

# 6

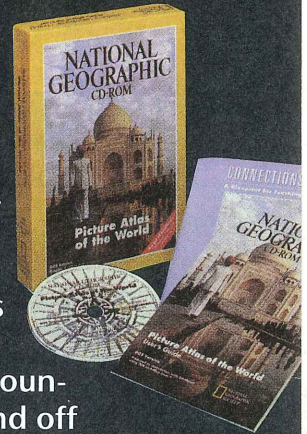
## *North Africa and Southwest Asia*

### **GeoJournal Activity**

Read newspapers and magazines and listen to television and radio broadcasts about events affecting the environment, politics, cultures, and daily life of the region. List the items in your journal.

## Picture Atlas of the World CD-ROM

Research the populations of the following countries: Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia. Look at the population projection graph and figure out how many millions of people are projected to be added to each of these countries by the year 2025. (Round off your answers to the nearest million.) Make a bar graph of your findings. (See page 20 for more information on graphs.) Based on your graph, answer the following questions:



1. Which country will add the most people?
2. Which country will add the fewest?
3. Which country is projected to triple its population?

## interNET CONNECTION

For more information about North Africa and Southwest Asia visit the National Geographic Society's Web site.

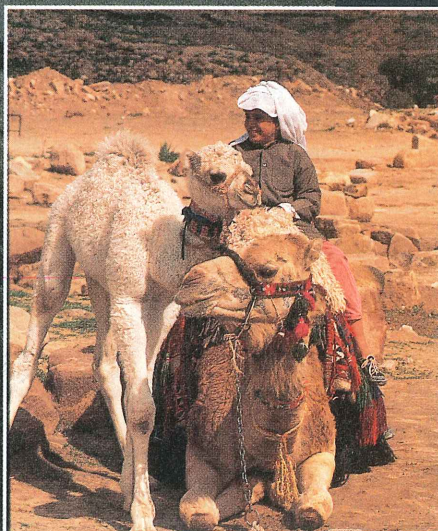
[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

For a unit-based activity visit the Glencoe Social Studies Web site.

[www.glencoe.com](http://www.glencoe.com)

Daybreak illuminates the 4,000-year-old walled Old City of Jerusalem.

- ◀ On a street in Petra, Jordan, Shadi stops to let his camel and her calf rest. No cars can enter Petra's narrow mountain pass.

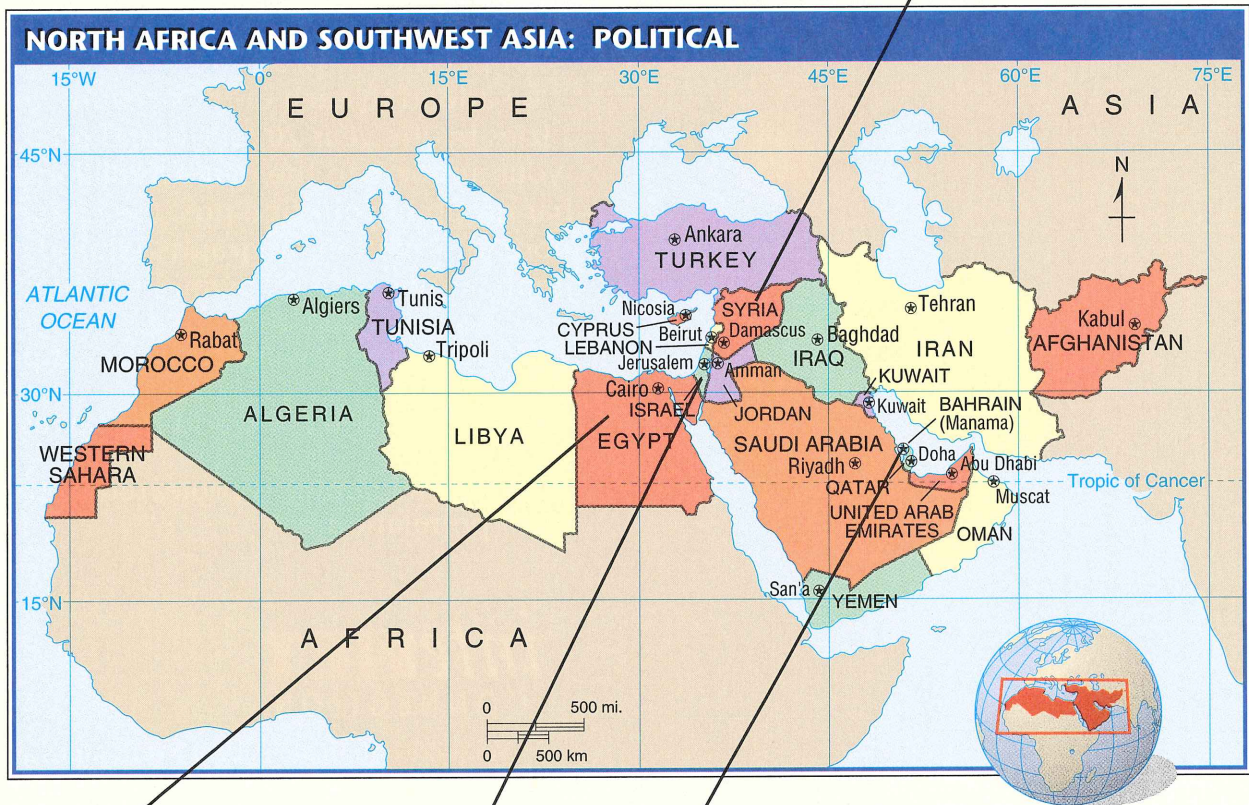


# NORTH AFRICA AND Cultural Geography

## EXPLORING CULTURAL DIVERSITY

1. What areas of the region are most heavily populated? Most sparsely populated?
2. What nations are in the region?
3. What cities in North Africa and Southwest Asia have more than 5 million people?

Aleppo, **Syria**, has been an important trading center since the 1500s BC.



Because of its strategic location, **Egypt** is important in world transportation.

In 1950, **Israel** passed the Law of the Return allowing any Jew to settle in the country. Since then, Jews from all over the world have relocated to Israel.

**Bahrain** has one of the highest standards of living in the Persian Gulf area.

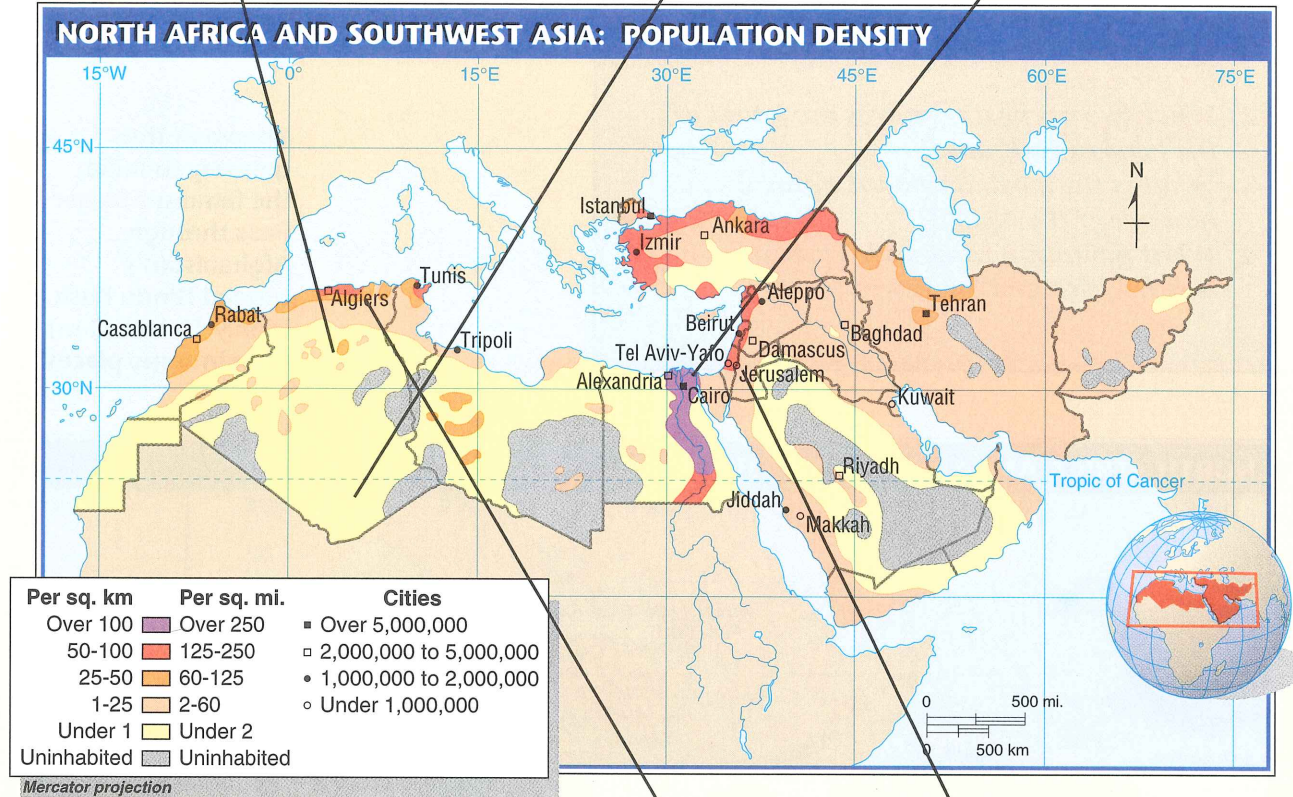
Many bedouins, Arab nomads who live in **Southwest Asia**, are giving up their traditional nomadic lifestyle to move to the city.

