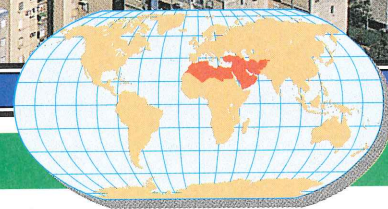


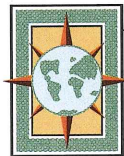
North Africa and Southwest Asia Today



CHAPTER FOCUS

Geographic Setting

Because of the unequal distribution of fertile lands, rainfall, and natural resources, wealth and standards of living vary from one nation to another in North Africa and Southwest Asia.



Geographic Themes

Section 1 Living in North Africa and Southwest Asia

REGION The culture region of North Africa and Southwest Asia includes some of the world's wealthiest and poorest nations.

▲ **Photograph:** Harbor of Haifa, Israel

Section 2 People and Their Environment

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT

INTERACTION Arid conditions in the region have led to technological and scientific efforts to improve the supply of water for drinking and for irrigation.

Living in North Africa and Southwest Asia

SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the effects of geography on economic activity in North Africa and Southwest Asia.
- how recent industrial growth in North Africa and Southwest Asia is related to natural resources.
- the role of service industries and governments in the economies of North Africa and Southwest Asia.

Key Terms

- petrochemical
- service industry
- gross domestic product (GDP)

Identify and Locate

Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Black Sea, Bahrain, Persian Gulf

Saudi Arabia

*Salam (peace),
Although a large
part of my country
is desert, by using efficient irrigation
systems we produce and export agricultural
products such as wheat and dates. Oil is
our main resource and our major income.
While oil is our main energy source, we also
use solar energy.*



The economies of the nations within the culture region of North Africa and Southwest Asia vary greatly. Abdullah Alhamdan comes from Saudi Arabia, one of the wealthiest nations. Some of the nations, however, are poor. The reasons for these differences are related to geography or history.

PLACE

Meeting Food Needs

Producing food for the rapidly growing population of North Africa and Southwest Asia is a major concern.

Agriculture

Only a small portion of the region is suitable for crops or grazing, although a large percentage of the people in poorer nations work in agriculture. Only 13 percent of Afghanistan's land is arable, yet about 75 percent of its workers are farmers. In wealthier nations, such as Kuwait, only about 5 percent of the workforce raises crops or livestock. Farmers and herders in the region often live and work separately.

In areas having a Mediterranean climate, cereal crops, citrus fruits, grapes, and dates are important products. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, and Algeria are the largest producers of

dates. Egypt exports cotton to countries in Asia, Europe, and North America.

Livestock

Another source of food for the people of the region is an estimated 350 million livestock, mostly cattle and sheep.

The effect of climate on livestock is seen by comparing two countries: Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Turkey is one of the region's leading producers of livestock, largely because it has adequate rainfall and its land is suitable for grazing. Saudi Arabia, in contrast, has almost 3 times as much land but most of it is desert. As a result, it produces only about 10 percent as much livestock as Turkey.

Fishing

The fishing industry, which provides only about 2 percent of the world's fish, is another source of food. Tuna, sardines, and sturgeon are caught in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, and the Persian Gulf. The region's two largest producers of fish are Turkey and Morocco.

PLACE

Industrial Growth

The most important natural resource in North Africa and Southwest Asia is petroleum, with the region producing about 30 percent of the world's supply.

Oil, Natural Gas, and Mining

The wealth from oil has brought industrial growth throughout the region. Iran and Saudi Arabia have large oil-refining and oil-shipping facilities. Some countries have developed industries that use **petrochemicals**—products derived from petroleum or natural gas—to make fertilizers, medicines, plastics, and paints. Only about 5 percent of the oil produced is refined in the region. Most is exported in crude form to industrialized countries.

Natural gas has also advanced the region's industrial growth by powering steel-making, textile, and diamond-cutting industries. This economic growth has provided thousands of jobs and helped improve the standard of living for many people in the region.

LAND USE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES OF NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

Country	Total Land Area		Arable Land	Forests and Woodlands (as a percentage of the total land area of each country)*	Herding
	sq. mi.	(sq. km)			
Afghanistan	251,772	(652,089)	13	3	46
Algeria	919,590	(2,381,738)	4	2	14
Egypt	384,340	(995,441)	3	*	*
Iran	631,660	(1,635,999)	11	7	27
Israel	7,961	(20,619)	22	6	7
Jordan	34,340	(88,941)	4	1	1
Lebanon	3,950	(10,231)	30	8	1
Morocco	172,320	(446,309)	21	20	47
Saudi Arabia	830,000	(2,149,700)	2	1	55
Tunisia	59,980	(155,348)	32	5	20
Turkey	297,150	(769,619)	36	26	16

Columns will not total 100 percent as some land uses are omitted

*Less than 1 percent

Sources: *World Population Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1998; The Cambridge Atlas of the Middle East; Britannica Year Book, 1998*

CHART STUDY



The climate of North Africa and Southwest Asia directly affects land use in the region. The amount of arable land and the land that can support forest and woodlands is usually relatively small. *What percentage of Turkey's land is forested? What percentage of Egypt's land is suitable for farming?*





FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHIC THEMES



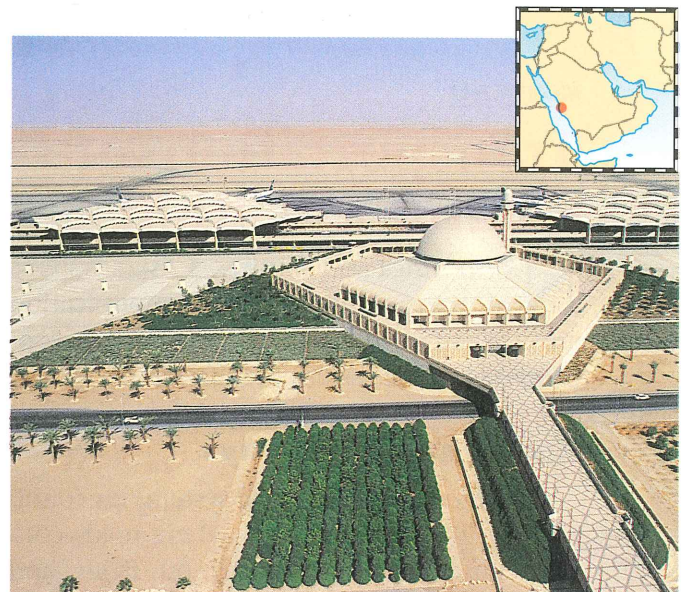
1. **Human/Environment Interaction:** What are the leading economic activities along the coast of North Africa?
2. **Region:** In what areas is subsistence farming an important activity?
3. **Region:** Where does livestock raising take place?

Service Industries

The businesses that provide services—banking, insurance, financial services, or tourism—are known as **service industries**. These industries also play an important role in the economies of this region. In Bahrain the banking, real estate, and insurance industries provide more than 60 percent of that nation's **gross domestic product (GDP)**—the value of the goods and services created in a country in a year.

One important service industry—because of the region's historical importance and closeness to Europe—is tourism. Over the years the region's ancient monuments and religious sites have drawn millions of visitors.

Tourism, however, has not grown rapidly in all nations. Some governments discourage outside influences. Regional conflicts, political upheavals, and violence in parts of the region have also affected tourism.



Geographic Themes

Movement: Jidda Airport, Saudi Arabia

Oil revenue has enabled Saudi Arabia to build modern transportation facilities, such as this airport in the city of Jidda. *What service industries have developed in the region?*



WORLD OIL RESERVES IN BILLIONS OF BARRELS

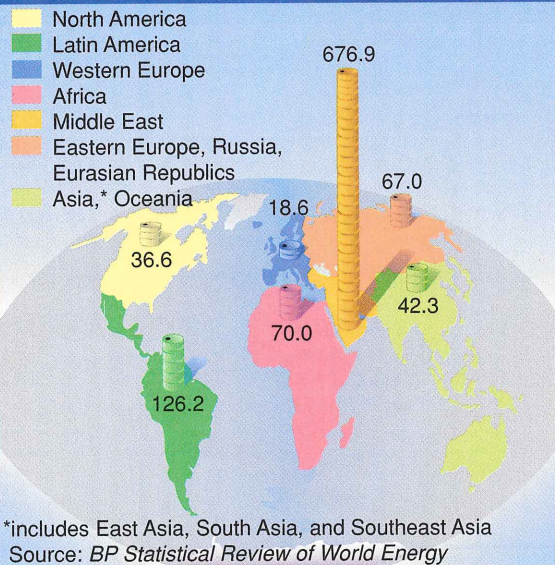


CHART STUDY



Oil reserves vary greatly in each world region. Which world region has the largest oil reserves? The smallest?

MOVEMENT

Transportation and Communication

North Africa and Southwest Asia's systems of transportation and communication are growing rapidly. Most development is concentrated in the eastern Mediterranean area.

Roads and Highways

The most extensive road systems are found in Iran, Turkey, and Egypt where roads connect the major cities with oil fields and seaports. Turkey, with 236,759 miles of roads (381,028 km), is the leader. Mountainous and desert land have made it costly to build roads in some areas. The increased number of vehicles and the need to link cities, however, has continued to increase highway development.

Railroads and Airlines

In parts of the region new railroad construction has boomed. Some rapid transit systems were built in crowded urban areas. In addition, national rail lines have been constructed to connect urban areas, industrial areas, and seaports.

After World War II, North Africa and Southwest Asia benefited from the development of airports and airlines. One reason for this was their location at the crossroads between the East and the West. A second reason for the growth of air traffic has been the trade of the region's oil-rich nations with countries in Europe, Asia, and North America. The total area of the region is a third reason for the development of airlines. Relatively long distances separate one nation or urban center from another.

Waterways and Pipelines

Inland waterways, with the exception of the Nile River and the Suez Canal, play a far lesser role in the movement of goods and people in this region. The Tigris and the Euphrates rivers are too shallow for large boats. Although the Shatt al Arab, formed where the two rivers meet, is deeper, its control has been a matter of dispute between Iraq and Iran for years.

An elaborate system of pipelines is the major means of transporting oil. Pipelines transport oil to seaports on the Mediterranean Sea, where the huge oil tankers that are too large to pass through the Suez Canal dock.

Communication Systems

Television and radio communication systems are developing rapidly in some areas of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Newspapers are also a major means of communication although the number varies widely from country to country.

Telephone communication is difficult in some areas, because of vast stretches of desert. New technology, especially that of solar-powered radiophones, is opening telephone service to more people.



CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES OF NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

Country	1997 Crude Oil Reserves (in barrels)	1991 Crude Oil Production (in metric tons)	1997 Crude Oil Production (in metric tons)
Algeria	9,200,000,000	58,454,000	61,900,000
Egypt	3,800,000,000	45,264,000	43,900,000
Iran	93,000,000,000	166,024,000	184,200,000
Iraq	112,500,000,000	14,876,000	58,300,000
Kuwait	96,500,000,000	9,567,000	104,100,000
Libya	29,500,000,000	73,568,000	70,200,000
Saudi Arabia	261,500,000,000	409,839,000	449,900,000
United Arab Emirates	97,800,000,000	117,940,000	121,200,000

Sources: Energy Information/U.S. Dept. of Energy; BP Statistical Review of World Energy



CHART STUDY

The nations of North Africa and Southwest Asia have the largest known oil reserves of any world region. Which nation has the largest known reserves? Which nation had the largest crude oil production in 1997? The smallest in 1997?

