



Southwest Asia:

People & the Env.

#10

The image features a vibrant, multi-colored zigzag pattern in shades of green, yellow, orange, and purple. In the center, there is a large teal oval with a white border. Inside this oval, the word "DESERTS" is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font with a yellow outline and a slight drop shadow.

DESERTS

Deserts

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



In some places, temperatures can reach 125 ° F during the day.

LIVE

- The desert areas are not a favorable place to live due to the extremely hot and arid climate.
- Food and water is difficult to find; however, oases provide a temporary water source.
- Bedouins (desert nomads) have called the desert home for thousands of years.
 - They live in tent camps and in huts.



LIVE

- Since the discovery of oil, 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 cities.
- In Saudi Arabia, only about 1% of the population remains as nomadic herders.



TRADE

- Many Bedouins are sheep, camel, and goat herders.
- They trade animals and hand-made goods with people who live in towns along the desert's edge.
- Most people have left the desert behind and have moved to cities to find work.



TRAVEL

- **People travel across the desert in camel caravans.**
- **Some even use All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) to maneuver across the sand.**



The image features a vibrant, multi-colored zigzag pattern in shades of green, yellow, orange, and purple. In the center, there is a large teal oval with a white border. Inside this oval, the word "RIVERS" is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font with a yellow outline and a slight drop shadow.

RIVERS

Rivers

- The Tigris River runs through Turkey and Iraq and joins with the Euphrates to become the Shatt al Arab, which empties into the Persian Gulf.
- The Euphrates River runs through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.
- The Jordan River forms part of the border for Syria, Jordan, and Israel.



LIVE

- **Cities are built near rivers to take advantage of the scarce water sources in Southwest Asia.**
- **Access to water for bathing and drinking make the area much easier to live in.**
- **Farmers grow crops by rivers and in river valleys because they provide a source of irrigation.**
- **Rivers also provide a good source of food (fish).**

Baghdad, Iraq & the Tigris River



LIVE

- In countries that have a deep-sea harbor, the population increases around port cities.
- Here, there are employment opportunities in transportation, shipbuilding, and repair.
- Turkey has major port cities along the Aegean, Black, and Mediterranean Seas.
- Saudi Arabia has port cities along the Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

Marmaris, Turkey



WORK

- **Cities and towns on rivers have become major hubs of industry.**
 - **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 ship goods to other merchants.**
- **Farming and fishing are also important areas of income for people who live near rivers.**



Al Aqaba, Jordan & the Jordan River



TRADE

- Rivers have always provided important routes for transportation.
- People use boats for travel and trade along rivers.
- Southwest Asia's waterways are also important to national economies 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.



Answer the questions on your own paper. WRITE THE QUESTION & THE ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES!

- 1. What is the most common landform in Southwest Asia?**
- 2. What is the climate like in much of Southwest Asia?**
- 3. Who are the Bedouins?**
- 4. How have people living in the deserts of Southwest Asia usually made their living?**
- 5. Why have many nomadic peoples left the deserts and moved to urban areas over the last 50 years?**
- 6. What are many of the largest cities in Southwest Asia located on or near?**
- 7. What are some reasons why the areas around rivers are so heavily populated:**

1. What is the most common landform in Southwest Asia?

Desert

2. What is the climate like in much of Southwest Asia?

Hot and arid

3. Who are the Bedouins?

Nomadic peoples in Southwest Asia who typically lived and moved around the deserts

4. How have people living in the deserts of Southwest Asia usually made their living?

Trading livestock and hand-made goods

5. Why have many nomadic peoples left the deserts and moved to urban areas over the last 50 years?

Looking for jobs, especially after the discovery of oil

6. What are many of the largest cities in Southwest Asia located on or near?

Rivers

7. What are some reasons why the areas around rivers are so heavily populated:

Access to water for bathing and drinking, source of irrigation for farming, source of food (fish), helpful for trade, lots of industry here = lots of jobs for workers

Where People Live, Work, & Trade

Directions: Complete the chart below after discussing the presentation.

	Description	Where People Live	Where People Work	How People Trade
Deserts				
Rivers				

Where People Live, Work, & Trade

Directions: Complete the chart below after discussing the presentation.

	Description	Where People Live	Where People Work	How People Trade
Deserts	Most of SW Asia is covered in desert	Many people have moved out of the deserts & into cities in the past 50 years; Some Bedouins (nomads) still live there; food and water are scarce	most people left desert life behind and moved to cities for work	Bedouins are animal herders—trade animals and hand-made goods
Rivers	Tigris River, Euphrates River, Jordan River	Most people live in cities that are built around water sources (rivers); rivers provide water for drinking and bathing, irrigation for crops, and food (fish)	Many people work in factories or shipping industry in cities along rivers; farmers grow crops in river valleys	Rivers have always provided important routes for transportation. People use boats for travel and trade along rivers.