

Middle East Culture & Geography Study Guide

	Arabs	Persians	Kurds
Religion (Main Branch)	Sunni Islam	Shia Islam	Sunni Islam
Language	Arabic	Farsi	Kurdish
Main Location	Southwest Asia & North Africa	Iran	Mountain region of Iran, Iraq, Syria & Turkey

Fill in the following chart on religions originating in the Middle East. Look over your triple Venn diagram, and make sure you know the similarities and differences between the religions.

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Most important figure	Abraham/Moses	Jesus	Muhammad
Holy book	Torah	Bible	Quran
Religious leader	Rabbi	Pastor/Priest/Minister	Imam
Sacred language	Hebrew	No sacred language	Arabic
Holy building	Synagogue	Church	Mosque
View of Jesus	Just a man	Son of God	Prophet
Word for God	Yahweh/Adonai	Lord/God	Allah

Define or describe the following terms:

Prophet= A person chosen by divine inspiration to speak for God and guide people to God.

Monotheism= Belief in one God.

Shia Islam= Believe that leadership should go to Muhammad's heir or direct descendent.

Sunni Islam= Believe that leadership should go to whoever would be best at keeping the Muslim community together.

Antisemitism= Hostility to or discrimination against Jews.

Zionism= Believers of a Jewish homeland in Zion (a place Jews lived in Biblical times)

Holocaust= The mass killing of over 6 million Jews in Nazi concentration camps during World War 2.

Env. Issue	Causes	Effects	Solutions
Water Pollution	Dumping trash, chemical spills, human waste, fertilizer run-off	Less drinking & farming water, kills animal life	Educate citizens, better laws on waste disposal, clean up water ways
Unequal Distribution of Water	Lack of rain fall, dams	Not enough water for everyone, water wars, rationing water	Remove dams, discuss ways to share available water
Country	What is their issue: water pollution or unequal distribution of water?	Causes of their issue	Effects of their issue
Saudi Arabia	Unequal distribution of water	Nature and human	Not enough drinking water for citizens, need to find ways to get water (desalination plants)
Jordan	both	Nature and human	Not enough drinking water for citizens, water wars
Iraq	both	Nature and human	Not enough drinking water for citizens, water wars
Turkey	both	Nature and human	Not enough drinking water for citizens, water wars

SW Asia is mostly covered by this type of physical feature. Do people live near this? Why or why not?

SW Asia is mostly covered by deserts. Most people do not live in or near deserts, because of the extreme heat, lack of access to water and jobs.

In SW Asia, the majority of people live near this physical feature. Why? (Hint: think about what makes working and trading easier?)

In SW Asia the majority of people live near fresh water sources and other water ways, for access to drinking water, trade, and jobs.