

Middle East Environmental Issues

Pollution

- Many countries in Southwest Asia are experiencing the increasing problem of _____
- Per-capita (_____) availability of safe drinking water here is the _____ in the world.
- Contaminated water sources have greatly reduced the amount of clean water _____

Pollution Causes

- Southwest Asia's biggest pollution problems come from _____ agricultural runoff, and industrial waste.
- _____ of industry in cities and towns has caused garbage and sewage to build up in rivers and streams.
- Towns without proper sewer systems dump untreated human _____ into rivers.
- _____ are washed into rivers or seep into groundwater.

Water Access

- _____ is also a major concern in Southwest Asia.
- _____ of the world's fresh water is available to the area's inhabitants (5% of the world's population).
- Main Rivers: _____ & _____

Scarcity

- Water is a precious resource and there is _____ available to meet the population's needs.
 - Middle Eastern countries are _____ over these water problems.
 - Let's take a look at how _____ in several of these countries.
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Turkey

- Turkey has a "water advantage" over other Middle Eastern countries because the _____ form here.
- Turkey has developed the Southeastern Anatolia Project, which consists of _____ and 19 hydroelectric plants along the Euphrates River.
- This project has greatly improved the _____ for Turkey's citizens.
- Unfortunately, the country has had to deal with the increasing problem of _____.
- Chemical fertilizers from agriculture and _____ from industries pollute the rivers.
- Pollution also comes from _____ in the Black Sea.

Syria

- The dams that Turkey built along the Euphrates have greatly _____ of water reaching Syria (40% less).
- Syria already suffers from _____, and irrigating new land is extremely difficult with the diminished water supply from the Euphrates.
- In order to keep some water in the country, Syria has _____ along the river.
- This has reduced the river's flow into Iraq, thus causing _____.

Iraq

- The dams that Turkey & Syria built along the Euphrates have also greatly reduced the amount of water reaching Iraq (_____).
- This has negatively impacted the country's _____.
- Wheat and rice production has decreased dramatically, and many farmers are _____.
- Iraq also faces water pollution problems as a result of industry and _____ equipment.
- Also, three _____ have caused damage to Iraq's water treatment plants.

Israel

- Since its creation in 1948, Israel has developed _____ and advanced farming techniques that have turned the once-barren desert land into farmland.
- Because rainfall is down, Israel has to rely on drawing water from its _____ (underground layer of rock and sand that contains water).
- Unfortunately, the aquifers are in jeopardy because more water is _____ than is replenished by rain.
- Israel has been involved in many conflicts over water rights to the _____ with Syria, Jordan, and Palestine.

Jordan

- Jordan is one of the ten most _____ countries in the world.
- Jordan cannot meet the basic needs of its people and has to _____ supply.
- Citizens can only get water _____
 - The country's major surface water sources are shared with Israel and Syria, who leave only a _____ for Jordan.
- Israel has _____ that redirect the river's water away from Jordan and into its own lands.
- Jordan & Israel have been involved in _____ over water rights.

Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia has a _____ and has struggled to meet the water needs of its growing population.
- Water is scarce in the country, and what little water that is available is of poor quality because of _____.
- The country has built a number of _____ that provide most of the country's drinking water.
- Desalination is the process of taking _____ and using it for drinking water.