**Environmental Issues of Southwest Asia**

Pollution

* Many countries in Southwest Asia are experiencing the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ problem of water pollution.
* Farmers have begun using chemical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that run off from the fields and contaminate water supplies. (example: Turkey)
  + Chemicals also lead to salt build-up in the soil, which eventually makes farming in those areas impossible.
  + Rapid growth of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in cities and towns has caused garbage and sewage to build up in rivers and streams.

Enough Water

* Water \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a major concern in Southwest Asia.
  + Less than 1% of the world’s fresh water is available to the area’s inhabitants (5% of the world’s population).
* Increasing desertification (land turning to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) is decreasing the amount of land for agriculture (farming).
  + Agriculture uses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the region’s water. Overuse of water for agriculture is draining the water supply.
* There is simply not enough water available to meet the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ needs.
* Middle Eastern countries are constantly in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over these water problems.
  + Examples: Jordan and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Countries with water scarcity and lack of freshwater: Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan

Water & Civil Wars

* 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ governance, high unemployment, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ differences and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, in addition to water shortages.
* But for less stable governments, severe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shortages are increasingly expected to cause political instability, according to the U.S. intelligence community.

**Where People Live & Trade in Southwest Asia**

**Deserts**

Description:

* There are 2.8 million miles of land in the Middle East, and more than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of it is covered by large desert areas.
* The most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ landform in the region
* The Rub al-Khali (or “empty quarter”) is in southern Saudi Arabia.
* The Great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Desert is located between Syria and Iraq.

Living in Deserts:

* The desert areas are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a favorable place to live due to the extremely hot and arid climate.
* Food and water is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to find; however, oases provide a temporary water source.
* Bedouins (desert \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) have called the desert home for thousands of years.
* They live in tent camps and in huts. (In Saudi Arabia, only about 1% of the population remains as nomadic herders.)
* Since the discovery of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, most people have moved away from the desert areas.
* Over the last 50 years, residents have been exchanging the harsh nomadic life for work in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Most people have left the desert behind and have moved to cities to find work.

**Rivers**

Living around Rivers:

* Cities are built near \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take advantage of the scarce water sources in Southwest Asia.
* Access to water for bathing and drinking make the area much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to live in.
* Farmers grow crops by rivers and in river valleys because they provide a source of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Rivers also provide a good source of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (fish).
* In countries that have a deep-sea harbor, the population \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ around port cities.
  + Here, there are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ opportunities in transportation, shipbuilding, and repair.
* Cities and towns on rivers have become major hubs of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Most people in these cities make a living working in industrial factories.
* Rivers are also important trade routes for people in cities to use to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ goods to other merchants.
* Farming and fishing are also important areas of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for people who live near rivers.
* Rivers have always provided important routes for transportation (for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & travel).
* Waterways are also important to national \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because they have helped make the region a center for shipping and trade for hundreds of years.
  + The region is a trade hub between Asia, Africa, and Europe.