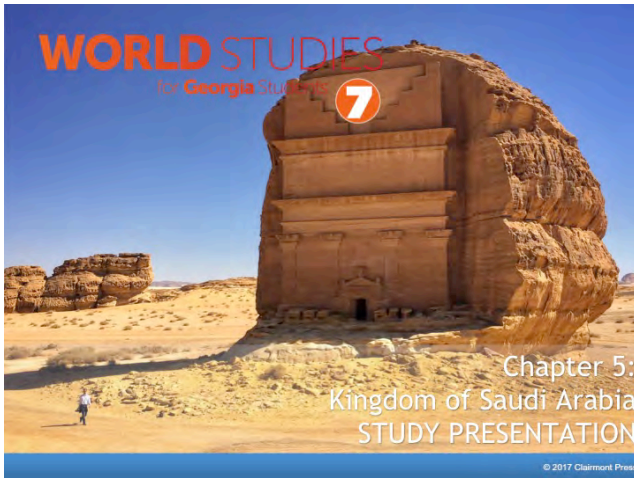
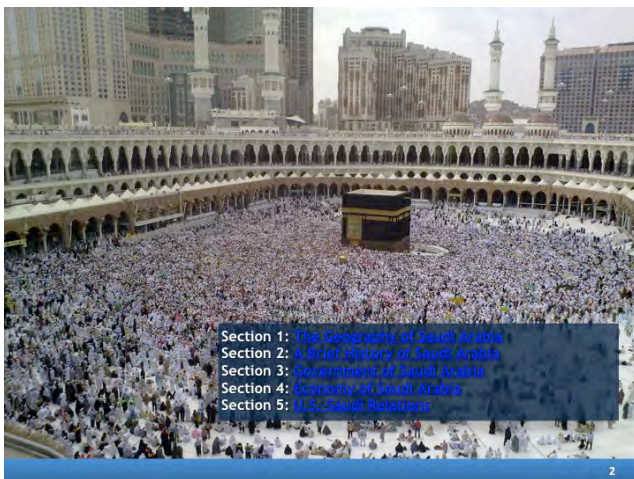


Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 05: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Quick Notes





Section 1: The Geography of Saudi Arabia

➤ Essential Question:

- How do the waters that border Saudi Arabia affect the country?

3

Section 1: The Geography of Saudi Arabia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Empty Quarter
 - wadi
 - oasis
 - desalination
 - desertification
 - Suez Canal

Location and Size of Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia is the largest country in Southwest Asia, covering four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Much of it is a vast, uninhabited desert, with the Red Sea and Persian Gulf bordering the country on the left and right.
- It is also bordered by five other countries: Iraq, Jordan, and Kuwait to the north, with Yemen and Oman to the south.

Location and Size of Saudi Arabia



Location and Size of Saudi Arabia

IN NEED OF PICTURE



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Physical Geography of Saudi Arabia

- The deserts of Saudi Arabia only receives about an inch of rain each year.
 - Over half of Saudi Arabia is covered by deserts, including the world's largest all-sand desert, the Rub' al-Khali, which means **Empty Quarter**.
- There is a narrow costal plain along the Red Sea, with is one of the largest agricultural areas in the country.
 - Just inland from this is a mountain range whose highest peak, Jabal Sawda, is nearly 10,000 feet above sea level.
- There are no permanent rivers in Saudi Arabia, but wadis can be found throughout the country.
 - A **wadi** is a riverbed that is dry when it has not rained but becomes a river when it rain a lot.
 - An **oasis**, or a natural springs that can create a pond or small lake in the middle of a desert, can be found in the desert.

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Climate of Saudi Arabia

- It is no surprise most of the climate of Saudi Arabia is arid, or hot and dry.
- Along the southern Red Sea coastline is a small area with a milder climate that is humid and better for agriculture.
 - Occasional heavy rains can flood the area.
- The inland temperatures can reach 130° F in the summer and drop to the 70s ° F during the winter months.
 - Costal locations are known for high humidity in the summer, but most of the country has low humidity.

9

Natural Resources of Saudi Arabia

- Oil, or petroleum, is the most important resource in the country.
 - It has the world's largest oil reserves and is one of the largest producers of oil in the world.
- Other resources include iron ore, gold, limestone, gypsum, copper, and sand.

