



World Studies for Georgia Students-Grade 7

Chapter 4: The Geography and History of Southwest Asia – Section 1: The Geography of Southwest Asia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. _____ is located at the far eastern edge of Southwest Asia. Afghanistan is _____, which means it does not border any major bodies of water.
2. _____ is located to the west of Afghanistan and is one of the largest countries in Southwest Asia.
3. Located just west of Iran is the country of _____.
4. It has a small amount of coastline on the Persian Gulf, and two of the largest rivers in Southwest Asia - the _____ and _____ flow through Iraq.
5. Although much of the land is covered desert, _____ does have a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
6. Directly north of Syria is the country of _____.
7. _____ borders Iraq, Syria, and Iran in Southwest Asia.
8. In 1948, following World War II, the United Nations divided _____ between the Arabs and Jews. _____ was created as a Jewish homeland.
9. Then you should arrive at the Kingdom of _____, the largest country on the Arabian Peninsula.
10. _____ has a large amount of oil and has an important location on the Persian Gulf.

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11. As a result of this hot and dry climate, _____ are very important to the region's people.
12. The _____ River is one of the longest rivers in the world. It begins in Turkey and flows through Syria and Iraq before joining with the _____ River to finish its journey to the Persian Gulf.
13. In fact, all countries in Southwest Asia that produce oil depend on the _____ Gulf as a shipping route.
14. Before the Persian Gulf flows into the Arabian Sea, the water must pass through a strait (narrow waterway) called the Strait of _____.
15. The largest all-sand _____ in the world is located on the Arabian Peninsula.
16. _____ is a very important resource in Southwest Asia for both farming and trading.
17. Because of the short supply of water, _____ is necessary for those who want to farm and raise livestock.
18. Countries in Southwest Asia have also used technology to modernize their _____ techniques. These new techniques allow farms to be more productive, but they have also led to water _____.



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Chapter 4: The Geography and History of Southwest Asia – Section 2: The People of Southwest Asia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. In human geography, there are two main ways people are divided:
_____ groups and _____ groups.
2. An _____ group is a group of people who share cultural ideas and beliefs that have been a part of their community for generations.
3. These things make up a common _____ that is shared by people in the same ethnic group.
4. The _____ live in a mountain region that spans Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey.
5. Kurds speak _____, and most are _____ Muslims.
6. _____ are the largest ethnic group in Southwest Asia.
7. Many Arabs are _____ Muslims. However, some Arabs are _____ Muslims, while others are Christians.
8. _____ are another ethnic group of Southwest Asia.
9. A _____ group shares a belief system in a god or gods, with a specific set of rituals and literature.
10. Three of the largest religions in the world began in Southwest Asia:
_____, _____, and _____.
11. These religions also all have a sacred _____ and place of worship, and _____ is an important figure in all of them.
12. _____ is the oldest of the three dominant regions in Southwest Asia.

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13. Followers of Judaism are called _____. The sacred text is called the _____.
14. _____ is a religious movement that grew out of Judaism during the time of Roman rule in Palestine.
15. The founding figure in Christianity is _____, a man who was born in Bethlehem in Judea to a Jewish family in about 4 BC.
16. By the year 300 AD, _____ had spread to most parts of the Roman Empire.
17. The biggest difference between _____ and Christianity is that Christians believe Jesus was the _____.
18. The third religion that began in Southwest Asia is _____.
19. Those who were willing to agree to this monotheistic belief became known as _____, which means “ones who submit” to the will of God.
20. After _____ death, his followers collected the teachings from the angel Gabriel into the _____, the holy book of Islam.
21. Some Muslim countries have based their laws on the law of the _____. This is called _____ Law.



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Chapter 4: The Geography and History of Southwest Asia – Section 3: OPEC and Oil in Southwest Asia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Much of the world's economy relies on _____.
2. Southwest Asia has large amounts of _____ and natural gas. The high demand for these two resources brings _____ into the region.
3. In 1960, several Southwest Asia countries that had large oil _____ joined with other oil-rich countries, like Venezuela, to create the Organization of _____ Countries (OPEC).
4. The primary function of OPEC is to control the _____ of oil in the world market.
5. The OPEC countries have worked throughout the last fifty years to try to influence world events by controlling the oil _____.
6. Occasionally, OPEC has called for an _____ of oil supplies to get political and economic agreements from other countries.
7. While many countries in Southwest Asia, such as _____ and _____, have benefitted from the money that comes from exporting oil, other countries, such as _____, have not been as lucky.
8. Those countries without oil reserves have had a much more difficult time trying to _____ living conditions for their populations.
9. While _____ and _____ do not have large oil reserves, their economies have had a lot of success and their people have enjoyed an increasing standard of living.



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Chapter 4: The Geography and History of Southwest Asia – Section 4: A Brief History of Southwest Asia

Guided Reading

Instructions: Read the section and complete each item with words from the passages in this section.

1. Until the end of World War I, much of Southwest Asia was controlled by the _____ Empire, as it had been since the 1300s.
2. After the San Remo Agreements in 1920, the remains of the empire were _____, or divided, into smaller countries. Many of these new countries, like _____, are part of Southwest Asia today.
3. When the European politicians drew borders for the new countries, they paid little attention to the _____ and _____ groups living in these areas, and the groups were not allowed to have input into these decisions.
4. As a result, there has been ongoing _____ in the region.
5. One of the most important conflicts that resulted from the new boundaries is the _____ - _____ conflict. In May 1948, the United Nations announced the creation of the country of _____ as a Jewish homeland.
6. Another source of conflict in Southwest Asia is the division in Islam between _____ and _____.
7. These divisions within Muslim communities remain even today, though there is little difference in their basic religious _____.
8. The _____ Muslims have always been the largest branch of Islam.
9. The _____ Muslims have always been a minority, but they make up a large portion of some countries today, like Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon.

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10. After the dust settled and the new borders drawn, the _____ found their land divided among four countries: Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Iraq.
11. The United States has had major _____ and _____ interests in Southwest Asia since the 1800s.
12. The United States helped with _____ between countries after the fall of the Ottoman Empire and has been one of the biggest supporters of _____ since 1948.
13. As the 21st century began, the United States focused on Southwest Asia with the goal of trying to end _____ and promote _____ within the region.
14. This war was called the _____ conflict and is sometimes referred to as Operation Desert Storm. It began in August 1990, when Iraq invaded _____ in an attempt to gain control over _____ large supplies of oil.
15. After these terrible attacks, United States intelligence sources identified a _____ group called al-Qaeda, or “the Force,” as the people who had planned and carried out the attack.
16. One of the goals of _____ was to stop the influence of American and European culture in Southwest Asia.
17. As a result of this view that _____ was a threat, the United States invaded _____ in 2003. This invasion is often referred to as Operation _____.
18. In 2005, elections were held in _____ for the first time in many years, but the new government was not strong or stable, and conflict continued throughout the country.