Southwest Asia
Where People Live, Work, & Travel
Standards

SS7G7 The student will explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, Distribution of natural resources and population distribution on Southwest Asia (Middle East).

b. Describe how the deserts and rivers of Southwest Asia (Middle East) have affected the population in terms of where people live, the type of work they do, and how they travel.
Print the Deserts & Rivers graphic organizer for each student.

Students will complete the graphic organizer while discussing the presentation.

Check answers as a class at the end of the presentation to be sure that all charts are completed correctly.
**SW Asia’s Deserts & Rivers**

**Directions:** Complete the chart below while discussing the presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Where People Live</th>
<th>Where People Work</th>
<th>How People Travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deserts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deserts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of SW Asia is covered in desert</td>
<td>Many people have moved out of the deserts &amp; into cities in the past 50 years; Some Bedouins (nomads) still live there; food and water are scarce</td>
<td>Bedouins are animal herders—trade animals and hand-made goods; most people left desert life behind and moved to cities for work</td>
<td>Camel caravans; ATVs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tigris River, Euphrates River, Jordan River</td>
<td>Most people live in cities that are built around water sources (rivers); rivers provide water for drinking and bathing, irrigation for crops, and food (fish)</td>
<td>Many people work in factories or shipping industry in cities along rivers; farmers grow crops in river valleys</td>
<td>Boats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions: Complete the chart below while discussing the presentation.
Teacher Directions - Foldable

• The next 2 pages are for Interactive Foldables. (*This is also an alternative way for your students to take notes if you do not want to use the chart.)

• Print out the foldable pages for each student.
• The students will cut the template out along the thick outside lines.
• Next, they will cut along the thin lines that divide each word, stopping at the gray rectangle.
• They should attach the side of the template (gray rectangle) to their notebooks.
• They will now be able to open up each flap and write the definitions underneath.

• *If time allows, have students color the flaps.

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Deserts: Where People...
Rivers: Where People...

Travel  Work  Live
Deserts
There are 2.8 million miles of land in the Middle East, and a large number of it is covered by large desert areas.

The Rub al-Khali (or “empty quarter”) is in southern Saudi Arabia.

The Great Syrian Desert is located between Syria and Iraq.
• The desert areas are not a favorable place to live due to the extremely hot and arid climate.

• Food and water is difficult to find; however, oases provide a temporary water source.

• Bedouins (desert nomads) have called the desert home for thousands of years.

• They live in tent camps and in huts.
Since the discovery of oil, most people have moved away from the desert areas.

Over the last 50 years, residents have been exchanging the harsh nomadic life for work in the cities.

In Saudi Arabia, only about 1% of the population remains as nomadic herders.
Many Bedouins are sheep, camel, and goat herders.

They trade animals and hand-made goods with people who live in towns along the desert’s edge.

Most people have left the desert behind and have moved to cities to find work.
People travel across the desert in camel caravans.

Some even use All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) to maneuver across the sand.
SW Asia’s Rivers

- The Tigris River runs through Turkey and Iraq and joins with the Euphrates to become the Shatt al Arab, which empties into the Persian Gulf.

- The Euphrates River runs through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.

- The Jordan River forms part of the border for Syria, Jordan, and Israel.
Cities are built near rivers to take advantage of the scarce water sources in Southwest Asia.

Access to water for bathing and drinking make the area much easier to live in.

Farmers grow crops by rivers and in river valleys because they provide a source of irrigation.

Rivers also provide a good source of food (fish).
Baghdad, Iraq & the Tigris River
Cities and towns on rivers have become major hubs of industry. Most people in these cities make a living working in industrial factories.

Rivers are also important trade routes for people in cities to use to ship goods to other merchants.

Farming and fishing are also important areas of income for people who live near rivers.
Al Aqaba, Jordan & the Jordan River
Rivers have always provided important routes for transportation.

People use boats for travel and trade along rivers.
• Have the students compare and contrast how people use deserts and rivers to live, work, & travel on the Venn diagram.
Teacher Directions - Design A Plate

• Have the students design a plate that could be used in a Middle Eastern restaurant.

• The design should include symbols or facts that relate to how people live, work, and travel along the rivers and deserts in Southwest Asia.

• In the textbox, they will write a description that explains the symbols used in the plate’s design.
Design a plate that could be used in a Middle Eastern restaurant. The plate’s design should include key symbols that relate to how people live, work, and travel along the rivers and deserts in Southwest Asia. In the textbox, you will explain your plate’s design and the significance of the symbols.

Plate’s Description:
Teacher Info - Fieldtrip Wish List
Ticket Out the Door

Have students write a quick note to persuade you to take them on a “fieldtrip” to Southwest Asia to visit the deserts and rivers. They should include reasons that are based on where people live, work, and travel.

If time, they can draw an illustration to accompany the note.
Wouldn’t it be awesome to take a fieldtrip to visit the deserts and rivers of Southwest Asia? Write me a note to try and convince me to take your class there. Include at least THREE reasons based on where people live, work, and travel. Also, draw an illustration to go with your note.
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Best of luck to you this school year,

Ansley at Brain Wrinkles
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**Ansley at Brain Wrinkles**