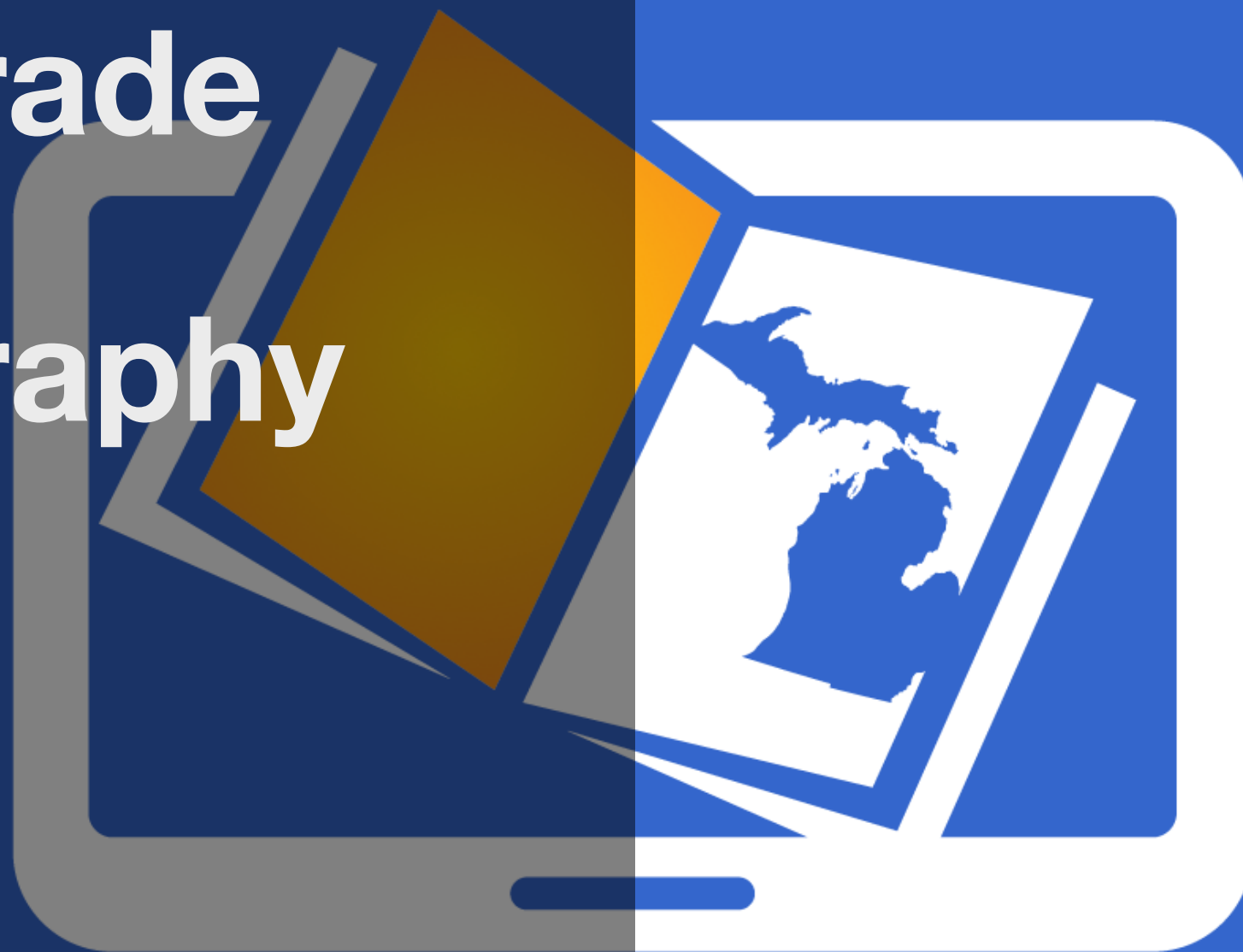


MI OPEN BOOK PROJECT

World Geography

Brian DuFort, Sally Erickson, Matt Hamilton, David Soderquist, Steve Zigray

6th Grade World Geography



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Welcome to the MI Open Book Project preview release of the 6th Grade World Geography book! This book represents the collective work of many classroom teachers who have been hard at work over the last seven months to build the text and content featured here.

We hope you'll enjoy this sample of what's coming. While there is a great deal more work to do putting together the other chapters and sections, we're immensely proud of the work we've started.

