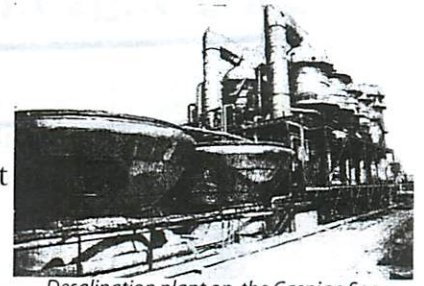


7th

Iran: Iran is depleting the water in its aquifers for irrigation and drinking water. The important pistachio crop is being hurt by water shortages in the south.

Afghanistan: Open sewers, failed septic systems, fertilizers, and pesticides are contaminating Afghanistan's shrinking water supply.

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia faces severe problems in its desert climate, including water scarcity and poor quality of ground water from saltwater intrusion. One solution is *desalination*, which is the process of taking salt out of seawater and using it for drinking water. About 30 desalination plants in Saudi Arabia provide most of the country's drinking water.



Desalination plant on the Caspian Sea



Quick Quiz

Match the country with the correct water issue.



- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. Afghanistan | A. Less water to irrigate pistachio trees |
| _____ 2. Iraq | B. Battles over water rights to the Jordan River |
| _____ 3. Turkey | C. Harsh climate has led to desalination of seawater |
| _____ 4. Israel | D. Oil spills from ships pollute the Black Sea |
| _____ 5. Saudi Arabia | E. War has damaged water treatment facilities |
| _____ 6. Iran | F. Open sewers, failed septic systems |

Chapter 15

SS7G7 *The student will explain the impact of location, climate, physical characteristics, distribution of natural resources and population distribution on Southwest Asia (Middle East).*

- a. *Explain how the distribution of oil has affected the development of Southwest Asia (Middle East).*
- b. *Describe how the deserts and rivers of Southwest Asia (Middle East) have affected the population in terms of where people live, the type of work they do, and how they travel.*

Life in the Middle East

What is it like to live in the Middle East? The climate varies, but is mostly arid with hot, dry summers and cool winters. If you live along the Caspian Sea coast of northern Iran, you might have 80 inches of rain a year. However, in the deserts of Iran, rain might not fall for several years. Throughout Saudi

Arabia, the most rainfall you could expect in a year would be nine inches. In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the average yearly temperature is 79°F, and winters are also moderate. However, if you live in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, you need a winter coat in January, because the temperature averages 32°F.

Oil Brings Employment

In the Middle East, you will find dense populations around areas where oil is found. Some of the people are natives of that country while others have come from other countries because of good jobs in the oil industry.



The face of the Middle East began to change in the 1930s when huge oil reserves were discovered in Saudi Arabia, and to a lesser extent in Iraq and Iran. The world's attention turned to the Middle East as its need for oil grew. The industrialized nations saw the Middle East as a source of oil to fuel factories and cars. Before the discovery of the oil reserves, the Middle East was not viewed as vitally important to the world's economy.

That picture has changed!

There is an uneven distribution of oil in the Middle East. The sale of oil has earned phenomenal amounts of money for oil-rich countries. Oil-rich Iran and Iraq are the most populated countries of the Middle East, but their countries have suffered from war and the mismanagement of oil money. Money from oil transformed Saudi Arabia from a poor society to a very wealthy one. Turkey has benefited from the oil industry as a transportation hub for oil-rich countries moving their product to Europe. Afghanistan looks to profit as a transportation link of oil from Central Asia to the Arabian Sea. Geologists and oil companies have recently uncovered a small reserve of oil in Israel.



Traditional ways of life are disappearing as the oil industry grows and modernizes the Middle East. In Saudi Arabia, most of the population was nomadic or semi-nomadic until the 1960s. Because of the oil industry, more than 95 percent of the population now lives in cities or oases.



Hard-to-Believe-But-True!

About half of the world's oil reserves are in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil producer!



Question for Discussion

Why is the United States trying to develop other energy sources in addition to oil?

ANSWER!

Copy statements. Then, write T or F.



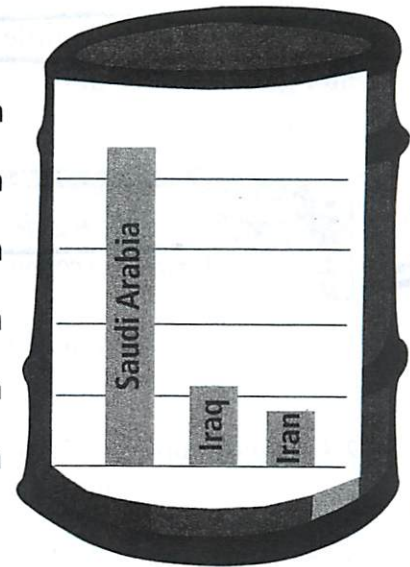
Quick Review

Mark the following statements T for True and F for False. Use the graph to the right as needed.

