



UNIT

6

Southwest Asia



*Blue Mosque,
Istanbul*

Chapter **19** *The Persian Gulf and Interior*

Chapter **20** *The Eastern Mediterranean*

CONNECTING TO *Literature*

FROM THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH *translated by N. K. Sandars*



Gilgamesh is the hero of this ancient story that was popular all over Southwest Asia. In this passage Utnapishtim (oot-nuh-peesh-tuhm), whom the gods have given everlasting life, tells Gilgamesh about surviving a great flood.

In those days . . . the people multiplied, the world bellowed like a wild bull, and the great god was aroused by the clamor.¹ Enlil (en-LIL) heard the clamor and he said to the gods in council, “The uproar of mankind is intolerable² and sleep is no longer possible by reason of the babel.”³ So the gods agreed to exterminate⁴ mankind. Enlil did this, but Ea (AY-uh) because of his oath warned me in a dream. . . . “Tear down your house, I say, and build a boat. . . . Then take up into the boat the seed of all living creatures.”

Utnapishtim does as he is told. He builds a boat, fills it with supplies, his family, and animals. Then terrible rains come and flood Earth.

When the seventh day dawned the storm from the south subsided, the sea grew calm, the flood was stilled; I looked at the face of the world and there was silence, all mankind was turned to clay. . . . I opened a hatch and the light fell on my face. Then I bowed low, I sat down and I wept . . . for on every side was the waste of water. I looked



for land in vain, but fourteen leagues distant there appeared a mountain, and there the boat grounded; on the mountain of Nisir the boat held fast. . . . When the seventh day dawned I loosed a dove and let her go. She flew away, but finding no resting-place she returned. . . . I loosed a raven, she saw that the waters had retreated, she ate, she flew around, she cawed, and she did not come back. Then I threw everything open to the four winds. I made a sacrifice and poured out a libation.⁵

¹**clamor:** noise

²**intolerable:** not bearable

³**babel:** confusing noise

⁴**exterminate:** kill off

⁵**libation:** poured as an offering to a god

Analyzing the Primary Source

- 1. Summarizing** Why did the god bring the flood?
- 2. Analyzing** Why does Utnapishtim cry?

The World in Spatial Terms

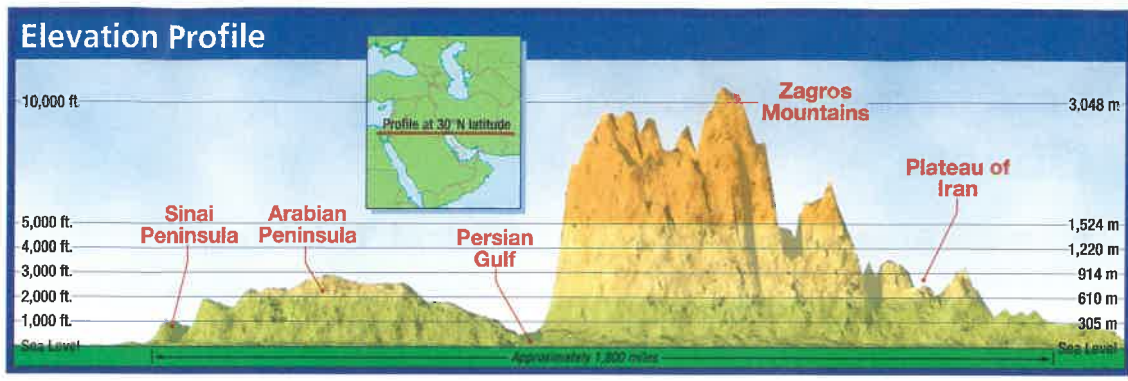
Southwest Asia Political

- Places and Regions** Which country in the region is landlocked?
- Places and Regions** Which country in the region has coastlines on both the Red Sea and Persian Gulf?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the physical map. What geographic factors do you think allow Iraq to control its territory?