MOVEMENT

Interdependence

The wealthier countries have helped their poor neighbors by providing foreign aid, trade concessions, and development loans. This aid has built hospitals, schools, and roads.

In 1960, five oil-producing countries—Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela—formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This organization was formed to give these oil-producing nations greater control over the production and price of oil. In the 1970s OPEC placed and later cancelled an embargo on the shipment of oil to the United States and other industrial countries, to raise the price of oil. More recently, the large supply of oil and a worldwide recession has forced the price of oil to fall.

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- Define** petrochemical, service industry, gross domestic product (GDP).
- Locating Places** From what bodies of water do most countries of this region obtain fish?
- Place** Why is Turkey the leading producer of livestock?
- Movement** What are the three reasons for the growth of airlines in the region?

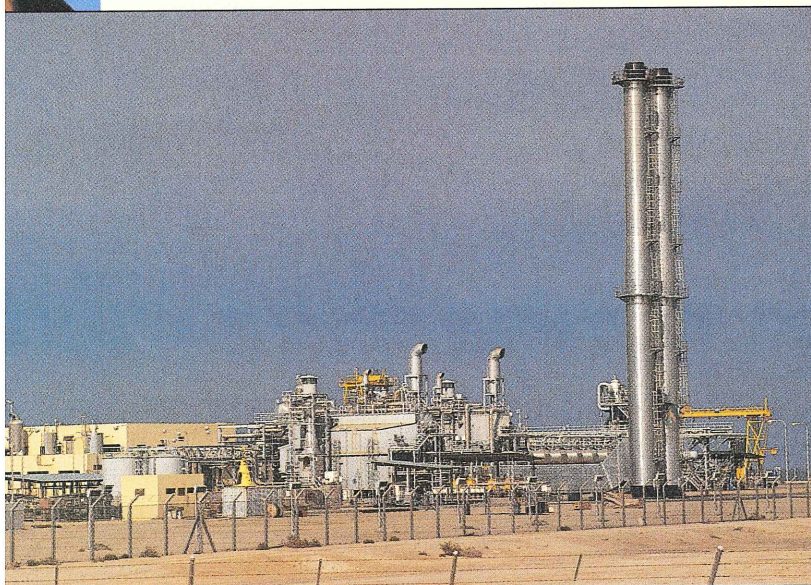
Critical Thinking

- Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think only 5 percent of the oil produced in this region is refined there?



Desalination

Most of the usable water in Southwest Asia and North Africa comes from aquifers and from three river basins: the Jordan, the Tigris-Euphrates, and the Nile. Despite these large river systems, freshwater is scarce. Seawater is abundant but not usable because of its salt content. Drought, industrialization, irrigation needs, and mushrooming populations—all strain the limited water supply. Countries in the region are searching for new sources of water, as well as increasing their practice of desalination—the removal of salt from seawater.



This desalination plant purifies water in Khafzi, Saudi Arabia.

Did You Know?

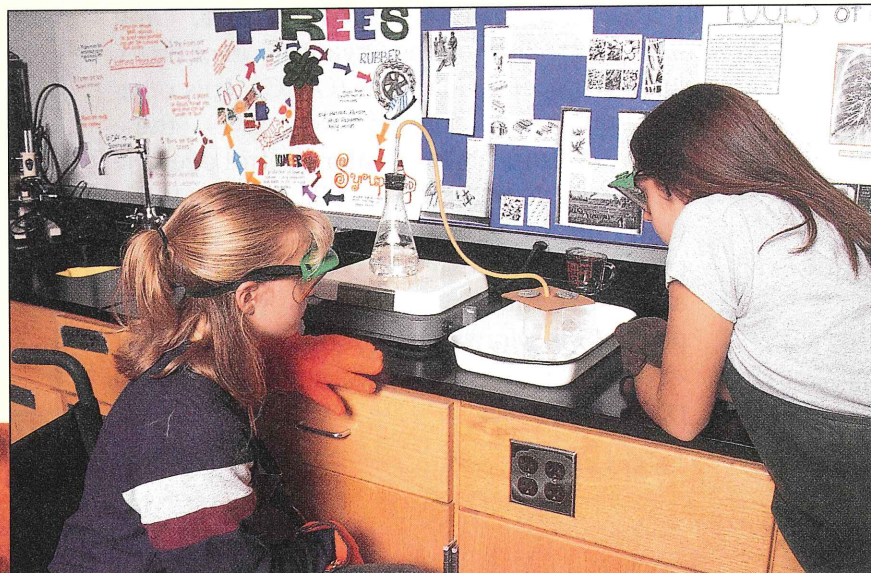
Saudi Arabia leads the world in producing freshwater from salt water. Its 22 desalination plants produce 30 percent of all the desalinated water in the world.

Be sure the rubber stopper is secure in the flask before boiling the salt solution. ▶

1 Materials

- table salt
- water
- 1 flask
- rubber stopper
- plastic tubing
- rubber tubing
- scissors
- cardboard
- metal washers (for weight)
- beaker
- ice
- shallow pan
- hot plate
- measuring cup
- thermal mitt

CAUTION: Be careful when using the hot plate. It should be cool before moving the flask.

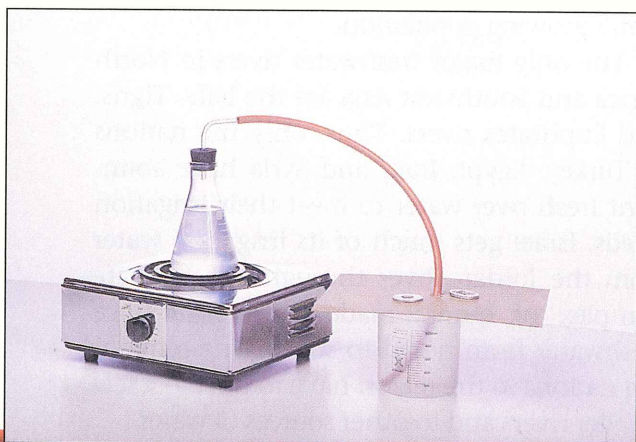


In this activity, you will learn one way of making drinking water from salt water.

