

Southwest Asia's

Ethnic

Groups

#11

Arabs, Persians, & Kurds

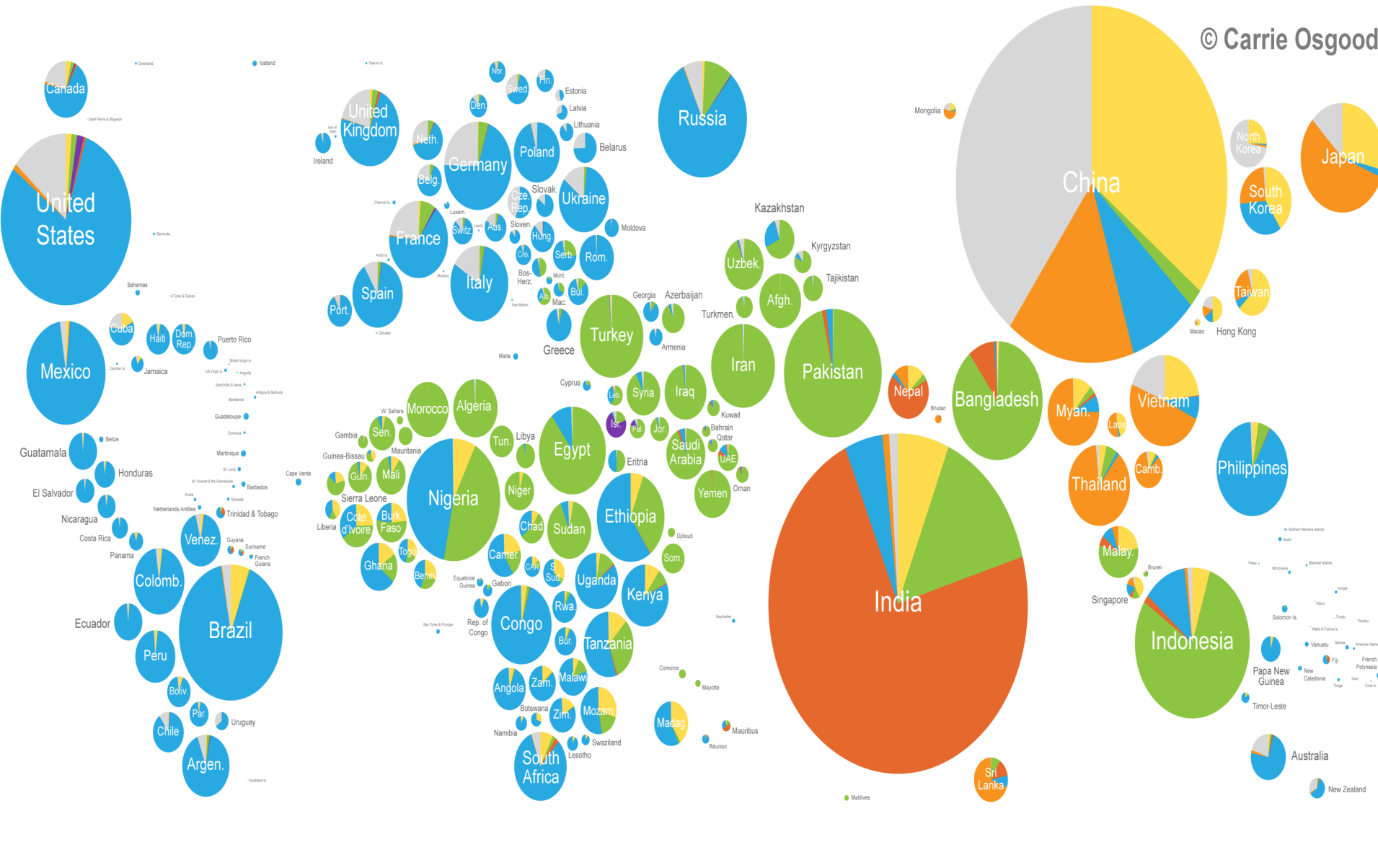
- Use the following presentation to go through the information & fill in the blanks at your own pace.
- There will be a 5-10 question quiz over the information at the end of class, so make sure you are **RETAINING** the information that you read!
- Let me know if something doesn't make sense or you have a question.

# Religious Group

- **This is a group of people who share a belief system.**
- **A religious group is identified based on common religious beliefs and practices.**
- **They believe in the same god (or gods) and have a common sacred text with a specific set of rules about how to live.**

# Religious Group

- **Religious groups have many things in common:**
  - **God(s), prophets, prayers, history, sacred text, religious laws, holy days, etc.**
- **People from different ethnic groups may share the same religion; however, they may be from different cultures.**
- **Three major religions in the Middle East are: Christianity (Christians), Islam (Muslims), Judaism (Jews).**



**Buddhist**

**Christian**

**Hindu**

**Jewish**

**Muslim**

11.8%

7.2%

32.8%

13.8%

0.2%

22.5%

11.8%

**Atheist/Agnostic**

**Other**

# MAJOR RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



# Ethnic Group

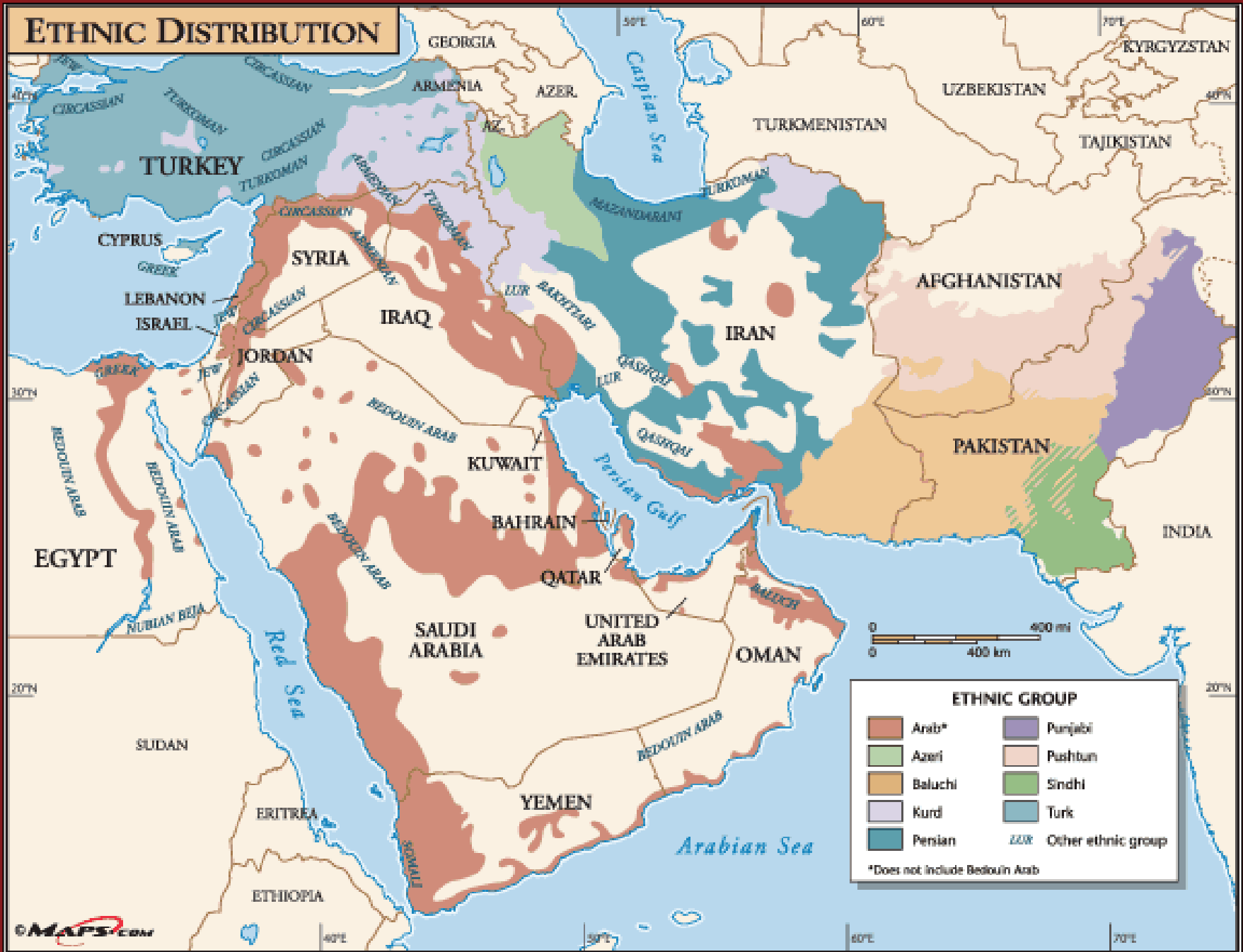
- **This is a group of people who share a common culture.**
- **They are identified on the basis of language, ancestry, or history.**
- **People who belong to the same ethnic group can have many things in common:**
  - **Religion, set of traditional stories, shared history, common ancestry, language, traditions, beliefs, holidays/celebrations, art, clothing styles, food, etc.**

# Ethnic Group

- **These characteristics have been part of their community for generations.**
- **All of these things make up a common culture that is shared by the members of the ethnic group.**
- **Three major ethnic groups in the Middle East are the Arabs, Persians, and Kurds.**



# ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION





ARABS

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndrdzjAPSYQ>

# Location

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





# Ancestry

- **Originated in the Arabian Peninsula**
- **Arabs of Southwest Asia believe themselves to be descendants of Abraham through his son Ishmael.**
- **Arabs make up the majority of the people who live throughout the Middle East.**





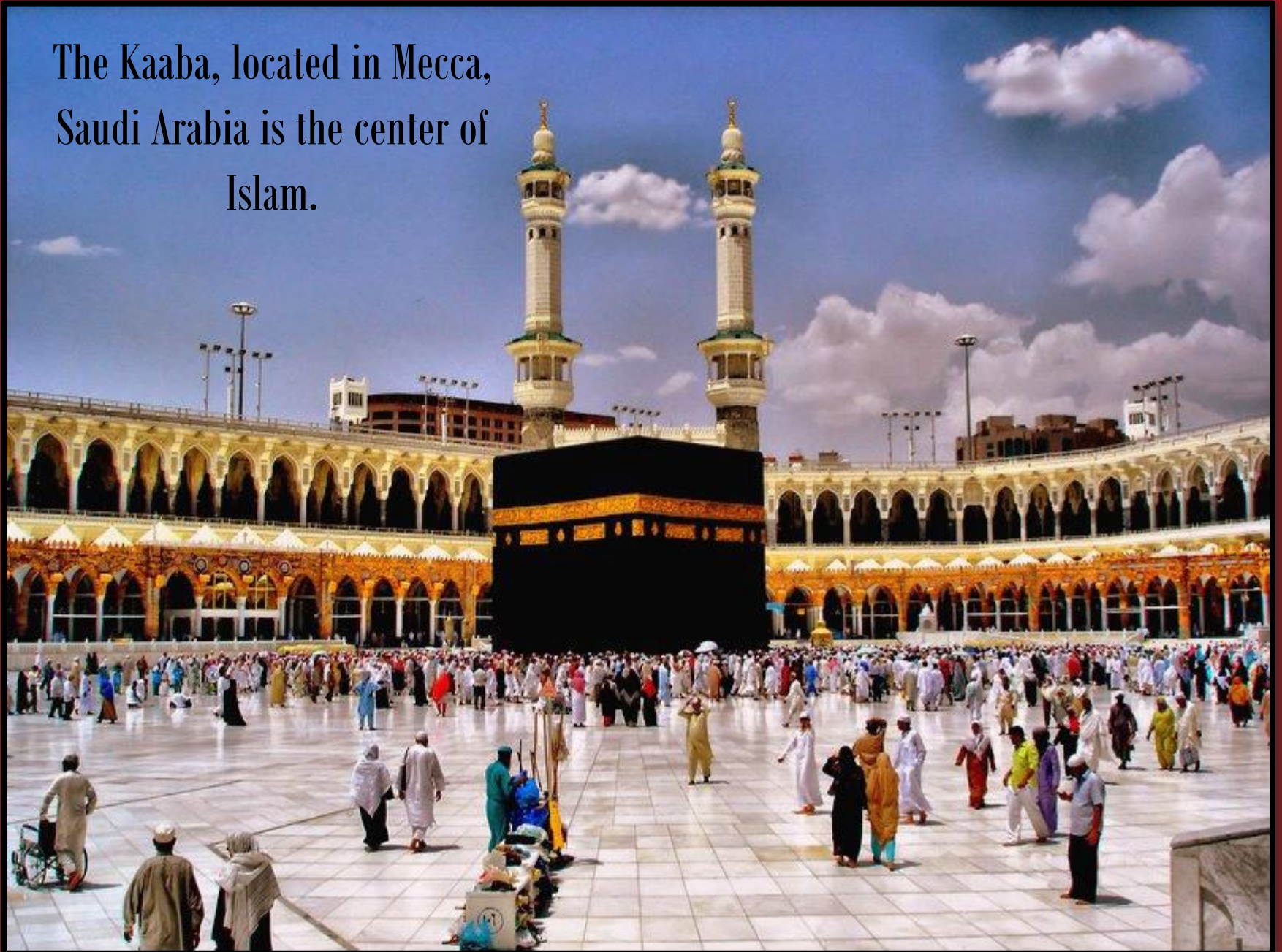
# Religion

- **Most Arabs practice Islam, while small numbers of Arabs practice other religions.**
  - **Not all Arabs are Muslims, and not all Muslims are Arabs.**
- **Islam consists mostly of two different groups.**
- **The majority of Muslims practice Sunni Islam, and most others practice Shi'a Islam.**
  - **Sunnis and Shi'a disagree about who is in charge of the Muslim world.**

# Religion

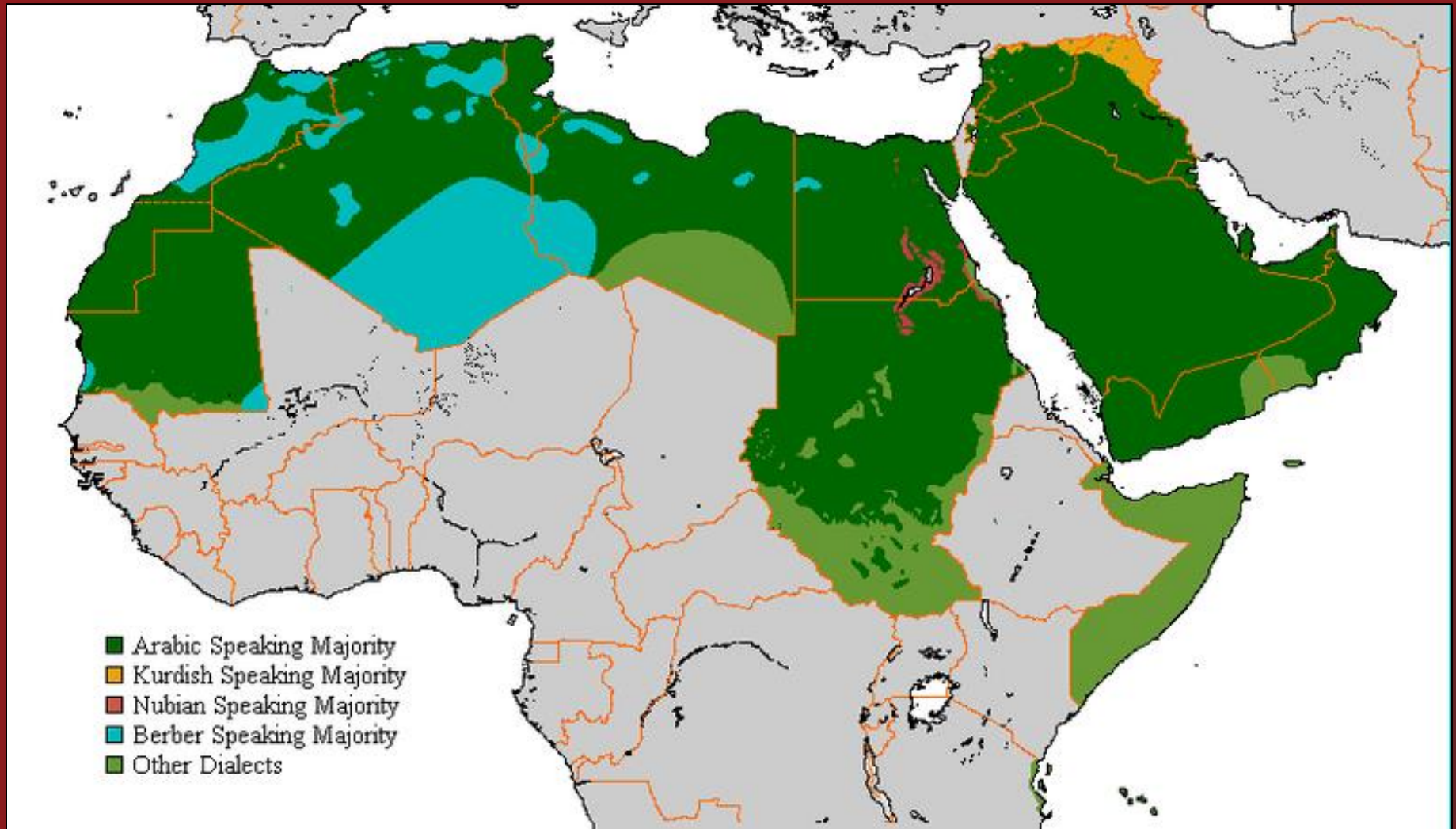
- **Sunni Islam dominates in most Arab areas, especially in North Africa.**
- **Shi'a Islam is dominant among the Arab population in southern Iraq, Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, northern Syria, & northern Yemen, but is still in the overall minority.**

The Kaaba, located in Mecca,  
Saudi Arabia is the center of  
Islam.



# Language

- **Most Arabs, whether they are Muslim or Christian, speak Arabic.**





PERSIANS

# Location

- **Most Persians live in Iran and make up 60% of Iran's current population.**
  - **The country of Persia became known as Iran in 1935.**
- **Some Persians can also be found living in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and the Xinjiang province of China.**

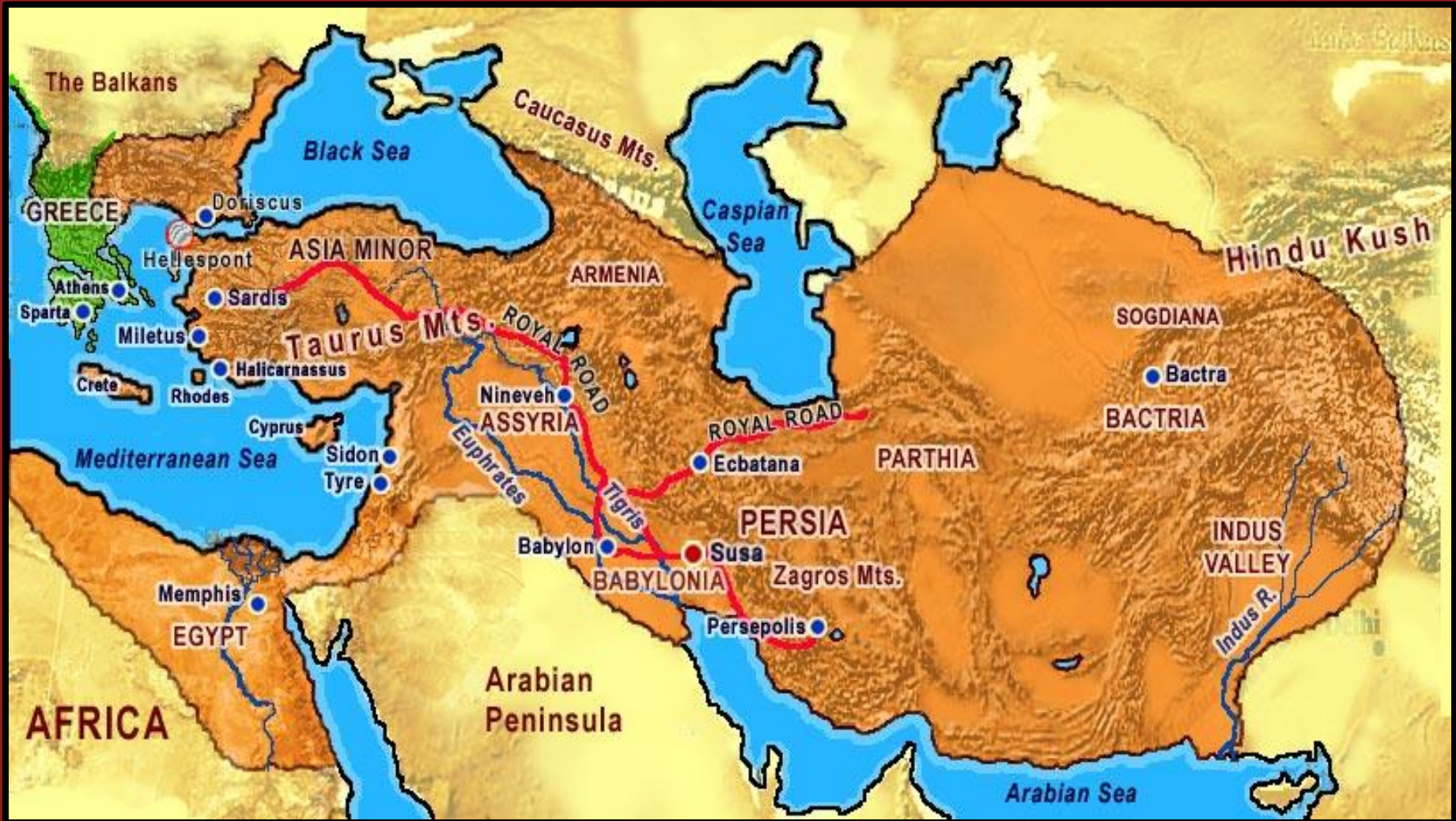




# Ancestry

- **The Persians lived in Iran before the arrival of Islam in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.**
- **The Persians' ancestors were Indo-Europeans who migrated from central Europe and Southern Russia and formed a great empire.**

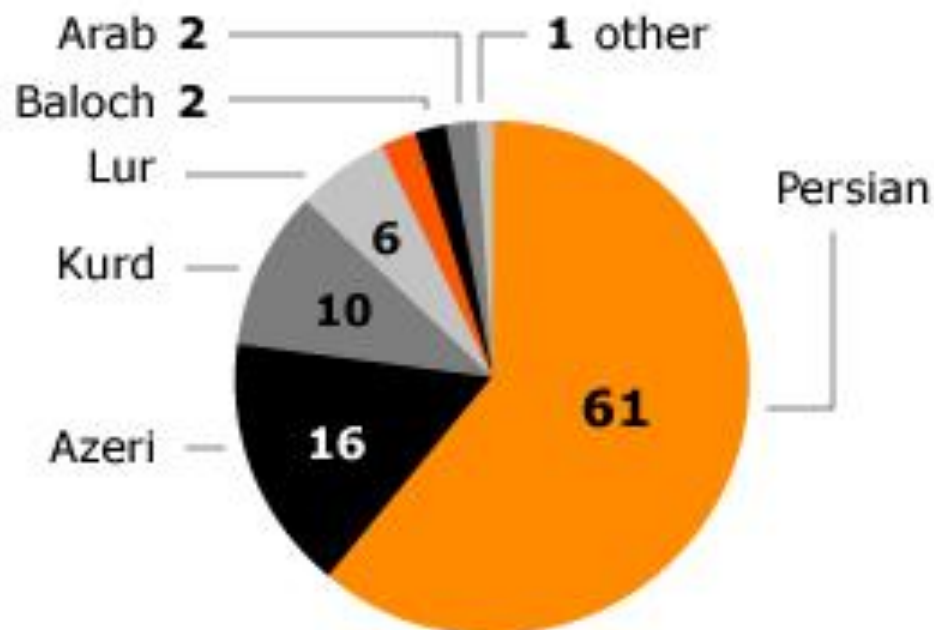
# Persian Empire



# Religion

- **Most Persians in Iran practice Shi'a Islam, but some are Sunni and other religions.**
- **Persian women have faced many challenges as a result of strict cultural and religious practices.**

### Ethnic groups of Iran, in 2008, in %



### Religious groups in %



\* Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, Bahai





# Language

- **Persians speak a language called Farsi.**
- **It is one of the oldest languages that is still spoken today!**

# Farsi Translations

welcome	<i>khōsh āmadīd</i>	خوش آمدید
thank you	<i>motashakkeram</i>	متشکرم
hello	<i>salām</i>	سلام
peace be upon you	<i>salām aleikom</i>	سلام علیکم
good morning	<i>sobh bekheir</i>	صبح بخیر
good night	<i>shab bekheir</i>	شب بخیر
goodbye	<i>khodāfez or khodā hāfez</i>	خدا حافظ
how do you do?	<i>hāl-é shomā chetōr ast?</i>	حال شما چطور است ؟
how are you?	<i>hāl-é shomā khūb é?</i>	حال شما خوب است ؟
how are you doing?	<i>chetōr é?</i>	چطور است
I'm fine	<i>alhamdolellāh</i>	الحمد لله
not bad, thanks	<i>mersī, bad nīstam</i>	مرسی، بد نیستم
what is your name?	<i>esmetān chī st?</i>	اسمتان چیست ؟
my name is...	<i>esmam...é</i>	اسمم ... است .
bon voyage!	<i>safar bekheir!</i>	سفر بخیر !
yes	<i>balé</i>	بله
yes (question)	<i>cherā?</i>	چرا ؟
no	<i>nakheir, na</i>	نخیر یا نه
no, you must be joking	<i>na bābā</i>	نه بابا
God willing	<i>enshā 'allāh</i>	انشاء الله
please	<i>lotfān</i>	لطفاً
please (offering)	<i>befarmā 'īd</i>	بفرمائید
thank you	<i>mersī/tashakkor</i> <i>motashakkeram</i>	مرسی یا تشکر یا متشکرم
thank you very much	<i>kheilī mamnūnam</i>	خیلی ممنونم
don't mention it	<i>ghābel nabūd</i>	قابل نبود
it's nothing	<i>chīzī nīst</i>	چیزی نیست
excuse me/sorry	<i>bebakhshīd</i>	ببخشید





KURDS

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOJV\\_TBXsos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOJV_TBXsos)

# Location

- **The Kurds are an ethnic group that originated as a semi-nomadic, tribal people.**
- **Kurds now live in the mountains of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.**
  - **Kurds form almost 20% of the population of Turkey and Iraq.**
- **Many Kurds live in an area of northern Iraq called Kurdistan (not a separate country).**

# Distribution of Kurdish people

In Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria

-  Kurdish majority
-  Kurdish minority



# Location

- **The Kurds are the largest ethnic group in the world without a country of their own.**
- **There is a strong nationalist movement among the Kurds for their own nation.**
- **This has caused conflict with the countries in which Kurdish people live, and Iraq and Turkey have both suppressed the Kurds and their traditions.**



 **Great Kurdistan; Kurdish nationalists claim**



The Kurds have been an important force behind the fight against the ISIS terrorist group. They have been relentlessly fighting ISIS in hopes of securing land to call home (Kurdistan).

# Ancestry

- **Kurds of Southwest Asia believe themselves to be descendants of the Medes, an ancient Iranian people.**
- **In fact, Kurds share many aspects of their culture with Iranians.**





# Religion

- **Like the Arabs, the Kurds are overwhelmingly Muslim, and the great majority are Sunni; only 5% are Shi'a.**
- **Kurdish Muslims tend to be less strict about certain Islamic practices.**
- **For example, there are fewer laws for how Kurdish women should dress than there are for Iranian and Arab women.**



# Language

- **Kurdish is an Indo-European language related to Farsi and other Iranian languages.**
- **There are many different dialects of Kurdish spoken throughout Southwest Asia.**

# Get out 1 clean sheet of paper

- Put a #11 in the bottom right hand corner & recreate the chart on the next slide on your paper
  - Fill in the chart based on the notes you just took. Use this to see if you are ready to take the quiz!

# Southwest Asia's Ethnic Groups

**Directions:** Complete the chart below after discussing the presentation.

	Location	Ancestry	Religion	Language
<b>Arabs</b>				
<b>Persians</b>				
<b>Kurds</b>				

# When you are finished...

- Use the bitly link to practice for your quiz
- Play 'Learn' or 'Match' first
- If you play 'Gravity' answer with the term

- [bit.ly/2Dc9Pry](https://bit.ly/2Dc9Pry)