Selected Oil Reserves in the Middle East

- _____ 1. Saudi Arabia has the largest oil reserves in the Middle East.
- _____ 2. Turkey profits from oil by transporting it.
- _____ 3. Iran has 10 billion fewer barrels of oil reserves than Iraq.
- _____ 4. The discovery of oil has had little effect on the Middle East.
- _____ 5. Oil has changed where people live in the Middle East.

Barrels of oil
300 billion
250 billion
200 billion
150 billion
100 billion
50 billion



Where People Live and Work

In the Middle East, people have adapted to the climate and physical characteristics of the land to earn a living.

Life in the Desert

There are 2.8 million square miles of land in the Middle East, much of it desert. Over the last 50 years, residents have been leaving the nomadic life of the desert and settling in or around cities for work. In Saudi Arabia, only about one percent of the population remains as nomadic herders. There are huge stretches of desert in Saudi Arabia where few people live or work and the population is one person per square mile.



Follow the Water

Throughout the Middle East, you'll find cities built near rivers to take advantage of a water source in an arid land. Away from the cities, you'll find farmers growing crops by rivers and in river valleys, just as they have done since ancient times. Except in the mountainous regions, areas around a river or stream are well populated.

In modern Iraq and eastern Syria, fertile soil is found in the "Fertile Crescent" between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. This was the home of Mesopotamia (Greek for "between the rivers"), one of the earliest centers of civilization. With canals built to use the river waters for irrigation, this fertile area is home to many people.



network because the aging railway system is badly in need of repair and upgrading. Slightly larger than Texas, Turkey boasts 127 airports and 18 heliports for international and local travel.

- Iran has 55 cars for every 1,000 people. Paved roads connect all the cities and most of the towns. The cities have mass transit systems, and nearly 7,000 miles of railroad track encourage transportation by train.



Essential Skills

Write question and answer.

Israel has very crowded roads and the government is urging citizens to ride buses by raising parking fees and setting up bus-only roads in cities. Study the chart and answer the questions about Israeli transportation. (Use the rear of each car for measurement.)

Answer only.

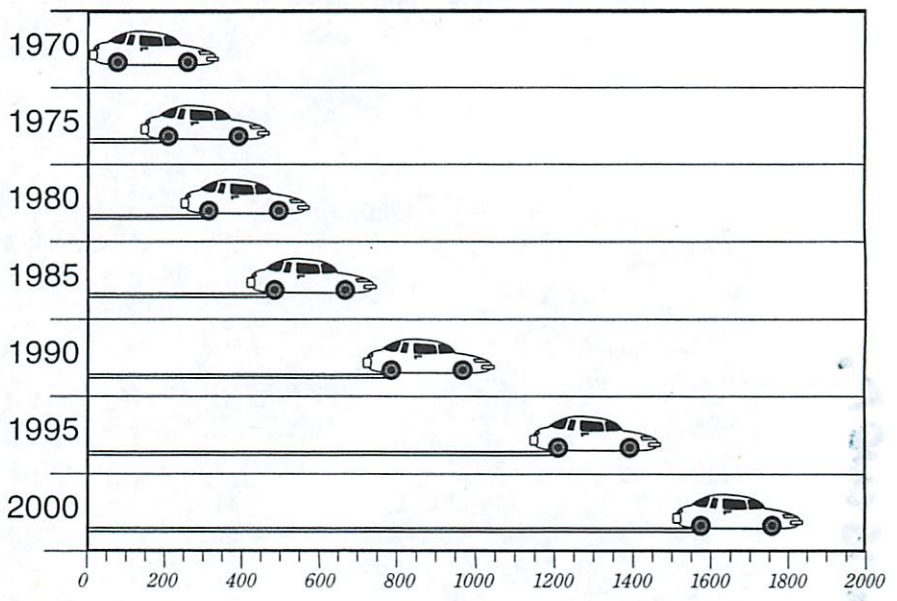
1. How many more cars were on Israel's roads in 2000 than in 1980?

2. In which decade did the number of cars grow the most?

3. In which decade did the number of cars grow the least?

4. How many cars were on the road in 1985?

Number of Vehicles on Israel's Roads (Thousands)



Quick Quiz

Write country and the correct fact.

1. Afghanistan
2. Iran
3. Iraq
4. Israel
5. Turkey

- A. Paved roads connect all the cities.
- B. Women ride in the front, separate from men.
- C. The government started an odd/even system for driving.
- D. Parking fees are being raised.
- E. Most goods travel on the roads.