# SOUTHWEST ASIA

People have lived in present-day **Algeria** for at least 40,000 years.

The **Sahara** is very sparsely populated.

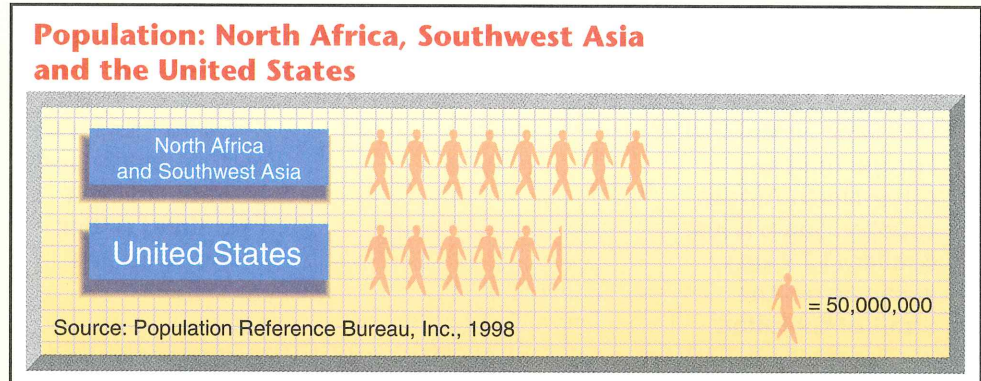
Egypt's **Nile River Valley** is one of the world's most heavily populated areas.



Most people in **North Africa** live along the Mediterranean coast.

About 25 percent of Israel's population lives in the country's 3 largest cities—**Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa**.

North Africa and Southwest Asia have about 130 million more people than the United States.

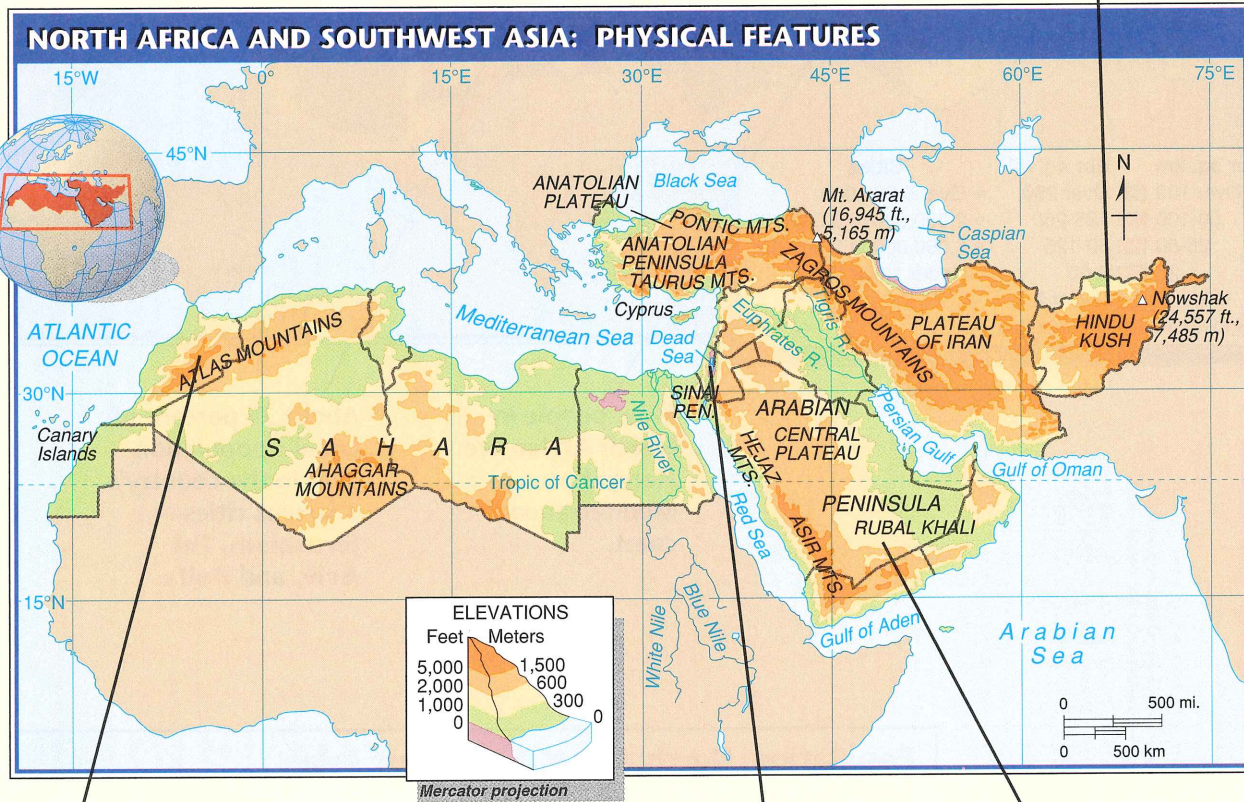


# NORTH AFRICA AND Physical Geography

## CHARTING YOUR COURSE

1. What bodies of water provide coastlines for the region?
2. What two natural resources are found in the Persian Gulf area?
3. What is the most abundant natural resource of the region?
4. What mountain ranges are located in North Africa and Southwest Asia?

Known as the gateway to India, the famous **Khyber Pass** through Afghanistan's rugged Hindu Kush is only 10 feet (3 m) wide in some places.



**Morocco** is closer to Europe than any other North African country. Spain is just 8 miles (12.9 km) away, across the Strait of Gibraltar.

The **Dead Sea** is the earth's saltiest body of water—about nine times saltier than the oceans.

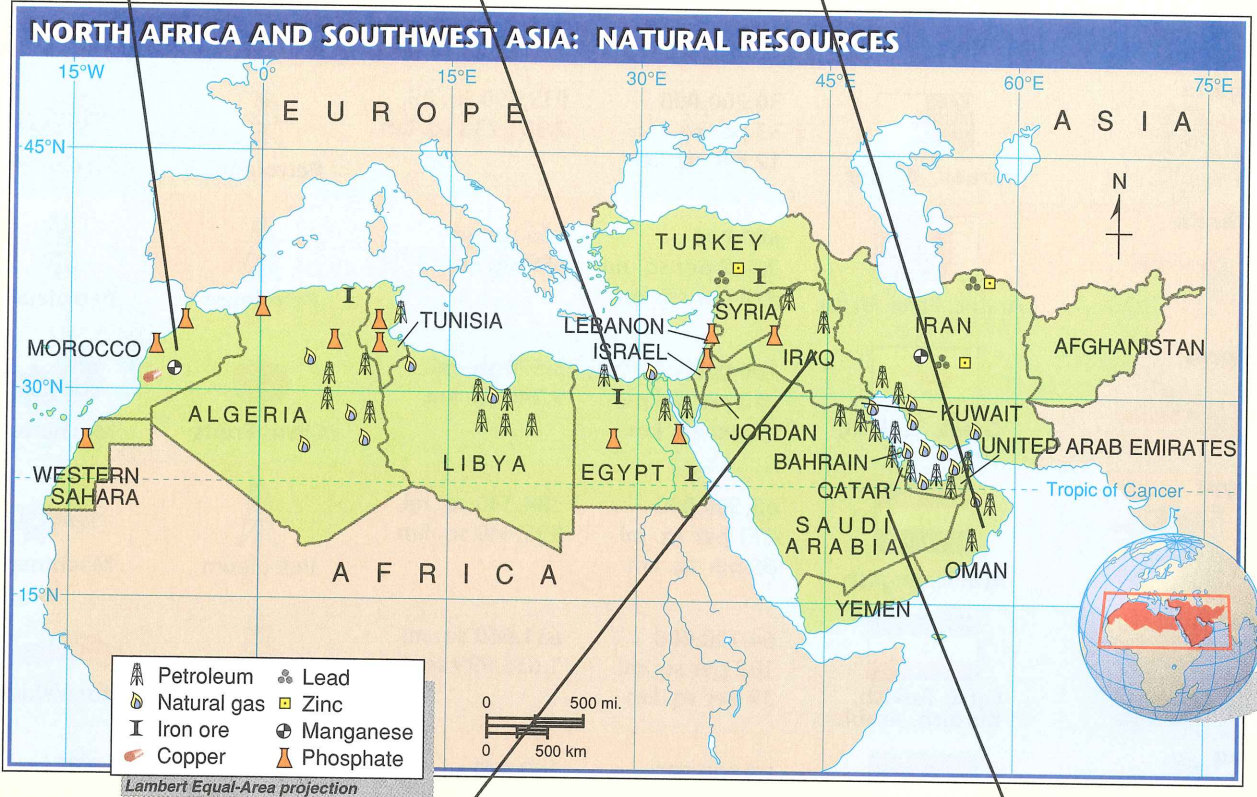
Some of the sandy areas of the **Arabian Peninsula** are so large they are called "sand seas."

