



STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 18, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 439–443.

Population Patterns

Terms to Know

ethnic diversity Differences among groups based on their languages, customs, and beliefs (page 439)

infrastructure The basic urban necessities like streets, water, electricity, and sewers (page 443)

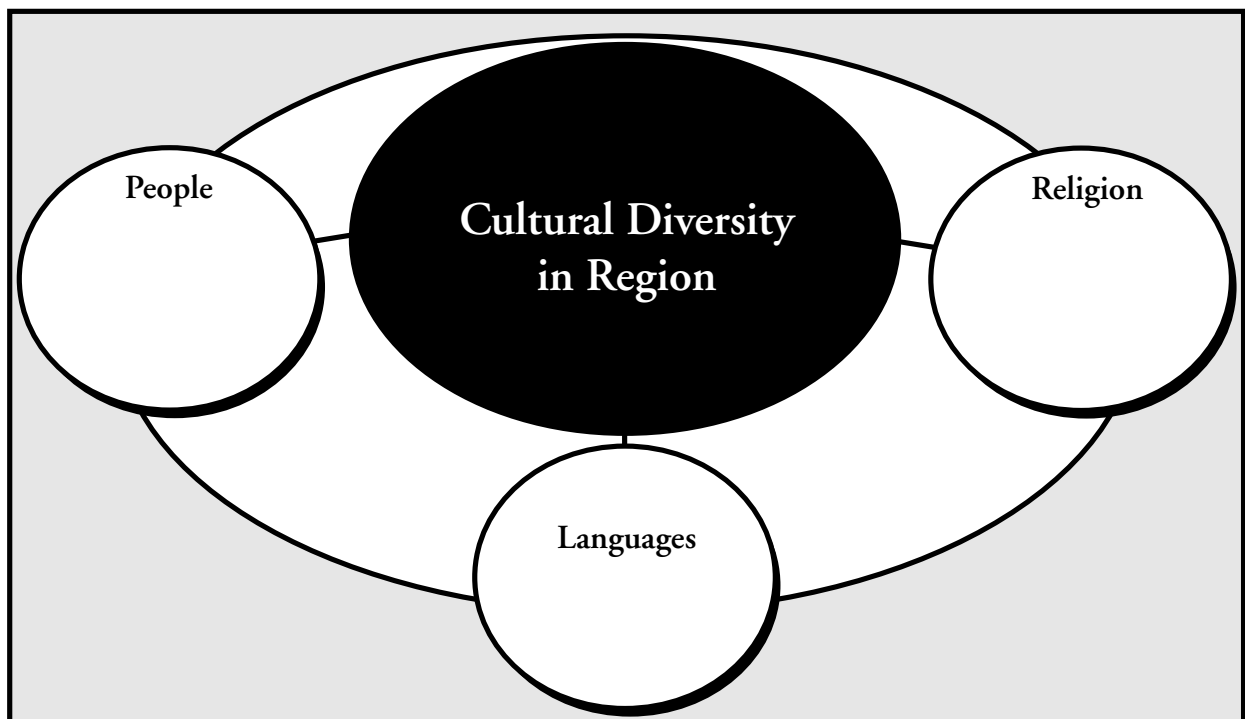
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What special geographic features are found in your community? Did these features help determine the settlement of your community? How?

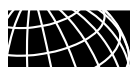
This section focuses on the population patterns of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the web below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how cultural diversity in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia is reflected in the region's people, religions, and languages.



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**STUDY GUIDE****Chapter 18, Section 1****READ TO LEARN** **Introduction** (page 439)

The region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia has been home to many peoples. Some of these groups have vanished because of war or famine. Others have been absorbed by more powerful groups. Other communities have survived for hundreds of years.

1. Why have some groups of people who lived in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia vanished over the years?

 **Many Peoples** (page 439)

The region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia has been the crossroads for Asia, Africa, and Europe for centuries. As a result, it has **cultural diversity**, or differences among groups based on their languages, customs, and beliefs.

- A. About 200 million people in the region are **Arabs**. Most Arabs are followers of Islam. Arabic, the Arab language, and Islamic culture have greatly influenced the region.
- B. About 6 million people in the region are **Israelis** and live in Israel. The majority of these people are Jews. In 1948 Israel was founded as a Jewish state. The Arabs in the region opposed a Jewish state on territory that had been their homeland for hundreds of years.
- C. Many different groups have settled the Asian part of present-day Turkey. One group was the **Turks**. They built the powerful Ottoman Empire. Today most Turks practice Islam and speak the Turkish language. The culture blends Turkish, Islamic, and Western elements.
- D. About 66 million people live in Iran. **Iranians** speak the Farsi language. Most of them are Shiite Muslims. Afghanistan is located on Iran's eastern border. People in Afghanistan speak many languages. Most Afghans practice Islam.
- E. More than 50 ethnic groups live in the Caucasus area. The largest of these groups are **Armenians** and **Georgians**. Most Armenians live in the republic of Armenia and speak the Armenian language. Georgians live in the republic of Georgia. They speak the Georgian language, which is related to other indigenous Caucasian languages. Both Armenians and Georgians practice Orthodox Christianity and were once part of the Soviet Union.

