

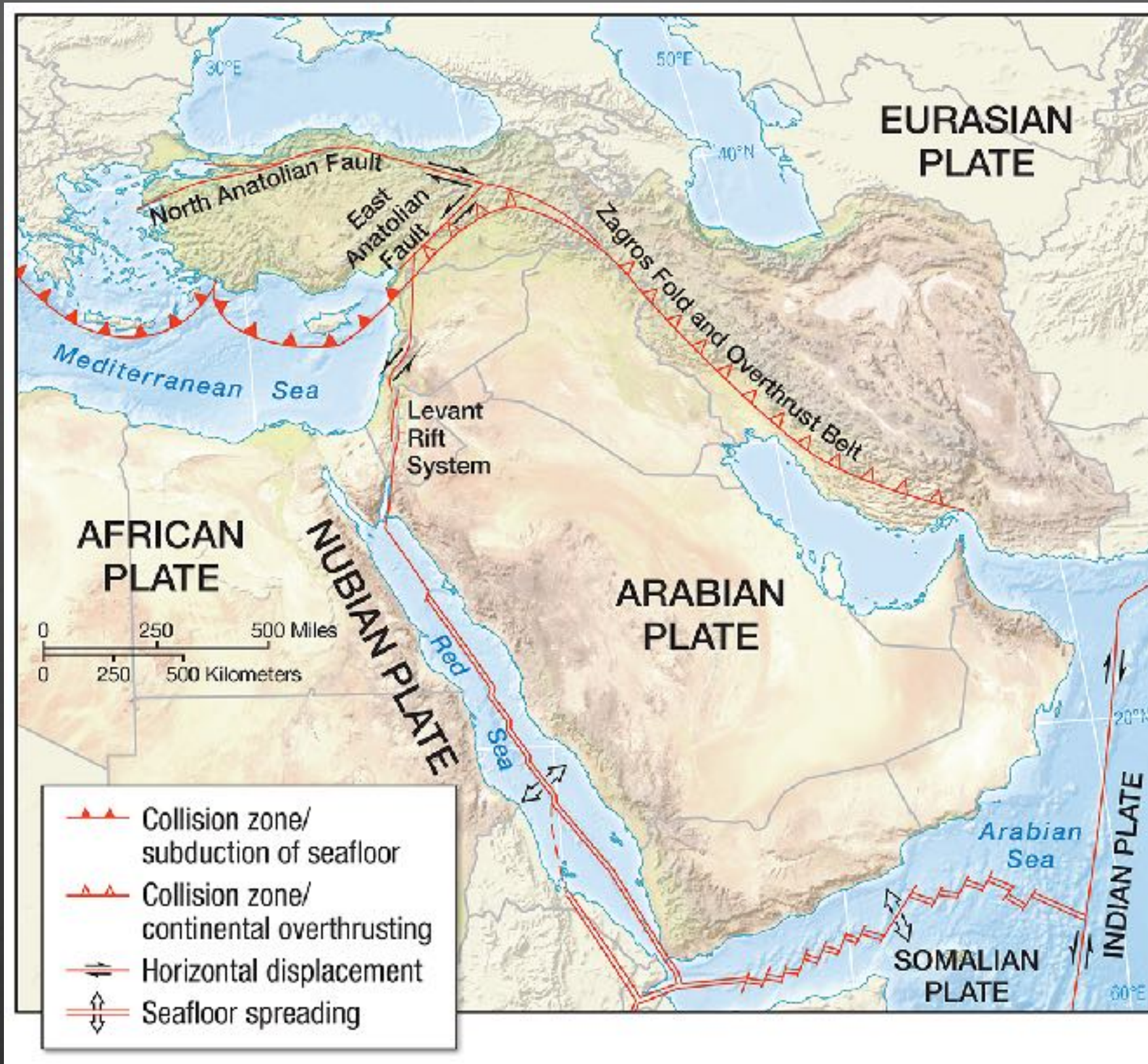
# **HWG Unit 6 SG 1**

The “ Middle East”

- **SW Asia or the Middle East - The name is “Eurocentric.” Middle East is a term used to describe the location of this region in relation to Europe. The term for this region is still widely used today.**

# I. Geology

- I. Geology - There is a high amount of geologic activity in this region due to the convergence of 3 tectonic plates. Earthquakes are common.
- A. The Red Sea is a divergent zone and is getting wider. The rift splits in two creating the Sinai Peninsula and a valley for the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.