2 Procedures

1. In the flask, dissolve 2 teaspoons of salt in 1 cup of water.
2. See the photograph below for Steps 2 through 4. Insert the plastic tubing into the rubber stopper, then insert the stopper into the flask. Make sure the plastic tubing is above the surface of the salt water solution.
3. Attach one end of the rubber tubing onto the plastic tubing. The other end of the rubber tubing will be inserted through a small hole you cut in the cardboard.
4. Place the cardboard over the beaker. Add several washers to the cardboard to hold it in place.
5. Place the beaker into the shallow pan filled with ice water.
6. Set the flask on the hot plate. Bring the solution to a boil, and continue boiling until the solution is almost boiled away.
7. Turn off the hot plate. After letting it cool, remove the flask and let it cool.
8. Pour the water you collected in the beaker into a measuring cup.

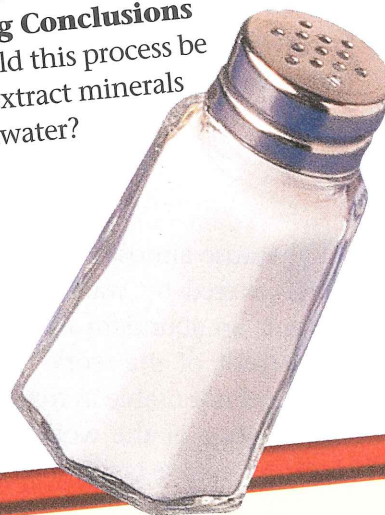
Your equipment should look like this before you place the beaker in ice water and turn on the hot plate. ▼



3

Lab Activity Analysis

1. What happened to the water in the flask as you boiled the solution?
2. What happened inside the beaker?
3. What remains in the flask?
4. **Drawing Conclusions**
How could this process be used to extract minerals from seawater?



4

Find Out More

Research where in the United States the desalination process could be used. Create a map showing areas of low precipitation that would benefit from desalination plants.



SETTING THE SCENE

Read to Discover . . .

- the challenges facing the culture region of North Africa and Southwest Asia because of the scarcity of water.
- the steps being taken to utilize groundwater and sea water in the region.
- the environmental effects of the Persian Gulf War.
- how efforts to control the flow of river water can affect the environment.

Key Terms

- aquifer
- desalination
- distillation

Identify and Locate

Libya, Tripoli, Persian Gulf, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Aswan High Dam

Because almost 70 percent of the earth is covered by water, we often think that water is an abundant natural resource. About 97 percent of the world's water, however, is salty and not usable in many instances. In certain regions of the world, the issue of freshwater for people is a serious problem.

REGION

Need for Water

Some experts predict that by the year 2050 about 10 billion people will be living on the earth. By that time, without some human action, an increased population will be forced to share approximately the same amount of water as is now available.

Water Resources

According to the United Nations, about 1.2 billion people worldwide cannot obtain clean water to drink. It also is estimated that about two-thirds of the world's households must

find water outside of their homes. Meanwhile, in the United States, people use approximately 300 billion gallons of water each day.

In most parts of North Africa and Southwest Asia, providing freshwater for drinking and for irrigation is often difficult. The need for water has been fulfilled by rivers and oases and wells that draw water from **aquifers**—underground layers of porous rock, gravel, or sand that contain water. These aquifers have been used as sources of water for thousands of years. The increase in the use of this groundwater, however, has increased with the region's growing population.

The only major freshwater rivers in North Africa and Southwest Asia are the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates rivers. Thus, only the nations of Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria have abundant fresh river water to meet their irrigation needs. Israel gets much of its irrigation water from the Jordan River through an elaborate complex of human-made canals that take freshwater from north to south. The remaining nations in the region have to turn to a few smaller rivers and to other sources of water.



The "Great Human-Made River"

The most ambitious effort to find water in recent years is Libya's "great human-made river." This multibillion-dollar project consists of two major pipelines that carry water from large aquifers beneath the Sahara to farm areas near the Mediterranean coast. In 1991 the first 3-foot (4-m) diameter pipeline was completed and now brings freshwater across eastern Libya to the growing coastal population. Plans are underway to lengthen this pipeline. A second pipeline, completed in 1996, carries water from a desert aquifer in western Libya to areas near Tripoli, the nation's capital.

A number of scientists question the long-term value of this human-made river. They believe that the aquifers in Libya and neighboring countries are in danger of being drained. They also claim that pumping aquifers near the Mediterranean coast could draw in salt water from the sea or salt from the surrounding land.