The final version of this text will be released over the summer for all platforms - iOS, OSX, Windows, Android and Chrome. Be certain to check out the website to stay up to date with the latest news and information. While you're there, join the ListServ - it's there you'll be among the first to learn about the release of the final product and hear about future books in the MI Open Book Project series..

<http://textbooks.wmisd.org>



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Brian is originally from Midland, MI and is a graduate of Northern Michigan University. He has spent his entire teaching career at Odyssey Middle/High School, an alternative education program in the Shepherd Public School system. In 2001, his environmental studies class was one of seven programs from the United States and Canada to be chosen as a winner of the Sea World/Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Award. Brian is also the Northern Conference director of the Michigan Alternative Ath-

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Sally has taught grades 3-6, as well as special education. She has served as a district literacy leader for many years and participated in the Galileo Leadership Academy in 2001-03. She is proud to be a teacher.



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East Jordan Middle School

Matt grew up in Cadillac, MI. He holds a bachelor and masters degree from Michigan State University. He currently teaches middle school History and Geography. Matt started and advises a club at his school called the Shoe Club to inspire his students to Dream Big. His wife and two daughters enjoy traveling and spending time in the outdoors.



David Soderquist

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Three Rivers Middle School

For the Past 11 years David has taught 6-8 grade Social Studies for Three Rivers Middle School. He serves as Department Head, School Improvement Member and Social Studies Rep for his area. Over the past few years he has completed his Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and become a state recognized Instructional Coach.

Steve Zigray

Concord Community Schools

Concord Middle School

Steve Zigray is a 6th grade teacher. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University and a Masters Degree in K-12 Administration from Eastern Michigan University. Honors Steve has been awarded are the 2001 Junior Achievement Educator of the Year and he was nominated for Jackson Magazine's, Educator of the year in 2014. He has also coached high school and middle school sports, worked on various school improvement committees, wrote the 6th grade Common Assessment tests for Jackson County ISD and is an active member in the community as well as the PTO. He lives in southeast Jackson County with his beautiful wife and three fantastic daughters.



Overview of the MI Open Book Project World Geography Text

With a shift towards World Geography in the 6th grade and different patterns that could be traversed even with a newer/clearer direction, the World Geography team wanted to take the best approaches employed by different organizations and provide something unique but familiar, an additional resource useful whether you're teaching through the five themes of geography, focusing on spatial thinking, or still looking at regions. The Sixth Grade book will include a digital student journal that tracks their understanding of the continuous inquiry question: How are we, as members of a global society connected?*

Foundations Unit:

- How are we, as members of a global society connected?

Movement Theme: (Studied through US and Canada)

- Why do people move?
- Why would you move?
- What's worth moving to or from?

Human/Environment Interaction Theme: (Studied through Latin America and the Caribbean)

- How do people's actions impact the world?
- How does the environment affect human behavior and actions?

Economics In Depth: (Studied through Russia)

Location Theme: (Studied through North Africa and the Middle East)

- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How does culture impact a person's perspective?

Place Theme: (Studied through Sub Saharan Africa)

- How does history impact the culture of a region?
- How do the people of Sub-Saharan Africa overcome the many challenges they face?