Southwest Asia: Physical

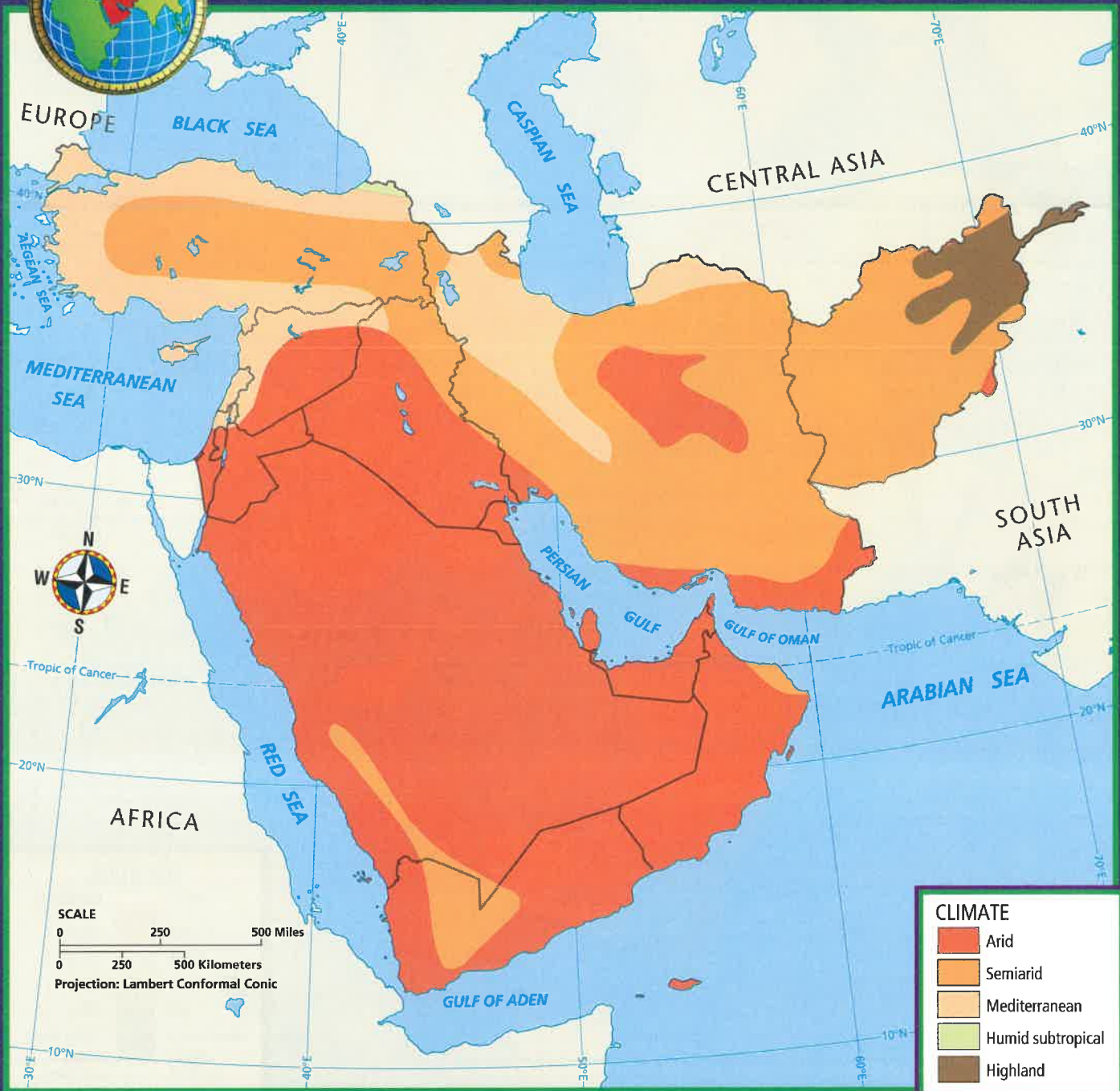


Southwest Asia: Climate

- Physical Systems** What is the most widespread climate type in Southwest Asia?
- Physical Systems** Compare this map to the physical map. What do you think the environment in most of the Arabian Peninsula is like?

Critical Thinking

- Making Generalizations** Compare this map to the physical map. What are some areas where mountain barriers might be a factor affecting climate?