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- F.** Some Turkic peoples live outside of Turkey in the Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. These peoples include the **Uzbeks** and the **Kazakhs**. Most practice Islam. The **Tajiks** are a non-Turkic group living in Central Asia. Most Tajiks also practice Islam and live in Tajikistan.
- G.** The **Kurds** live in the border areas between Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and the Caucasian republics. This area is sometimes called Kurdistan, but the Kurds have no country of their own. The Kurds speak a language related to Farsi. Most Kurds practice Islam.
- 2.** Which is the largest cultural group in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia?

Population and Resources (page 442)

The availability of water often determines where people in the region settle. For centuries, people have settled along seacoasts and rivers, near oases and rain-fed highlands where drinking water is readily available. Water has recently been an issue in border disputes between Israel and Syria.

The population of the region is growing rapidly. As a result, people in some countries, particularly those of North Africa, are unemployed. Many move to other nations to find work. Many cities have grown too fast to provide jobs and housing or to improve **infrastructure**, the basic urban necessities like streets and sewers.

- 3.** What has been a major factor in determining where people in the region have settled?



STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 18, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 446–452.

History and Government

Terms to Know

domesticate To take plants and animals from the wild and make them useful to people (page 446)

culture hearth Cities where cultures developed and from which ideas and traditions spread outward (page 447)

cuneiform A system of symbols developed by the Sumerians to keep records (page 447)

hieroglyphics A form of picture writing developed by the Egyptians (page 447)

qanats Underground canals built by the Persians for irrigating crops (page 447)

monotheism A belief in one God (page 448)

prophet A messenger of God (page 448)

mosque A Muslim house of worship (page 448)

nationalism A belief in the right of an ethnic group to have its own independent country (page 449)

nationalize To place under government control (page 450)

embargo A ban on trade (page 452)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What do you think of when you hear about the Egyptian civilization? What other ancient civilizations do you know about? Where did these civilizations start?

In the last section, you read about the populations of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. This section focuses on the history of the region.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about where the world's earliest civilizations started and the advances made by these civilizations.

Civilization	Where located	Advances made

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Chapter 18, Section 2

READ TO LEARN

Introduction (page 446)

The region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia is the source of some of the world's greatest civilizations. It is also the birthplace of the world's three major religions.

1. In what region have great civilizations and world religions started?

Prehistoric Peoples (page 446)

About 10,000 years ago, hunters and gatherers settled in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. By 6000 B.C. farming communities had developed in the region. The farmers in this region were the first to **domesticate** plants and animals. The farmers took them from the wild and made them useful to people.

2. In what ways did prehistoric people in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia meet their needs?

Early Civilizations (page 447)

Important civilizations began to develop in the region about 6,000 years ago.

- A. The Sumerian civilization was one of the world's first **culture hearths**. These are places from which ideas and traditions spread outward. It was located in Mesopotamia, an area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Mesopotamia was part of a larger region known as the Fertile Crescent.

Sumerians made great advances in agriculture, law, mathematics, and engineering. They kept records by using a writing system called **cuneiform**, in which symbols were written on wet clay tablets and then baked to harden.

- B. The Egyptian civilization started along the Nile River. The Egyptians also made many advances in agriculture and developed **hieroglyphics**, a form of picture writing.

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3. Where did the Sumerian civilization develop?

 **Empires and Trade** (page 447)

The Phoenician civilization started along the eastern Mediterranean coast. Phoenicians developed an alphabet in which letters stood for sounds. This idea was the basis for modern alphabets. Later, the Persian Empire covered a large area of the region. Because water carried in surface canals would evaporate, Persians developed a system of **qanats**, or underground canals, to carry water across the desert from the mountains to farmlands.

The empires in the region became prosperous largely because of the Silk Road, a trade route connecting China with the Mediterranean Sea. Because of the exchange of ideas and products along this route, the region became known as the “crossroads of civilization.”

4. Why has the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia known as the “crossroads of civilization?”

 **Three Major Religions** (page 448)

Three major religions started in the region. They were all based on **monotheism**, or the belief in one God.