*Answers
use process
of elimination*

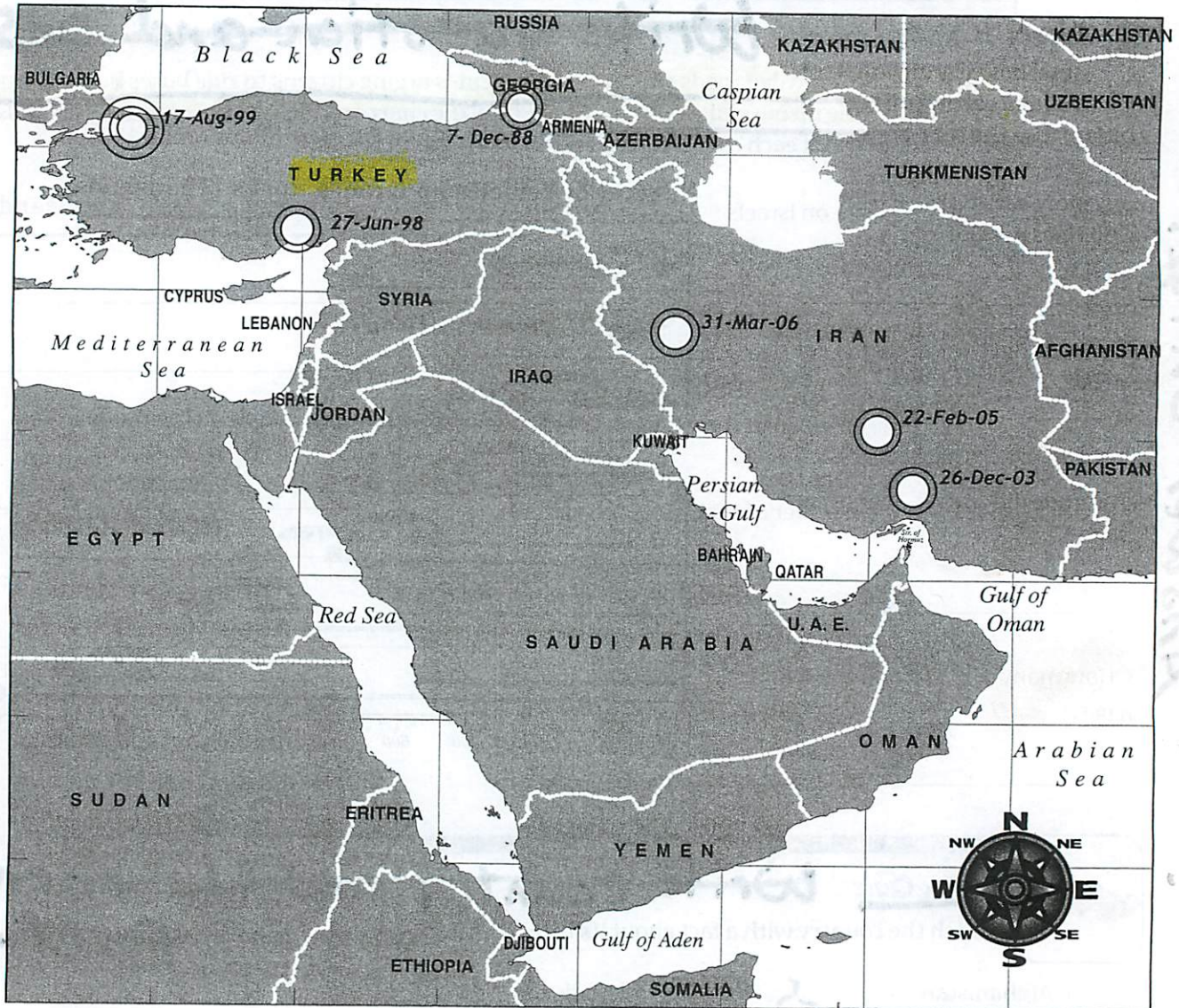




Enrichment

Read the information below and answer the questions.

Earthquakes have caused many problems in the Middle East. Much of Turkey is located over the earth's most active fault lines, and most of Turkey's cities are located over a fault line. The August 17, 1999 earthquake in Turkey killed 15,000 people, while the December 26, 2003 one in Iran killed nearly 30,000 people. The area around the Caspian Sea in northern Iran is also susceptible to earthquakes.



Write question and answer.

1. Why is it a problem for Turkey's cities to be located over a fault line? *Think!*

2. Why do you think the death toll for an earthquake would probably be higher in a developing country like Turkey than in an industrialized country like the United States? *Think!*
