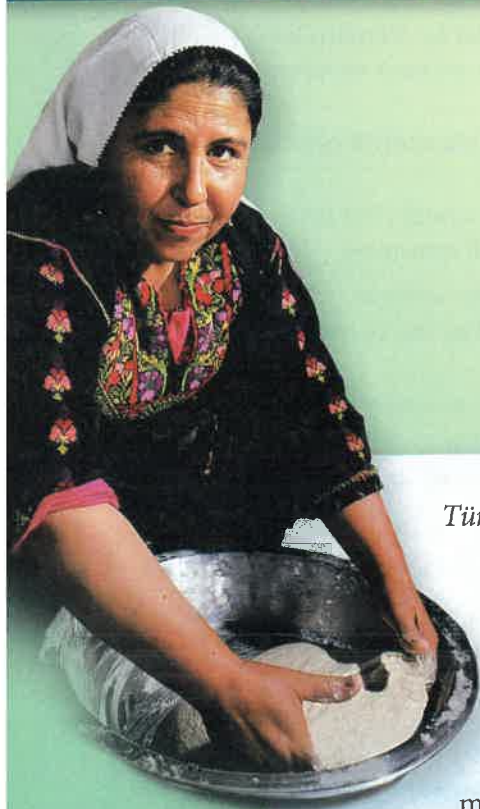


CHAPTER 20

The Eastern Mediterranean



Bedouin woman
from Israel

Complex relationships among geography, history, and religion are typical in the eastern Mediterranean region. All of the region's countries have been involved in conflicts both long ago and in recent years.



Pitcher from Syria

Türkiye'den selamlar! (Greetings from Turkey!) My name is Adalet, and I am in the tenth grade at a private school in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. I live in a high-rise apartment outside the city with my mom and dad. We have a view of the city, the distant mountains, and, of course, the parking lot. In the summers, I like to stay with my grandparents in their summer house on the Aegean Sea, near the ancient Greek and Roman ruins at Ephesus. I go to the beach there with my friends and stay until sundown. Back at the house, my grandpa and grandma love to cook delicious Turkish food like *kofte*, a spicy ground lamb dish.

On school days I get up at 8:00 A.M., put on my school uniform, and eat cornflakes or bread and cheese. The parents of boys and girls in my neighborhood have hired a bus to take us to school. It is a big school that goes from first grade through high school with about 800 students per grade. I am studying biology, physics, algebra, geometry, history, Turkish, and English. The science and math classes (and the English class, of course) are taught in English, the others in Turkish. At lunch my friends and I go to a little food stand nearby and eat hot dogs or grilled lamb on a skewer with bread, tomatoes, onions, and peppers. To drink, we have *ayran*, a drink made with yogurt.



Section 1

Natural Environments

HOLT Geography's Impact

Watch the video to understand the impact of cooperation and conflict in Jerusalem.

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What landforms and rivers are found in the eastern Mediterranean region?
2. What climates, biomes, and natural resources does the region have?

DEFINE

potash
magnesium

LOCATE

Anatolia	Jordan River
Dardanelles	Dead Sea
Bosporus	Tigris River
Sea of Marmara	Euphrates River
Pontic Mountains	Syrian Desert
Taurus Mountains	Negev

Reading Strategy

VISUALIZING INFORMATION Before you read, preview the Physical–Political Map of the Eastern Mediterranean. Make notes about features you see on the map that you think will help you understand what you are about to read. For example, where are rivers, deserts, and mountains? As you read, explain how the features on the map relate to the materials in the section. Include key terms and their definitions.



The Eastern Mediterranean: Physical–Political





GO TO: go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: SW3 CH20

FOR: For Web sites about the eastern Mediterranean

Landforms and Rivers

The eastern Mediterranean region is part of an area often called the Middle East. It consists of six countries. Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey are on the mainland. Cyprus is an island in the Mediterranean Sea.

The region lies on two continents. A small part of Turkey is on Europe's Balkan Peninsula. Most of Turkey is in Asia, an area known as Anatolia (a-nuh-TOH-lee-uh). Three narrow connected bodies of water—the Dardanelles (dahrd-uhn-ELZ), the Bosphorus, and the Sea of Marmara (MAHR-muh-ruh)—separate Europe from Asia.

European Turkey has plains and hills. A narrow coastal plain rims the western edge of the Asian part of Turkey. Two mountain systems run from east to west across Anatolia. They include the Pontic Mountains in the north and the Taurus Mountains in the south. Between them lies the Anatolian Plateau, which has many peaks and valleys of its own. Turkey's geology includes many faults and folds. Along with continued mountain building, these geological features also cause devastating earthquakes.

The coastal plain continues south from Turkey along the coasts of Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. Farther inland one finds plateaus, hills, and valleys. A rift valley extends northward from Africa into Syria. Hills rise on both sides of the rift. Between the rift's ridges the Jordan River flows south into the Dead Sea. This unusual sea lies 1,312 feet (400 m) below sea level. Its shore is the lowest land on Earth's surface. The Dead Sea was once part of the Mediterranean. Today it no longer has an outlet to the ocean. The sea is so salty that all swimmers can easily float in it.

The Tigris and Euphrates are the region's major rivers. Both rivers begin in the mountains of eastern Anatolia and empty into the Persian Gulf. Along with the Jordan River, the Tigris and Euphrates are important sources of irrigation water.

READING CHECK: *Physical Systems* Why does Turkey have many earthquakes?

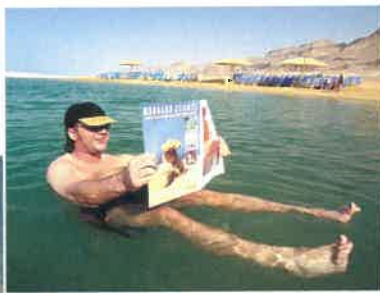
INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Top: A tourist floats in the Dead Sea.

Bottom: The Dead Sea lies in a desert valley. The shoreline has receded nearly a mile in the last 40 years. Only 10 percent of the Jordan River's water flows into the sea.

Growing populations and drought conditions place heavy demands on the Jordan.

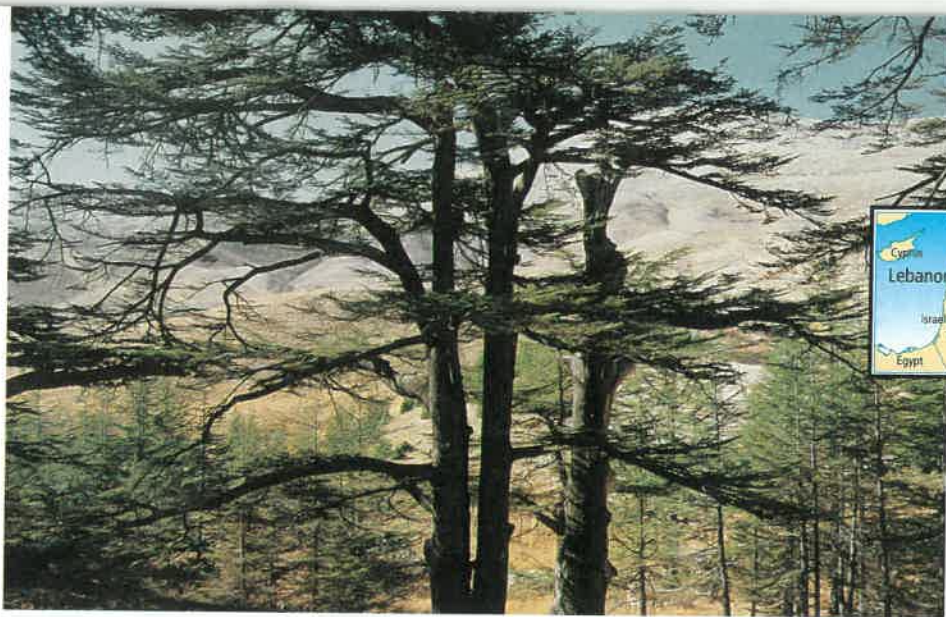
How might a shrinking Dead Sea affect the area's economy?



Climates, Biomes, and Natural Resources

Arid, semiarid, and Mediterranean climates cover nearly all of the eastern Mediterranean. Distance from the sea, elevation, and rain shadows affect rainfall and temperatures. For example, like the nearby Greek islands, Turkey's Mediterranean coast has a mild and sunny climate. However, eastern Turkey and the Anatolian interior lie inland. They are also at higher elevations. Therefore, they experience bitterly cold winters, and heavy snowstorms are common.

Evergreen forests once covered much of the eastern Mediterranean's highlands. Lebanon, in particular, was famous for its great cedar trees. Areas of forested land still exist in Cyprus, where cedar, cypress, and pine are common. Forests have largely disappeared elsewhere,



Forests of magnificent cedar trees were once common in Lebanon. In fact, the cedar is pictured on Lebanon's flag. However, people began cutting down the big trees long ago. Now few remnants of the great forests remain, but reforestation efforts are underway.

however. They are victims of centuries of farming, herding, shipbuilding, and firewood collecting that began more than 2,000 years ago.

In semi-arid areas like Anatolia, plant and animal life can be diverse. Farther south, the Syrian Desert covers much of both Jordan and Syria. Another desert, the Negev (NE-gev), lies in southern Israel. In desert biome areas, plant and animal life is scarce. Yet some hardy species, such as jackals, lizards, and snakes, are able to survive. People also live in the desert. Small groups of nomads move their flocks of sheep and goats with the seasons.

Valuable mineral and other natural resources can be found throughout the region. Turkey has supplies of coal, copper, and iron ore. Some oil and natural gas deposits are distributed across the region. The Dead Sea also provides Israel and Jordan with certain minerals, including **potash** and **magnesium**. Potash is used to process wool and to make fertilizers, glass, and soft soaps. Magnesium is a light metal that is valuable in certain industries, such as aerospace.



In the Cappadocia region of central Turkey, volcanic rock has eroded into an unusual landscape of columns, cones, pillars, and towers. People carved into the rock to create shelters. Some of the caves are now homes, stores, and churches.

READING CHECK: *Places and Regions* Why do eastern Turkey and the Anatolian interior have cold winters?



Review

go.hrw.com **Homework Practice Online**
Keyword: SW3 HP20

Define

potash
magnesium

Working with Sketch Maps

On a map of the eastern Mediterranean that you draw or that your teacher provides, label Anatolia, Dardanelles, Bosphorus, Sea of Marmara, Pontic Mountains, Taurus Mountains, Jordan River, Dead Sea, Tigris River, Euphrates River, Syrian Desert, and the Negev. What parts of the region would you expect to be densely populated?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Places and Regions** What are the main landforms of Turkey? Which two major rivers begin in Turkey?
- Physical Systems** What has happened to the region's evergreen forests?
- Physical Systems** What factors affect rainfall and temperatures in the region?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Why might the Dead Sea be considered a natural resource?

Organizing What You Know

- Create a chart that lists the countries in the region and the different landforms found in each. Refer back to Section 1 and the chapter's physical-political map.

Country	Landforms

CASE STUDY

Israel—Setting Boundaries

Human Systems Perhaps one of the most persistent themes in human history has been the struggle over territory. Today the world is divided into almost 200 countries. As you read in Chapter 6, a variety of boundaries separate these countries. Some are natural boundaries, such as mountains and rivers. Others are cultural boundaries. The border between mostly Hindu India and mostly Muslim Pakistan is an example of a cultural boundary. Finally, some boundaries are geometric, such as lines of latitude.

Sometimes the competing desires of two or more peoples to control a piece of land have been settled peacefully. However, such disputes have also led to war. The reasons for this are many. They are often cultural, reflecting the strong ties a particular people have to a place. They can also be economic, reflecting the desire for the natural resources found in an area. Both of these factors have played a part in the long Arab-Israeli conflict.

Conflict and Cooperation

Palestine is an old Greek name for the eastern edge of the Mediterranean. It includes the modern country of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. For Jews, the land of Israel is their historic homeland; for Palestinian Arabs, Palestine is the land of their ancestors. The region is also home to many historical and

A Palestinian woman pumps water from an aquifer. Control of water resources is a primary source of conflict in the West Bank.



An Israeli soldier patrols a Jewish settlement in Hebron, near Abraham's tomb, according to religious traditions. The West Bank town has been the scene of many clashes between Palestinians and Jews.

cultural sites held sacred by millions of people. Many of the most important sites are located in Jerusalem. (See *Cities & Settlements: Jerusalem.*)

Hundreds of thousands of Arabs left Israel after it declared independence in 1948. Most settled in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and neighboring Arab countries such as Jordan. A similar number of Jews left Arab lands and moved to Israel. Threatened by surrounding Arab armies, Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the Six-Day War in 1967. Many Israelis thought that having control over these territories was vital to their country's security. Arabs demanded that the Israelis withdraw but refused to negotiate. The conflict grew more heated and violent over time.

In the 1990s Israel's government and Arab Palestinian leaders tried to end their long dispute through negotiation. They discussed many issues. Among them was how to draw a boundary between Israel and any new Palestinian state in the disputed territories. The two sides made significant progress. In fact, Israel turned over the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank to Palestinian control. However, the talks between Israelis and Palestinians bogged down in 2000. Later that year, the Palestinian uprising began, taking many lives. The violence continues to this day.

Aquifers



West Bank



INTERPRETING THE MAPS *The debate over new boundaries between Israel and a possible new Palestinian state involves a number of issues. Control of water resources in the dry region is one of them. Aquifers extend across the region. New boundaries will determine who controls the water stored in these aquifers. The West Bank would become part of the new Palestinian state. The detailed map of the West Bank shows current and planned Israeli settlements as well as areas of Palestinian control. Why do you think water is such a critical issue in this region? How might Israelis and Palestinians compromise over control of the region's aquifers?*

mostly from the West Bank, supplies much of the aquifer's water. The Israeli population in cities such as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv currently depends on the aquifer's water. Agreement over access to the aquifer and the use of its water has been difficult to reach. In addition, Israel wanted to control land along the Jordan River, another important water source. This land would also act as a buffer zone between the West Bank and Jordan, an Arab country.

To the north the Sea of Galilee presented a similar problem. The Sea of Galilee lies along the old border between Israel and Syria. However, in the 1967 war Israel captured a Syrian area that included part of the freshwater sea's shore. In addition, springs in the area replenish the sea. Syria has demanded that Israel withdraw from this land before agreeing to a final peace treaty. However, Israelis fear that doing so would limit their supply of water from the sea.

These issues have long divided Israelis and their Arab neighbors. Until they are resolved, new boundaries dividing their countries will remain in question.

Working toward Compromise

Many issues divided Israelis and Palestinians when the talks bogged down in 2000. The primary issues involved terrorism, recognition of Israel, Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the status of Jerusalem, and access to water.

The settlement issue is a result of Israel's government allowing Jewish settlers to set up communities in the West Bank and Gaza. Today these settlements are scattered among Palestinian-controlled lands in the West Bank. Israel withdrew all settlements from Gaza.

Another issue is control of Jerusalem. The city had been divided between Israel and Jordan from 1948 to 1967. It was reunited under Israeli rule during the 1967 war. Jerusalem is a difficult issue because Jewish, Muslim, and Christian religious sites are found there. In addition, both Israelis and Palestinians want the city as their capital.

Finally, water is an issue. This dry region has limited water supplies. Aquifers are a crucial water source. One large aquifer straddles the dividing line between Israel and the West Bank. Mountain rainfall,

Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** What are some of the issues that make agreement over new boundaries between Israel and a Palestinian state difficult to reach?
- 2. Comparing** Why might both Israelis and Palestinians want Jerusalem as their capital? What kind of compromise do you think might settle this issue?

Section
2

History and Culture

READ TO DISCOVER

1. How have various peoples and empires influenced the eastern Mediterranean?
2. How did the modern state of Israel develop?
3. What are the peoples and cultures of the region like?

Reading Strategy

BRAINSTORMING Write the letters of the alphabet down the side of a sheet of paper. Working with a partner, brainstorm what you already know about the history and culture of the eastern Mediterranean region. List your ideas by as many letters as possible. Use the key terms as clues.

IDENTIFY

Zionism Kurds
Holocaust

DEFINE

sultans
mandates

LOCATE

Istanbul Jerusalem
Ankara Nicosia



The Phoenicians were an early seafaring people from what is now Lebanon. Although their homeland was small, they traded as far as Spain and may even have sailed around Africa.

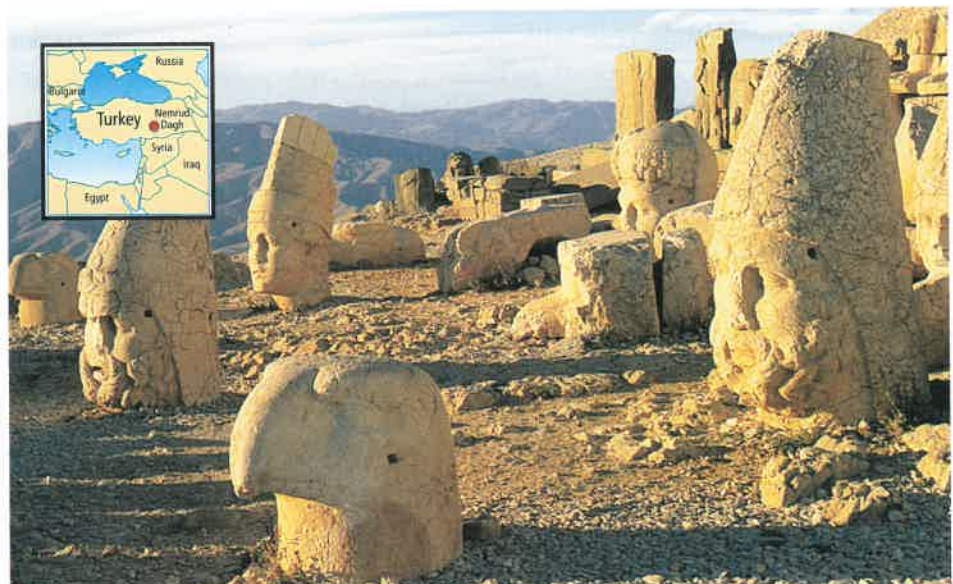
The Rise and Fall of Empires

Some of history's earliest civilizations developed in the eastern Mediterranean region. Farming supported the growth of permanent settlements as far back as 8000 B.C. Over time, the Egyptians, the Hittites of Asia Minor, the Persians, and others ruled all or parts of the region. In about 1000 B.C. a people called the Hebrews (or Israelites) set up a kingdom between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. That area has been known as Israel, Judea, and Palestine at different times. The Israelites practiced Judaism, which is the dominant religion in Israel today.

The Roman and Byzantine Empires The Romans conquered the eastern Mediterranean between 200 B.C. and A.D. 106. During this time, most Jews were exiled from Judea because they resisted Roman authority. In the first century A.D., followers of Christianity began to spread their beliefs from the eastern Mediterranean throughout the Roman Empire. By the late 300s Christianity was the empire's official religion.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

These gigantic heads at Nemrud Dagh, now in eastern Turkey, are more than 2,000 years old. They lie in what was the kingdom of Commagene, where Greek, Persian, and Roman influences mixed. How do you think physical geography contributed to the combination of cultural influences at Commagene?



During the A.D. 400s the Western Roman Empire crumbled. The eastern part of the empire survived, however, and came to be known as the Byzantine (BIZ-uhn-teen) Empire. Christianity also became divided. The Eastern Orthodox Church broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. Constantinople—now İstanbul—was both the center of the Orthodox Church and the capital of the Byzantine Empire. It became a city of great beauty, power, and wealth. The Byzantine Empire ruled most of the eastern Mediterranean as well as areas far beyond the region. However, other peoples soon invaded, shrinking the empire.

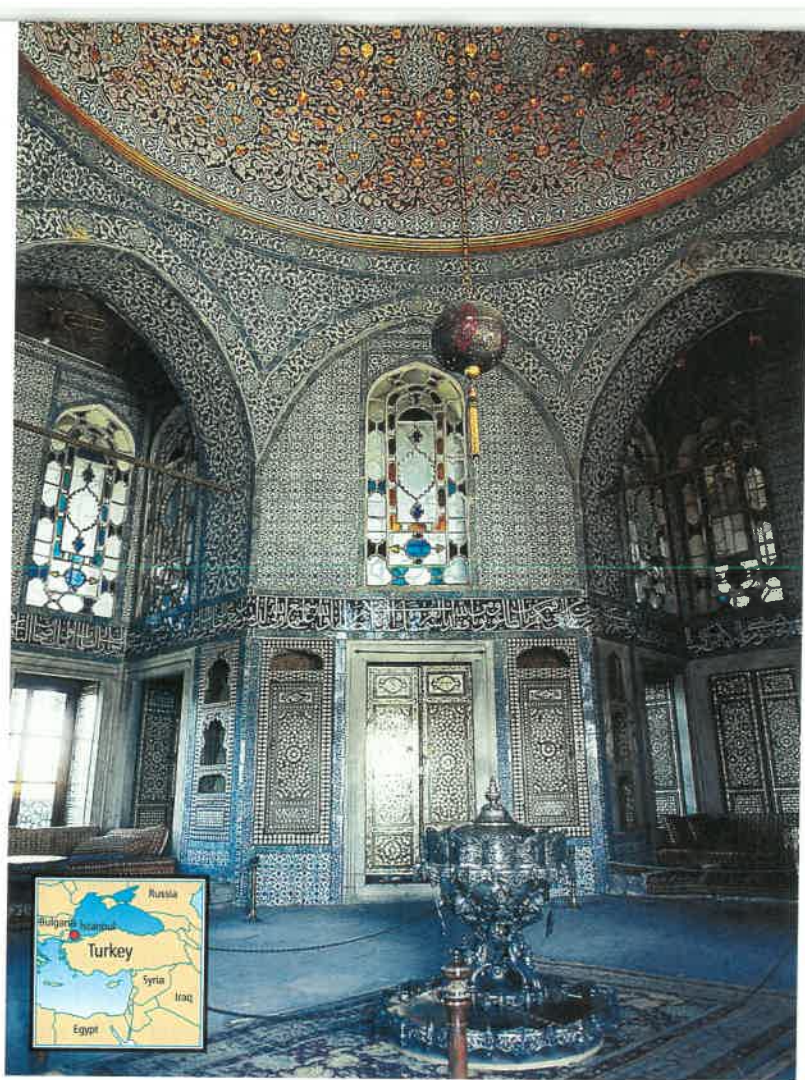
The Arabs and Islam In the A.D. 600s Arab Muslim armies swept north out of the Arabian desert. They rapidly established an empire in southwestern Asia and northern Africa. The Byzantines lost much territory as a result, including the area that is now Israel.

Turkic Muslims captured Jerusalem from the Arabs in 1077. When Turks threatened Constantinople, the pope called for Christians to go to war against the Muslims. This series of wars was known as the Crusades. Between 1095 and the late 1200s, crusader armies from all over Europe invaded the region. For a while, the Crusaders held Jerusalem and some cities in Syria. However, Muslim armies later forced them out.

The Ottoman Empire In the 1300s the Ottoman Turks established another Muslim empire in the region. The Ottoman rulers were called **sultans**. They took Constantinople in 1453 and made it the Ottoman capital. By the 1600s the Ottoman Empire included most of Southwest Asia. The empire also stretched into parts of eastern Europe and most of North Africa. However, political struggles, corruption, and rivalries with other countries slowly weakened the empire. Over time ethnic minorities within the empire's borders also began to push for independence.

During World War I the Ottoman Empire fought on the losing side. After the war, a general named Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk) took over the government. He created the Republic of Turkey and established its capital at Ankara. Beyond Turkey, the former Ottoman territories became **mandates** of Great Britain and France. These mandates were territories placed under another country's control. They were to become independent eventually. The British and French mandates included Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. After World War II these mandates gained independence. However, as you will see, a major dispute arose in Palestine.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How have different empires shaped the eastern Mediterranean region?



Ottoman sultans lived in the Topkapi Palace from when it was built in the 1400s until the 1800s. It is a huge complex of courtyards, gates, and rooms. The Topkapi Palace Museum is now one of İstanbul's main tourist attractions.

Palestine and Modern Israel

In the late 1800s European Jews began a movement called **Zionism**. Zionism called for Jews to reestablish a Jewish state in their ancient homeland, then under Ottoman rule. That land had traditionally been important to Jewish culture, history, and religion. After World War I thousands of Jews and Arabs moved to the area, which became a British mandate in 1920. Later, many Jews who were fleeing persecution in Europe sought refuge in the Palestine Mandate. During World War II, Germany's Nazis murdered six million Jews in the **Holocaust**. As a result, Jewish immigration to Palestine increased during the 1930s and 1940s. Arabs also moved there. Arabs felt threatened and angry at the growing Jewish presence there. Today Jews make up about 80 percent of Israel's population. Most of the rest are Arab.

In 1947 the United Nations voted to divide the Palestine Mandate into Jewish and Arab states. When the British withdrew from Palestine the next year, the Jewish leadership declared itself the independent state of Israel. Arab armies from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria then invaded Israel. Israel pushed the Arab forces back and won more land. Many Palestinian Arabs fled to Jordan, Lebanon, and other Arab countries. At the same time, Jordan (then called Transjordan) and Egypt took over the areas the UN intended for an Arab state. Wars between Arabs and Israelis occurred in 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982. During the 1967 war, Israel gained land from Jordan west of the Jordan River, called the West Bank. It also took the Gaza Strip, a narrow piece of land on the Mediterranean coast, from Egypt. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which had been formed in 1964, began waging an armed struggle to replace Israel with an independent Palestinian state that included terrorist attacks on Israel. Violent conflict between Palestinians and Israelis has continued despite efforts toward peace.

Jewish settlement in the captured lands has slowed those efforts. Thousands of Jews moved to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. Jewish settlement has also been an issue in the Golan Heights. Israel took that hilly region from Syria in the 1967 war. Many Israelis do not want to give up all these areas. They think these lands are important to the security of Israel. From the Golan, Israeli troops can guard the Jordan River, a crucial

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

This image shows life on a typical street in the West Bank. From the photo, how can you tell that some of the West Bank's residents have adopted aspects of Western culture, while others maintain traditional ways?



water source. The Golan also blocks Syrian access to northern Israel. In addition, the West Bank separates Israel from Jordan and Arab countries to the east. Israel removed settlements completely from Gaza in 2005, but peace has not followed. (For more information on these issues, see Case Study: Israel—Setting Boundaries.)

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** Why did many Jews immigrate to Palestine during the 1930s and 1940s?

Culture

Language in this region is often an important part of an ethnic group's identity. The many languages spoken there reflect the area's many cultural influences. Arabic, Hebrew, and Turkish are the most common languages. Britain and France introduced English and French when they ruled the area in the 1900s. Many Jews immigrated to Israel from the former Soviet Union in the 1990s, bringing the Russian language with them. The **Kurds**, who live mainly in southeastern Turkey and neighboring countries, make up Turkey's largest minority. They have their own Kurdish language.



FOCUS ON CULTURE

Reviving a Language Hebrew was spoken in the region more than 2,000 years ago. Hebrew is the language of the Jewish Bible. In addition, it has always been the language of Jewish prayer and religious ceremonies. Scholars of Jewish law and literature also used Hebrew. The language was not used by most Jews in daily life, however. The rebirth of Hebrew began among Jewish immigrants to what is now Israel. They developed a more modern form of the language. When Israel became independent in 1948, Hebrew became an official language. New immigrants to Israel start on the road to citizenship by learning Hebrew. Arabic is the official language for Israel's Arab minority.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How do Israel's two official languages reflect the region's distinctive history?

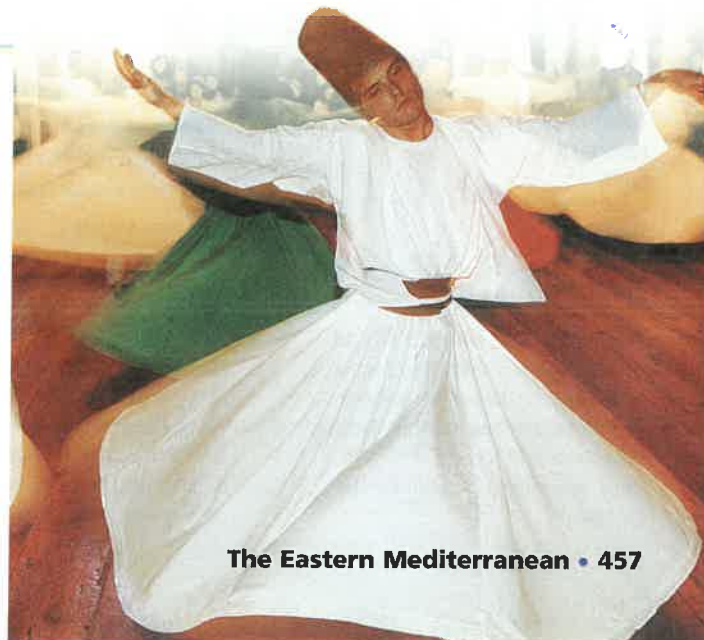
INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Seeing Hebrew used in public daily life would have amazed Jews a hundred years ago. For centuries the language was used only in religious and scholarly contexts. What evidence of cultural convergence do you see on this street sign?

In Istanbul, this Muslim mystic, or dervish, seeks spiritual perfection by whirling.

Religion Most people in the eastern Mediterranean are Muslim, Jewish, or Christian. All of the faiths are monotheistic, or based on the belief in one God. Judaism was the first of the three to develop. Its roots date back to about 2600 B.C. Today most Jews in the eastern Mediterranean live in Israel.

Christianity developed out of Judaism and spread during the Roman era. Today there are significant Christian minorities in most countries of the region, particularly in Lebanon and Syria. Muslims form the majority in all countries of the eastern Mediterranean except Israel.





These nomadic herders are spending the winter in the mountains of Lebanon. The nomadic way of life is becoming less common. Many nomads are moving to towns to look for work or settling on government-owned land.

Settlement People in the eastern Mediterranean often live in communities of similar cultural backgrounds. In fact, most of the major cities have different sections that were historically occupied by particular ethnic or religious groups. For example, Jerusalem was divided into Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim quarters. (See *Cities & Settlements: Jerusalem.*)

A division has occurred in modern times on Cyprus. A line runs all the way across the island. Greek Cypriots live south of the line, while Turkish Cypriots live north of it. (See *Geography for Life: Cyprus—A Divided Island.*)

Traditions and Customs Members of the same ethnic group may follow different religions. For example, Christian Arabs share the Arabic language and literature of Islamic Arabs. Yet they maintain their separate religious identity. In contrast, members of the same religion may belong to various ethnic groups. For example, the region's Muslims—whether Arabs, Kurds, or Turks—share many traditions. Turks and Kurds, while Islamic, are distinct from Arabs in their language and culture.

Cultural divisions also separate Turkey's urban and rural populations. Middle-class Turks tend to share the lifestyle and attitudes of middle-class Europeans. However, most rural Turks have more traditional views, such as those concerning the role of women. They prefer that women work as homemakers.

Jewish religious law influences Israel's traditions and customs. For example, because Saturday is the weekly holy day in Judaism, most Israeli businesses are closed on that day. Although most Israelis practice Judaism, Israel is also multiethnic because Jews have emigrated there from all over the world. Many of these immigrants have come from Germany, Russia, and other European countries. Others are from North Africa and Southwest Asia. Israel also has a large number of Jews from Ethiopia.

