Southwest Asia’s Geography

Physical Features of the Middle East
Standards

SS7G5 The student will locate selected features in Southwestern Asia (Middle East).


b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the nations of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.
Teachers

Print off the following page for each student. They should complete the chart while discussing the presentation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strait of Hormuz</th>
<th>Persian Gulf</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sukhoz Canal</td>
<td>Jordan River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigris River</td>
<td>Euphrates River</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Instructions**: Fill in each square with details about each physical feature, where it is located, and an illustration. Color your illustrations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaza Strip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabian Sea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Sea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southwest Asia’s Geography

Physical Features of the Middle East
Both rivers begin in Turkey and flow south through Iraq.

In southern Iraq, the Euphrates River joins with the Tigris River to form one waterway called the Shaat al-Arab.

It then flows along the border between Kuwait and Iran and empties into the Persian Gulf.

The rivers provide water for both drinking and farming.

The countries that share these rivers have had problems over how the water should be shared.
Jordan River

• The Jordan River begins at the southern end of the Sea of Galilee & flows south until it reaches the Dead Sea.

• This river is a main source of water for Israel, Jordan, parts of Syria, & many of those living in the West Bank & the Gaza Strip.

• The Jordan River is also important because it is the political boundary between Israel, the West Bank, & Jordan.
Suez Canal

- This is a 120-mile man-made waterway that is used to transport goods to and from all three continents.
  - The French started building it, but it was completed by the British in 1869.
- It connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.
- At the northern end of the Red Sea, ships can enter the canal and get to the Mediterranean Sea without having to sail all around the continent of Africa.
Persian Gulf

• This is located between the country of Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.

• It is one of the main ways oil is shipped from the rich fields of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other countries that line its shores.

• All of the countries that produce oil in that region depend on the Persian Gulf as a shipping route.
Strait of Hormuz

- It is located at one end of the Persian Gulf.
- It connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.
- It is very important because any ships coming out of or into the Persian Gulf must navigate through this very narrow waterway.
Arabian Sea

- This is located north of the Indian Ocean.
- It forms part of a key shipping route between Europe and India through the Suez Canal.
Red Sea

- This is an inlet of the Indian Ocean that lies between Africa and Asia.
- Because of its location between Europe, Persian Gulf, and East Asia, heavy shipping traffic takes place here.
- During the Roman Empire, it was an important route for trade between Rome and China.
- During the Middle Ages, it was a key part of the Spice Trade.
Gaza Strip

• It is located along the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

• The Gaza Strip is a rectangular territory that is about 25 miles long and 4 to 5 miles wide.
  • It’s one of the world’s most densely populated areas.

• The Gaza Strip is often politically unstable and there have been many outbreaks of violence over the last 60 years.
Southwest Asia

Political and Physical Features of Southwest Asia

5. Color All Symbols!

Represent the man-made canal around the Suez Canal to create a red rectangle.

Example: Draw a red rectangle next to the correct label on the map.

4. Draw the symbol for each feature.

3. Label the Following Physical Features:

- Gaza Strip
- Red Sea
- Arabian Sea
- Strait of Hormuz
- Persian Gulf
- Suez Canal
- Tigris River
- Jordan River
- Euphrates River

(Legend) that includes a symbol for:

3. Label the map features as you label:

2. On your map, create a map key.

2. Draw a red rectangle next to the correct label on the map.

1. Label the following countries:

- Turkey
- Saudi Arabia
- Israel
- Iraq
- Iran
- Afghanistan

(check them off as you label):
YOUR TASK: Choose one of Southwest Asia’s physical features. Imagine that you are

Be the Thing...
5. How does geography impact the relationships among countries in Southwest Asia?

4. Are there any physical features that countries might fight over? Why do you think they would do this?

3. Which physical features are helpful for farming? Why are they important?

2. Which physical features make transportation & travel easier? How?

1. Which physical features make trade easier? How?

Features impact various aspects of life in Southwest Asia. Discussing characteristics of the features in the presentation, think about how these thoughts...
Teachers

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