

Southwest Asia (Middle East) Study Guide

1. The _____ River flows through Syria and Iraq, then joins the Tigris River to form one waterway called the Shaat al-Arab, which then flows along the border between Kuwait and Iran before emptying into the _____ Gulf.
2. The Jordan River is one of the main water sources of water for _____, _____, and _____, as well as many of those who live in West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
3. The Jordan River also serves as the political boundary between _____ and the West Bank, a small part of _____, and the country of Jordan.
4. Which bodies of water are connected by the Strait of Hormuz?
5. Which bodies of water are connected by the Suez Canal?
6. The Tigris and Euphrates come together to form the border between what 2 countries?
7. Why is the Suez Canal so important to international shipping?
8. Which country is the largest of the Arabian Peninsula?
9. With what countries does Turkey share a border?
10. What organization created Israel?
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16. Describe Israel's relative location to the West Bank and to the Gaza Strip.
17. Which country is mostly made up of desert and has almost no source of water?
18. Describe three ways in which farmers of the Middle East struggle to bring water to their fields.
19. Describe three causes of water pollution in the Middle East.
20. What kinds of problems do chemical fertilizers cause for farmers?
21. How has the use of chemical fertilizers affected water supplies in many countries of the Middle East?
22. Why isn't desalination and drip irrigation used more in the Middle East?
23. What are the two most important natural resources found in the Middle East?
24. How do these two resources bring wealth to Southwest Asia?
25. How have these resources made some of the countries of the Middle East extremely rich and to have a lot of control over the global economy?
26. What was the purpose for creating the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
27. Which Southwestern Asian countries have the greatest reserves of natural oil and gas?
_____, _____, and _____.
28. How much of the world's oil supply is found in the Middle East (Southwest Asia)?
29. How has the discovery of oil in some Southwest Asian countries affected the economic development in this area?
30. Why does OPEC play a powerful role in the world economy today?
31. Why are many of the largest cities in Southwest Asia located on or near major rivers?
32. Who are the "Bedouins"?

33. How have people living in the deserts in Southwest Asia usually made their living?
34. How have the major rivers of Southwest Asia become a part of political conflict?
35. Describe the climate change of much of Southwest Asia.
36. Define **subsistence agriculture**.
37. What four large bodies of water border Southwest Asia?
38. What causes most of the interior of Southwest Asia to be desert area?
39. What kind of climate could best describe Southwest Asia?
40. Why do people living along the rivers of Southwest Asia build canals, qanats, and water wheels?
41. How have dams built along the rivers caused problems for people living downstream?
42. Which river is shared by Turkey, Syria, and Kuwait?
43. Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group.
44. Where do the Kurds live?
45. Explain how the Kurds is an ethnic group as opposed to being a religious group.
46. What are the three primary religions of the Middle East?
47. What is the most populated ethnic group in the Middle East?
48. What country is home to Persians?
49. What is the religion of most Persians?
50. What is the most common religion among most Arabs in the Middle East?
51. What is the religion of most Kurds?
52. What is the primary belief of the Jewish faith that distinguished their faith from the others in the ancient world?
53. What is the sacred text of Judaism?
54. Briefly explain the “Exodus” in the history of the Jewish people.
55. Why did Jesus have trouble with both the Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities?
56. What basic belief made Christianity different from Judaism?
57. Why was Christianity finally accepted by the Roman Emperor as a legal religion?
58. What makes Judaism, Christianity, and Islam alike?
59. What did Muhammad believe the angel Gabriel was asking him to do?
60. Why is the Ka’aba important to Muslims?
61. Why did Islam spread so quickly after the death of Muhammad?
62. What are the Five Pillars?
63. Why do Muslims call Jews and Christians “People of the Book”?
64. What issue led to the split between the Sunni and Shia in Islam?
65. Why were the first four leaders of the Muslims, after Muhammad’s death, called the “Four Rightly Guided Caliphs”?
66. What is the definition to the term “**literacy**”?
67. Explain how literacy rate can affect the standard of living of a country.
68. Define **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
69. Define **per capita GDP**.
70. The way in which governments determine **citizen participation** is divided into three categories: _____, _____, and _____.

NOTE: *These should not be confused with various **forms** of government.*