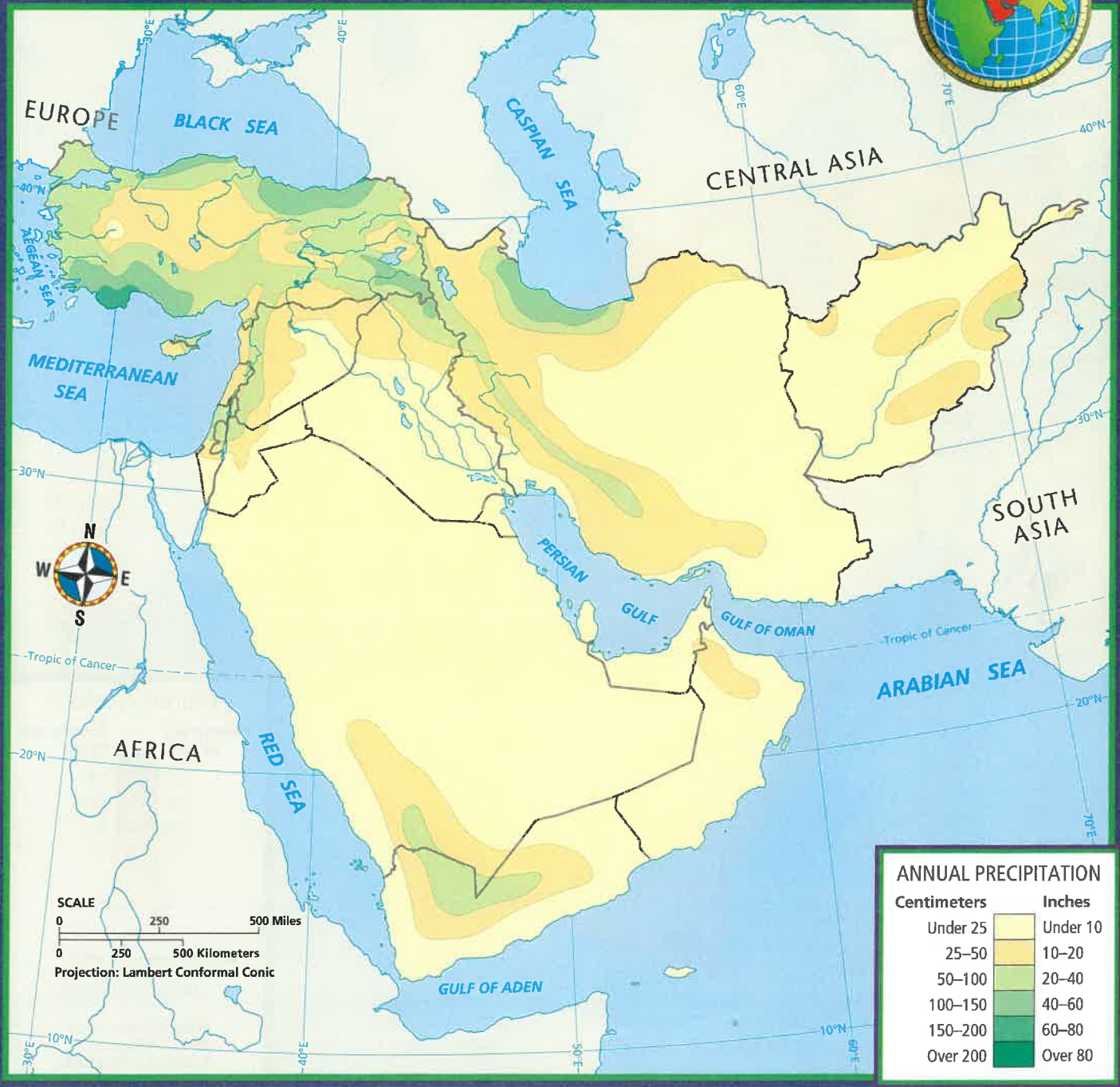


Southwest Asia: Precipitation

- Places and Regions** How much precipitation do most areas on the Arabian Peninsula receive?
- Places and Regions** Which country on the Arabian Peninsula receives the most precipitation?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Conclusions** Compare this map to the physical map. Based on the distribution of precipitation in the region, which area do you think is known as the Fertile Crescent?



ANNUAL PRECIPITATION	
Centimeters	Inches
Under 25	Under 10
25–50	10–20
50–100	20–40
100–150	40–60
150–200	60–80
Over 200	Over 80

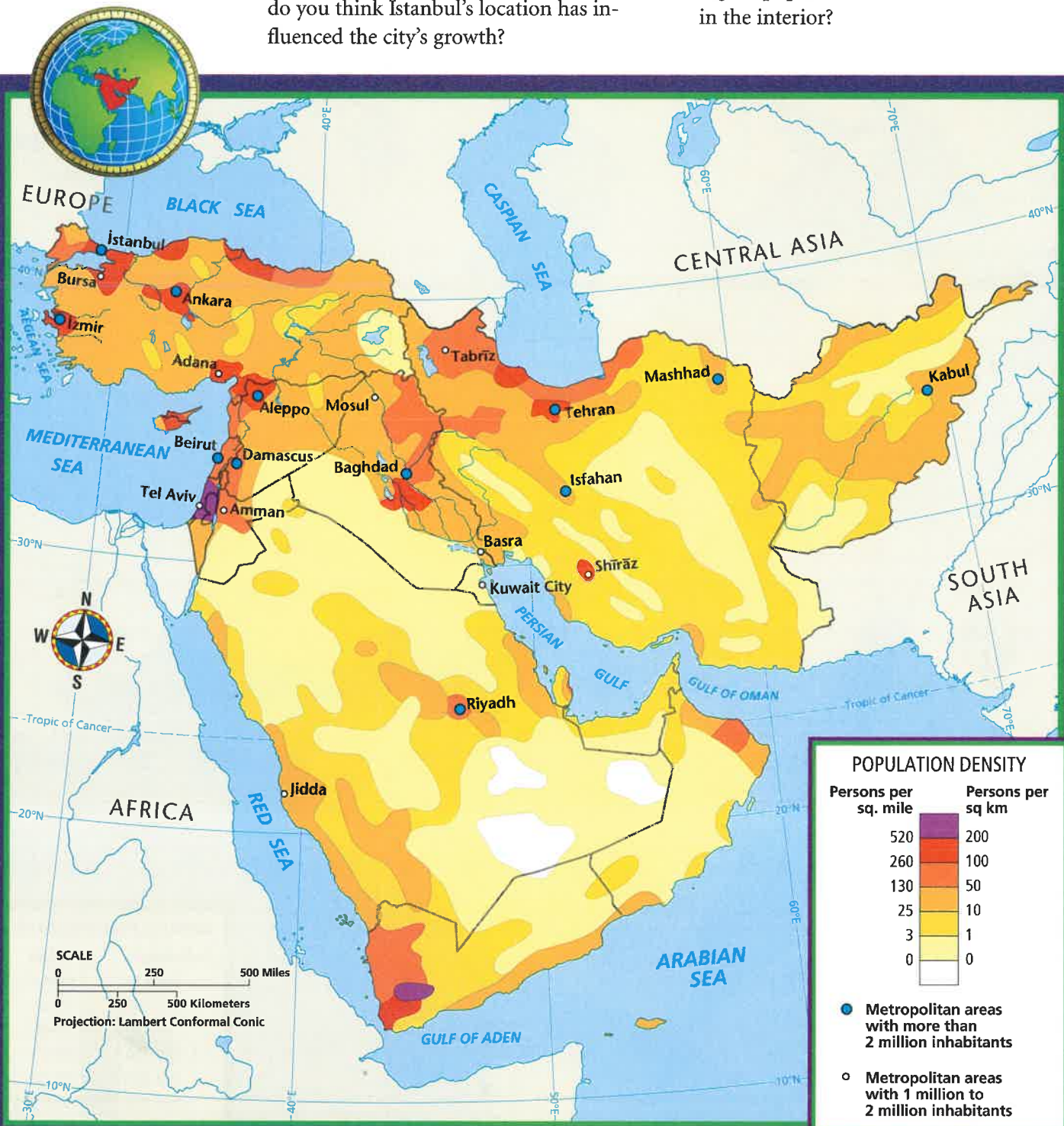
SCALE
0 250 500 Miles
0 250 500 Kilometers
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Southwest Asia: Population

- Environment and Society** Which country in the region appears to have the highest overall population density?
- Places and Regions** Compare this map to the physical and land use maps. How do you think Istanbul's location has influenced the city's growth?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the physical map. Why do you think many coastal areas have higher population densities than areas in the interior?

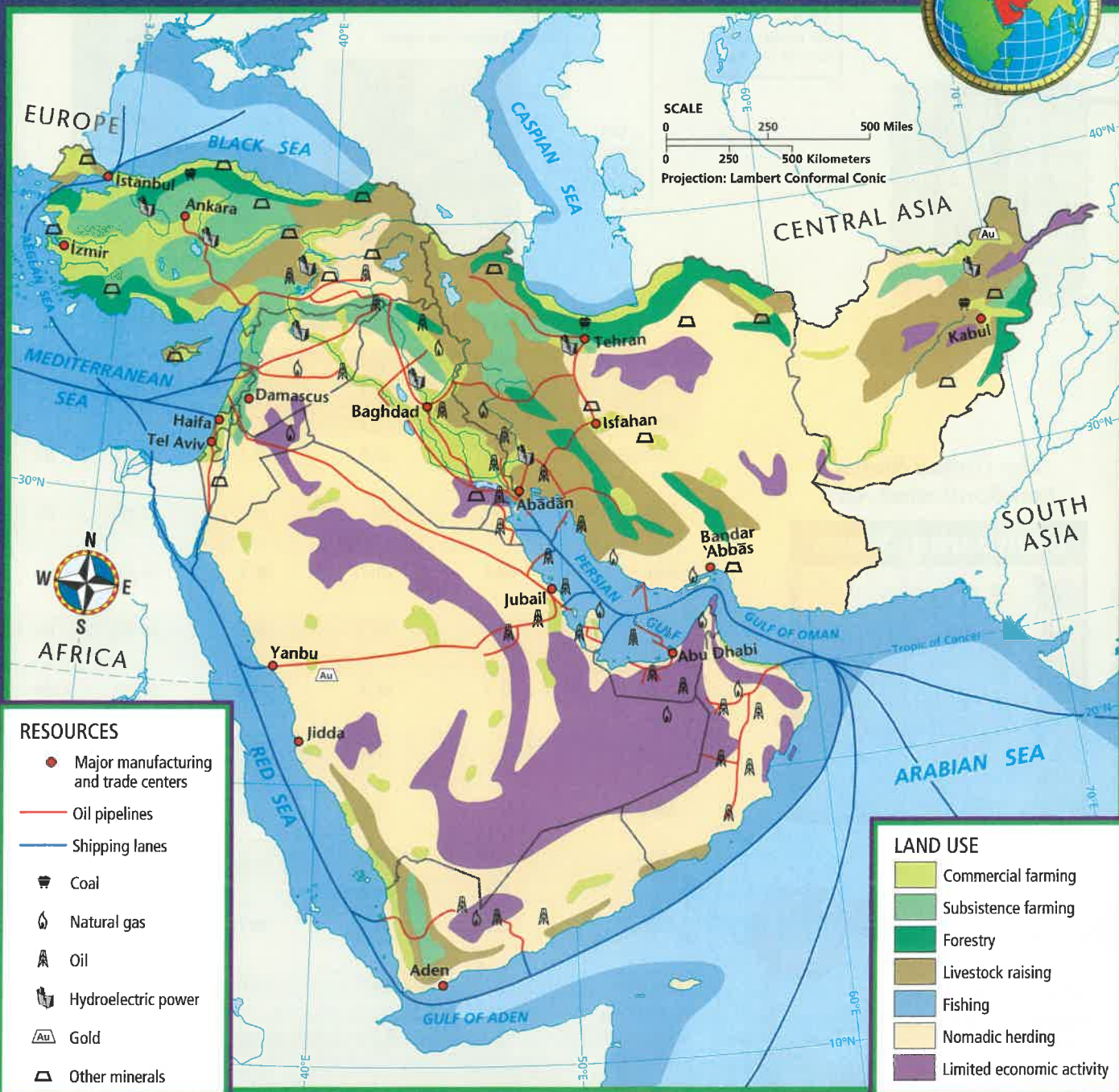


Southwest Asia: Land Use and Resources

- Places and Regions** Where do oil and natural gas seem to be the most concentrated in Southwest Asia?
- Environment and Society** Compare this map to the population map. How are land use and population distribution in Israel related?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing Information** Compare this map to the climate map. How do you think farmers have adapted to arid and semiarid climates in the region? What clues to your answer do you find in the maps?



Time Line: Southwest Asia



c. 1000 B.C.
Hebrews establish a kingdom between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

A.D. 400s
The Roman Empire and its control of the region crumble.

1453
Muslim Ottomans take control of previously Christian Constantinople.

2001
Efforts to establish a lasting Arab-Israeli peace continue.



1948
Israel becomes an independent country.

3500 B.C.

3500 B.C.
Sumerians live in Mesopotamia.



1000 B.C.

550 B.C.
The Persian Empire controls the region.

1200

1200s
Mongols invade the region.



c. 570
Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, is born.