# SOUTHWEST ASIA

**Morocco** has about two-thirds of the world's known phosphate reserves.

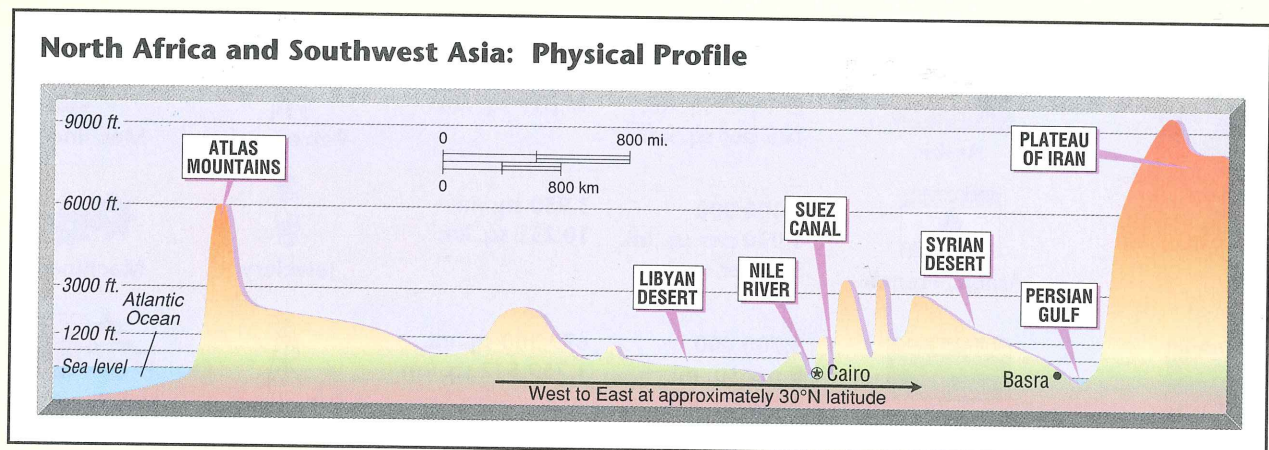
Cotton is **Egypt's** most important crop.




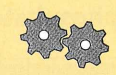















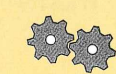












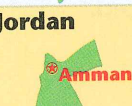












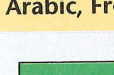


**Oman** is one of the world's hottest countries.



















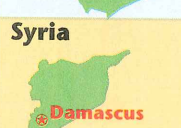











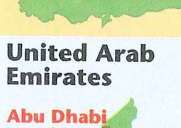







A variety of crops grow in the **Fertile Crescent**, a region of rich, fertile soil between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

The **Arabian Peninsula** supplies the world with one-fourth to one-third of all oil produced.



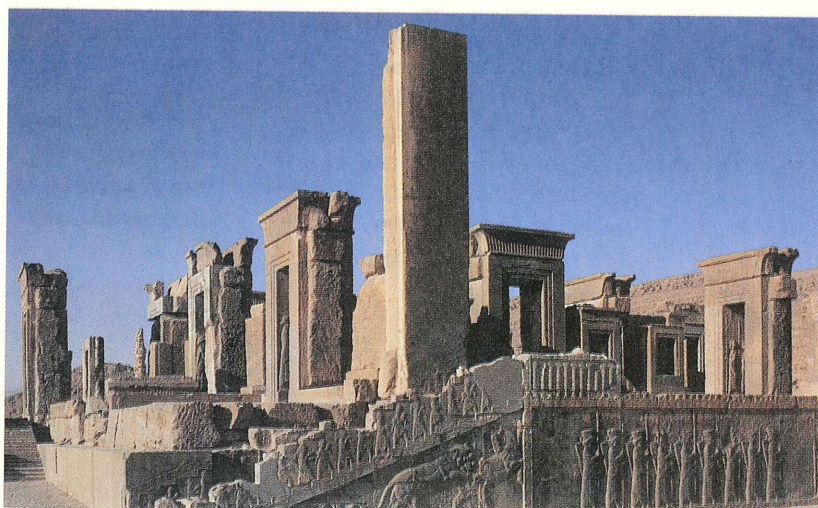
COUNTRY* AND CAPITAL	FLAG AND LANGUAGES	POPULATION	LANDMASS	PRINCIPAL EXPORT	PRINCIPAL IMPORT
<b>Afghanistan</b> 	 Pushtu, Dari Persian	24,800,000 98 per sq. mi. 38 per sq. km	251,772 sq. mi. 652,089 sq. km	 Fruits & Nuts	 Machinery
<b>Algeria</b> 	 Arabic, Berber	30,200,000 33 per sq. mi. 12 per sq. km	919,590 sq. mi. 2,381,738 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Machinery
<b>Bahrain</b> 	 Arabic, Farsi, Urdu	600,000 2,387 per sq. mi. 922 per sq. km	266 sq. mi. 689 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Petroleum
<b>Cyprus</b> 	 Greek, Turkish, English	700,000 210 per sq. mi. 81 per sq. km	3,570 sq. mi. 9,246 sq. km	 Citrus Fruits	 Machinery
<b>Egypt</b> 	 Arabic, English	65,500,000 171 per sq. mi. 66 per sq. km	384,340 sq. mi. 995,440 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Machinery
<b>Iran</b> 	 Farsi, Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic	64,100,000 102 per sq. mi. 39 per sq. km	631,660 sq. mi. 1,635,999 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Motor Vehicles
<b>Iraq</b> 	 Arabic, Kurdish	21,800,000 129 per sq. mi. 50 per sq. km	168,870 sq. mi. 437,373 sq. km	 Fuels	 Machinery
<b>Israel</b> 	 Hebrew, Arabic	6,000,000 751 per sq. mi. 326 per sq. km	7,961 sq. mi. 20,619 sq. km	 Machinery	 Diamonds
<b>Jordan</b> 	 Arabic	4,600,000 134 per sq. mi. 52 per sq. km	34,340 sq. mi. 88,941 sq. km	 Phosphates	 Food
<b>Kuwait</b> 	 Arabic	1,900,000 271 per sq. mi. 105 per sq. km	6,880 sq. mi. 17,819 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Machinery
<b>Lebanon</b> 	 Arabic, French	4,100,000 1,030 per sq. mi. 398 per sq. km	3,950 sq. mi. 10,231 sq. km	 Jewelry	 Machinery
<b>Libya</b> 	 Arabic	5,700,000 8 per sq. mi. 4 per sq. km	679,360 sq. mi. 1,759,542 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Food

\*Country maps not drawn to scale.  
UNIT 6

COUNTRY* AND CAPITAL	FLAG AND LANGUAGES	POPULATION	LANDMASS	PRINCIPAL EXPORT	PRINCIPAL IMPORT
<b>Morocco**</b> 	 Arabic, Berber	28,600,000 161 per sq. mi. 63 per sq. km	172,320 sq. mi. 446,309 sq. km	 Food	 Crude Oil
<b>Oman</b> 	 Arabic	2,500,000 31 per sq. mi. 12 per sq. km	82,030 sq. mi. 212,458 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Machinery
<b>Qatar</b> 	 Arabic, English	500,000 125 per sq. mi. 48 per sq. km	4,250 sq. mi. 11,008 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Machinery
<b>Saudi Arabia</b> 	 Arabic	20,200,000 24 per sq. mi. 9 per sq. km	830,000 sq. mi. 2,149,700 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Machinery
<b>Syria</b> 	 Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian, Turkish	15,600,000 220 per sq. mi. 85 per sq. km	70,958 sq. mi. 183,781 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Food
<b>Tunisia</b> 	 Arabic, French	9,500,000 158 per sq. mi. 61 per sq. km	59,980 sq. mi. 155,348 sq. km	 Clothing	 Textiles
<b>Turkey</b> 	 Turkish, Kurdish	64,800,000 218 per sq. mi. 84 per sq. km	297,150 sq. mi. 769,619 sq. km	 Textiles	 Machinery
<b>United Arab Emirates</b> 	 Arabic	2,700,000 84 per sq. mi. 32 per sq. km	32,280 sq. mi. 83,605 sq. km	 Petroleum	 Machinery
<b>Yemen</b> 	 Arabic	15,800,000 77 per sq. mi. 30 per sq. km	203,850 sq. mi. 527,972 sq. km	 Coffee	 Food

\*\*Morocco claims the Western Sahara area but other countries do not accept this claim.

