

Creating a Geopolitical Map of Middle East

Introduction: Western geographers originally coined the term “Middle East” in the early 20th century to indicate the land between the Persian Gulf and Southeast Asia. Today, the term “Middle East” can be used to describe the region spanning countries as far apart as Morocco in North Africa to Pakistan in South Asia. For our purposes, the Middle East will refer to the countries listed below.

Part 1. Political Geography.

Directions: On one of the outline maps provided, label the following countries, capital cities, and other important cities NEATLY and CLEARLY. Use the following maps from *Patterns of Interaction*: p. 976 (Political Asia); p. 985 (Political Middle East), as well as the class set of global atlases.

Country	Capital City	Other Cities
1. Afghanistan	Kabul	
2. Bahrain	Manama	
3. Cyprus	Nicosia	
4. Egypt	Cairo	
5. Iran	Tehran	
6. Iraq	Baghdad	
7. Israel	Jerusalem	
8. Jordan	Amman	
9. Kuwait	Kuwait City	
10. Lebanon	Beirut	
11. Oman	Muscat	
12. Pakistan	Islamabad	
13. Qatar	Doha	
14. Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Mecca
15. Syria	Damascus	
16. Turkey	Ankara	Istanbul
17. United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	
18. Yemen	San'a	

Part 2. Physical Geography.

Directions: On the other outline map, label the following physiographic features NEATLY and CLEARLY using the color scheme directed below. Use the following maps from *Patterns of Interaction*: p. 28 (Ancient Mesopotamia); p. 789 (Historical); p. 903 (Israel & Palestine); p. 977 (Physical Asia) as well as the class global atlases.

A. BODIES OF WATER --> use a BLUE-ink pen or pencil

- * Nile River
- * Tigris River
- * Euphrates River
- * Jordan River
- * Persian Gulf
- * Arabian Sea
- * Gulf of Oman
- * Red Sea
- * Black Sea
- * Gulf of Aden
- * Straits of Hormuz
- * Suez Canal
- * Dardanelles Strait
- * Mediterranean Sea
- * Caspian Sea

B. MOUNTAINS & PLATEAUS --> use a BLACK-ink pen or pencil

- * Elburz Mountains
- * Taurus Mountains
- * Zagros Mountains
- * Iranian Plateau
- * Anatolian Plateau
- * Hejaz Mountains

C. DESERTS --> use a RED-ink pen or pencil

- * Arabian Desert ("Peninsula")
- * Sinai Desert ("Peninsula")
- * Rub 'al Khali ["Empty Quarter"]

D. VALLEYS/PLAINS --> use a GREEN-ink pen or pencil

- * Fertile Crescent (see *Patterns*, p. 28).

Part 3: Reading Questions – "The Land and the People."

Read and take Cornell Notes on the handout entitled "The Land and the People." Then, respond to the following in well-developed sentences or paragraphs.

1. Map Study Questions 1, 2 and 3 on page 552.
2. "Water in Saudi Arabia" Question on page 555.
3. Section Review Questions 4, 5, & 6 on page 556.
4. Explain how location, geography, and climate have shaped the diverse cultures and lifestyles of the Middle East. (In other words, how do location, geography and climate effect the size of the population of particular groups, their economic activities, and how live?)
5. Which ethnic and religious groups live in the Middle East? (p. 556).
6. Based on what you have read, what questions do you have about the physical and cultural geography of the Middle East? Write 3 questions.