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Environmental Issues in Saudi Arabia

- A major environmental issue is the scarcity of fresh water.
 - The people of Saudi Arabia have heavily invested in **desalination**, or the process of removing salt and other minerals from salt water so it can be used for farming and drinking.
 - While this seems like the perfect solution, it can also lead to the death of sea life and increasing salt levels in the water nearby.
 - Its also very expensive, requiring a lot of energy.
- **Desertification**, or the expansion of deserts, also threatens the land that can be used for agriculture.
- Oil spills along the eastern coast, where oil reserves are located, can cause massive environmental damage to plants and animals.

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Impact of Location

- More than four-fifths of all Saudis live in cities, or urban areas, like Riyadh, Mecca, Medina, and Jeddah.
- Areas along the Red Sea and Persian Gulf also have higher population densities.
- The long coastlines allow for lots of trade by sea, with four major ports along the coasts.
 - It is located close to the **Suez Canal**, which links the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, making trade with Europe easier.
 - The deserts act as a major barrier to trade, meaning trade by sea is their major trade route.

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People of Saudi Arabia

- Roughly 90% of Saudi citizens are Arab, and Arabic is the official language of the country.
- Islam, the official religion of Saudi Arabia, began here and has a large impact on daily life and the government of the country.
 - Most citizens follow Sunni Islam, while about 15% follow Shia Islam.
 - There are small communities that practice Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism, but openly practicing any religion besides Sunni Islam is illegal.
- Schools, businesses, and government offices organize around Islam's holidays and daily prayer schedules.
- Women's roles are restricted, with husbands or a male relative having to give them permission for them to do anything.
 - Only recently have they been allowed to vote.

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The Hajj

- The hajj, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, is a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest city in Islam.
 - Muslims should make this pilgrimage once in their life if they are able.
 - The hajj must be completed during the Islamic month Dhu al-Hijja.
- There are many parts to the hajj:
 - ❖ Once pilgrims are about 6 miles from Mecca, they must wear white to show their time of purity
 - ❖ When they enter the city, they walk to the Grand Mosque where the stone cube of the Ka'bah sits, the most sacred place in Islam.
 - ❖ Pilgrims must circle the Ka'bah 7 times, where they either kiss or touch the Ka'bah and pray.

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The Hajj (cont.)

- There are many parts to the hajj (cont.):
 - ❖ They must also travel to other nearby holy places, like Muzdalifah, Mina, and others.
 - ❖ While in Mina, pilgrims must throw stones at pillars that represent the devil.
 - ❖ Finally, pilgrims return to Mecca to complete one last circle around the Ka'bah.
- The government of Saudi Arabia is responsible for maintaining the holy places as well as keep peace.
 - Stampedes of pilgrims have led to many deaths in the past, which can increase foreign tensions.

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Section 2: A Brief History of Saudi Arabia

- Essential Question:
 - What is the importance of Islam to Saudi history?

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Section 2: A Brief History of Saudi Arabia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - Arab Spring
 - terrorism

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Early History

- Saudi Arabia's history goes back thousands of years.
- On of the most important events in its history was the creation of Islam, and two of Islam's holiest cities, Mecca and Medina, are located there.
 - The Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca around the year 570, and millions of Muslims travel there each year as part of the hajj.
- This land has largely been controlled by Islamic Kingdoms, like the Ottoman Empire.
 - The center, because of its harsh climate, was not part of these empires and was instead the home to nomads, like the Bedouins.

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Chapter 05: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Quick Notes

Unification and Creation of Saudi Arabia

- Modern-day Saudi Arabia did not exist until the 20th century, when, in 1932, Abd-al-Aziz bin Abd al-Rahman Al Saud created Saudi Arabia.
 - This marked the end of a 30 year fight to unite the Arabian Peninsula.
 - Since then, the Al Saud family has ruled the country.
- The kings have worked to create a stable and thriving economy in the country, along with maintaining its position as a regional power.
 - These kings have used the country's oil as a major source of income for the country, using some of these funds to directly invest in schools and hospitals for citizens.
- During the Persian Gulf War, Saudi Arabia sided with Kuwait and allowed United Nations soldiers to use their country as a base in their efforts against Iraq.