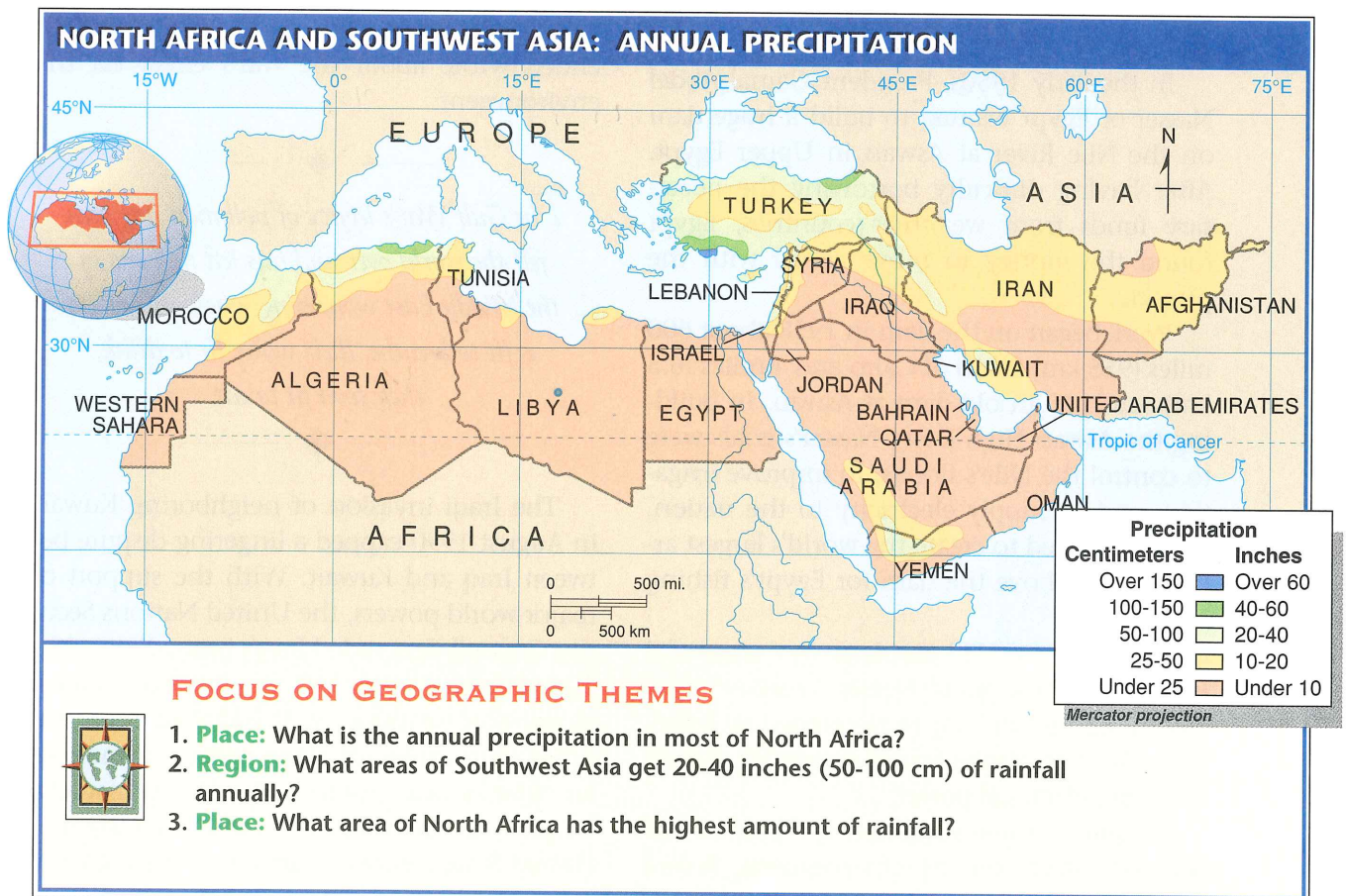
Desalination

There has been an increased search for other water sources in the region. The most widely used method is **desalination**—the removal of salt from seawater.

Desalination was used to provide fresh drinking water during World War II. United States naval ships had simple desalination units that boiled salt out of seawater.

Today it is estimated that the world's desalination plants can produce about 3.5 billion gallons (13 billion l) of freshwater a day. In North Africa and Southwest Asia desalination was first tried in Israel and then in other countries. About 60 percent of the world's water-producing capacity—the production of more than 2 billion gallons (7.6 billion l) a day—takes place in this region.

Recent improvements in desalination have moved beyond the simple **distillation**—the boiling and condensing of water—and producing freshwater has decreased in price. Nevertheless the cost can still be too great for



some nations. The oil-rich nations along the Persian Gulf have been among the few countries able to afford desalination.

About 3,500 desalination plants operate in some 105 world countries. Many nations around the Persian Gulf are dependent upon their desalination plants for water.

HUMAN/ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

Environmental Concerns

In recent decades, the introduction of new technology and the destructive effects of war have heightened environmental concerns in the region. In some instances a nation's action to harness nature, such as the building of dams for hydroelectricity, has caused problems for the environment. This was true in Egypt with the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

The Aswan High Dam

In the early 1950s, President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt wanted to build a huge dam on the Nile River at Aswan in Upper Egypt. After having difficulty borrowing the necessary funds from wealthier countries, Egypt found the money to move ahead with the project.

Work began on the dam in 1958 about 600 miles (955 km) south of Cairo and 4 miles (6.5 km) south of an old dam at Aswan. In building the Aswan High Dam, Nasser's goals were to control the Nile's floods, to improve irrigation, and to supply electricity to the nation. He also wanted to create the world's largest artificial lake above the dam for Egypt's fishing industry.

The 364-foot (111-m) dam was successful in meeting these goals. Nearly 3 million acres (about 1.2 million ha) were opened to irrigation. The dam also provided nearly 50 percent of Egypt's electrical power.

In spite of these successes, the project had negative effects on the environment. Before the dam's construction, the annual Nile floods

had deposited fertile alluvial soil along the river banks. Now, the soil was trapped above the dam. Egyptian farmers soon faced the problem of using expensive fertilizers to maintain the land's fertility. The dam also prevented the annual floods from washing away salt from the soil.

The dam also affected humans and their livestock. Following its completion, there was an increase in diseases and death caused by parasites. These parasites lived in the Nile waters and formerly were washed toward the sea.

Although the Aswan Dam has had some negative effects upon the environment, geographers point out that these must be weighed against the gains. With aid from other nations and international organizations, Egypt is overcoming many of the difficulties created by the dam.

