

UNIT 4: WESTERN ASIA (THE MIDDLE EAST)



In this unit students study the geography of the Middle East including its geographic features, resources, location, and the impact on the political, religious, economic, and cultural diversity of the area. Included in this study are the environmental and economic impacts of oil on the region as well the strategies used to compensate for the scarcity of water in the area. In addition, the religious diversity of the region and its impact on regional stability is highlighted.

Length of Unit: 4 weeks

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO

Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks

- On a map of the world locate the Middle East. On a map of the Middle East locate the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Persian Gulf.
- Use a map key to locate the countries and capital cities of Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iran, Iraq, and Syria.
- Explain how the following five factors have influenced settlement and the economies of major Middle Eastern countries.
 - A. absolute and relative locations
 - B. climate
 - C. major physical characteristics
 - D. major natural resources
 - E. population size
- Explain the scarcity of water in the area and attempts to alleviate the growing shortage.
- Explain the impact oil has had in the area and the economic diversity and disparity resulting from the geographic distribution of oil profits.
- Explain the religious diversity in the region and its impact on regional stability.