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Saudi Arabia in the 21st Century

- King Abdullah, who ruled from 2005 to 2015, modernized the country through social and economic programs and reforms.
 - These reforms included employment opportunities for women, increased foreign investment, and more.
- Saudi Arabia fared well during the **Arab Spring** (the series of antigovernment protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East in early 2011).
 - King Abdullah tried to settle some of the unrest by creating new benefits for Saudi citizens, like increased funds to affordable housing projects, providing for unemployed citizens, and allowing some elections.
- King Salman became king in 2015 after the death of his half-brother King Abdullah.
 - Most of his reign has focused on tackling unrest and **terrorism** (the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in pursuit of political aims) throughout the region.
 - Saudi Arabia also created a coalition of 24 countries whose main goal is to eliminate terrorism.
 - Saudi Arabia, as of January 2016, executed 47 people tied to terrorism.

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Camel Racing

- The tradition of camel racing dates back to the 7th century, but a new love of the sport began in the 1970s.
- While originally enjoyed by locals, it is now found in many Southwest Asian countries, as well as Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, India, and Australia.
- Camel racing is very similar to horse racing, with one jockey riding one of the roughly 25 camels in the race.
 - Races can last between 2.5 and 6 miles, depending on the ages of the camels used.
 - Camels can reach up to 25 miles per hour during these races.
- In Saudi Arabia, races are held every week in cooler months in the Riyadh Stadium, with the most important of these races being the King's Camel Race.

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Section 3: Government of Saudi Arabia

- Essential Question:
 - What power do citizens have in the government?

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Section 3: Government of Saudi Arabia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - absolute monarchy
 - Basic Law of Government
 - Sharia Law
 - Council of Ministers
 - Consultative Council
 - High Court

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Structure of Government

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an **absolute monarchy**, which means the king, always a member of the Al Saud family, controls the government.
 - In an absolute monarchy, citizens have no power or influence on the selection of the country's leader, so the king rules until he dies, at which point the Saud family chooses a new male king.
- There is no constitution to protect the rights or freedoms of citizens.
 - However, in 1992, the **Basic Law of Government**, a royal decree, outlined how the next king was chosen and clearly stated the country follows **Sharia Law** (laws based on Islam and the Quran).
 - Men and women do not have equal rights in Saudi Arabia, with women explicitly denied rights available to men.

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Structure of Government (cont.)

- The head of state and government in the country is the king.
- The king has a cabinet called the **Council of Ministers**, who serve as advisors for four years and mainly include royal family members.
- The **Consultative Council** is the legislative branch in Saudi Arabia.
 - There are 150 people who serve on the council for four years, are appointed by the king, and, as of 2013, now include 30 women.
- The judicial branch contains the **High Court**, which has judges selected by the king.
 - The laws of the court are based on Islam.

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Laws for Women

- Restrictions on what women can do occur in all parts of Saudi life and are enforced by religious police.
 - Some laws include not being able to leave the country without permission from a male relative, no swimming in the same pools as men, and the requirement to wear an abaya and head scarf when out in public.
- Women are allowed to drive, but they are heavily discouraged.
- In 2016, four women were allowed to compete in the Olympics representing Saudi Arabia, but they cannot play or practice their sports in their home country.

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Citizen Participation

- Citizens twenty-one years and older can vote in municipal elections every four years, with 284 municipal councils in Saudi Arabia.
 - Citizens elect two-thirds of the members while the king elects the other third.
 - In 2015, women were allowed to run for office and vote for the first time, with 21 women being elected.

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Challenges Facing the Government

- One of the biggest challenges facing the country is the economy.
 - With alternative energy sources to natural gas and oil becoming more reliable and available, the world's reliance on oil has diminished.
 - This means the Saudi government needs to diversify its economy in order to keep up.
- Another challenge is the decreasing amount of fresh water, the price of oil, and a growing population.
- The government promoted foreign investment in the kingdom and continues to pursue economic reforms.

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Section 4: Economy of Saudi Arabia

- Essential question:
 - How is Saudi Arabia trying to diversify its economy?

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Section 4: Economy of Saudi Arabia

- What terms do I need to know?
 - diverse economy
 - petrochemicals
 - riyal

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Type of Economy

- Saudi Arabia leans toward a market economy and relies on oil for most of its income.
 - Oil brings in 80% of Saudi Arabia's revenue and makes up 45% of its GDP.
 - The king and his advisors decide how to use oil profits, but much of the nation's wealth has been invested in technologies to produce goods like manufactured aluminum, milk and baby formula, and candy.
- The government is also allowing more privately owned companies to exist.

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Type of Economy (cont.)