- A. Judaism is the oldest of these religions. It teaches obedience to God’s laws and the creation of a just society. The Hebrew Bible, or Torah, includes writings based on the laws and history of the Jews. Jewish services are traditionally held in a synagogue.
- B. Christianity is based on the life and teachings of a Jewish teacher named Jesus. He preached a message of renewal and God’s mercy. The Christian scriptures came to include the Hebrew Bible, or the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The New Testament included writings on the life and teachings of Jesus and the experiences of the earliest Christian communities.
- C. Islam today is the major religion of the region. It began when Muhammad, a merchant living in the Arabian Peninsula, began preaching that people should turn away from sin and turn to the one true

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God. Many people acknowledged Muhammad as the last of the **prophets**, or messengers of God. The followers of Islam are called Muslims. They follow the principles set down in the Quran, or the Islamic holy book. The Islamic house of worship is called a **mosque**.

5. What three major religions started in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia?

 **The Modern Era** (page 449)

Conflicts have occurred in the region throughout its history. By the late 1800s, western European countries controlled large areas of North Africa and Southwest Asia. Russia controlled much of Central Asia. In the 1800s educated, urban middle-class people in North Africa and Southwest Asia supported **nationalism**, or a belief in the right of an ethnic group to have its own independent country. As a result, by the end of World War II, European colonial rule in this part of the region ended. In Central Asia, however, independence did not come about until the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.

Even after independence, European countries kept control of the economies of some countries in the region. Several of these countries retaliated and **nationalized**, or placed under government control, some of the foreign-owned companies within their borders.

By the late 1800s, a wave of persecution drove many European Jews to call for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. After World War II, the United Nations planned to divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. Later, the Jews proclaimed the independent state of Israel. Since then, several wars have flared between the Arabs and Israelis. Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied areas want an independent state of their own. Israelis and Palestinians finally agreed to peace talks in 1993. However, by 2001, talks stalled, and violence between Israeli forces and Palestinians put the peace process in jeopardy.

The Taliban, a radical Muslim group, won control of Afghanistan in the 1990s. The Taliban was criticized internationally for human rights abuses and for sheltering terrorists, such as the Saudi exile Osama bin Laden. In October 2001, American and British warplanes carried out air attacks on Taliban and bin Laden targets in Afghanistan. A month later, with U.S. help, anti-Taliban Afghan forces won control of Kabul, the Afghan capital, and called for talks to form a new government.

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Border disputes and conflicts over scarce water resources have led to armed conflicts in several parts of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. Thousands of people have died in these conflicts and many have become refugees. In 1991, Iraq invaded oil-rich Kuwait. This forced a UN **embargo**, or ban on trade, against Iraq. During the Persian Gulf War, in 1991, the United States and other countries forced Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, to withdraw its army from Kuwait.

6. Who controlled much of the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia by the late 1800s?



STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 18, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 453–457.

Cultures and Lifestyles

Terms to Know

ziggurats Pyramid-shaped mud-brick temples built by the Sumerians (page 454)

bedouin A desert nomad (page 455)
bazaar A traditional marketplace (page 456)

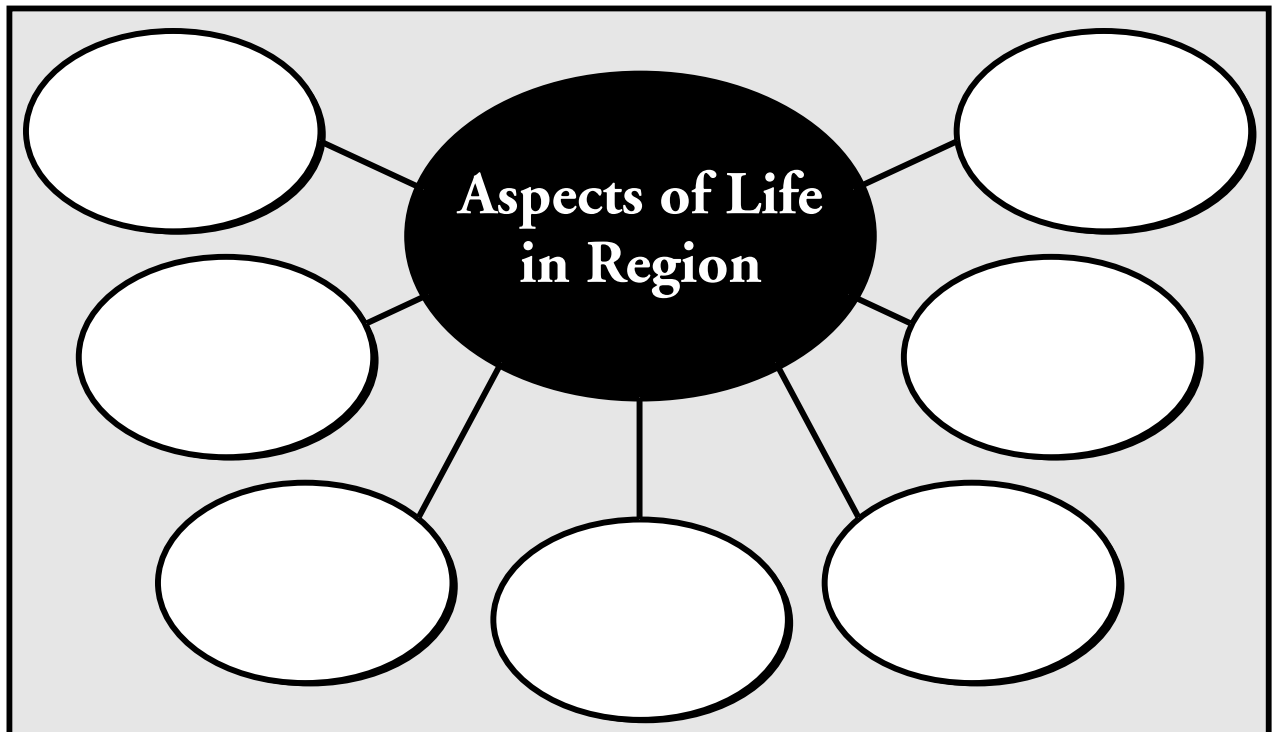
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What does a standard of living measure? What would you consider the standard of living for most people in your community? Why?

