

The Middle East - The name is “_____.” 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 - There is a high amount of geologic activity in this region due to the _____ of 3 tectonic plates. Earthquakes are common.

- A. The Red Sea is a _____ zone & is getting wider. The rift splits in two creating the Sinai Peninsula and a _____ for the Jordan River and the Dead Sea.
- B. The mountains of _____ are being caused by converging tectonic plates.
- C. A major _____ 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 _____ 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 (_____) 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 _____ “the Empty Quarter” - largest continuous sand desert in the world
(1) most _____ -rich site in the world

2. The Levant

- a. Israel - the Negev Desert covers more than _____ of the country
- b. Syria - the Syrian Desert is a combination of steppe & true desert

3. *The _____, is the world's largest desert.*

- a. It crosses the African continent from the Atlantic coast to the _____ coast.
- b. It is a _____ desert mainly caused by a prevailing _____ zone that is constantly overhead. Air is _____ (falling) at this latitude.
- c. The highest one day temperature range was measured in _____.

D. Peninsulas

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

E. Islands

1. _____ is a territory of Yemen & is located in the Arabian Sea

- a. A four island archipelago where a third of its plant life is _____ - _____.
_____. It is described as “the most alien-looking place on Earth.”
2. Cyprus is an island country located in the Mediterranean Sea.
 - a. Cyprus is _____ main parts: the main Republic of Cyprus in the south (mainly Greek), and the “self-declared” Turkish Republic of N. Cyprus. (mainly Turkish)
 - b. Separating the two parts is a United Nations (UN) buffer zone that was established in 1964.
3. Bahrain is an island country in the Persian Gulf.

III. Bodies of Water

A. Oceans & Seas

1. The Mediterranean & the Red Seas bound the north and northeast coasts of Africa
 - a. The Mediterranean and Red Seas are connected by the _____ a major construction venture by the occupying British Empire from 1859 – 1869.
(1)It is the 2nd most important canal in the world for trade. What is the first? _____
2. Arabian Sea - _____
3. Dead Sea - (_____ at 1,412 ft. below sea level).
 - a. Besides its high _____, another unusual feature is the discharge of asphalt from deep seeps in the ground.

B. Gulfs & Other

1. The Persian Gulf is located mainly between the Arabian peninsula & Iran.
 - a. It is one of the world’s largest single sources of _____.
 - b. It is also _____ important to the militaries of the various countries that are on its shores.
2. The Strait of _____ is the only passage into and out of the Persian Gulf.
 - a. It creates a “_____” where whoever controls the entrance, controls the economies of the oil rich countries who rely on ocean tankers to trade their oil.
3. The Gulf of Oman
4. Lake Nassar - _____
 - a. The dam was built for many reasons:
 - (1) To control the yearly spring flooding when high-waters wiped out crops.
 - (2) To deal with droughts in low-water years.
 - b. The dam through helping to control flooding and droughts, helped increase agricultural production downstream. However, the dam also blocks the very _____ that is deposited after flooding. This has caused an increase in artificial fertilizer use and because the _____ is not being replenished with new soil as it is also being eroded, the _____.
 - c. The lake has caused the water table in the area to rise closer to the surface causing _____ issues where crops are _____. This has caused swamplands to form increasing the incidence of malaria. (irrigation - _____)
 - d. The building of the dam created _____ causing many people to be forcibly relocated and flooding archaeological sites. Some had to be relocated (Temple of Abu Simbel).

C. Rivers

1. The Tigris & Euphrates Rivers system forms the _____ river system in SW Asia.
 - a. They both begin in the mountains of the _____ peninsula.
 - b. They cross an extensive _____ (flood) plain in central Iraq.
 - c. They combine at their end to form the Shatt al-Arab River that then flows into the Persian Gulf.
2. The Jordan River forms the _____ between Israel, Jordan, & Syria.
 - a. The _____ & the Sea of Galilee are along its course.
3. The _____ River provides water for drinking & agriculture for the 82 million people of Egypt.
The _____ of Egypt is 3,053 people/square miles of arable (farmable) land.
(1) Almost all of Egypt's population lives along the Nile River.

D. Water resources are scarce in North Africa

1. Underground _____ are the main source of water. Major issues:
 - a. Polluted agricultural chemical runoff (fertilizers & pesticides) contaminating the water.
 - b. Aquifers are replenished by rainfall that is _____ annually.
 - (1) Removal of groundwater by a growing population is _____ faster than it can be replenished.
 - c. The rock layers that hold the water are often contaminated by _____
 - d. Drilling wells is very expensive because the groundwater can be as far 6000 ft. below the surface.
2. _____ plants remove salt from water along the coasts.

IV. Climate - _____ climate dominates with little to no rain year-round in many areas.

- A. Prior to 5000 years this area was not as arid as it is today. People moved to the river valleys where the earliest human civilizations began (Nile River; Tigris-Euphrates Rivers AKA the "Fertile Crescent.")
 1. The Sahara Desert is dominated by high pressure due to its latitude at about _____ of the equator.

V. Natural Resources

A. Water resources are _____.

1. Most rivers are fed from _____ at their sources in the mountains. Annual flooding in the spring is important for agriculture in the region.
2. Many of these rivers pass through more than one country, so _____ can arise when rivers are polluted or dammed upriver.
 - a. Development of the upper Tigris & Euphrates Rivers in _____ has caused political issues with _____.
3. _____ - is a gently sloping underground channel used to transport water from an aquifer or well to the surface for drinking & irrigation.
 - a. First developed in present-day _____ around 2,700 years ago & the oldest at that age is still in use today.

B. Oil resources are _____ in the region.

1. Petroleum began millions of years ago as tiny _____ and animals.
2. _____ of the world's crude oil supplies are found in Saudi Arabia.

C. Agriculture – due to the increasing population in the Middle East food sources are important and have been for the thousands of years this land has been inhabited.

1. Two of the earliest human civilizations arose in this region: Egyptian along the Nile River valley and Sumerian along the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers in present day Iraq (_____).

2. The Neolithic Revolution arose in this region specifically the area known as “_____.” This area stretched from Iraq into Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Israel.
 - a. The Neolithic Revolution began in this area about 10,000 years ago with experimentation in growing _____ as well as the domestication of animals such as _____.
 - b. This caused humans who were mainly _____ (followed herds of animals from winter to summer feeding grounds) to create farming settlements where water was available later becoming the first cities and civilizations.
3. A _____ is a communal farm in _____.
 - a. Communal farms were more successful than individually-owned farms due to the harsh environment of the region and its _____.
4. _____ agriculture does not use conventional irrigation, but a winter wet season is necessary.

VII. Environmental Issues

- A. _____ in the region is the same as that of North Africa.
- B. _____ is a process of reforesting areas that have been deforested.
 1. The “_____ of God” in Lebanon is one of the last areas where extensive forest one thrived.
 - a. Under the rule of the Ottoman empire the cedar forests were almost all cut down.
 - b. Today they are protected.
- C. Afforestation is a process of creating forests or “green belts” to stop _____.

Additional Notes from Lecture & Whiteboard: