

Ethnic Groups: Arabs, Persians, Kurds

Religious Groups

- This is a group of people who share a _____.
- A religious group is identified based on common religious beliefs and _____.
- They believe in the _____ (or gods) and have a common sacred _____ with a specific set of _____ about _____.
- Religious groups have many things in common:
 - God(s), prophets, _____, history, _____, religious laws, holy days.
- People from different ethnic groups may share the same religion; however, they may be from different cultures.

Three major religious groups in the Middle East are: _____ (Christians), _____ (Muslims), Judaism (Jews).

Ethnic Groups

- This is a group of people who share a _____.
- They are identified on the basis of language, _____, or history.
- People who belong to the same ethnic group can have _____ things in common:
 - Religion, set of traditional _____, shared history, _____, language, traditions, _____, holidays/celebrations, art, _____, food, etc.
- These _____ have been part of their community for _____.
- All of these things make up a _____ that is shared by the members of the ethnic group.
- Three _____ in the Middle East are the Arabs, Persians, and Kurds.

ARABS

Location

- The majority of people in the Middle East are _____.
- Arabs also live in the United States, Canada, parts of _____, and Europe.

Ancestry

- Originated in the _____.
- Arabs of Southwest Asia believe themselves to be descendants of Abraham through his _____.
- Arabs make up the _____ who live throughout the Middle East.

Religion

- Most Arabs practice _____, while small numbers of Arabs practice other religions.
- Not all Arabs are Muslims, and _____ are Arabs.
- Islam consists mostly of _____.

- The majority of Muslims practice _____, and most others practice Shi'a Islam.
- Sunnis and Shi'a disagree about _____ of the Muslim world.
- Sunni Islam dominates in most Arab areas, especially in _____.
- Shi'a Islam is dominant among the Arab population in _____, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, northern Syria, & northern Yemen.

Language

- Most _____, whether they are Muslim or Christian, speak _____.

PERSIANS

Location

- Most Persians _____ and make up _____ of Iran's current population.
- The country of _____ became known as Iran in _____.
- Some Persians can also be found living in _____, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and the Xinjiang province of _____.

Ancestry

- The Persians lived in Iran before the _____ in the 7th century.
- The Persians' ancestors were Indo-Europeans who migrated from central Europe and Southern Russia and formed a _____ .

Religion

- Most Persians in Iran practice _____ , but some are Sunni and other religions.
- Persian women have _____ as a result of strict cultural and religious practices.

Language

- Persians speak a language called _____ .
- It is one of the _____ that is still spoken today!

KURDS

Location

- The Kurds are an ethnic group that originated as a _____ people.
- Kurds now live in the _____ of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.
- Kurds form almost 20% of the population of _____ .
- Many Kurds live in an area of northern Iraq called _____ (not a separate country).
- The Kurds are the largest ethnic group in the world _____ of their own.
- There is a strong _____ among the Kurds for their own nation.
- This has caused _____ with the countries in which Kurdish people live, and Iraq and Turkey have both _____ and their traditions.

Ancestry

- Kurds of SW Asia believe themselves to be descendants of the _____ , an ancient Iranian people.
- In fact, Kurds share many aspects of their _____ .

Religion

- Like the _____, the Kurds are overwhelmingly _____, and the great _____; only 5% are _____.
- Kurdish Muslims tend to be _____ about certain Islamic practices.
- For example, there are _____ for how Kurdish women should _____ than there are for Iranian and Arab women.

Language

- _____ is an Indo-European language related to _____ and other Iranian languages.
- There are _____ of Kurdish spoken throughout Southwest Asia.