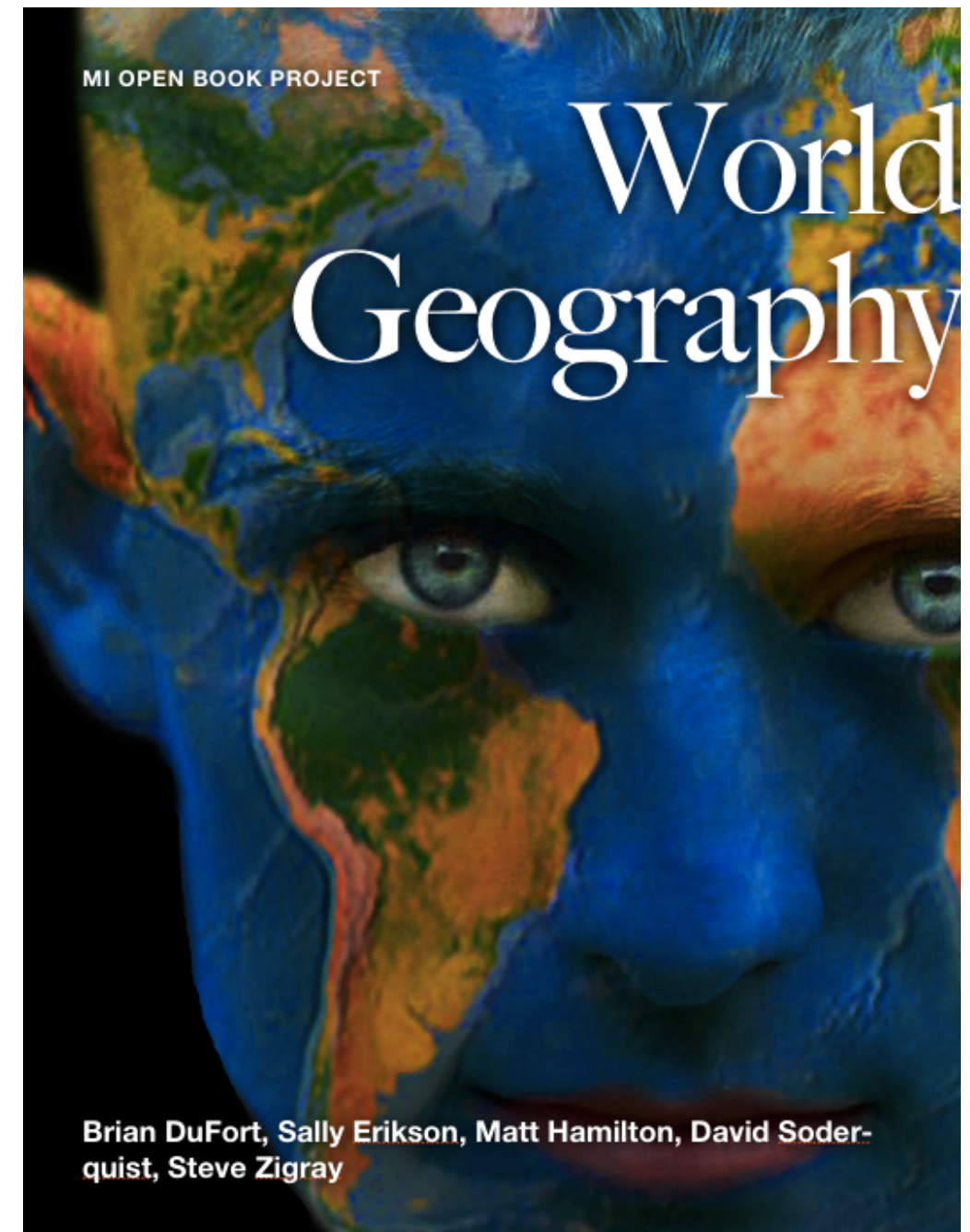
Regions Theme: (Studied through South Asia)

- What does population growth look like?
- How does the population of a place impact how and where you live?

Civics In Depth: (Studied through Asia)

History In Depth: (Studied through Oceania and Antarctica)

- How does where you live impact how you live?
- How does where societies develop influence their place in the world?
- How do island people survive when surrounded by an ocean?
- How does the history of Antarctica impact its role in the world today?



