



# STUDY GUIDE

## Chapter 17, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 421–426.

### The Land

#### Terms to Know

**alluvial soil** A rich soil made up of sand and mud deposited by flowing water (*page 423*)

**wadi** A streambed that remains dry until a heavy rain (*page 424*)

**kum** A regional term for desert (*page 425*)

**phosphate** A chemical compound used in fertilizers (*page 426*)

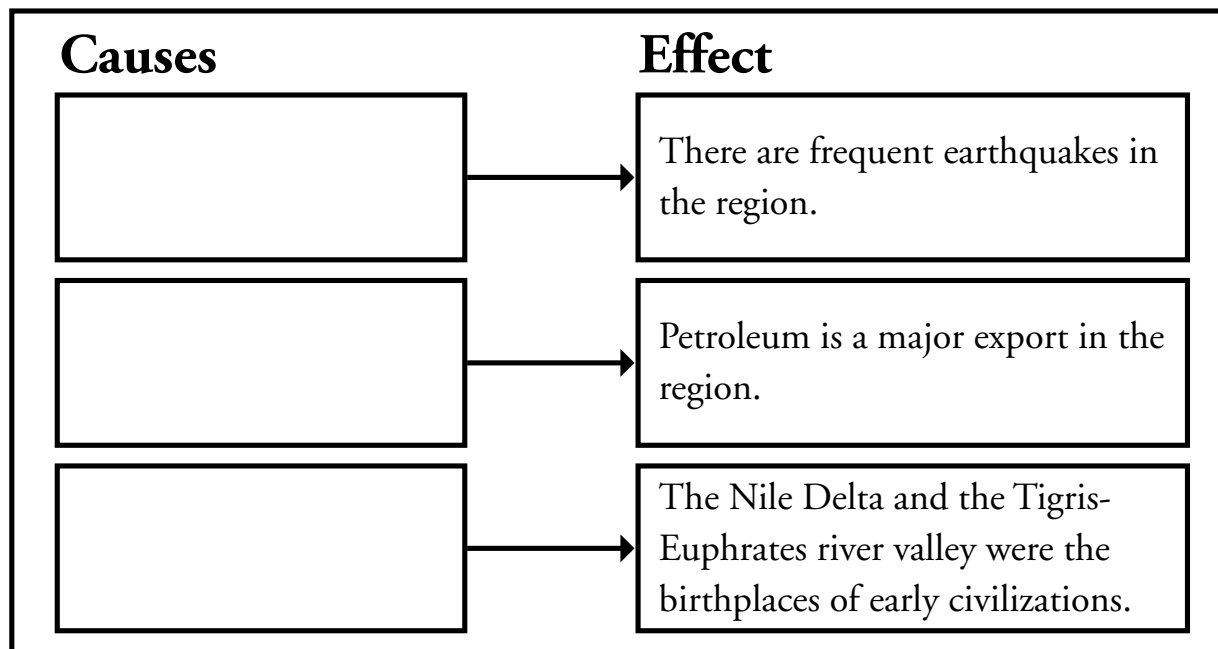
#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever put together a jigsaw puzzle? How would you describe the pieces of the puzzle? Imagine a region in which the seas and land resembles pieces to a jigsaw puzzle.

This section focuses on the natural features and resources of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the cause-and-effect diagram below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the physical geography of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia affects natural disasters, economic activities, and human settlement in the region.



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### READ TO LEARN

#### **Introduction** (page 421)

People, goods, and ideas have come together for centuries in North Africa, Southwest Asia and Central Asia. The region's location near the Mediterranean Sea draws travellers from all directions. This region is where the continents of Europe, Africa, and Asia meet. The region's landscape is varied and rich in natural resources.

1. Why do people, goods, and ideas come together in North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia?

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#### **Seas and Peninsulas** (page 421)

North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia have many seas and peninsulas.

- A. The Mediterranean Sea lies between Africa and Europe.
- B. The **Red Sea** and the **Gulf of Aden** separate Southwest Asia's **Arabian Peninsula** from Africa.
- C. The **Persian Gulf** borders the Arabian Peninsula on the east, and the **Arabian Sea** borders it on the south.
- D. The **Gulf of Suez** and the **Gulf of Aqaba** border the **Sinai Peninsula**.
- E. The Black, Mediterranean, and Aegean Seas border the peninsula of **Anatolia**.

Three landlocked bodies of saltwater lie east of the Mediterranean Sea.

- A. The saltiest body of water on Earth—the Dead Sea—forms part of the Israel-Jordan border.
- B. The **Caspian Sea** is the largest inland body of water on Earth. This sea's water levels have greatly lowered.
- C. The **Aral Sea** in Central Asia used to be the fourth-largest inland sea in the world. Its size has decreased and its fishing industry has suffered because of evaporation and diversion of water for irrigation and industry.

2. What land and water features make up much of this region?

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**STUDY GUIDE****Chapter 17, Section 1****Rivers** (page 422)

Rivers provide water and deposit rich soil in the valleys of the otherwise dry desert region. Two of the world's earliest civilizations lived along its major rivers:

- A.** Egypt's Nile River is the world's longest river. The **Nile Delta** and the fertile soil along the river's banks was the site of one of the world's earliest civilizations. Today more than 90 percent of Egypt's population live on a narrow strip of land along the river. The Aswan Dam and other dams along the Nile now control the river's water. The dams have reduced flooding and deposits of **alluvial soil**. This rich soil is made up of sand and mud deposited by moving water.
- B.** The **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers** are located mostly in Iraq. The Tigris-Euphrates river valley is a fertile farming valley and the birthplace of Mesopotamia, one of the earliest civilizations. Today the rivers irrigate farms throughout Syria, Turkey, and Iraq. Dams control the flow of both rivers.