The Persian Gulf War

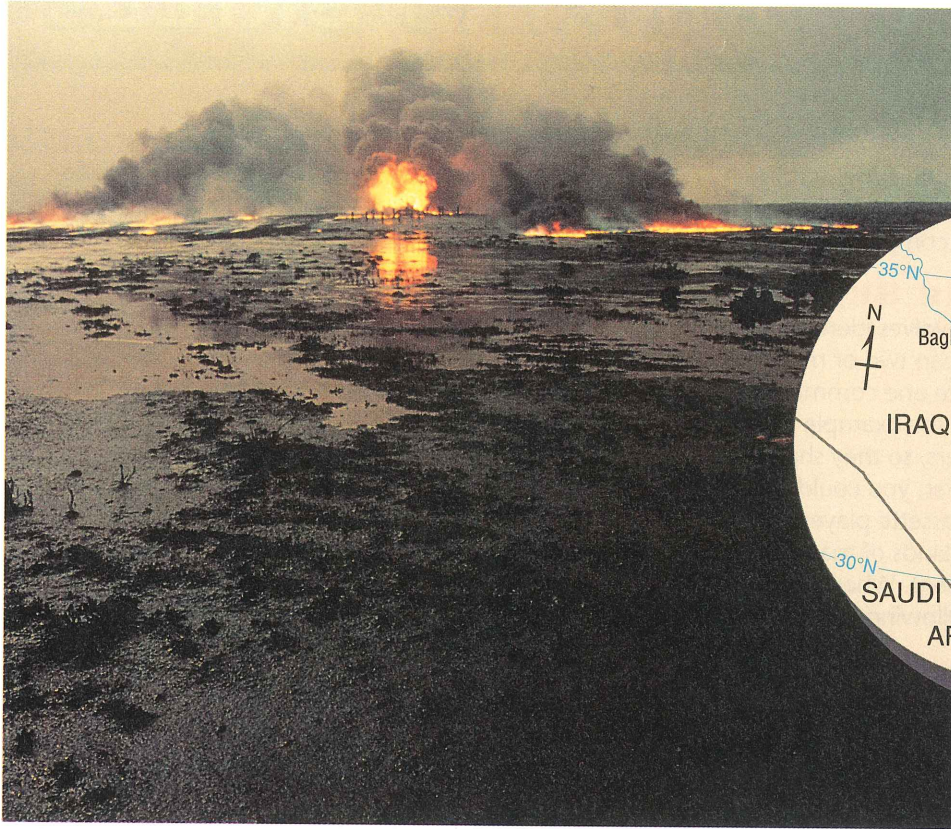
Another area of the region that has faced environmental challenges is the Persian Gulf. A reporter who flew into the Persian Gulf area immediately after the Persian Gulf War ended wrote about the war's effect on the environment:

—◆—

The Gulf War's legacy of pollution has been felt the world over and has left millions in the Middle East wondering whether their air is fit to breathe, their water fit to drink, their food fit to eat.

—◆—

The Iraqi invasion of neighboring Kuwait in August 1990 capped a lingering dispute between Iraq and Kuwait. With the support of major world powers, the United Nations Security Council demanded Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait but was ignored. After a global ban on trade with Iraq had been imposed, the United Nations called for massive air attacks and ground attacks against the Iraqis. The international effort, led by the United States, ended with Iraq's army greatly reduced.



Geographic Themes

Human/Environment Interaction: Persian Gulf

During the Persian Gulf War, Iraqi oil spills brought danger to the wildlife and vegetation of the region. *What other effect did the conflict have on the environment?*

Unfortunately for the region, the Iraqi forces set fire to a large number of Kuwait's oil wells before being driven out of that country. Huge black clouds of smoke polluted the area. Iraqi troops also dumped an estimated 250 million gallons (950 million l) of Kuwait's oil into the Persian Gulf.

The total effect of the Persian Gulf War on the environment is still being studied by scientists and environmentalists. Thousands of fish and other forms of marine life died when the oil spill spread for 350 miles (563 km) along the Gulf coastline. Most environmentalists believe that the shallowness of the Persian Gulf—the average depth is about 110 feet (about 30.5 m) deep—will delay the recovery of much of the area's marine life. The pools of oil left in Kuwait after the oil-well fires were put out have also threatened millions of birds.

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** aquifer, desalination, distillation.
- 2. Locating Places** What area in Libya receives water from the "human-made river"?
- 3. Human/Environment Interaction** Why are so many desalination plants found in the Persian Gulf?
- 4. Human/Environment Interaction** What were the environmental effects of the Aswan High Dam and the Persian Gulf War?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Identifying Central Issues** How is the relationship between population and the supply of freshwater a problem in North Africa and Southwest Asia?



CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Making Comparisons

You want to buy a portable compact disc (CD) player, and you must choose among three models. To make this decision, you would probably compare the three models according to various qualities or characteristics. By making comparisons, you will figure out which model is best for you.

REVIEWING THE SKILL

Making comparisons involves identifying similarities and differences between two or more things. As long as two things share one common quality, they can be compared. In the example above, all the objects were CD players, so they shared many common qualities. However, you could compare a CD player with an audiocassette player. Even though they are different kinds of machines, both are kinds of audio equipment. When making comparisons, apply the following steps:

- Decide what items will be compared, making sure they have one characteristic in common.
- Determine which characteristics you will use to compare them.
- Identify similarities and differences in these characteristics.
- If possible, look for causes that explain the similarities and differences.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

Answer the following questions.

1. What characteristics are used to compare the countries in the chart?
2. What are the two smallest countries in population size? Which country is growing the fastest in population?
3. Which country has the highest literacy rate? The lowest literacy rate?
4. How are Egypt, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia all similar in their exports?

For additional practice in making comparisons, see **Practicing Skills** on page 404.