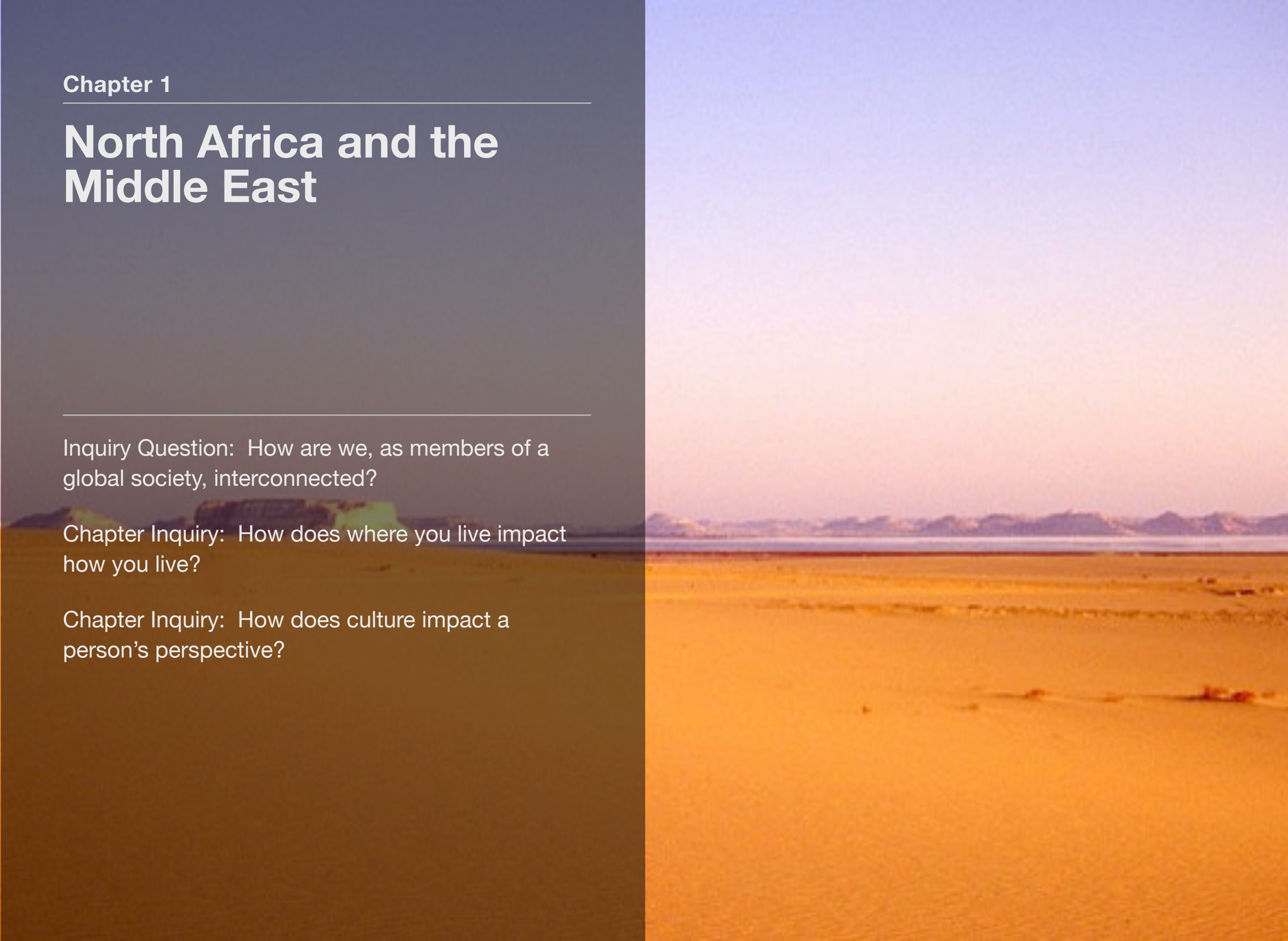
Chapter 1

North Africa and the Middle East

Inquiry Question: How are we, as members of a global society, interconnected?

Chapter Inquiry: How does where you live impact how you live?

Chapter Inquiry: How does culture impact a person's perspective?



Section 1

Introduction: North Africa and the Middle East

INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, interconnected?
2. How does where you live impact how you live?
3. How does culture impact a person's perspective?

The region of North Africa and the Middle East lies at the continental crossroads of Asia, Africa and Europe. At this intersection of the world, all three continents meet here at the Mediterranean Sea. The region extends from the eastern border of Pakistan to the Atlantic coast of Morocco in the West. The region includes many diverse landscapes. It contains rugged mountains, vast deserts, spacious plains and is surrounded by numerous seas. In this chapter, you will learn how geography impacts the way people live. You will also discover how culture impacts a person's perspective.

As build your knowledge of North Africa and the Middle East, keep these essential questions in mind:

“How does where you live impact how you live?”

North Africa and the Middle East is a large, diverse regions. There are many different geographic and human characteristics that make up the region. The varied landscape has influenced the way people live their lives.

“How does culture impact a person's perspective?”



North Africa and the Middle East has a rich culture and a history that reaches far into the past. As you work through this section, you will look at the impact religion, government, and lifestyle all play in how a person's perspective is shaped.

Introducing The Region: Human Geography- “How does where you live impact how you live?”

Together, the region of North Africa and the Middle East covers almost 6.6 million square miles (17 million sq. km) in area, more than twice the size of the

