

YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY – MIDDLE EAST

1 KEY VOCABULARY

Development	A way of measuring the economic, social and environmental progress of a country
Middle East	A region based on countries around the Saudi Peninsular.
Climate	The average weather conditions over a 25 year period
Biomes	An ecosystem with a particular set of climatic conditions
Desert Biomes	A dry region with rainfall at less than 50 cm per year
Grassland Biomes	Characterised by grasses that can survive in the once yearly seasonal rainfall
Shrubland Biomes	Characterised by shrubs with a lack of trees due to the low annual rainfall and steep slopes.
Conflict	A disagreement over land or governance causing a war.
Saddam Hussein	Dictatorial leader of Iraq who caused the death of thousands of his own ethnic people.
Refugee	A person fleeing from war to another country

2 LOCATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

- Located in SW Asia and NE Africa
- Comprises 16 countries.
- Countries are changing due to political unrest.
- Original an Islamic region called the Ottoman Empire.
- Mostly Desert.
- Has large oil reserves.
- Depends a lot on Irrigation for food.
- Contains three major religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. This is a Major source of conflict.

MIDDLE EAST Asia Map

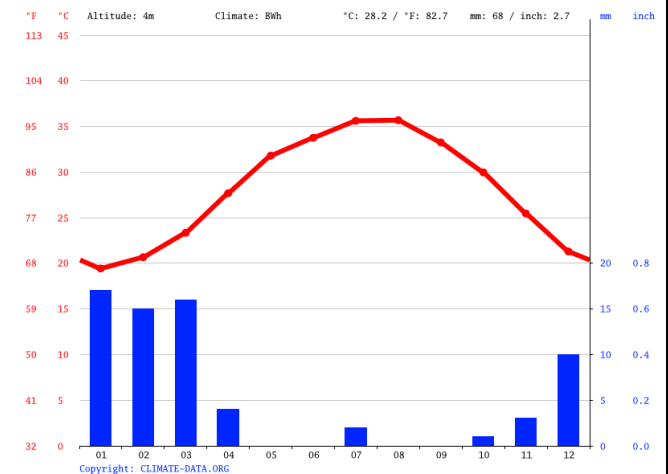


All States can be colored and edited separately

3 CLIMATE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

A) Middle East's physical geography

- The Middle East is a transcontinental region, located where Asia, Africa and Europe meet.
- This region is rich in oil
- There are two seasons. Winter and summer. Even winters are hot.
- The climate can be described as arid. There is little rainfall in the region.
- The northern countries receive the most rainfall including Turkey and Syria.



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BIOMES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

- The Middle East has three BIOMES (*a vegetation type grown in response to a climate*)

Desert Biome



Grassland Biome



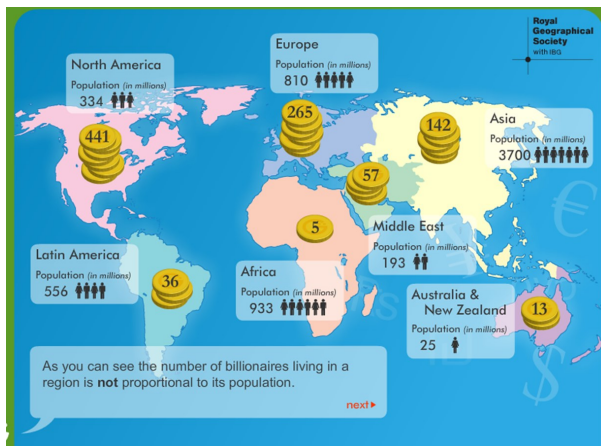
Shrubland Biome



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WEALTH IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- The Middle East has the greatest number of Billionaires per head of population.
- Causes of wealth include:
 - Oil: The largest reserves are found in the Middle East and as NIC's develop, they are increasingly power hungry.
 - Business and Finance: The Jebel Ali free trade zone offers tax free trading. The laws are very business friendly.
 - Hi-Tech Industry: Microsoft and CNN now have business centres there.
 - Tourism: People are attracted To the Burj Khalifa and the man made Palm islands.



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CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

- D) Causes of war/conflict
- Economic gain (to take control of another country's wealth)
 - Territorial gain (to take control of land)
 - Nationalism (to prove your country is superior/better than another country)
 - Civil war (fighting between different groups of people within the same country)
 - Revolutionary war (when large numbers of people in a country tries to topple the government or leader of a country)

- E) Causes of the civil war in Syria
- 1- Many people in Syria had been unhappy with President Assad for a long time. There was high unemployment and corruption.
 - 2- In 2011 15 school children were arrested for writing anti-government graffiti on a wall. People were unhappy with this and so started to protest.
 - 3- The government responded angrily opening fire and killing 4 protesters.
 - 4- People demanded that the president resign. Fighting broke out between the president's supporters and those against the president (called rebels)
 - 5- Russia and Iran became involved. Carrying out air strikes against cities held by rebel groups
 - 6- The USA has shipped weapons to support the rebels
 - 7- The UK and France carried out air strikes against government forces after they reportedly used chemical weapons against civilians (people not involved in the fighting)