- **B. The mountains of Iran are being caused by converging tectonic plates.**
- **C. A major transform fault, the North Anatolian Fault runs west-to-east across northern Turkey.**

# II. Landforms

- A. Mountains
  - 1. Iran
    - a. Zagros Mountains - formed by two tectonic plates colliding. Areas of earthquakes are found in this region.
    - b. Elbruz Mountains - forests of almond, maple, & pistachio
    - c. Mt. Damavand - 18,403 ft., active volcano

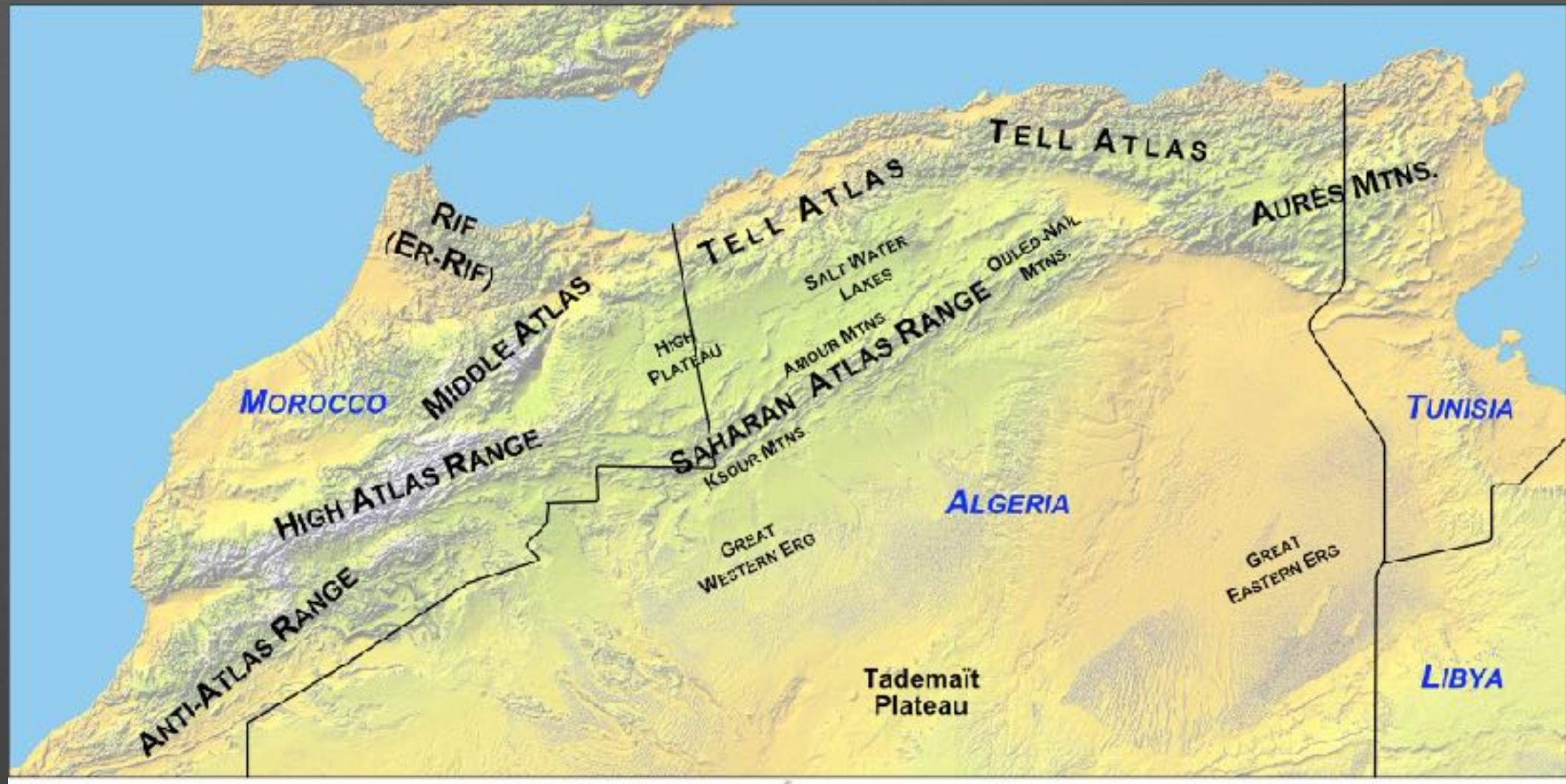
- **2. Turkey**
  - **a. Taurus Mountains**
  - **b. Mount Ararat (Agri Dagi) - 16,854 ft., dormant volcano**
- **3. The Atlas Mountains (Morocco & Algeria) form a boundary between the milder climates along the Mediterranean Sea and the hot, arid Sahara Desert (once part of mountain range that included the Appalachians)**

- **B. Plateaus**

- **1. Anatolian (Asia Minor) - Turkey**
- **2. Iranian - Iran**











- C. Deserts
  - 1. Saudi Arabia
    - a. The Rub al-Khali “the Empty Quarter” - largest continuous sand desert in the world
      - (1) most petroleum-rich site in the world
  - 2. The Levant
    - a. Israel - the Negev Desert covers more than 50% of the country
    - b. Syria - the Syrian Desert is a combination of steppe & true desert