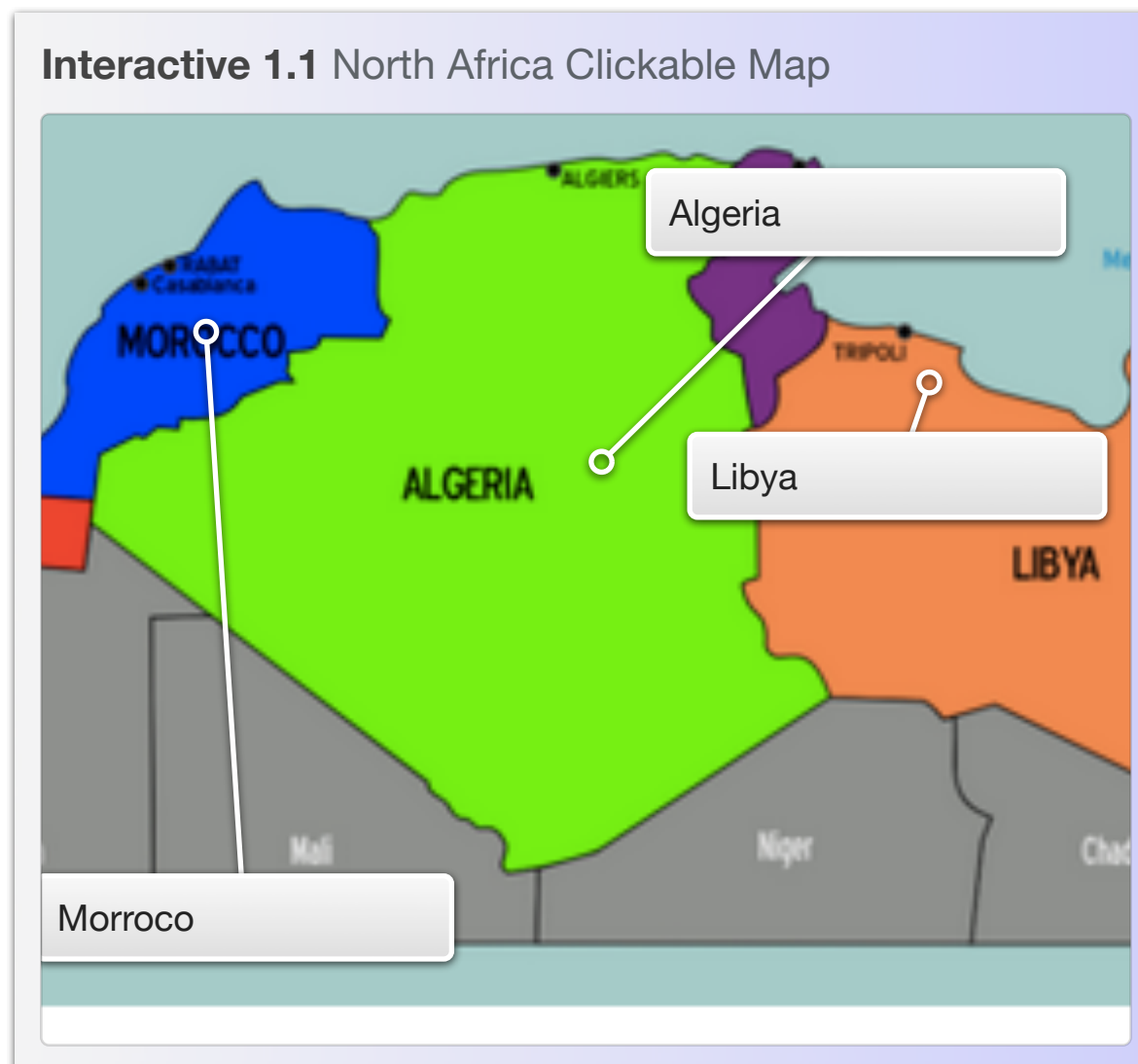
continental United States. North Africa consists of the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. The Middle East is made up of Israel,

Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Middle East and North Africa have long been linked together. For centuries camel caravans have crossed the region taking goods and ideas back and forth from Europe to the north and China in the Far East. Today trade still makes a lasting impact, with oil being the dominate good instead of the spices and silks of centuries ago.

Together, the region of North Africa and the Middle East covers almost 6.6 million square miles (17 million sq. km) in area, more than twice the size of the continental United States. North Africa consists of the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. The Middle East is made up of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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East. Today trade still makes a lasting impact, with oil being the dominate good instead of the spices and silks of centuries ago.



The rich history of the people in the region extends far beyond economics. The Middle East has for long been known as the "cradle of civilization". This is where farming began, where the first cities developed and this region is also the birthplace of three major world religions.

Interactive 1.2 Explore the Region!



Powered by Google, explore this region of study in this online interactive content.

Use the embedded interactive to examine the area. Look at both the human and physical characteristics of the region. What are some of the things you observe? Zoom into the area, to some of the countries. Explore some of the pictures that show up at the bottom.

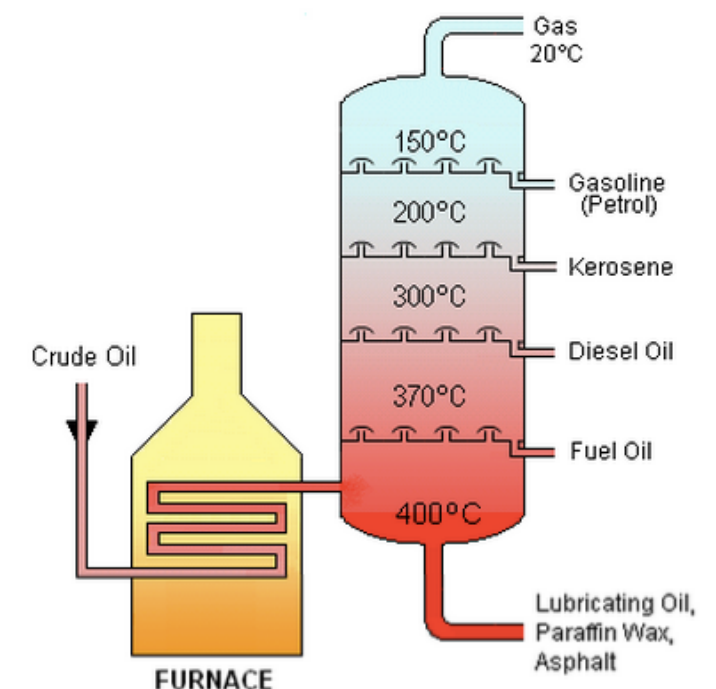
Introducing the Region: Economic Activity

Natural resources define the economic activity of North Africa and the Middle East. Petroleum, or oil, is the most important resource to the region due to the world's demand for it and the region

having so much of it.

Another major resource is water, in contrast to oil, water is important due to the lack of fresh water in the region.

Fossil fuels are in high demand worldwide. Due to the large demand for oil, a fossil fuel, many



countries in the region have grown very rich meeting the world's growing demand. North Africa and the Middle East has the largest known oil deposit in the world. Oil is refined down and used in many different products. Gas is one product that comes from oil and is important since it is the fuel used by cars, trucks, planes and ships worldwide.

The lack of water limits how much agriculture areas are able to support. Very few areas are able to have commercial farming or livestock. In most areas there is just enough water for subsistence farming and nomadic herding. Small areas of commercial farming produce olives, wheat and fruit can be found along the Mediterranean coast. Many people still rely on subsistence farming and nomadic herding. Nomadic herders move cattle from place to place in search of both food and water to feed their animals. Families that rely on subsistence farming live on small plots of land and will raise just enough food to feed their family.

Introducing the Region: Physical Geography

The people of the region have spent centuries learning how to adapt to the challenges of surviving in this dry region. North Africa is one of four subregions of Africa. The

world's largest desert, The Sahara, is the main physical feature in the area.

