**Pollution**

* Many countries in Southwest Asia are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the increasing problem of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pollution.
* Farmers have begun using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that run off from the fields and contaminate water supplies.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ also lead to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ build-up in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which eventually makes farming in those areas impossible.
  + Rapid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in cities and towns has caused garbage and sewage to build up in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4 Ways People Contribute to Water Stress  
\*taken from unwater.org**

1. Excessive withdrawal from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ waters
2. Excessive withdrawal from underground \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (compounded by pesticides and fertilizers leeching into aquifers from farming land)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of freshwater sources
4. Inefficient use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (excessive consumption by individuals, poor irrigation systems, leakage in water delivery systems)

**Enough Water?**

* Water availability is a major concern in Southwest Asia.
  + Less than \_\_\_\_\_ of the world’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is available to the area’s inhabitants (\_\_\_% of the world’s population).
* There is simply not enough water available to meet the population’s needs.
  + Middle Eastern \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are constantly in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over these water problems.

**Turkey**

* Turkey has a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” over other Middle Eastern countries because the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rivers form in the country’s highlands.
* Turkey has developed the Southeastern Anatolia Project, which consists of 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric plants along the Euphrates River.
  + This project has greatly improved the standard of living for Turkey’s citizens.
* Unfortunately, the country has had to deal with the increasing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + In addition to chemical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and industrial \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the rivers have also been affected by oil spills in the Black Sea.

**Syria**

* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that Turkey built along the Euphrates have greatly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the amount of water reaching \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_% less).
* Syria already suffers from food shortages, and irrigating new land is extremely difficult with the diminished water supply from the Euphrates.
* In order to keep some water in the country, Syria has also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ along the river.
  + This has reduced the river’s flow into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, thus causing more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Iraq**

* The dams that Turkey & Syria built along the Euphrates have also greatly reduced the amount of water reaching \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_\_% less).
  + This has negatively impacted the country’s food supply.
  + Wheat & rice production has decreased dramatically, and many farmers are now without jobs.
* Iraq also faces \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ problems as a result of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ drilling equipment.
  + Also, three decades of warfare have caused damage to Iraq’s water treatment plants.

**Israel**

* Since its creation in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Israel has developed new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ farming techniques that have turned the once-barren desert land into farmland.
* Because rainfall is down, Israel has to rely on drawing water from its aquifers (underground layer of rock and sand that contains water).
  + Unfortunately, the aquifers are in jeopardy because more water is taken out than is replenished by rain.
  + Israel has been involved in many conflicts over water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Jordan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Syria, Jordan, and Palestine.

**Jordan**

* Jordan is one of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ most water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ countries in the world.
  + The country’s major surface water sources are shared with Israel and Syria, who leave only a small amount for Jordan.
* Israel has built pipelines that redirect the river’s water away from Jordan and into its own lands.
  + Jordan & Israel have been involved in military \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over water rights.
* Jordan cannot meet the basic needs of its people and has to ration the water supply.
  + Citizens can only get water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days a week.

**Saudi Arabia**

* Saudi Arabia has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ climate and has struggled to meet the water needs of its growing population.
* Water is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the country, and what little water that is available is of poor quality because of salt water intrusion.
* The country has built a number of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plants that provide most of the country’s drinking water.
  + Desalination is the process of taking salt out of seawater and using it for drinking water.

Having drained down their own water supplies, food companies from Saudi Arabia and elsewhere began searching overseas.

King Abdullah decreed that grains such as wheat and hay would need to be imported to conserve what was left of the country’s groundwater. All wheat production in Saudi Arabia will cease this year, and other water-intensive crops such as hay are being phased out, too, [the king ruled](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5X0axoaaWMBTWhTYzhadUdOSm8/view?usp=sharing).

A [classified U.S. cable from Saudi Arabia](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/08RIYADH1174_a.html) in 2008 shows that King Abdullah directed Saudi food companies to search overseas for farmland with access to freshwater and promised to subsidize their operations. The head of the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh concluded that the king’s goal was “maintaining political stability in the Kingdom.”

Almarai, which is Saudi Arabia’s largest dairy company and has publicly said it’s following the king’s directive, began pumping up billions of gallons of water in the Arizona desert in 2014 to grow hay that it exports back to the Middle East. Analysts refer to this as exporting “virtual water.” It is more cost effective to use the Arizona water to irrigate land in America and ship the hay to Saudi Arabia rather than filling a fleet of oil tankers with the water.

Arizonans living near Almarai’s hay operation say their groundwater is dropping fast as the Saudis and other foreign companies increase production.

<http://www.newsweek.com/middle-east-water-crisis-spreads-united-states-447401>

**Water & Civil Wars**

Water shortages and scarcity contributed to the civil wars in Yemen and Syria.

U.S. intelligence sources are quick to caution that while water shortages played a significant factor in the dissolution of Syria and Yemen, the civil wars ultimately occurred as a result of weak governance, high unemployment, religious differences and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to water shortages.

But for less stable governments, severe water shortages are increasingly expected to cause political instability, according to the U.S. intelligence community.

In [a 2014 speech](http://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/speeches-and-interviews/202-speeches-interviews-2014/1115-remarks-as-delivered-by-the-honorable-james-r-clapper-director-of-national-intelligence-afcea-insa-national-security-and-intelligence-summit), U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said food and water scarcity are contributing to the “most diverse array of threats and challenges as I’ve seen in my 50-plus years in the intel business.

<http://www.newsweek.com/middle-east-water-crisis-spreads-united-states-447401>