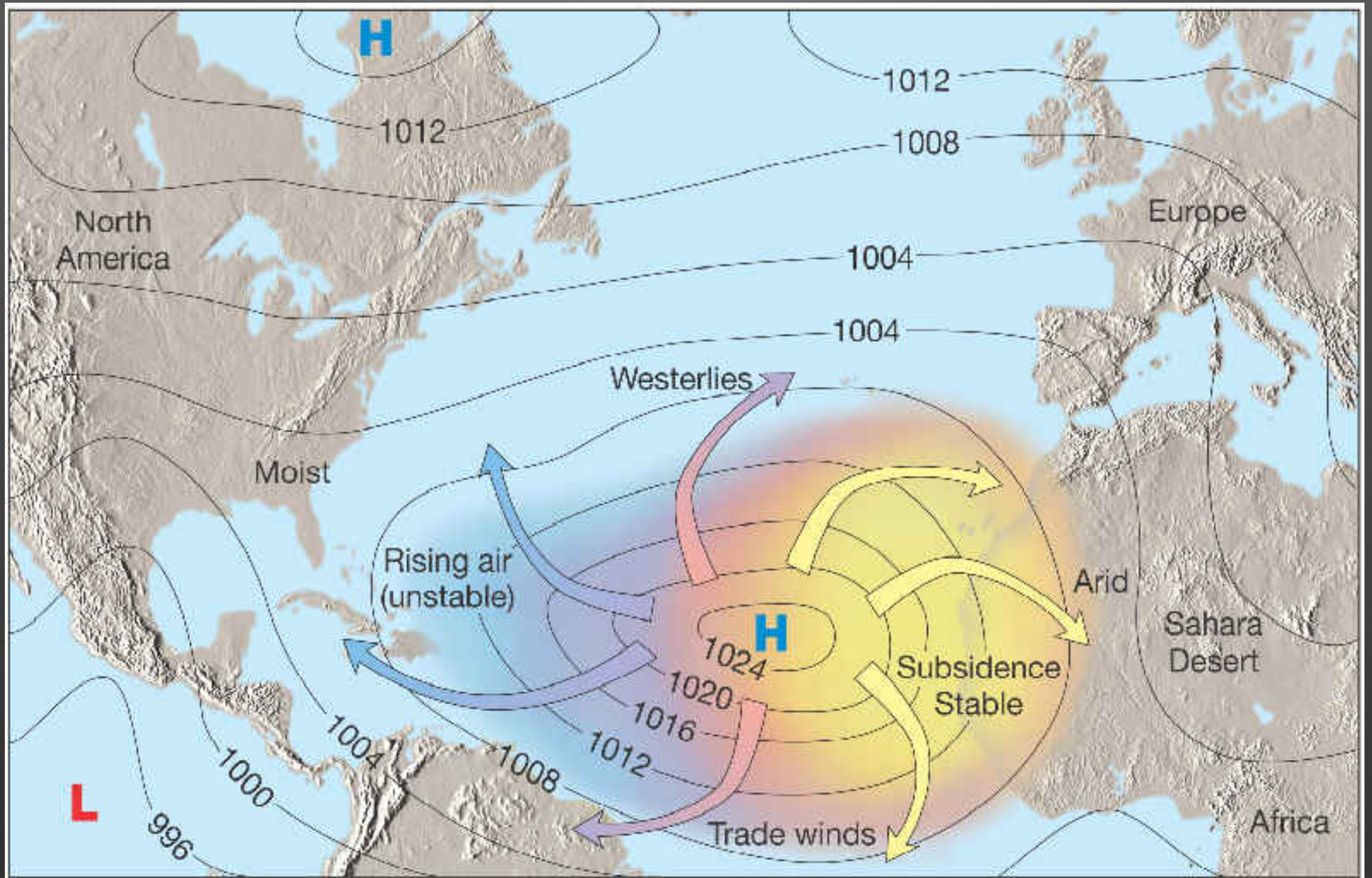




- 3. The Sahara, the world's largest desert
  - a. It crosses the continent from the Atlantic coast to the Red Sea coast
  - b. It is a subtropical desert mainly caused by a prevailing subtropical high pressure zone that is constantly overhead. Air is subsiding (falling) at this latitude.
  - c. The highest one day temperature range was measured in Algeria.







- **D. Peninsulas**
  - **1. Anatolian - Turkey**
  - **2. Arabian - Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, & Qatar**
  - **3. Sinai - part of Egypt**





- E. Islands
  - 1. Socotra is a territory of Yemen & is located in the Arabian Sea
    - a. A four island archipelago where a third of its plant life is endemic - unique to that one place. It is described as “the most alien-looking place on Earth.”





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- 2. Cyprus is an island country located in the Mediterranean Sea.
  - a. Cyprus is split into two main parts: the main Republic of Cyprus in the south (mainly Greek), and the “self-declared” Turkish Republic of N. Cyprus. (mainly Turkish)
- 3. Bahrain is an island country in the Persian Gulf.