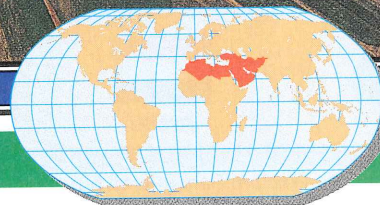
\*Country maps not drawn to scale.



The rulers of the ancient Persian Empire built a magnificent capital at Persepolis.



# The Physical Geography of North Africa and Southwest Asia



## CHAPTER FOCUS

### Geographic Setting

The region of North Africa and Southwest Asia spans a vast area from Morocco to Afghanistan and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Sahara. Its heartland consists of the lands of Southwest Asia that stretch from Turkey to Saudi Arabia.



### Geographic Themes

#### Section 1 The Land

**PLACE** The region of North Africa and Southwest Asia is at least three-fourths desert and semiarid lands. Mountains are found in North Africa, Turkey, and northern Iraq and Iran.

#### Section 2 The Climate and Vegetation

**LOCATION** Coastal areas, western Turkey, and northern Iran receive enough rainfall for agriculture.

▲ **Photograph:** Farmland reclaimed from the desert, Israel

## SETTING THE SCENE

## Read to Discover . . .

- the seas and coastal areas of North Africa and Southwest Asia.
- the mountains and plateaus in North Africa and Southwest Asia.
- the kinds of natural resources found in North Africa and Southwest Asia.

## Key Terms

- seismic
- alluvial-soil deposit
- delta
- wadi
- phosphate

## Identify and Locate

Arabian Peninsula, Sinai Peninsula, Anatolian Peninsula, Sahara, Hindu Kush Mountains, Atlas Mountains, Nile River, Tigris River, Euphrates River

Nazareth, Israel

I was born in Nazareth, a small Israeli city with a lot of history. Many of our streets, houses, and churches are very old. A half-hour from Nazareth is the city of Haifa, located by the Mediterranean Sea at the foot of Mt. Carmel. I have lived here for most of my life.

Bishara Baransi



**B**ishara Baransi describes the historical heritage of his home city in Israel, one of the many countries in the culture region of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Although this region has some of the oldest cities in the world, many people may imagine North Africa and Southwest Asia as expanses of sand dunes stretching to the horizon. This vast and complex part of the world, however, contains relatively few extended areas of sand dunes; much of the deserts consist of gravelly surfaces. River lowlands and the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea, and the Persian Gulf contain plains that can be farmed if rainfall is adequate or irrigation is used.

From Morocco and the Atlantic Ocean on the west to Afghanistan in the east and from the Mediterranean Sea on the north across the

Sahara to the south, the region covers about 5.5 million square miles (14.2 million sq. km)—more than 10 percent of the earth's total land surface. In this area are found the world's largest desert as well as the world's longest river, in addition to the sites of two of the world's earliest civilizations. Due to its location around the southern and eastern coasts of the Mediterranean Sea, the region has served as the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and Asia for centuries.

## PLACE

## Peninsulas and Seas

**T**wo peninsulas and three bodies of water make up the central area of North Africa and Southwest Asia. The largest peninsula is



the Arabian Peninsula in Southwest Asia. The Red Sea borders this peninsula on the west. The Persian Gulf lies on the east. The peninsula's southern borders are the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

Stretching into the Red Sea is the smaller Sinai Peninsula. To the north lies the Anatolian Peninsula bordered by the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Dead Sea, located at the mouth of the Jordan River, forms part of the border between Israel and Jordan. The Dead Sea is actually a landlocked, saltwater lake. Its shore, which lies about 1,312 feet (400 m) below sea level, is the lowest place on the earth's surface. The Dead Sea is the saltiest body of water in the world—about 9 times as salty as the ocean.

## PLACE

# Coasts, Mountains, and Plateaus

Fertile coastal plains are found along the Mediterranean coasts of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Other fertile areas are found along the coasts of the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

## The Mountains of Southwest Asia

Mountains cover much of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Along the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula they divide into two groups. In the north are the Hejaz and to the south are the Asir Mountains, which have taller peaks. Rainfall averaging more than 19 inches (50 cm) a year in the Asir region makes it the most suitable area for agriculture on the

Arabian Peninsula. East of the Asir mountain range lies the Central Plateau where the average annual rainfall ranges from 0 to 4 inches (0 to 10 cm).

The eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea includes mountain chains. On the Anatolian Peninsula, along the Black Sea are the Pontic Mountains. The Taurus Mountains lie along the Mediterranean or Turkey's southern border. Between these ranges lies the Anatolian Plateau with an elevation that ranges from 2,000 to 5,000 feet (610 to 1,524 m) above sea level. In eastern Turkey, Ararat, an isolated mountain with two peaks, rises 16,945 feet (5,165 m) above sea level.

East of the Anatolian Peninsula, the Zagros Mountains form the western border of the Plateau of Iran, a large desert plateau that stands about 3,000 feet (914 m) above sea level. North of the plateau and directly south of the Caspian Sea lie the Elburz Mountains.

The Zagros and the Taurus Mountains are along a belt of frequent and often severe seismic, or earthquake, activity. Earthquakes also occur in North Africa. Perhaps the area of greatest hazard is Iran, which has experienced numerous earthquakes in the last 40 years.

At the easternmost part of the region, in Afghanistan, lies the Hindu Kush mountain range. Some of these mountains rise to heights of 23,000 feet (7,010 m) or more.

## The Mountains of North Africa

Along the Mediterranean coast in Morocco and Algeria lies Africa's longest mountain range, the Atlas Mountains. The Atlas Mountains cause greater rainfall on their northern flanks, making the coastal areas of western North Africa more suitable for human settlement. A smaller, isolated mountain range known as the Ahaggar (uh•HAGH•uhr) crosses southern Algeria.

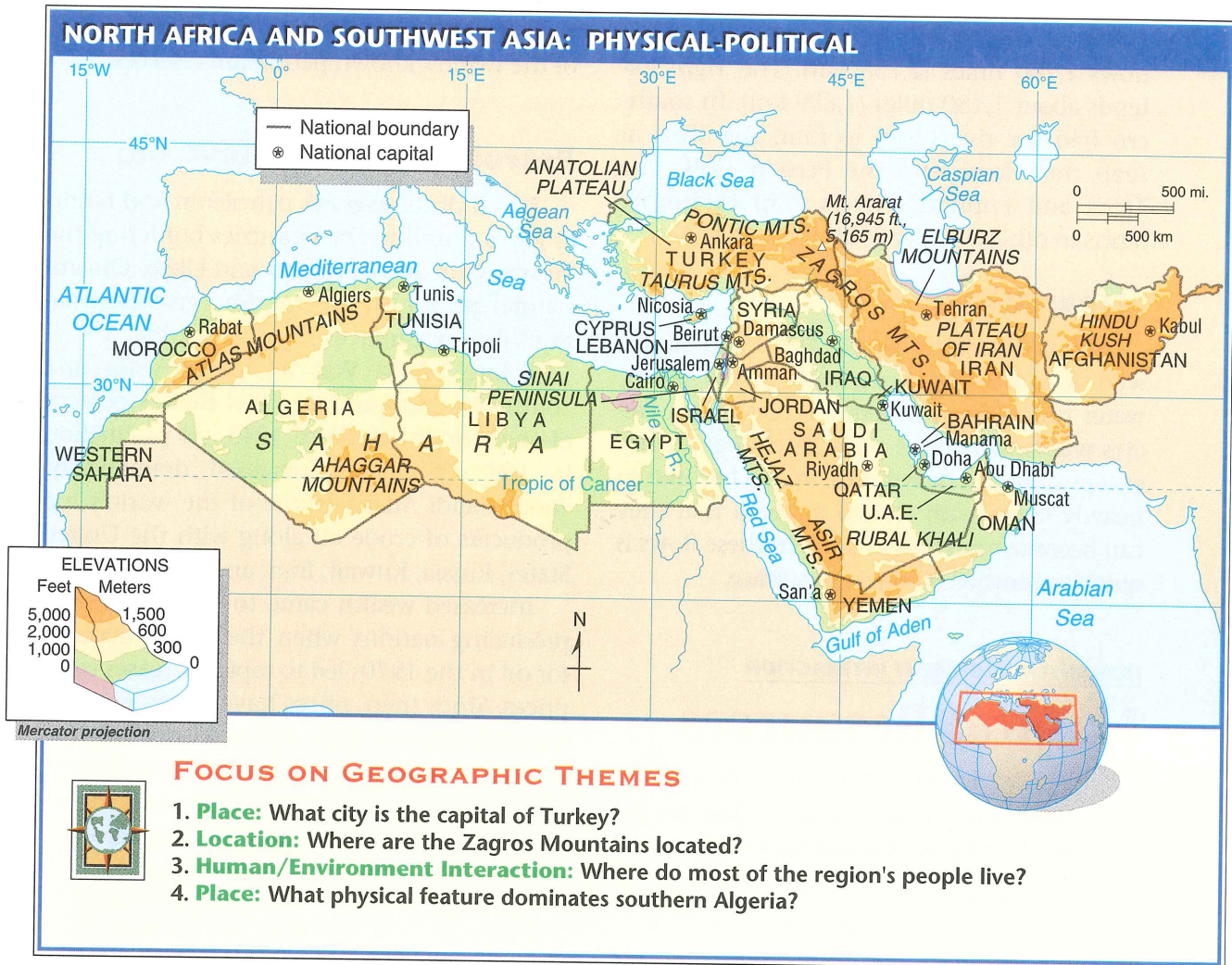
## HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