 **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How does religion shape cultural patterns in the region?

Section 2

Review

 **Homework Practice Online**
Keyword: SW3 HP20

Identify

Zionism
Holocaust
Kurds

Define

sultans
mandates

Working with Sketch Maps

On the map you created in Section 1, label the countries of the eastern Mediterranean and İstanbul, Ankara, Jerusalem, and Nicosia. Which of these four cities is in both Europe and Asia?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** What are some cultural features that Christian Arabs share with Muslim Arabs?
- Human Systems** Why is Israel's population so multiethnic?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Inferences** Why do many Israelis oppose giving up the Golan Heights and some Jewish settlements in the West Bank? What might Palestinians and other Arabs offer in return for those lands?

- Identifying Cause and Effect** Why do many people in the eastern Mediterranean speak Arabic?

Organizing What You Know

- Create a time line like the one shown below. Enlarge the section between A.D. 1 and Today. On your time line, list important years, periods, and events in the history of the eastern Mediterranean.



Geography for Life

Cyprus—A Divided Island

Cyprus lies in the Mediterranean Sea near Turkey. About 78 percent of its 763,000 people speak Greek and share a Greek heritage. Turkish Cypriots make up 18 percent of the population. Conflict between these groups marks the island's modern history.

Greeks have lived on Cyprus for at least 3,000 years. Turks later took over the island in the 1500s. Cyprus then came under British control in 1878. In 1960 Cyprus became an independent republic. Not long afterward, Turkish and Greek Cypriots clashed over sharing power in the new government. In addition, the Turkish Cypriots feared that the Greek Cypriots would join Cyprus to Greece. Fighting soon broke out. In 1964 the United Nations sent a peacekeeping force to Cyprus. In 1974 Turkey invaded and took control of the northern 40 percent of the island. Refugees—both Greek and Turkish—fled to the south. In 1983 Turkish Cypriots declared the northern territory an independent country—the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). No other country besides Turkey recognizes the TRNC. All other governments recognize Cyprus as a single country with a Greek Cypriot government.

Cyprus remains a divided island. A buffer zone called the Green Line separates Turkish Cyprus from Greek Cyprus.

Nicosia, the capital of both Greek and Turkish Cyprus, lies along this line in the island's center.

Thousands of Turkish troops occupy northern Cyprus. Most countries refuse to trade with that region. As a result, the north must depend on aid from Turkey. However, the south has received help from Great Britain, Greece, the United States, and the United Nations. This aid has made construction of new businesses, housing, port facilities, and roads possible. Funds from other countries also allowed southern Cyprus to expand tourist facilities.

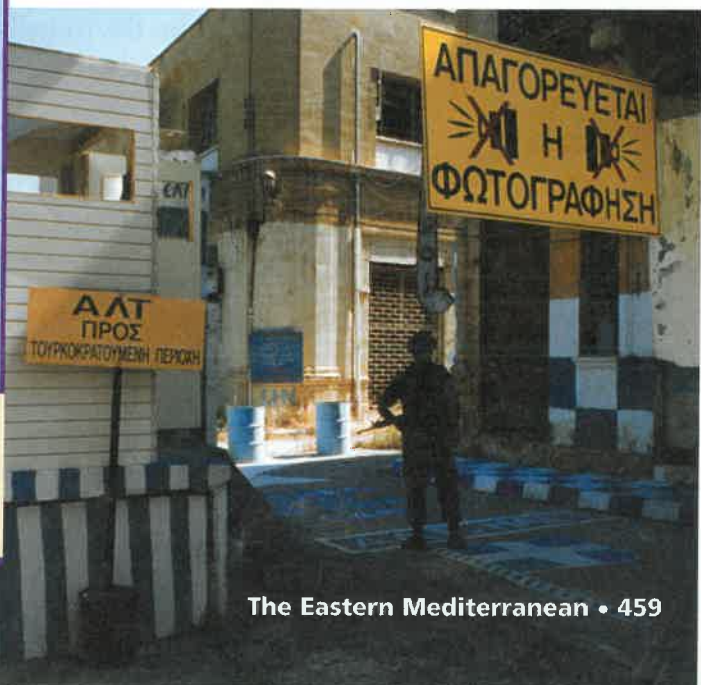
In 2004, the Greek state of Cyprus joined the European Union. However, residents of the TRNC do not have access to the privileges of EU membership. As a result, pro-EU parties in the TRNC have been pushing for a settlement that would unite the island.

Applying What You Know

- Summarizing** What are two reasons why Greek Cypriots might feel that the Turks should give up their claims to the island?
- Identifying Points of View** How do Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot views of the island differ?



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD In the photo, a member of the Cyprus National Guard patrols the Green Line in Nicosia. The blue and white paint echoes the colors of the Greek flag. Why might both the Turkish and Greek Cypriots want Nicosia for their capital?



The Region Today

READ TO DISCOVER

1. On what activities do the eastern Mediterranean economies rely?
2. What are the cities of the region like?
3. What challenges do the people of the region face?

Reading Strategy

VISUALIZING INFORMATION Look at the photographs in this section. What information does each one give you about the region? Write your answers on a sheet of paper. As you read the section, write details that connect the text to the photographs.

DEFINE

souks
secular

LOCATE

Tel Aviv
Haifa
Damascus
Beirut



A Turkish carpet seller displays his wares. Turkey's national government plays a major role in basic industries such as mining, but the textile and clothing industries are almost entirely in private hands.

Economic Development

Many factors have slowed the economic development of the eastern Mediterranean. For example, the land itself has caused problems for Turkey. Earthquakes there have interrupted its economic growth. Political problems are more widespread. Hostility toward Israel has prevented the creation of normal economic links between Israel and its neighbors. Also, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians live as refugees, many in Jordan and Lebanon. The resulting population increase has strained those countries' resources. At the same time, Israel has absorbed waves of Jewish refugees from Arab states and immigrants from other parts of the world. Lebanon and Cyprus have suffered devastating civil wars.

The economies of Syria and Jordan are underdeveloped and suffer from high unemployment. Lack of resources, a weak educational system, and an outdated technological base add to their problems. Jordan receives foreign aid from the United States and oil-producing Arab countries like Saudi Arabia. Israel also trades heavily with the United States and receives U.S. aid.

Agriculture The eastern Mediterranean economies rely heavily on agriculture. In many places farming requires irrigation. Most irrigation systems used in the region are simply small canals that allow water to run directly to the fields. Some of these systems use fossil water. Large-scale irrigation depends on the major rivers. Turkey is building a network of dams and irrigation canals on the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Neighboring countries Syria and Iraq resent these projects, however. This is because the projects reduce the amount of water downstream that is available to them.

Farmlands in Turkey's Mediterranean coastal valleys produce most of that country's crops. Livestock raising is common in Anatolia. Despite a lack of water, agriculture is productive in Israel as well. Careful irrigation makes growing fruits and vegetables possible in semiarid parts of the country.

Industry Israel is the most technologically advanced country in the eastern Mediterranean. The country has built much of its economy on high-tech industries. Diamond cutting is another major Israeli industry. Most diamond-cutting factories can be found in the Tel Aviv area. Polished diamonds are the country's leading export. Israel also has important chemical industries centered in the port city of Haifa. Turkey's industry is the second-most developed in the region. Textiles are Turkey's leading industry. The country's industrial sector includes modern urban factories and small-scale industries in rural areas.

Tourism Tourism is a major industry for the eastern Mediterranean. In Cyprus, tourists flock to beaches along the island's southern coast. Tourists come to Turkey to see Greek and Roman ruins, Ottoman palaces, and busy carpet markets. Many who travel to Israel want to visit religious sites, such as those in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, or float in the salty Dead Sea. However, the region's continuing unrest makes the tourist industry fragile. Israel's economy can handle a drop in tourism because it is well diversified. Other countries like Jordan, however, suffer when tourism slows.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** How do the economies of Israel and Turkey differ from those of Jordan and Syria?

Urban Environments

The urban population of the eastern Mediterranean is growing rapidly. The region's high birth rates and migration from rural areas have fueled this growth. Many cities are crowded. Housing tends to be small and cramped, and traffic congestion and smog get worse every year.

Many of the cities in the eastern Mediterranean are ancient. In fact, Damascus, Syria, is probably the oldest city in the world. These old cities' centers usually consist of twisting narrow streets where traditional craftspeople sell their wares. Open-air markets called **souks** are also common. In many of



Israeli workers cut and polish diamonds. Israel's diamond industry is one of the largest in the world and accounts for about 25 percent of the country's export earnings.

The Gaza Strip is a small, crowded piece of coastal land that has practically no resources. More than a million Palestinians live there.



Petra

Petra, a desert city built about 2,000 years ago by an Arab people, is Jordan's main tourist attraction. It features huge buildings cut directly into the cliffs. How could this city of 30,000 people thrive in the desert? Protecting the water supply was crucial. Petra's builders installed canals, terraces, and hundreds of underground storage tanks to collect and store the area's scant rainfall. Dams in the nearby hills caught the water from flash floods after rare downpours. This water conservation system is the hidden marvel of Petra.

When the caravans were routed away from Petra, the city began to decline. Earthquakes did further damage. Neglecting the water storage system, which filled with sand, probably sealed the city's fate.

Problem Solving How might further study of Petra's water system affect public policy in Jordan?



Top: A water channel at Petra
Bottom: Petra's Royal Tombs

these markets, shops that sell the same items are clustered together. For example, vendors on Jerusalem's Christian Quarter Road specialize in religious souvenirs and Palestinian textiles. Typically, the newer parts of the city surround the old center. Most service-oriented business and government offices are in the newer areas.

War has damaged some cities, including Nicosia, Cyprus, and Beirut, Lebanon. In its better days Beirut had been called the Paris of the Middle East for its culture, glamour, and scenery. In recent years, Lebanon's government has worked hard to rebuild Beirut's center, making it a thriving and modern commercial zone. People there hope this rebuilding will help the country's economy recover from years of warfare.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* How are the centers of eastern Mediterranean cities often different from the areas that surround them?

Issues and Challenges

The countries of the eastern Mediterranean face many issues and challenges. The most pressing of these are political ones. However, social and environmental problems also threaten stability.

One long-term challenge is achieving peace between Israel and the Palestinians. In the early 1990s the Israeli government began talks with the PLO. Israel gave Palestinians control of parts of the West Bank and all of the Gaza Strip. However, Palestinian terrorist attacks have continued, and the Palestinians have not fulfilled their promises to end violence and accept Israel's right to exist.

Other ethnic and religious conflicts trouble other parts of the region. In Turkey, Armenian and Kurd minorities complain of unfair treatment by the government. Turkey's Kurds identify strongly with Kurds living in Iran, Iraq, and Syria. Some Kurds have fought for independence from Turkey. Thousands of people have been killed as a result





INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Students debate issues related to religious law at a Jerusalem yeshiva—a school for the study of Jewish traditions. Religion has been a source of conflict between Jews and Arabs. Prior to 1967, Jordan routinely denied Christians and Jews access to their holy sites in the West Bank and Jerusalem and vandalism was a frequent problem. Israel allows freedom of religion and permits all religions control of their own holy places. **What are some aspects of religion in Israel that make the country distinctive?**



of this struggle. In addition, Islamic fundamentalists in Turkey have objected to the country's **secular**, or nonreligious, political system. That criticism has turned violent at times. On the other side of the issue, the Turkish government has been criticized for limiting the religious freedom of Muslims.

As you read earlier, United Nations troops have tried to keep the peace between ethnic Greeks and ethnic Turks in Cyprus. In Lebanon a civil war among several different religious militias broke out in 1975. Christians belonging to various factions fought several Muslim groups. Fighting there lasted for 15 years. Jordan is divided between “original” Jordanians and Palestinian refugees. These Palestinians now make up a slight majority of Jordan’s population. Many still live in refugee camps, where health care and other social services are poor.

The eastern Mediterranean’s main environmental concern is a lack of water. Droughts, a growing population, and pollution all threaten the limited freshwater of the region. Also, overgrazing has damaged semiarid grasslands in parts of Jordan and Syria.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** Why might some Kurds want Turkey to change its boundaries?



Review

go.
hrw
.com **Homework Practice Online**
Keyword: SW3 HP20

Define souks, secular

Working with Sketch Maps On the map you created in Section 2, label Tel Aviv, Haifa, Damascus, and Beirut. Which city is rebuilding after a civil war?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Environment and Society** Why do some other countries resent Turkey’s proposed dam and irrigation system?
- Human Systems** What factors have fueled the rapid growth of cities in the region?
- Environment and Society** What problems threaten the region’s scarce freshwater supplies?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** In what ways do the economies of Israel and Turkey differ from the rest of the region?

Organizing What You Know

- Create a word web in which you describe Israel’s agriculture, cities, industry, and the challenges it faces.

CITIES & SETTLEMENTS

Jerusalem

Human Systems Jerusalem is one of the world's oldest cities and is deeply sacred for three major world religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The city has long been a center of culture and faith for Jews. Christians honor the city as the place of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. Muslims believe that from the site Muhammad departed on a spiritual journey through the skies.

During Jerusalem's 5,000-year history, many groups have fought to control the city. In fact, it has been captured and occupied more than 36 times over the centuries. Even today, control of Jerusalem is central to disputes between the Israelis and Palestinians.

An Ancient and Sacred City

About 1000 B.C. King David ruled the Israelites from the city of Hebron. However, the king wanted a more centrally located capital from which he could further unite the tribes of Israel. This desire led him to seize the fortress of Zion from the Jebusites and found a new city, Jerusalem, there. When the king moved the sacred Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, the city became the religious center of Israel. David's son, King Solomon, expanded the city and built the Temple, into which the Ark was placed.

In 586 B.C. the Babylonians captured Jerusalem and destroyed Solomon's temple. Although it was later rebuilt, the Romans destroyed it again in A.D. 70. All that remains of the temple today is a high wall on the western edge of the Temple Mount. This Western Wall—sometimes called the Wailing Wall—is the holiest place in Judaism. Each day people go to the wall to pray. They place slips of paper with prayers



A Jewish man prays at Jerusalem's Western Wall.

written on them between the narrow cracks in the wall.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the most sacred shrine of Christianity, is also located in Jerusalem. Completed about A.D. 335 by the Roman emperor Constantine, it occupies the site where Christians believe Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected. Thousands of Christian pilgrims visit the church each year and retrace "the Way of the Cross" through Jerusalem's narrow streets.

Arab Muslims captured Jerusalem in the early A.D. 600s. In the late 600s they built a mosque on the Temple Mount to house the rock from which they believe

Muhammad ascended to the heavens. Known as the Dome of the Rock, it is one of Islam's holiest sites. Some Jews believe the rock may also be the foundation stone on which the Ark of the Covenant rested in its ancient temple. Other sacred Islamic sites were also built on the Temple Mount, Judaism's most sacred place. Israel allows each religious group to control its holy sites. Muslims control the Temple Mount.

The Modern City

Jerusalem is located on hills overlooking the Jordan River valley. In the heart of Jerusalem lies the Old City, the most ancient part of the city. Walls surround the Old City, which is separated into four quarters. These are the Armenian Quarter, Christian Quarter, Jewish Quarter, and Muslim Quarter. Each quarter contains religious buildings and houses for the members of its community.

In the 1860s the first settlements were built outside the walls of the Old City. Today more than 600,000 people live in Jerusalem, most outside its

The Old City of Jerusalem



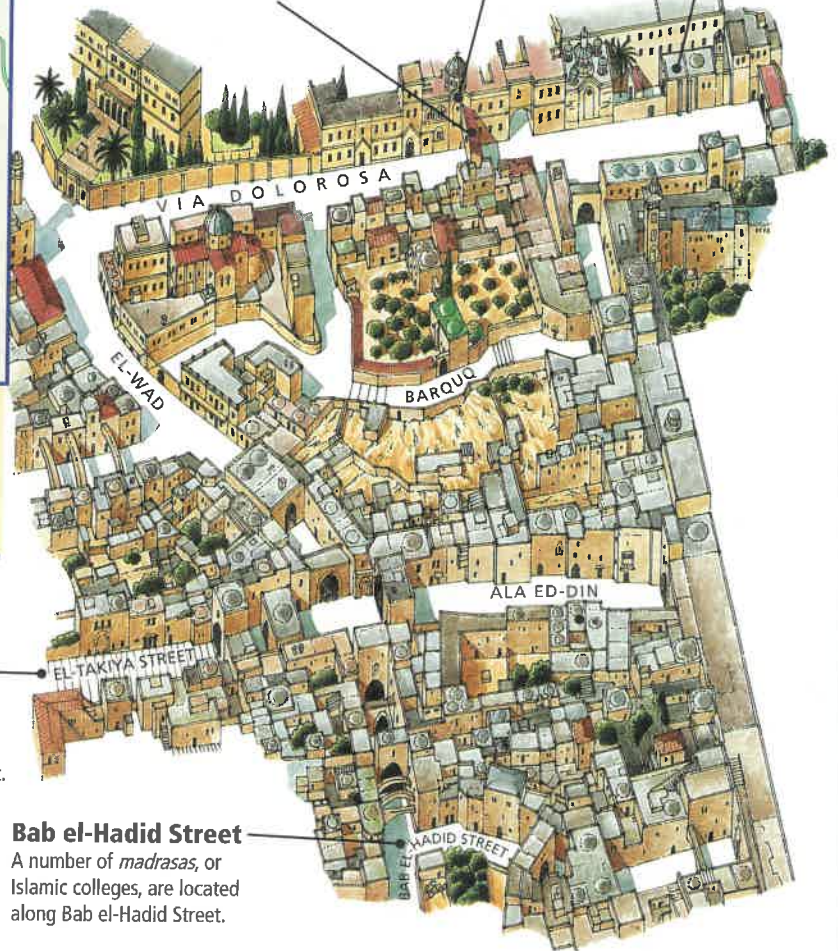
INTERPRETING THE MAP *The Old City of Jerusalem is divided into four quarters. Part of the Muslim Quarter is pictured at the right. How is the city's plan related to its political and historical characteristics?*

Ecce Homo Arch

The arch spans the Via Dolorosa, a street that follows the path Christians believe Jesus took on the way to his crucifixion.

Convent of the Sisters of Zion

Monastery of the Flagellation



El-Takiya Street

Examples of Mameluke architecture can be found along this narrow stepped street. The Mamelukes were Islamic rulers who once controlled the region from Egypt.

Bab el-Hadid Street

A number of *madrasas*, or Islamic colleges, are located along Bab el-Hadid Street.

ancient walls. Many of Jerusalem's newer neighborhoods lie to the west and north. Commercial and government centers are also located west of the Old City.

About one third of Jerusalem's residents are Palestinian Arabs. Most live in East Jerusalem. The remaining two thirds of the population are mostly Jews, and many live in West Jerusalem. Neighborhood divisions throughout the city are often based on religious practices and preferences. For example, Arab East Jerusalem includes both Muslim and Christian neighborhoods. In West Jerusalem some communities are organized according to how strictly the residents practice Judaism.

When the modern State of Israel was established in 1948, Jerusalem was divided into Israeli and Jordanian sectors. Israel captured the entire city during the Six-Day War in 1967. Since then, Israel's government has controlled all of Jerusalem, including

mostly Arab East Jerusalem. This has become a major political issue as Israelis and Palestinians struggle to make peace. Both sides consider Jerusalem a sacred city and want to control it. So far, negotiators have not been able to resolve this difficult issue.

Applying What You Know

- Summarizing** Why have Jews and Muslims sought control of Jerusalem for so long?
- Comparing and Contrasting** Recall what you learned about Mecca in Chapter 19. What are some similarities and differences in the religious importance of Mecca and Jerusalem? What other places have you studied that are also important religious centers?

CHAPTER 20

Review

HOLT

Geography's Impact Video Series

Review the video to answer the closing question: *Why do you think the conflict in Jerusalem today is difficult to solve?*

Building Vocabulary

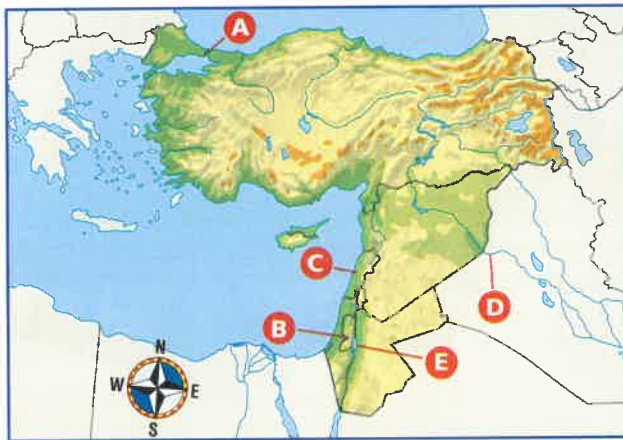
On a separate sheet of paper, explain the following terms by using them correctly in sentences.

potash	mandates	Kurds
magnesium	Zionism	souks
sultans	Holocaust	secular

Locating Key Places

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Dead Sea	Istanbul	Beirut
Euphrates River	Jerusalem	



Understanding the Main Ideas

Section 1

- Physical Systems** What physical feature extends north from Africa to create the Jordan River valley and the Dead Sea?
- Places and Regions** How has the region's vegetation changed over time?

Section 2

- Human Systems** Why did many Jews immigrate to the region that later became Israel?
- Places and Regions** What are the three main religions of the eastern Mediterranean? What major feature do these religions share?

Section 3

- Places and Regions** What two countries are recovering from many years of ethnic and religious conflict?

Thinking Critically

- Analyzing Information** How are Zionism and the revival of the Hebrew language linked?
- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** How do you think the Dead Sea got its name?
- Analyzing** Why do many Jewish Israelis and Arabs view political issues in the region differently? How might these differing views affect public policies like Jewish settlement in the West Bank?

Using the Geographer's Tools

- Analyzing Maps** Review the chapter physical-political map. What areas could become part of a new Palestinian state? What problems might the geography of this new state pose for a Palestinian government?
- Analyzing Statistics** Review the unit Comparing Standards of Living and Fast Facts tables. Which country or countries appear to be the most developed and have the highest standard of living? What statistics have led you to this conclusion?
- Preparing Graphs** Go to go.hrw.com on the HRW Web site to find the information you will need to prepare a climate graph for one of the region's cities. Write a caption describing the city's climate and the factors affecting its climate.

Writing about Geography

Review the information about the water resources of the Eastern Mediterranean. Note major rivers and deserts. Investigate problems related to water supply. Write a short report of your findings. You might want to create diagrams illustrating some of the key points.



SKILL BUILDING

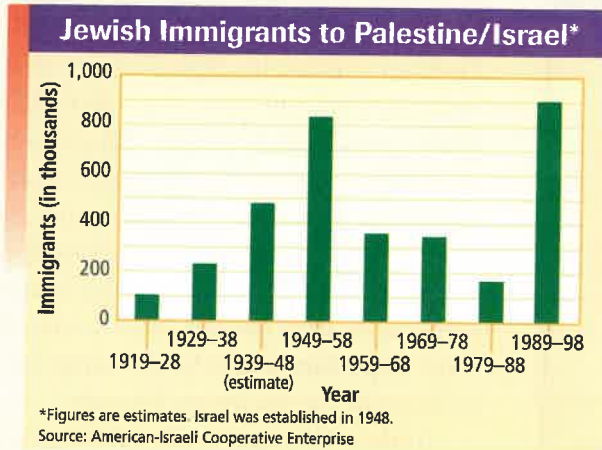
Geography for Life

Analyzing Geographic Information

Environment and Society Use Internet or library resources to investigate several of the eastern Mediterranean's non-European languages. Then answer the following questions: How similar are these languages to each other? How and when were they brought into the region? Where are they spoken today? Then draw a map showing where the languages are spoken and compare your map to the chapter physical-political map. Draw inferences about what geographic and political factors can create a language boundary. Write a paragraph describing your findings.

Interpreting Charts

Study the chart below. Then use the information from the chart to help you answer the questions that follow. Mark your answers on a separate sheet of paper.



- After Israel gained independence in 1948, the fewest number of Jewish immigrants to the area arrived between
 - 1919 and 1928.
 - 1929 and 1938.
 - 1969 and 1978.
 - 1979 and 1988.
- What general pattern do you see in immigration to Palestine and Israel over time?

Interpreting Secondary Sources

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

"In the 1300s the Ottoman Turks established another Muslim empire in the region. They took Constantinople in 1453 and made it the Ottoman capital. By the 1600s the Ottoman Empire included most of Southwest Asia. The empire also stretched into parts of eastern Europe and most of North Africa. However, political problems and rivalries with other countries slowly weakened the empire. Over time ethnic minorities within the empire's borders also began to push for independence."

- What event happened in 1453?
 - The Republic of Turkey was created.
 - The Ottoman Turks created an empire.
 - The Ottoman Empire was defeated.
 - The Ottomans captured Constantinople and made it their empire's capital.
- What are three reasons that the Ottoman Empire weakened?

Alternative Assessment

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

Learning about Your Local Geography

Group Project: Research

You have read about how cultural beliefs can influence public policies and decisions. Plan, organize, and complete a group research project about the various ethnic or cultural groups that live in your area. You might use library or Internet resources to begin your research. Then interview community government leaders to learn how cultural beliefs have influenced local policies. Finally, prepare a short report discussing your findings.

internet connect

Internet Activity: go.hrw.com
KEYWORD: SW3 GT20

Choose a topic on the eastern Mediterranean to:

- research ancient and modern Jerusalem and create a newspaper.
- send a postcard from the Dead Sea and learn about its cultural value and its value as a natural resource.
- understand the sources of conflict and efforts to relieve it in Cyprus.

Geography

Skill-Building Workshop



WORKSHOP 1

Using Transportation Maps

Some maps help us do more than study physical features or locations. They can also identify important transportation routes. Road maps, for example, include roads and highways with numbers and symbols that identify each route. Some transportation maps, such as the example on this page, are more complex. Such maps include a web of railways, major roads and highways, and important seaports and airports. All of those features link different places.

Developing the Skill Transportation maps are not difficult to understand. A map legend shows the kinds of transportation routes featured on the map. Common symbols include those for major roads, railways, airports, and seaports. Sometimes highways and railways are labeled on these kinds of maps. Distances along roads and railways may also be marked in miles, kilometers, or both. If not, a distance scale helps you estimate the distance between places shown on the map. Mapmakers may also show other cities or well-known cultural features to serve as landmarks on the map.

The map on this page shows Turkey's transportation network. Turkey and the rest of Southwest Asia have long

been located along major transportation and trade routes. For example, the ancient Silk Road once linked the region to eastern Asia. Today tankers and cargo ships carry oil and other goods along major shipping lanes around the region. The Bosphorus, a narrow strait that separates European and Asian Turkey, is one of the region's major shipping lanes. In fact, Turkey has many seaports, some active since ancient times. Some of the most important seaports, including the city of Istanbul, are shown on the map.

Turkey also has many major airports. As you can see, the country's land transportation network includes railways, roads, and highways. Coal, other minerals, and grain are transported along Turkish railways for hundreds of miles to ports or markets. A complex road network also links towns throughout the country. Increasing automobile and truck traffic led to the construction of a bridge across the Bosphorus, which was completed in 1973. This bridge, the Trans-European Motorway, has become important for trade between Europe and Southwest Asia.

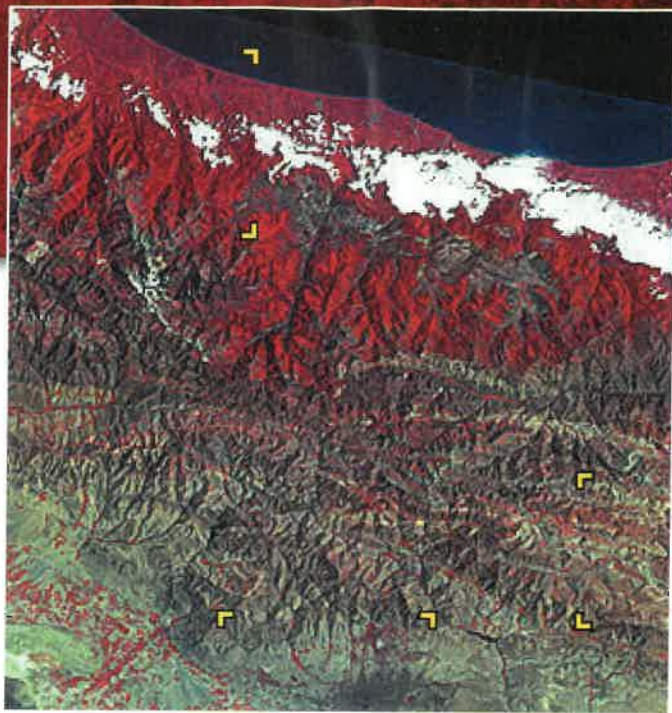
Practicing the Skill

1. What transportation features link Ankara to the rest of Turkey?
2. Identify major Turkish seaports shown on the map.
3. Prepare a transportation map of your state. Identify important railways, roads, highways, airports, and seaports.

WORKSHOP 2

Analyzing Aerial Photographs

Aerial photographs are important tools geographers use to view Earth's surface. Satellites and other spacecraft orbiting the planet provide many aerial images.



They use a variety of sensors to produce these images. These sensors include microwave detectors and scanners that measure and record electromagnetic radiation. Satellites send the data they gather to receiving stations on the ground. The data can then be converted into an image resembling a photograph.

The technology used in satellite imagery has links to World War II. Military researchers developed a special kind of color film during that war. It is known as false-color infrared film. The film captures the electromagnetic radiation that objects reflect. When this film is used, objects do not appear in their natural colors. The leaves of plants reflect very well. The healthier the vegetation is, the brighter the reflection, which appears in red on the film. Human structures like buildings, roads, and parking lots appear blue. Water appears black, unless it contains sediment or a lot of plant life.

Aerial photographs have been important to researchers. For example, geologists can use false-color aerial photographs to locate faults and other physical features on Earth's surface. The water that collects in

such features encourages vegetation growth. This growth may be thicker than what is found in the surrounding area. As a result, areas along these physical features may show up in red, the color in which vegetation appears. In addition, the film clearly shows differences between vegetation and human features. As a result, it is useful in urban mapping.

Developing the Skill The following checklist can help you analyze satellite and aerial photographs. It will help you identify features in such images:

- ✓ Look at the shape of objects. Does the shape appear natural or human-made?
- ✓ Study the image's tone, or the lightness or darkness of its objects. Tone creates contrast and helps you distinguish between features.
- ✓ Analyze color, which fades with increasing distance. Colors also identify features.
- ✓ Try to locate a feature in the area that has a standard size, such as a football field. Compare other features to the one you have selected.
- ✓ Identify patterns, such as the repeated forms of sand dunes. Note that shadows can hide a feature or show the profile of its shape.
- ✓ Note the site and situation of a particular image. What is the relationship of the object to surrounding features? Look for links.
- ✓ Review the context of the image. Get as much information as possible about when and how the image was created.

Practicing the Skill

Use the checklist discussed above to analyze the aerial photograph on this page. The photograph shows an area of the Elburz Mountains in northern Iran. The city of Tehran (not shown) lies to the south, and the Caspian Sea is to the north. Create and complete a chart for your checklist. Then answer the following questions:

1. What do you suppose the white objects in the photograph represent?
2. What effect do the mountains appear to have on weather and climate patterns in the area?
3. Where is the thickest vegetation in the region? What might account for these vegetation patterns?