Many streams in North Africa and Southwest Asia appear suddenly and disappear suddenly. In the deserts, runoff from infrequent rainstorms creates **wadis**. These are streambeds that remain dry until a heavy rain.

- 3.** Why are rivers important in the region?

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**Plains, Plateaus, and Mountains** (page 424)

Coastal plains stretch along the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea, and the Persian Gulf. These plains have fertile soil and are the base of agriculture in the region. Several mountain ranges slant across the region.

- A.** Africa's longest mountain range is the Atlas Mountains. These mountains stretch across Morocco and Algeria near the Mediterranean Sea. Enough rain falls on the northern side of these mountains to make the coastal regions suitable for settlement and farming.
- B.** In Southwest Asia, the Hejaz and the Asir mountain ranges stretch along the western coast of the Arabian Peninsula near the Red Sea. The Asir region gets the most rainfall and supports the most agricultural production on the peninsula. The Central Plateau east of the Asir Mountains gets very little rain because of the rain shadow effect.
- C.** The Pontic and Taurus mountains in Turkey lie along the northern and southern edges of the Anatolian Peninsula.
- D.** Between the Black and the Caspian Seas rise the Caucasus Mountains.

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- E. West of the Tian Shan range bordering China, the Turan Lowland provides some irrigated farmland. To the south are **kums**, or deserts. The Garagum (Kara Kum) covers most of Turkmenistan. The Qizilqum (Kyzyl Kum) covers half of Uzbekistan.

4. What kinds of landforms are found in the region?

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### **Earthquakes** (page 425)

Three tectonic plates come together in North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. Movement of these plates has built mountains, moved landmasses, and caused frequent earthquakes in the region. The Red Sea is growing wider because of these plate movements. Turkey experienced a violent earthquake in 1999 which killed nearly 20,000 people.

5. Why are earthquakes common in North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia?

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### **Natural Resources** (page 425)

Petroleum and natural gas are the region's most abundant and important natural resources. Sixty-six percent of the world's known oil reserves and 33 percent of the world's known natural gas reserves are in this region. Petroleum exports have made many countries in the region wealthy.

Minerals that provide additional income for the region include sulfate, sulfur, phosphate, chromium, gold, lead, manganese, zinc, iron, and copper. Turkmenistan has the world's largest deposits of sulfates. Morocco ranks second in the production of **phosphate**, a chemical compound used in fertilizers.

6. What natural resources are important in the region?

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# STUDY GUIDE

## Chapter 17, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 427–431.

### Climate and Vegetation

#### Terms to Know

**oasis** A place in the desert where underground water surfaces (page 429)

**pastoralism** The raising and grazing of livestock (page 430)

**cereal** A food grain such as barley, oats, or wheat (page 431)

#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

When you think of a desert, what comes to your mind? What is the climate like? What kinds of plants grow there? What kinds of animals live in deserts? What would it be like to live in a region in which half of the land was desert?

In the last section, you read about the natural features and resources of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. This section focuses on the climate and vegetation of the region.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the varied climates of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia.

Climate Region	Description	Location

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### READ TO LEARN

#### **Introduction** (page 427)

Ancient cave paintings tell us that North Africa was once wet and green. Differences in climate across the region affect vegetation and human activities.

1. What affects the vegetation and human activity in North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia?

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#### **Water: A Precious Resource** (page 427)

Rainfall is plentiful in some areas of the region. In most of the region, however, water is scarce because evaporation exceeds rainfall. Two dry climates cover most of the region.

**A. A desert climate** is found in about 50 percent of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. A desert has annual rainfall of less than 10 inches. The Sahara is the largest desert in the world. It covers most of North Africa. The Rub'al Khali is a desert that covers about one-fourth of the Arabian Peninsula. Nomadic peoples raise herds of sheep, goats, and camels in the Garayum desert of Central Asia. A place in the desert where underground water comes to the surface is called an **oasis**. Villages, towns, or small-scale farms can exist in some oases.

**B. The steppe climate** is the second-largest climate in the region. The steppe borders the Sahara to the north and snakes its way eastward among other climate regions from Turkey to Kazakhstan. The annual rainfall in this climate is enough to support short grasses, shrubs, and some trees. The steppe climate also supports **pastoralism**—the raising and grazing of livestock.

2. What kinds of vegetation grow in the dry climates of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia?

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**STUDY GUIDE****Chapter 17, Section 2****🌐 Climatic Variations** (page 430)

There are two climates in the region with more rainfall than the desert and steppe climates.

- A.** The **Mediterranean climate** has cool, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. This climate is found in the Tigris-Euphrates valley, in uplands areas, and on the coastal plains of the Mediterranean, Black, and Caspian seas. Farmers in this climate grow citrus fruits, olives, and grapes. Tourists come to this climate to enjoy the sun and warmth.
- B.** A **highlands** climate is found in higher areas of the region, such as the Caucasus Mountains. The highlands climate varies depending on elevation, wind, and sun, but is generally wetter and colder than other climates in the region.

Coastal and highlands areas near mountain ranges receive the most rainfall in the region. The North African coast gets more than 30 inches of rain yearly, enough for forests to grow there. More than 100 inches of rain falls yearly in some parts of the Republic of Georgia. In areas of the region where more than 14 inches of rain falls yearly, farmers are able to raise **cereals**—food grains such as barley, oats, and wheat—without using irrigation.

- 3.** Where are Mediterranean and highlands climates found in the region?

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