# Rivers

Rivers provide water and deposit rich soil in the otherwise dry desert regions of North Africa and Southwest Asia. The largest



## NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA: PHYSICAL-POLITICAL



of these rivers are the Nile in northern Africa and the Tigris and Euphrates (yu•FRAT•EEZ) rivers of Southwest Asia.

### The Nile

The Nile River, which flows 4,160 miles (6,693 km), is the longest river in the world. Beginning near the Equator, the Nile flows through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea.

For thousands of years, the Nile River has benefited Egypt. The fertile strip of land along its banks was the site of one of the world's earliest civilizations. Today, the Nile River valley, which makes up 3 percent of the land area of Egypt, is home to more than 90 percent of the Egyptian people.

In ancient times the predictable annual floods allowed farmers to plant their crops in the rich soil deposited by the Nile. These **allu-**

**vial-soil deposits**—sand and mud deposited by the flowing water—formed a **delta**. A delta is a section of land at a river's mouth that looks like the Greek letter *delta* ( $\Delta$ ). Modern dams, such as the Aswan High Dam, now control the river's flow, reducing the deposits of alluvial soil. The dams, however, extend irrigation and allow planting of more than one crop a year.

### The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers

Several thousand years ago, a series of civilizations developed in Mesopotamia, which means "land between two rivers." These civilizations thrived in the fertile valley between the Tigris and the Euphrates.

Both rivers originate in the mountains of eastern Turkey and flow southeast through

Syria and Iraq. The Euphrates, the longer river, flows 1,700 miles (2,735 km). The Tigris extends about 1,180 miles (1,899 km). In southern Iraq the rivers join to form the Shatt al Arab that flows into the Persian Gulf. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers help to irrigate farms in otherwise dry Southwest Asia.

## Streambeds

Many streams in North Africa and Southwest Asia are not permanent. In the desert, water runoff from infrequent rainstorms creates **wadis**, which are streambeds that are dry except during a heavy rain. Wadis become so heavily laden with eroded material that they can become mud flows. Water in these flows is quickly absorbed by the land surface.

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## Natural Resources

The most important natural resources in North Africa and Southwest Asia are petroleum and natural gas. Current estimates are

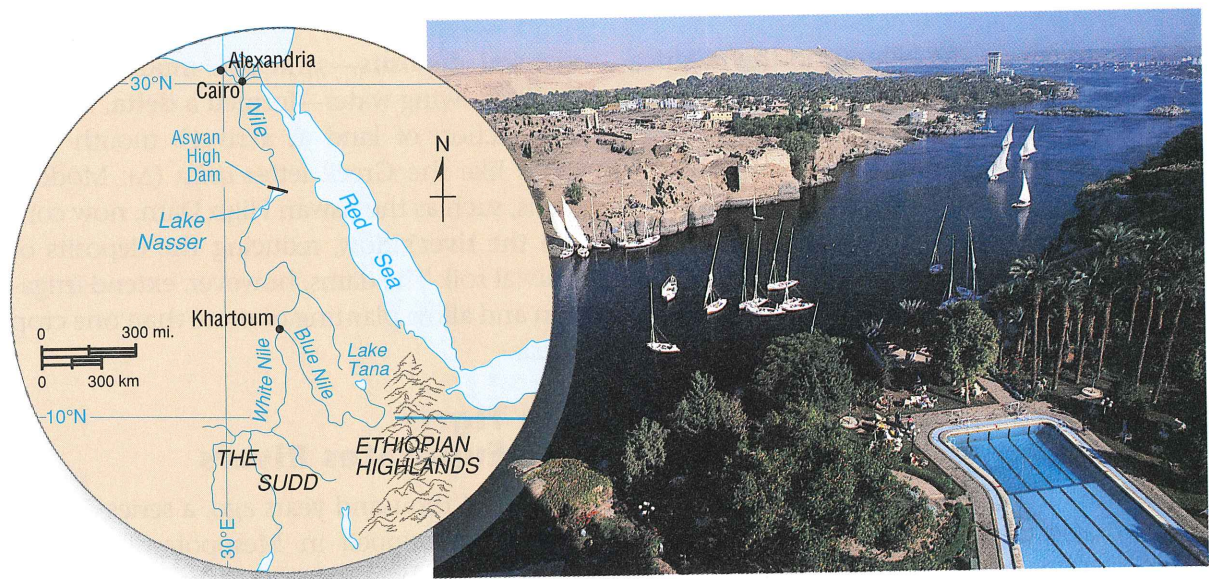
that the region contains more than 60 percent of the world's known petroleum reserves.

## Petroleum and Natural Gas

Much of the region's petroleum and natural gas is found in the countries bordering the Persian Gulf and in Algeria and Libya. Oil and natural gas, for the present time, give these nations the appearance of being wealthy.

Before World War II, North Africa and Southwest Asia produced less than 5 percent of the world's oil. Since 1945, oil production in the region has increased dramatically. Today Saudi Arabia is one of the world's top producers of crude oil along with the United States, Russia, Kuwait, Iran, and Iraq.

Increased wealth came to the region's oil-producing nations when the global demand for oil in the 1970s led to rapid increases in oil prices. Since then, prices have fallen as industrialized nations have reduced consumption and searched for other energy sources. The result has been a slowdown in economic development among some nations in the region.



### Geographic Themes

#### Place: Nile River Valley, Egypt

The Nile River cuts a lush, green valley through Egypt's vast desert landscape. How has the Nile River benefited the people of Egypt?





### Geographic Themes

#### Location: Atlas Mountains

Phosphate rock, iron ore, and manganese are mined in the Atlas Mountains, Africa's longest mountain range. *Where are the Atlas Mountains located?*

### Other Minerals

In addition to petroleum and natural gas, North Africa and Southwest Asia have mineral resources. Iron ore, copper, lead, manganese, and zinc are found from Morocco to Afghanistan. For many years most deposits in the area were thought to be modest by world standards. Recent discoveries of iron ore and copper deposits in North Africa and Southwest Asia indicate that the region may have up to 10 percent of the world's iron ore reserves.

In addition to other mineral deposits in the region, **phosphate**—a chemical compound often used in fertilizers—is present in some areas. Phosphate is important to many nations, such as Morocco, which ranks second in world phosphate production.

Although exports of the region's resources, particularly oil, have added prosperity to the region, farming and raising livestock remain the major occupations of most people. These activities are directly affected by the region's climates and vegetation.

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** seismic, alluvial-soil deposit, delta, wadi, phosphate.
- 2. Locating Places** Through what countries does the Atlas mountain range extend?
- 3. Region** What are the three land features characteristic of North Africa and Southwest Asia?
- 4. Human/Environment Interaction** How do the major rivers of North Africa and Southwest Asia benefit the people in the region?
- 5. Region** What is the most important natural resource in the region?

### Critical Thinking

- 6. Predicting Consequences** How might economic development in the nations of North Africa and Southwest Asia change in the future? Support your answer.



# The Climate and Vegetation

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Discover . . .

- the three types of climate found in North Africa and Southwest Asia.
- how mountain ranges influence rainfall in coastal regions of North Africa and Southwest Asia.
- the types of vegetation found in North Africa and Southwest Asia.