- Saudi Arabia is trying to shift to a **diverse economy**, which focuses on the production of different goods rather than just one, like oil.
 - It is shifting its focus towards telecommunications and power generation.
 - It is also expanding the production of **petrochemicals**, or chemicals made from petroleum or natural gas.
- Unemployment rates in the country are rising, with an extremely high number of foreign workers in the country.
 - While the government is trying to hire more Saudi citizens, many youths lack the education and skill needed for jobs in Saudi Arabia.

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Trade

- Trade is very important to Saudi Arabia because it is based on oil and its leading exports are petroleum and petroleum products.
 - The country mainly exports to China, Japan, the United States, India, and South Korea.
- Their main imports include machinery, equipment, food, chemicals, motor vehicles, and textiles.
 - These imports mainly come from the countries of China, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, South Korea, India, and Japan.

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Currency and Trade Barriers

- The currency of Saudi Arabia is the **Saudi riyal**, or SR.
 - In 2017, one Saudi riyal was worth about \$0.27.
- Free trade is important to the country, but they have used trade barriers.
 - In 1973, OPEC had a large embargo on oil sales placed on countries that supported Israel during the Arab-Israeli War.
 - This embargo effected many large countries, including the United States.
- The country also has bans on imports of pork in the country from Sharia Law, as well as bans on used clothing or cars over five years old.

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Natural Resources

- Saudi Arabia has few natural resources, but oil is an abundant one.
 - Oil and natural gas production makes up a majority of the country's wealth.
- Having such a large supply of oil has also allowed them to become quite influential in OPEC.
- Saudi Arabia has used its oil wealth to modernize their agriculture and build modern cities, roads, schools, communications, and more.
- What was once a "desert kingdom" has now become quite modern in less than 100 years.

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Human Capital

- The technology used in the oil industry requires well-trained and educated workers.
 - The country also has modern communication and transport systems, as well as large building projects.
- The country's money has been used to invest in human capital, creating 8 universities as well as over 24,000 schools.
- Saudi Arabia's literacy rate is about 95%, with male literacy rates at 97% and female rates at 91%.
- The average citizen attends school for 16 years.

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Capital Goods

- Saudi Arabia has heavily invested in capital goods, most of which are used in the oil industry.
 - They include technology related to oil production, transportation, and communications.

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Entrepreneurship

- Currently, it is not very easy to begin your own business in Saudi Arabia.
- However, entrepreneurship is one way the government can diversify the country's economy.
 - The government is currently promoting entrepreneurship, and it seems to be paying off.

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Section 5: U.S.-Saudi Relations

- Essential question:
 - What are some ways the United States assists Saudi Arabia?

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Reasons for Close Ties

- US-Saudi relations began in 1940.
- This relationship is important to the United States for a few reasons:
 - Saudi Arabia is a leading country in Southwest Asia for Arabs and Islam.
 - The country's location is also important as the two nations combat terrorism and extremism.
 - Oil used to be a big reason for the United States' relationship, but now the US produces a lot of oil itself.
- The main focus of the US-Saudi relations is maintaining peace and combating terrorism in the Southwestern Asia region.
 - Saudi Arabia has a lot of influence over this region, with the exceptions of Israel and Iran.
- The ongoing Syrian Civil War and the rise of ISIS only means this relationship is even more crucial.

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US Assistance to Saudi Arabia

- The United States assistance to Saudi Arabia includes military training, equipment, and construction.
- The United States has helped train Saudi forces to use new weapons, modernizing Saudi military forces.
- The United States has sold military aircraft, weapons, and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

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Bilateral Economic Relations

- The United States and Saudi Arabia are trade partners.
 - The United States exports many goods to Saudi Arabia, and the US is one of Saudi Arabia's largest trade partners.
 - The countries have signed trade agreements to maximize the benefits and successes for both sides.
- Currently, trade rates are about even, with the United States importing roughly \$17 billion in 2016 and Saudi Arabia importing \$18 billion in the same year.
- Georgian companies trade with Saudi Arabia.
 - Some of the goods they trade include paper, paper products, wood pulp, poultry, carpets, and flooring.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Chapter 05: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Quick Notes

Saudi Arabia's Membership in International Organizations

- Saudi Arabia is a member of many of the same international organizations as the United States.
 - These include the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization.
- Saudi Arabia is a member of other organizations the United States is not a part of, like OPEC, the Arab League, Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Muslim World League.

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