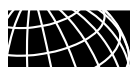
In the last section, you read about the history and government of the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. This section focuses on the culture and lifestyles of the region.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the web below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the different aspects of life in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia today.



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**STUDY GUIDE****Chapter 18, Section 3****READ TO LEARN** **Introduction** (page 453)

Both tradition and change are reflected in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. The people living in the region today balance tradition and change in their everyday lives.

1. What do people living today in the region of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia balance in their lives?

 **Religion** (page 453)

Most people in the region are Muslims, and most of these belong to the Sunni branch of Islam. Sunni Muslims believe that leadership lies in the Islamic community at large. Members of the Shia branch of Islam, however, believe that only Muhammad's descendants should be leaders of the Islamic community. Only a small percentage of the population in the region follows Judaism or Christianity.

2. What religion do most people in the region follow?

 **Languages** (page 454)

Arabic is the region's main language. Other languages include Hebrew, Berber, Turkish, Farsi, Pushtu, and Kurdish.

3. What is the main language spoken in the region?

 **The Arts** (page 454)

The art and architecture of the region reflect the influence of both East and West. Early civilizations produced beautiful sculpture and buildings. The Sumerians built **ziggurats**, or large, mud-brick temples. The Egyptians

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built huge pyramids. Mosques and palaces are good examples of Islamic architecture. Muslim artists used geometric patterns and floral designs in their work because Islam discourages pictures of living figures in religious art. Muslim artists also used calligraphy, or elaborate writing, for decoration.

The main literature of the region consists of epic poetry. One such epic, the *Rubaiyat*, by the Persian poet Omar Khayyam, has been translated into most languages. Today rhythmic patterns in the poetry of the region reflect Western influence. Some literature today has nationalistic themes. Other literature focuses on the challenges brought about by change in a traditional society.

4. Why are living figures not used in Islamic art and architecture?

 **Everyday Life** (page 455)

The population of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia has grown rapidly due to improved health care and a higher birthrate. Urban areas especially have grown. Less than half the people in the region make a living through farming, and only a small percentage are **bedouins**, or desert nomads. The Internet, trade, and travel have also helped change lifestyles in the region.

Family life is important to people in the region. Families are often closely knit and get together for their main meal every day. People living in rural areas depend on their own farms for food. City dwellers shop in supermarkets, but they also shop in **bazaars**. These are traditional marketplaces that range from a street of stalls to an entire district in a large city.

Standards of living vary throughout the region. In urbanized countries where the economies are based on oil production, manufacturing, or trade, the standard of living is high. In developing countries of the region, the standard of living is much lower. The economies in countries such as Egypt and Afghanistan have not been able to meet the needs of their growing populations. Most of the region's countries have literacy rates above 75 percent. Some have rates above 90 percent. Today, women make up half of university admissions.

Health care has improved in the region in recent years. Most medical care is provided in government-owned hospitals. Doctor shortages in some countries have restricted health care treatment to large cities.

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In countries with large Muslim populations, people are called to prayer five times a day. Many Muslims observe Id al Adha, the Feast of Sacrifice, by making a pilgrimage to Makkah. They also observe Ramadan, a holy month of fasting. The most solemn holy day of the Jews is Yom Kippur. Passover and Hannukah are other holy days for the Jews. Christians observe the holy days of Easter and Christmas.

People in the region spend their leisure time watching television and movies or visiting with family members. Soccer matches are popular sports events. Interpretations of Islamic law have prevented many Muslim women from public activities, such as in sports or the workplace. In some areas today, however, women have begun protesting such restrictions. Today, women in some Muslim countries in the region are active in many sports.

5. Why has health care in much of the region been limited?
