

Key

Middle East Study Guide

1. Due to the weather & land features of the Middle East most people settled near what?

Water (rivers, seas) → looking for fertile land

2. Describe the land in the Middle East:

Land = mostly dry, deserts w/ mountain ranges; extreme temps. (hot during the day, cold at night)

3. Why is the Middle East known as the "crossroads of the world?"

B/c it connects 3 continents (Europe, Asia, Africa)

4. Why is it difficult to describe a typical Arab in the Middle East?

B/c people tend to think Muslims are Arabic, when in fact Arabic is a race ~~which~~ who share a common language (Arabic)

5. Which three religions began in the Middle East?

Christianity, Islam, Judaism

6. List four facts about the Islamic religion:

- Qur'an = holy book - Holy City = Mecca - Name of God = Allah
- Pray 5 times a day - Muhammad = Prophet - Followers = Muslims

7. Why are other nations interested in the Middle East?

Oil

8. What is OPEC?

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

- Founded in 1960

9. What happened during the Persian Gulf War?

Iraq invaded Kuwait to take over their oil fields. A coalition of armies, led by the US, forced Iraq out of Kuwait, but Saddam Hussein

10. How has oil affected the countries of the Middle East? remained in power in Iraq

It has led to fighting amongst countries; there is ~~an~~ ~~also~~ a major economic difference within the region; Oil = rich / no oil = poor

11. What do Muslims believe?

- Believe in the Qur'an (Koran) - Ramadan
- Praying 5 times a day - 5 pillars of faith

12. List three facts about Judaism:

- Holy book = Torah
- Founder = Abraham
- Name of God = Yahweh
- Oldest of the 3 major religions
- Monotheistic
- "Chosen" people

13. Describe what happened during the Iran-Iraq war:

- Iraq invaded Iran in hopes of taking over the country in 1980. The war lasted 8 years & U.S. & Soviet allies were sent in to protect oil tankers.

14. What is the PLO?

Palestinian Liberation Organization; founded to set up Palestinian state & destroy Israel

15. Why do Arabs and Israelis often fight?

- Often fight b/c of the UN partition in 1947 that awarded Israel land in what was Palestine.
- Ideological differences in ~~the~~ religion

Middle East

1. Israel .
2. Iran .
3. Iraq .
4. Bahrain .
5. Yemen .
6. Kuwait .
7. Saudi Arabia .
8. Oman .
9. Qatar .
10. United Arab Emirates .
- ~~11. Island of Cyprus~~
12. Jordan .
13. Lebanon .
14. Turkey .
15. Syria .

11. Persian Gulf