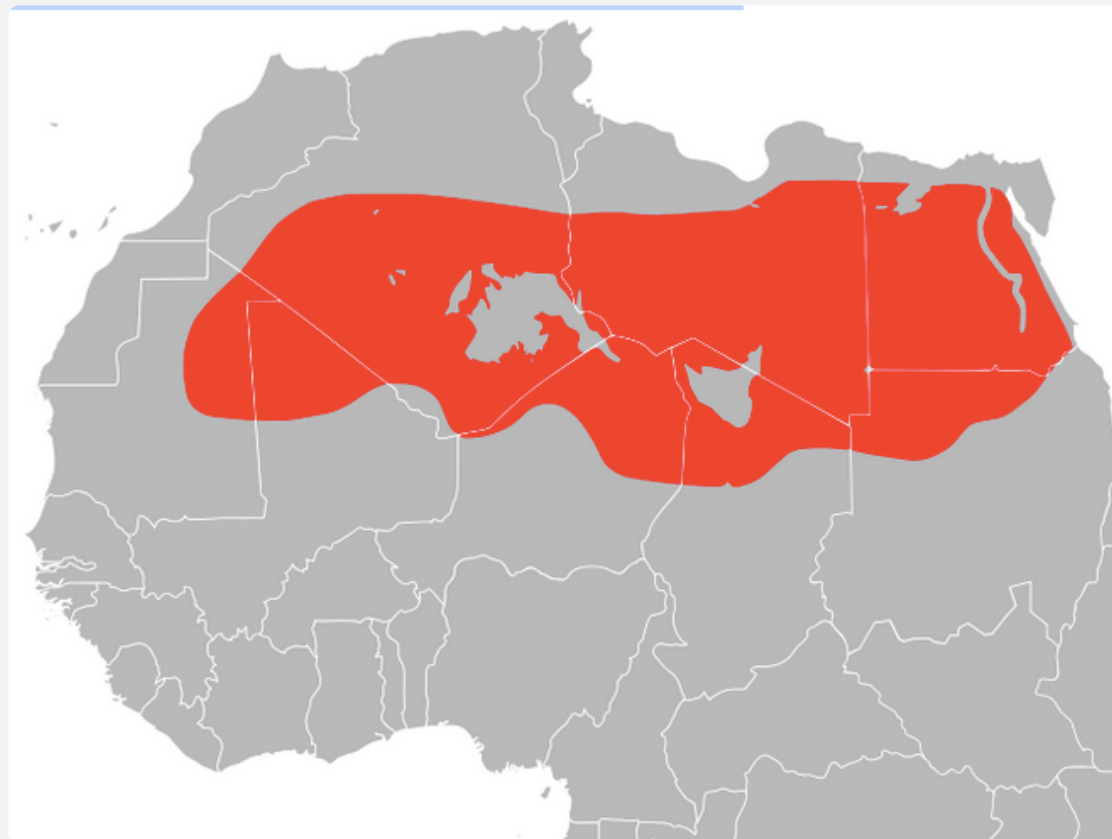
This desert is a combination of large sand dunes and rocky terrain. As you travel the region small areas of fertile plains exist around the few rivers and oasis, giving the region its only sources

of fresh water. The Nile, the longest river in Africa, runs through this region, emptying into the Mediterranean Sea. To the north, the Atlas Mountains stretch across the region.

The physical landscape of the Middle East is defined by great differences. The region has some of the worlds highest mountains to the

east and the world's driest areas in the deserts that cover much of the region. The region also boasts a number of bodies of water

Gallery 1.1 Physical Geography - Northern Africa



both fresh and salt water. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers come together in the area of Mesopotamia to create one of the most fertile river valleys in the world.

With a vast network of seas and gulfs, the area boasts one of the largest shipping networks due to the abundant natural resources found in the region. In the south is the world largest peninsula, the Arabian Peninsula which covers more than a million square miles. To the north, the Anatolia Plateau covers much of the rugged landscape of modern day Turkey.

Introducing the Region: Climate

Despite the many seas and rivers in the area, North Africa and the Middle East is a region of mostly arid and semiarid climate zones. An area with an arid climate only receives less than 10 inches of

precipitation in a year. The semiarid zone will receive slightly more precipitation on average per year. These two zones often are the hottest places in the world. Summer temperatures can be

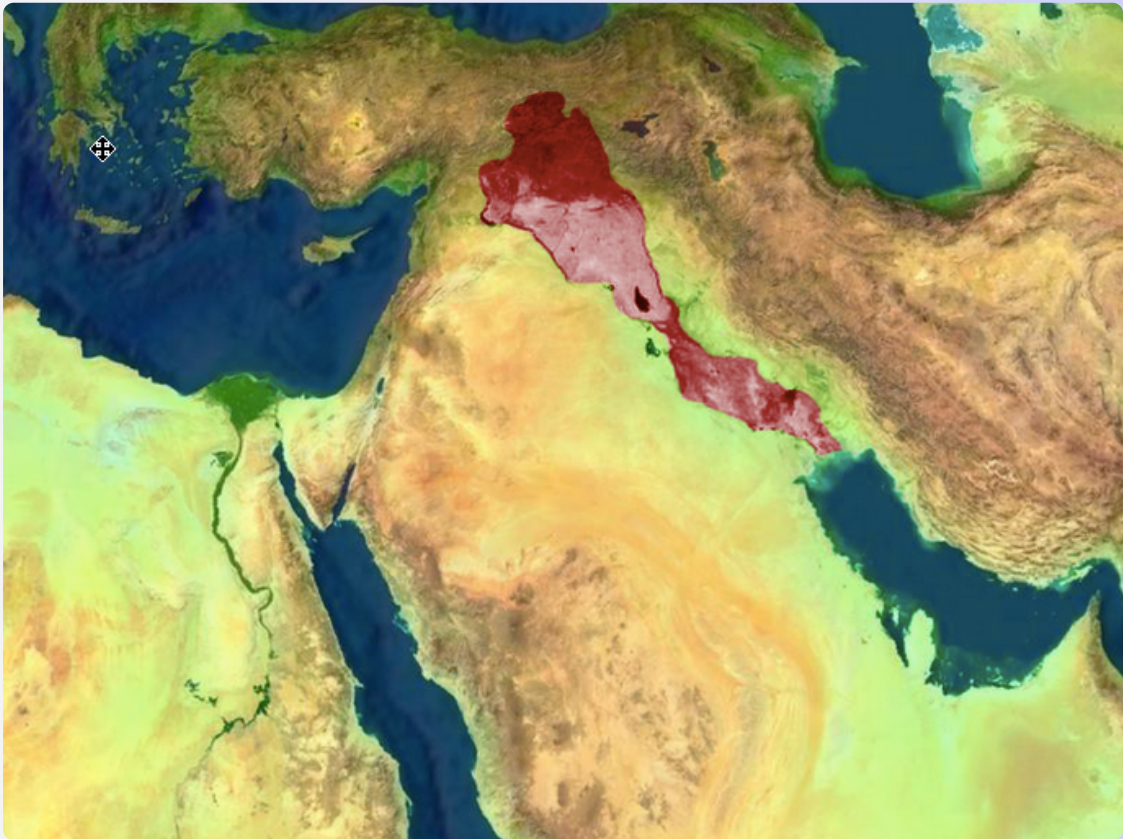
extreme with daytime temps reaching above 100°F. Temperatures on the Arabian peninsula can reach into the 100s as well in the summer. The area very little vegetation or moisture in the air to keep heat, so temps can drop drastically at night.