### Key Terms

- oasis
- cereal
- pastoralism

### Identify and Locate

Sahara, Rubal Khali, Black Sea, Caspian Sea,  
Climate regions: desert, Mediterranean, steppe, highland

**A** characteristic common to most of North Africa and Southwest Asia is the scarcity of water. Most parts of the region average 10 inches (25 cm) of precipitation or less each year. The area north of the Elburz Mountains in Iran, however, receives an abundant annual rainfall. Another well-watered area is the southern edge of the Caspian Sea, which receives more than 78 inches (198 cm) of rainfall per year.

These differences in climatic conditions affect the nature of the region's vegetation as well as the economic way of life of most of the population.

### REGION


## Climate Regions of North Africa and Southwest Asia

**I**n many parts of North Africa and Southwest Asia precipitation averages 10 inches (25 cm) or less each year. Deserts are widespread throughout the region. Three other types of climate regions also are present. These are the Mediterranean, steppe, and highland climates.


### Desert Climate

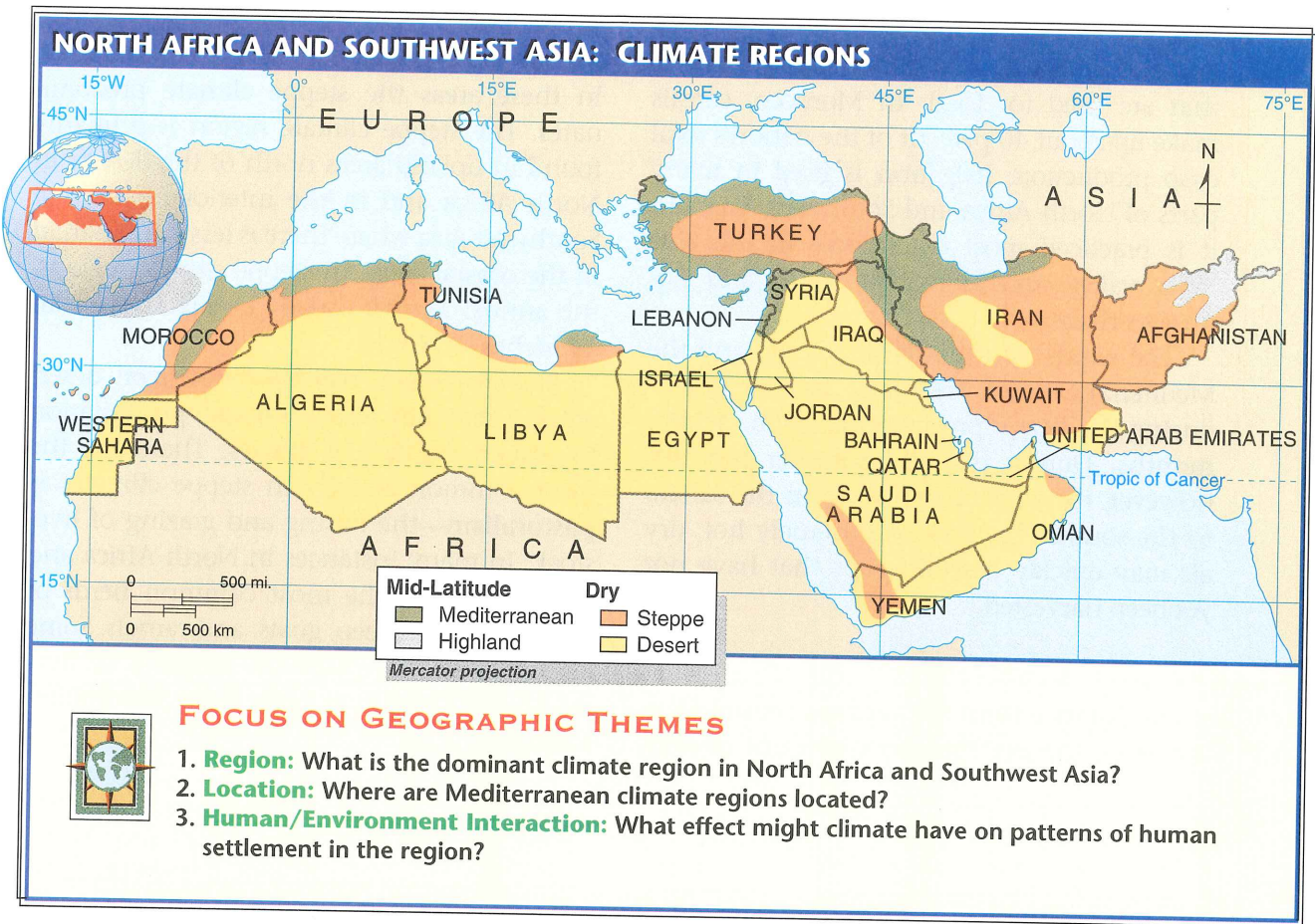
Deserts cover about 50 percent of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Lebanon, Cyprus, and Turkey are the only countries with no desert areas. The Sahara, the largest desert in the world, covers most of North Africa—about 3.5 million square miles (9 million sq. km).

The Sahara and other deserts in the region have sparse vegetation. Farming, however, occurs where water for irrigation is found. **Oases**—places in the desert where water is present—make small-scale agriculture possible in the Sahara. A traveler, arriving at an oasis in North Africa, made the following observation:

— — — — —  — — — — —

*We wandered . . . through lush groves of palms. There are about a quarter of a million palms in the oasis, but unlike most Saharan oases there is a wide variety of other crops. . . . As one goes through the groves every so often one comes upon one of the two hundred and eighty springs. . . . Young . . . boys play by the springs, diving off the walls sending sluggish ripples across the thick surface of the water. It seems a happy place.*

— — — — —  — — — — —



Some oases scattered across the Sahara are quite large and serve as sites for villages, towns, and in some instances, cities.

The deserts of North Africa and Southwest Asia have limited areas of dunes. More extensive are rocky gravel areas called “desert pavement.” For example, less than 10 percent of the Sahara is sand; the rest consists of desert pavement, mountains, and exposed barren rock.

The desert with the largest area of sand in the region is the Rubal Khali, or Empty Quarter, in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula. The Rubal Khali is one of several deserts and covers about 250,000 square miles (650,000 sq. km) or about one-quarter of the total land area of the Arabian Peninsula.

## Mediterranean and Highland Climates

The Mediterranean climate is a variably wet and dry climate found in upland areas of

the region as well as on the coastal plains of the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, and in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley. A Mediterranean climate region consists of hot, dry summers and cool, rainy winters. At times during the winter months, it can become relatively cold, particularly at higher elevations.

Coastal and highland areas near mountain ranges usually receive the most rainfall. This rainfall is the result of moist, warm air driven off the sea by prevailing westerly winds during the winter months. As the moist air reaches the mountains, it rises, cools, and the moisture condenses and falls to the earth as rain. The coastal area in North Africa near the Atlas Mountains, for example, averages more than 30 inches (76 cm) of rain each year. The southern coast of the Caspian Sea often has an average annual rainfall of more than twice that amount.

Areas receiving more than 14 inches (35 cm) of rainfall a year can grow certain crops





without irrigation. Many farmers grow **cereals**—grains, such as barley, oats, or wheat, that are used for food. In Morocco, cereals make up about 40 percent of the nation's total crop production. Irrigation is used in many parts of North Africa and Southwest Asia, but it is practiced most extensively in the Nile River valley and along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