1900



1918
The Ottoman Empire is defeated in World War I and collapses four years later.

Comparing Standard of Living

COUNTRY	LIFE EXPECTANCY MALE (at birth, 2006)	LIFE EXPECTANCY FEMALE (at birth, 2006)	INFANT MORTALITY (per 1,000 births)	LITERACY RATE	DAILY CALORIC INTAKE (per person)
Afghanistan	43.2	43.5	160.2	36.0%	NA
Bahrain	72	77	16.8	89.1%	NA
Iran	68.9	71.7	40.3	79.4%	3,096
Iraq	67.8	70.3	48.6	40.4%	NA
Israel	77.3	81.7	6.9	95.4%	3,554
Kuwait	76.1	78.3	9.7	83.5%	3,061
Saudi Arabia	73.7	77.8	12.8	78.8%	2,840
Syria	69	71.7	28.6	76.9%	3,057
Turkey	70.2	75.2	39.7	86.5%	3,328
Yemen	60.2	64.1	59.9	50.2%	2,019
United States	75.0	80.8	6.4	99.0%	3,754

The United States and Southwest Asia

Comparing Sizes



Internet connect



GO TO: go.hrw.com
KEYWORD: SW3 Almanac
FOR: Additional information and reference sources

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, CIA World Factbook, Food and Agriculture Organization

Fast Facts: Southwest Asia



FLAG	COUNTRY Capital	POPULATION	POPULATION DENSITY (per sq. mi.)	AREA	PER CAPITA GDP (in US \$)	ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION (kilowatt hours per person)	TELEPHONE LINES (per 100 people)
	Afghanistan Kabul	31,056,997	124.3	250,001 sq. mi. 647,500 sq km	\$ 800	33.5	0.2
	Bahrain Manama	698,585	2,923.1	257 sq. mi. 666 sq km	\$ 20,500	9,777.5	26.7
	Cyprus Nicosia	784,301	219.9	3,571 sq. mi. 9,249 sq km	\$ 21,600	4,507.1	51.8
	Iran Tehran	68,688,433	108.8	636,296 sq. mi. 1,647,999 sq km	\$ 8,100	1,923.8	22.0
	Iraq Baghdad	26,783,383	159.8	168,754 sq. mi. 437,071 sq km	\$ 3,400	510.4	4.0
	Israel Jerusalem	6,352,117	809.4	8,019 sq. mi. 20,769 sq km	\$ 22,300	6,245.4	43.7
	Jordan Amman	5,906,760	167.1	35,637 sq. mi. 92,299 sq km	\$ 4,800	1,347.4	11.0
	Kuwait Kuwait City	2,418,393	351.5	6,880 sq. mi. 17,819 sq km	\$ 22,800	14,685.6	19.5
	Lebanon Beirut	3,874,050	980.8	4,015 sq. mi. 10,399 sq km	\$ 5,300	2,755.2	17.8
	Oman Musqat	3,102,229	37.8	82,031 sq. mi. 212,459 sq km	\$ 13,400	3,088.7	10.1
	Qatar Doha	885,359	208.5	4,416 sq. mi. 11,437 sq km	\$ 26,100	10,225.7	25.7
	Saudi Arabia Riyadh	27,019,731	32.6	756,984 sq. mi. 1,960,580 sq km	\$ 12,900	4,994.5	14.8
	Syria Damascus	18,881,361	265.7	71,498 sq. mi. 185,179 sq km	\$ 3,400	1,338.8	14.6
	Turkey Ankara	70,413,958	236.7	301,383 sq. mi. 780,578 sq km	\$ 7,900	1,773.5	26.5
	United Arab Emirates Abu Dhabi	2,602,713	80.5	32,000 sq. mi. 82,880 sq km	\$ 29,100	14,724.0	27.3
	Yemen Sanaa	21,456,188	105.2	203,850 sq. mi. 527,969 sq km	\$ 800	166.8	3.9
	United States Washington, D.C.	298,444,215	84.4	3,717,810 sq. mi. 9,629,084 sq km	\$ 42,000	12,251.8	60.6

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *CIA World Factbook*, Energy Information Admin., International Telecommunication Union