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

COMPARING SELECTED COUNTRIES OF NORTH AFRICA AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

	1998 Population (millions)	Annual % Population Growth Rate	Literacy Rate	Annual Oil Production (metric tons)	Major Imports	Major Exports
Egypt	65.5	2.2	51%	43.9m	Foodstuffs Machinery	Petroleum products Cotton products
Iraq	21.8	2.8	58%	58.3m	Machinery Vehicles	Fuels Energy
Israel	6.0	1.5	95%	250m in reserves (oil bearing shale)	Consumer goods Fuels	Machinery Chemicals
Kuwait	1.9	2.3	79%	104.1m	Machinery Manufactured goods	Petroleum products Machinery
Saudi Arabia	20.2	3.1	63%	449.9m	Machinery Foodstuffs	Petroleum products

Sources: *World Almanac*, 1998; Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1998

1

SECTION

Living in North Africa and Southwest Asia

KEY TERMS

petrochemical (p. 392)
service industry (p. 393)
gross domestic product (GDP) (p. 393)

SUMMARY

- Although the region has limited arable land, a relatively large percentage of the people are engaged in some type of agriculture.
- The raising of livestock and fishing are two other sources of needed food in the region.
- The level of industrialization is uneven among the nations of the region with a higher level usually found in many of the oil-producing nations.
- The need to connect urban and economic centers with each other has led to a recent growth in transportation and communication systems.
- Although there has been an increase in the interdependence among the nations of the region, disputes and warfare have disrupted some of the region's economies.



Airport in Jidda, Saudi Arabia

2

SECTION

People and Their Environment

KEY TERMS

aquifer (p. 398)
desalination (p. 399)
distillation (p. 399)

SUMMARY

- Nations in North Africa and Southwest Asia have taken steps to modify their environment to meet their peoples' needs for water for drinking and irrigation.
- River water needed for extensive irrigation is scarce in most of the nations in the region.
- Desalination is widely used to provide water, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula.
- The Aswan High Dam has brought benefits to Egypt, but it has also had negative effects upon the environment.
- The Persian Gulf War severely damaged the natural environment in the Persian Gulf area.



Burning oil spills in the Persian Gulf



Reviewing Key Terms

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

- ✓ petrochemicals (p. 392)
- ✓ service industries (p. 393)
- ✓ gross domestic product (GDP) (p. 393)
- ✓ aquifers (p. 398)
- ✓ desalination (p. 399)
- ✓ distillation (p. 399)

SECTION 1

1. Banking and insurance are two types of _____.
2. A nation's _____ is an indication of that nation's goods and services created in a year.
3. _____ are products produced from petroleum.

SECTION 2

4. _____ was an early method used to create salt-free water.
5. Oases and wells draw water from _____.
6. Freshwater is produced by _____, which removes salt.

Reviewing Facts

SECTION 1

7. What are the major export crops of Iraq and Egypt?
8. Why does Saudi Arabia produce so little livestock?
9. Why is tourism discouraged by some countries in the region?

SECTION 2

10. What percentage of the world's water is salty?
11. What, and where, is the "great human-made river" project?
12. Why is the desalination process not used to provide water for irrigation in poorer nations?

Critical Thinking

13. **Expressing Problems Clearly** Explain why the need for industrialization is so important in some nations in North Africa and Southwest Asia.
14. **Determining Cause and Effect** How has the production of oil caused changes in the natural environment in parts of the region?



Geographic Themes

15. **Location** How has the region's location affected transportation?
16. **Region** What is a desperately needed but scarce natural resource in North Africa and Southwest Asia?



Practicing Skills

Making Comparisons

Refer to the chart on page 402.

17. Which characteristic shows the widest differences among these countries—oil production or population?
18. How would you explain these differences?
19. Compare literacy rates among the countries. What relationship do you find between these characteristics?

Using the Unit Atlas

Refer to the physical geography section of the Unit Atlas on pages 352–353.

20. What is the most important resource of the countries in the Arabian Peninsula?
21. What large body of water is the saltiest body of water on the earth?
22. What is the highest point in the region?

Projects

Individual Activity

Research developments in the process of desalination. Write a brief report describing some of the new methods now used.

Cooperative Learning Activity

Working in a group of four, have a meeting of representatives of nations that are members of OPEC. Each student, representing a different member nation, should prepare a written statement of his or her nation's position on the amount and the price of oil to be produced next year. The group should then reach a decision on pricing policy.

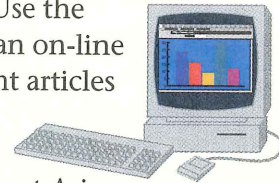
Writing About Geography

Cause and Effect Imagine that you are a farmer in Egypt. Write a letter to a close friend

in another country explaining how the construction of the Aswan High Dam has affected you and others living in your area. Use your journal, text, travel books, and other resources to help you in your research.

Technology Activity

Using the Internet Use the Internet to search for an on-line newspaper with current articles about Southwest Asia.



Find a recent article pertaining to a Southwest Asian country in relation to its geography or environmental issues. Write a report that cites the source of information, title, date, and summary of the article. Include an opinion of whether this particular current event impacts your life.