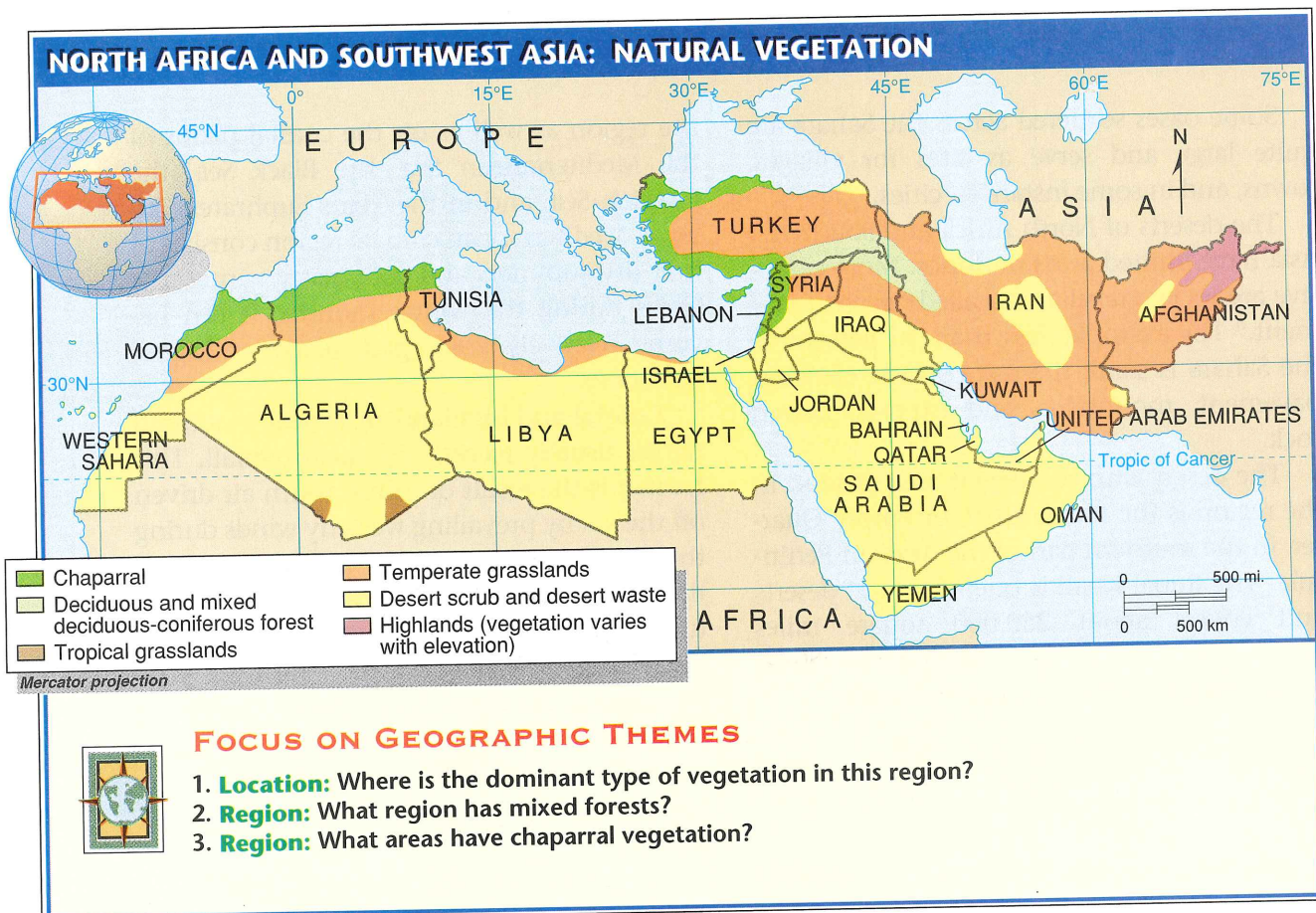
The winds off the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea are major factors in producing the heavy precipitation in the winter months. During the arid summer months, however, the wind may flow from the Sahara to the south. This flow of extremely hot, dry air may quickly destroy crops that have not yet been harvested.

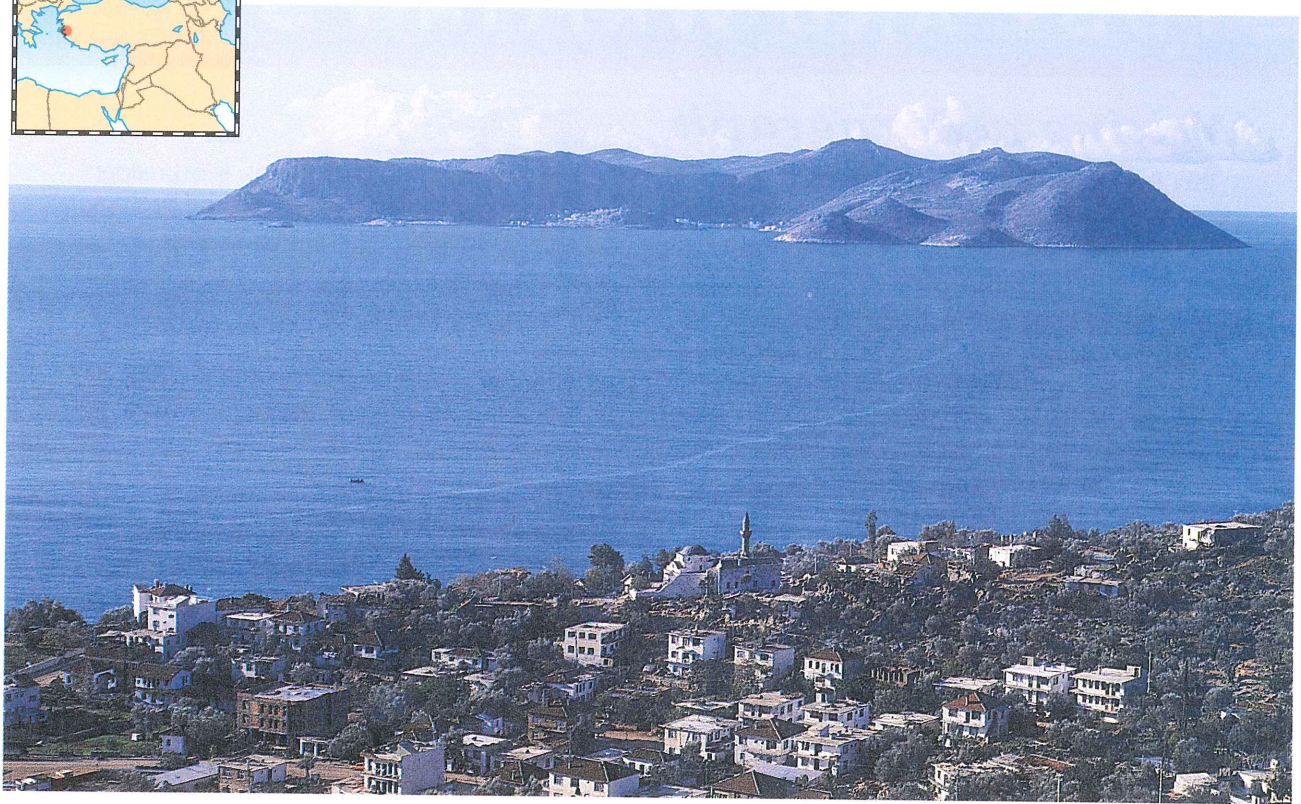
## Steppe Climate

As distance from the region's coastal areas increases, the average yearly amount of rain-

fall decreases. Land suitable for farming gives way to grassy areas used for grazing livestock. In these areas the steppe climate predominates. The steppe climate region is primarily found in upland areas north of the deserts in North Africa and in the interior of parts of Southwest Asia where there is less rainfall than in the coastal areas. In steppe climate regions, the annual rainfall usually averages less than 14 inches (35.6 cm).

Steppe climate regions differ from desert areas in that they receive enough precipitation to sustain substantial grasses. Therefore, the most common activity in steppe climates is **pastoralism**—the raising and grazing of livestock. In many instances in North Africa and Southwest Asia, the most common herds of livestock are of sheep, goats, and camels. Some current estimates place the number of livestock in the region at more than 300 million animals.





### Geographic Themes

#### Region: Mediterranean Coast of Turkey

Coastal areas of North Africa and Southwest Asia receive more rainfall than many interior areas of the region. *What type of climate is found along the region's coasts?*

### HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

## Natural Vegetation

Natural vegetation in North Africa and Southwest Asia varies according to soil conditions and climate. The region's natural vegetation ranges from forests to grasses and shrubs to sparse desert vegetation.

Forest areas usually are found in higher elevations that have more abundant rainfall, as in the Atlas Mountains in North Africa and the highland areas of Turkey. In desert areas, on the other hand, vegetation is rare and in most cases nonexistent except around oases.

In recent years, natural vegetation in North Africa and Southwest Asia has declined. The needs of growing populations have led to an increase in the demand for agricultural and animal food products. To meet these demands, forests have been cleared for cultivation, and grasses and shrubs in steppe regions have suffered from overgrazing.

### SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

#### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** oasis, cereal, pastoralism.
- 2. Locating Places** Which North African nations contain parts of the Sahara?
- 3. Region** What are four climates found in North Africa and Southwest Asia?
- 4. Region** How do mountain ranges along coastal areas in North Africa and Southwest Asia affect the climate?
- 5. Human/Environment Interaction** Why is pastoralism common in the steppe areas of North Africa and Southwest Asia?

#### Critical Thinking

- 6. Making Comparisons** Why do the farming techniques in some of the region's coastal areas differ from what is practiced in the Nile River valley?



# STUDY AND WRITING SKILLS

## Writing a Paragraph

Imagine reading a chapter in this textbook that has not been divided into paragraphs. Most readers would give up after a few pages as the print and ideas became blurry. By visually marking the beginning and end of each idea, paragraphs help readers follow the writer's thoughts.

