—suitable for growing crops
10. aalr sae—body of water that is shrinking because of use of water for irrigation

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 460–463)

11. a. Describe How are farmers able to grow crops in Central Asia’s dry landscapes?
   b. Analyze What factors make it difficult for the countries of Central Asia to export their oil and gas resources?
   c. Evaluate Do you think Central Asia’s location or its mountains do more to keep the region isolated? Explain your answer.

SECTION 2 (Pages 464–468)

12. a. Describe How did life in Central Asia change under Russian and Soviet rule?
   b. Analyze In what ways do the people of Central Asia show their pride in their past and their culture?
   c. Evaluate Why do you think many former nomads now live in cities? Why do you think other people still choose to live as nomads?
SECTION 3  (Pages 469–473)

13. a. Identify  What are some reforms that have taken place in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban?
   b. Analyze  How does having a limited amount of arable land affect Tajikistan’s economy?
   c. Elaborate  How do you think political and environmental challenges in Central Asia affect the region’s economy?

Map Activity

14. Central Asia  On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.
   Aral Sea  Pamirs
   Caspian Sea  Astana, Kazakhstan
   Afghanistan  Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Social Studies Skills

Using Scale  Use the physical map of Central Asia in Section 1 to answer the following questions.

15. How many miles does one inch represent?
16. How far is it from the shore of the Caspian Sea to Ismail Samani Peak?
17. How many kilometers long is the Amu Darya?

Using the Internet

18. Activity: Writing Home  For thousands of years, nomads have traveled the lands of Central Asia. They move their herds to several different pasture areas as the seasons change. Through the online book, join a caravan of nomads. Find out what it is like to pack up your house, clothes, and all you own as you move from place to place. Then create a postcard to share your adventures with friends and family back home in the United States.

Focus on Reading and Viewing

19. Using Context Clues  Look through your book for examples of restatement. Note one or two examples of restatement for each section of the chapter.

20. Giving a Travel Presentation  Review your notes and select one country in Central Asia your audience might want to visit. Look for pictures of at least five locations in that country: buildings, monuments, or other interesting places. As you plan your presentation, create a brief introduction, a brief description of each location and its picture, and a conclusion. Hold up each picture and point out important features as you make your presentation.

As you watch your classmates’ presentations, listen carefully. Make note of their eye contact with the audience, use of gestures to add interest, use of interesting pictures, and persuasiveness.
DIRECTIONS: Read questions 1 through 7 and write the letter of the best response. Then read question 8 and write your own well-constructed response.

1. What is the main crop grown in Central Asia?
   A. wheat
   B. olives
   C. cotton
   D. corn

2. Which of the following descriptions best describes the landscape of Central Asia?
   A. dry and rugged
   B. dry and flat
   C. humid and landlocked
   D. humid and cold

3. How did the Arabs influence Central Asia in the 700s and 800s?
   A. separated ethnic groups
   B. destroyed cities and irrigation systems
   C. built railroads and expanded oil production
   D. introduced Islam

4. Which of the following statements about the nomadic lifestyle is false?
   A. Nomads move their herds depending on the season.
   B. Nomads decorate their yurts with carpets.
   C. It is a symbol of the region's heritage.
   D. Nomads often move from one dwelling to another.

5. What country did the Taliban rule?
   A. Kazakhstan
   B. Afghanistan
   C. Kyrgyzstan
   D. Uzbekistan

6. Based on the map above, what country has the most non-irrigated farmland?
   A. Kazakhstan
   B. Tajikistan
   C. Turkmenistan
   D. Uzbekistan

7. Based on the map above and your knowledge of the physical geography of Central Asia, what is the main reason there is little farmland in eastern Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan?
   A. There are too many rivers.
   B. Most people live as nomads there.
   C. The area is too mountainous.
   D. The area is a desert.

8. Extended Response Using the map and your knowledge of Central Asia, write a brief essay explaining how irrigation has affected the region.
Compare and Contrast

How are two countries alike? How are they different? Comparing the similarities and contrasting the differences between countries can teach us more than we can learn by studying them separately.

1. Prewrite

Choose a Topic

■ Choose two countries to write about.
■ Create a big idea, or thesis, about the two countries. For example, your big idea might be “Iran and Iraq both have oil-based economies, but they also have many differences.”

TIP Organizing Information A Venn diagram (two overlapping circles) can help you plan your paper. Write similarities in the overlapping area and differences in the areas that do not overlap.

Gather and Organize Information

■ Identify at least three similarities or differences between the countries.
■ Decide whether to write about each country one at a time or to discuss each point of similarity or difference one at a time.

2. Write

Use a Writer’s Framework

A Writer’s Framework

Introduction

■ Start with a fact or question relating to both countries.
■ Identify your big idea.

Body

■ Write at least one paragraph for each country or each point of similarity or difference. Include facts and details to help explain each point.
■ Use block style or point-by-point style.

Conclusion

■ Summarize the process in your final paragraph.

3. Evaluate And Revise

Review and Improve Your Paper

■ Re-read your draft, then ask yourself the questions below to see if you have followed the framework.
■ Make any changes needed to improve your comparison and contrast paper.

Evaluation Questions for a Compare and Contrast Paper

1. Do you begin with an interesting fact or question that relates to both countries?
2. Does your first paragraph clearly state your big idea and provide background information?
3. Do you discuss at least three similarities and differences between the countries?
4. Do you include facts and details to explain each similarity or difference?
5. Is your paper clearly organized by country or by similarities and differences?

4. Proofread And Publish

Give Your Explanation the Finishing Touch

■ Make sure you have capitalized the names of countries and cities.
■ Check for punctuation around transitional words and phrases like and, but, or similarly.
■ Share your compare-and-contrast paper by reading it aloud in class or in small groups.

5. Practice And Apply

Use the steps outlined in this workshop to write a compare-and-contrast paper. Compare and contrast your paper to those of your classmates.