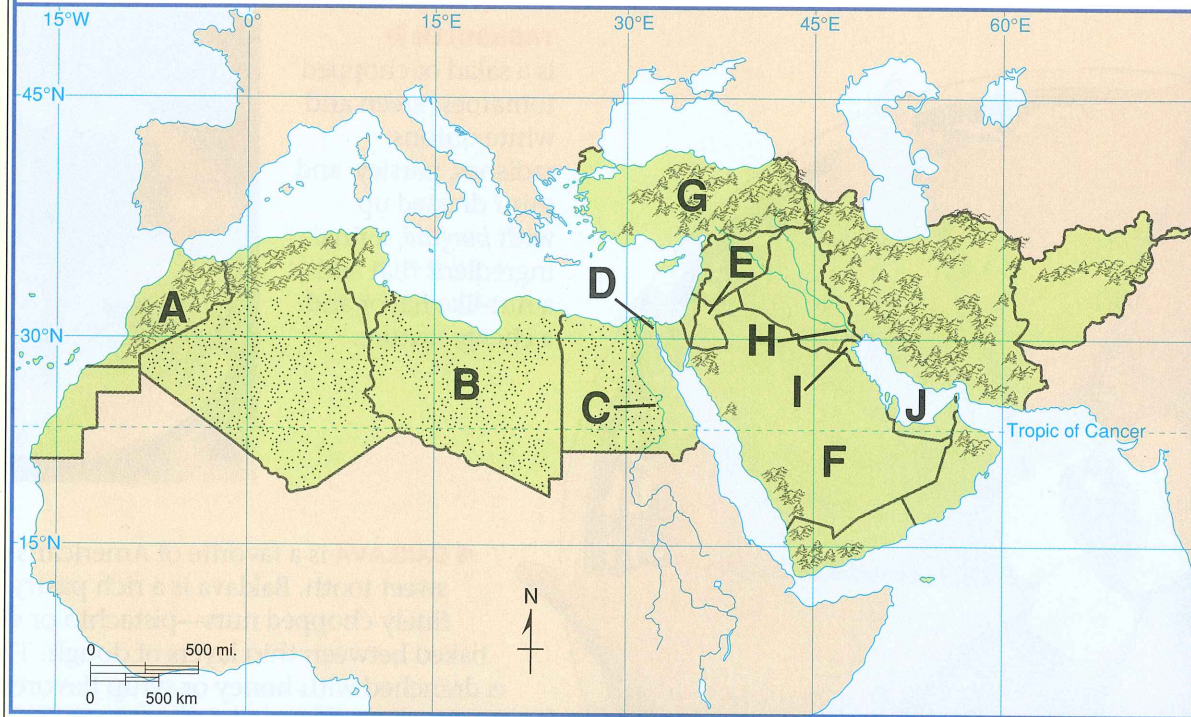


Locating Places

THE PHYSICAL/POLITICAL 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.

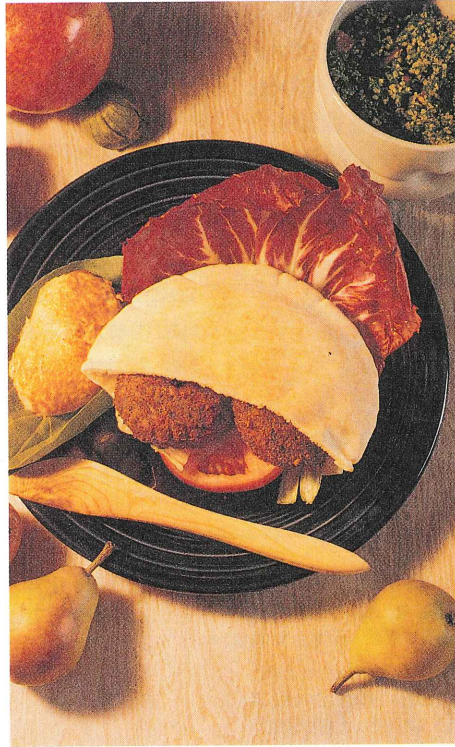
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Nile River | 6. Kuwait |
| 2. Suez Canal | 7. Shatt al Arab |
| 3. Libya | 8. Jordan |
| 4. Arabian Peninsula | 9. Morocco |
| 5. Turkey | 10. Persian Gulf |



North Africa and Southwest Asia and the United States

NORTH AFRICAN AND SOUTHWEST ASIAN CUISINE

Southwest Asian and North African cuisine has contributed several favorites to the American menu. The distinct flavor and taste most often comes from spices that are not often found in American foods: ginger, marjoram, and curry.



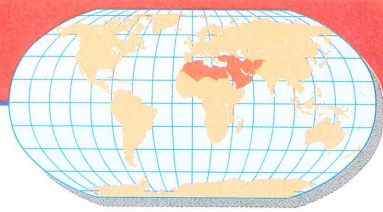
◀ **PITA BREAD**, or pita pockets, as many Americans call them, has become a great favorite with sandwich-loving Americans. A wheat bread baked in thin flat cakes, pita cakes puff out in the middle to form a pocket. The hungry diner can stuff any assortment of ingredients into the bread to make a handy, hearty meal. Pita bread is often accompanied by *tabbouleh* and *hummus*.



TABBOULEH ▶ is a salad of chopped tomatoes, green and white onions, radishes, parsley, and mint dressed up with *burghul*, a final ingredient that adds a nut-like flavor and a chewy texture.



◀ **BAKLAVA** is a favorite of Americans with a sweet tooth. Baklava is a rich pastry made of finely chopped nuts—pistachio or walnuts—baked between thin layers of dough. The pastry is drenched with honey or syrup flavored with cinnamon and lemon juice.



▲ **COUSCOUS** is a North African dish of finely ground wheat meal combined with salted water to make a kind of pasta. Americans and North Africans alike top a bowl of couscous with powdered sugar and nuts to make a sumptuous dessert.



▲ **SHISH KABOB** is one of the best known “American” foods from Southwest Asia and North Africa. It consists of skewered cubes of succulent spiced meat alternating with chunks of vegetables or fruit. The name comes from the Turkish words *sis* meaning “sword” or “skewer,” and *kebab*, meaning “lamb” or “mutton.” Americans generally substitute beef, their favorite meat, for lamb.

◀ **YOGURT** is another Southwest Asian staple that Americans enjoy. Yogurt, a tart source of nutrients with few calories, is the

preferred form of milk in Southwest Asia. Americans use yogurt as a basis for salad dressings and dips, mix it with fruit for a light dessert, and eat it right out of the carton. Many Americans also enjoy frozen yogurt as a treat.



Checking for Understanding

1. What ingredients make North African and Southwest Asian cooking unique?
2. **Place** Which of the foods shown are offered by restaurants in your area?