### REVIEWING THE SKILL

The paragraph is the basic unit of prose writing. The American Heritage Dictionary defines a paragraph as, "a distinct division of a written work or composition that expresses a thought or point relevant to the whole but is complete in itself; it may consist of a single sentence or several sentences." Notice the main points of the definition: 1) a paragraph must express a complete thought; 2) that thought must relate to the composition as a whole; and 3) paragraphs can be any length.

A well-written paragraph displays four characteristics. First, it expresses one main idea, which is usually stated in a topic sentence. Second, the other sentences support and develop the main idea. Third, the sentences advance the main idea step-by-step, so the reader can follow the writer's thoughts. Fourth, transitional words and phrases clarify relationships among sentences in the paragraph, and between each paragraph and the paragraphs that precede and follow it. Transitional words and phrases include: *first, next, finally, also, therefore, because, however, and instead.*


Writing clear, well-organized paragraphs enables you to express your ideas so that any reader can share and understand your thoughts.

To help you write effective paragraphs:

- State the main idea of the paragraph as a topic sentence.

- Choose details that support or explain the main idea.
- Arrange the sentences in a logical sequence.
- Use transitional words and phrases to clarify relationships.

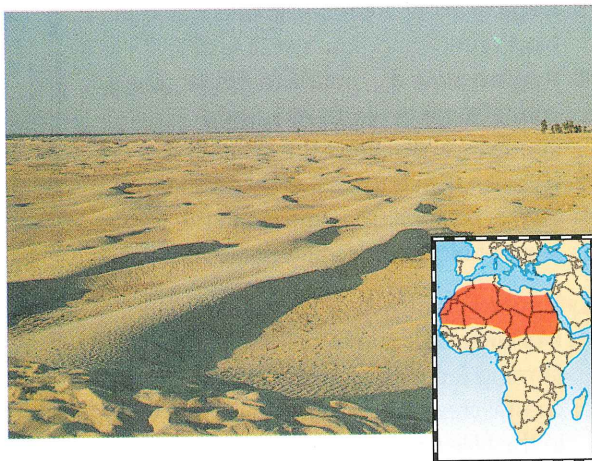
### PRACTICING THE SKILL

 **A.** The sentences below discuss the relationship between landforms, wind patterns, and climate in North Africa. After reading the sentences, arrange them into a paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting details, a logical sequence, and transitional words as needed.

1. This moisture-laden air rises as it crosses the coastal mountain ranges.
2. The largest desert in the world, the Sahara, has been formed by these natural forces.
3. As the air rises, it cools off, dropping most of its moisture on the windward side of the mountains.
4. In North Africa, landforms and wind patterns strongly affect climate.
5. On one side of the mountains, little or no rain falls, creating a desert climate.
6. The rainfall produces a Mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters.
7. As the prevailing winds sweep eastward across the Mediterranean Sea, the air picks up moisture.

**B.** Choose a main idea that is related to the material in Chapter 17. Write a paragraph about this main idea, using a topic sentence, supporting details, and transitional words.

For additional practice in writing a paragraph, see **Practicing Skills** on page 368 of the **Chapter 17 Assessment**.



The **Glencoe Skillbuilder Interactive Workbook, Level 2** provides instruction and practice in key social studies skills.

**1**

SECTION

**The Land**

KEY TERMS

seismic (p. 358)  
alluvial-soil deposit  
(p. 359)  
delta (p. 359)  
wadi (p. 360)  
phosphate (p. 361)

SUMMARY

- The region of North Africa and Southwest Asia stretches from Morocco in the west to Afghanistan in the east and covers more than 10 percent of the earth's total land surface.
- North Africa and Southwest Asia have a number of peninsulas and several seas.
- Rainfall in North Africa and Southwest Asia varies widely, ranging from less than 4 inches (10 cm) on some plateaus to far heavier amounts in some highland areas.
- The fertile Nile River valley and the area near the Tigris and Euphrates rivers provide land where agriculture flourishes.
- Petroleum and natural gas, two of the most important natural resources of North Africa and Southwest Asia, provide substantial revenues to some nations in the region.



Atlas Mountains of North Africa

**2**

SECTION

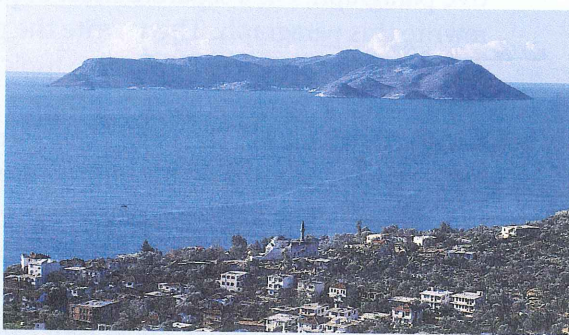
**The Climate and Vegetation**

KEY TERMS

oasis (p. 362)  
cereal (p. 364)  
pastoralism (p. 364)

SUMMARY

- The four climate regions in North Africa and Southwest Asia are the desert, the Mediterranean, the steppe, and the highland.
- Much of the farming in North Africa and Southwest Asia occurs along the coastal areas where rainfall is more prevalent than in other areas of the region.
- In recent years the clearing of land for farming and the overgrazing of steppe areas have taken their toll on natural vegetation except in a few areas where there is more abundant rainfall.



Mediterranean coast of Turkey



**Reviewing Key Terms**

Choose the vocabulary term that best completes each of the sentences below. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| seismic (p. 358)                | oases (p. 362)       |
| alluvial-soil deposits (p. 359) | cereal (p. 364)      |
| delta (p. 359)                  | pastoralism (p. 364) |
| wadi (p. 360)                   |                      |

**SECTION 1**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ is the area at the mouth of the Nile River.
- Some mountain areas in parts of North Africa and Southwest Asia are centers of \_\_\_\_\_ activity.
- Before modern dams, the Nile River left \_\_\_\_\_ along its banks as it flowed to the Mediterranean Sea.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a dry streambed in the desert that carries water only for a short time during infrequent rainstorms.

**SECTION 2**

- In steppe regions a common economic activity is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The growing of \_\_\_\_\_ is most common in coastal areas of the region where rainfall is heavier.
- Across the dry Sahara, scattered \_\_\_\_\_ provide water and shade.

**Reviewing Facts**

**SECTION 1**

- What is the largest peninsula in the region of North Africa and Southwest Asia?
- Where is the world's longest river?
- What rivers provide a fertile farming area in Iraq?

**SECTION 2**

- Where is the world's largest desert?
- What are the characteristics of the Mediterranean climate?

- What natural vegetation is usually found in the steppe areas?

**Critical Thinking**

- Drawing Conclusions** How do the region's resources affect North Africa and Southwest Asia's position in the world?
- Determining Cause and Effect** How are increased cultivation and overgrazing linked to population growth in North Africa and Southwest Asia?



**Geographic Themes**

- Movement** What natural land features affect the movement of people in North Africa?
- Human/Environment Interaction** What technology has contributed to the concentration of people in the Nile River valley?



**Practicing Skills**

**Writing a Paragraph**

Refer to the Writing a Paragraph skill activity on page 366. Find a paragraph in Chapter 17 that contains all the elements of an effective paragraph. On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite this paragraph. Then, write the paragraph's topic sentence. If it has no topic sentence, write your own. Next, list the supporting details in the paragraph. Finally, write any transitional words and phrases found in the paragraph.

**Using the Unit Atlas**

- Refer to the physical geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 352–353.
- What is the region's highest point?

## Projects

### Individual Activity

An oil crisis faced many industrialized nations during the 1970s. Research the events and the outcome of this crisis and write a brief report on its effects in the United States.

### Cooperative Learning Activity

Working together in a group, research and plan an imaginary trip across the Sahara. Each student should take responsibility for one part of the trip—plan the transportation to be used, the supplies, and the best route to take. When individual planning is complete, each group should present a final report to the class.

## Writing About Geography

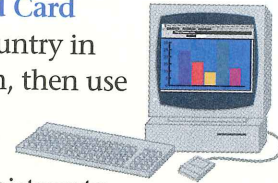
**Description** Imagine that you are traveling along the Nile River. Write a letter to your best

friend describing your journey from Khartoum north to the delta. Use your text, journal, and travel books to describe physical features that you see.

## Technology Activity

### Using a Computerized Card

**Catalog** Choose a country in North Africa to research, then use a computerized card catalog to find information about its early history to the present. Create a bulletin board display about that country, including an illustrated time line of significant events in the country's history. Display current information about natural resources and environmental concerns.



### Locating Places

#### THE PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

Match the letters on the map with the places and physical features of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Persian Gulf      | 6. Red Sea         |
| 2. Nile River        | 7. Black Sea       |
| 3. Mediterranean Sea | 8. Atlas Mountains |
| 4. Arabian Peninsula | 9. Gulf of Aden    |
| 5. Caspian Sea       | 10. Sahara         |

