



The Middle East

The Middle East is the name given to a group of countries in western Asia. Some of these countries either border on or are near the Mediterranean Sea, extending to the east to include Iran. Others are on the Arabian peninsula which is separated from Africa by the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. This region is very much like North Africa. In fact, Egypt, which lies just west of the Red Sea in Africa, is usually included in any discussion of the Middle East. The land itself is hot and dry. The few trees that grow there are along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, in fertile river valleys, or in desert oases. The Middle East is a region so different from Southeast Asia that it might be in another world instead of at the other side of the same continent.

Find information about this area in reference books and answer these questions.

1. What is the only city in the world that occupies land on two continents?

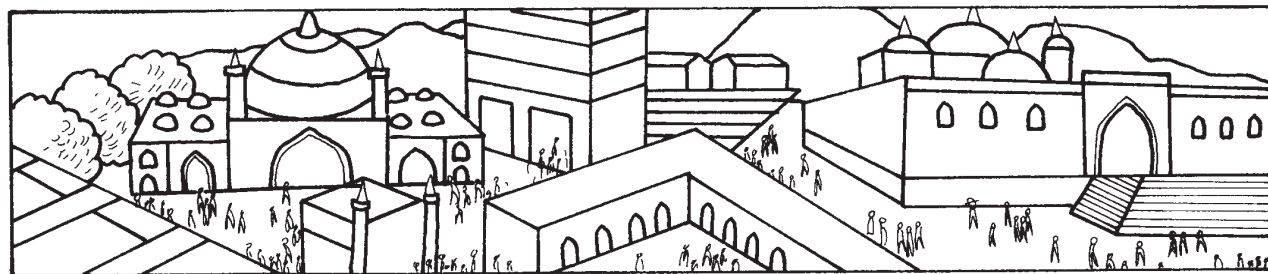
2. Which Middle Eastern country is an island nation?

3. What is the capital of Lebanon?

4. Which modern Middle Eastern country was created in 1948?

5. In which Middle Eastern country is Mecca located?

6. Why is Mecca important to people all over the world?





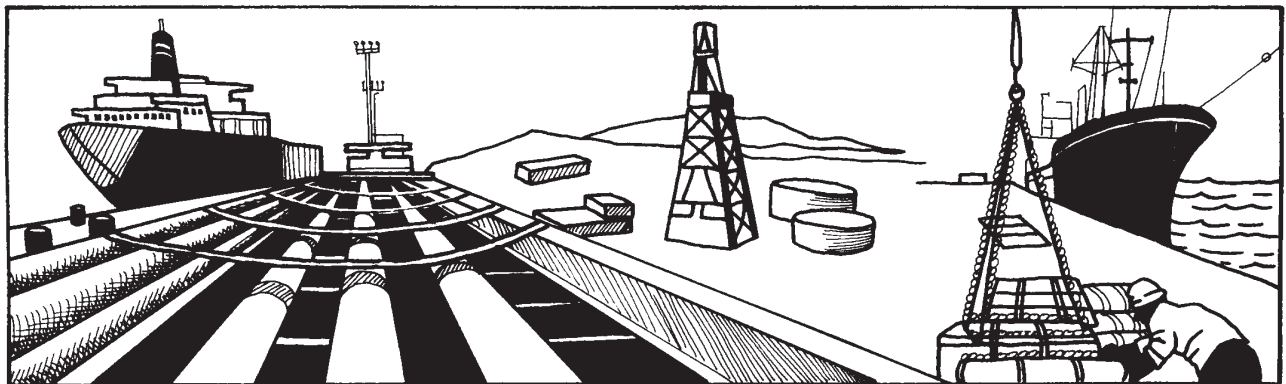
The Middle East *(cont.)*

7. Name four Middle Eastern countries that border on the Mediterranean Sea.

8. Which Middle Eastern country invaded its neighbor, Kuwait, in 1990, starting the Persian Gulf War?

9. What is Israel's most important river?

10. How has the discovery and production of oil affected the countries of the Middle East?





The Middle East *(cont.)*

Match each country with its capital city.

Iran	Ankara
Turkey	Tehran
Cyprus	Beirut
Lebanon	Nicosia
Syria	Damascus
Iraq	Amman
Israel	Baghdad
Jordan	Jerusalem
Saudi Arabia	Kuwait City
Kuwait	Riyadh
Bahrain	Abu Dubai
Qatar	Doha
United Arab Emirates	Manama
Oman	Sana
Yemen	Muscat