Along the coastal areas, the climate is much more moderate. Much of the area enjoys a Mediterranean climate. Here summers are warm with little precipitation and winters are mild and wet. In other areas of the region the climate can vary drastically due to changes in elevation. Generally, in the mountain areas, as the elevation goes up the temperatures drop.

Introducing the Region: Vegetation

The vegetation of the region is very limited due to the arid and semiarid climates. Much of the regions is covered by Desert scrub. Desert scrub is made up of small trees and shrubs that can survive in a region where water is scarce. Other vegetation zones exist mostly depending on the temperature and

Gallery 1.2 The Middle East



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Gallery 1.3 Climate and Vegetation



rainfall of an area. The river valleys are covered with mixed forest vegetation. In these areas, both coniferous and deciduous trees grow. In the Nile River Valley you will find the regions only area of broadleaf evergreen forest. Some small areas of temperate grassland appear in the cooler climate found in the highland area of Turkey. Finally, along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, you will find chaparral. This area of small trees and bushes thrive in the warm mediterranean climate.

Section 2

History and Religion

INQUIRY

1. How are we, as members of a global society, interconnected?
2. How does where you live impact how you live?
3. How does culture impact a person's perspective?



History- “The Cradle of Civilization”

What do you view as the greatest achievement in human history? The civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt had a huge impact on later civilizations. The Middle East and North Africa is known as “the cradle of civilization”. This is where agriculture (farming) was invented, the first cities developed here and the region is also the birthplace of three of the world's major religions. Around 5,000 years ago, two civilizations developed in the region. In North Africa, Egypt grew along the banks of the Nile River. To the east, Mesopotamia, developed on a fertile plain located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

Ancient Egypt

About 5000 B.C.E small farming villages

began to develop around the Nile River. These ancient people relied on the seasonal flooding of the Nile River to provide them with fresh water and fertile soil. As food supplies increased, so did the regions ability to support an increase in population. The surrounding deserts and seas would offer protection and life would be supported by the lush farms for centuries to come.

Religion was very important in Egyptian society. The belief system was polytheistic, a religion that worships many gods. All levels of society was influenced by the beliefs of the Egyptian people. Egypt was a theocracy, a form of government where the rulers lead on behalf of god. Egyptian rulers were called pharaohs and the Egyptians believed that they were gods as well as rulers. The rest of society was broken down into many different levels. This complex social structure was based on the position people held in society. The top were the rulers and government officials, in the middle were business and craftspeople, and at the bottom were the farmers and slaves.

Ancient Mesopotamia

Around 4000 B.C.E., people began to settle and farm the area along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This area, also known as the Fertile Crescent, is an arch shaped area of fertile land that stretches from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean sea (see map above). Very similar to Ancient Egypt, the people of Mesopotamia relied on yearly floods to provide them with fertile soil and fresh water for irrigation. To help control the flooding, the

people developed a complex system of ditches, canals and dams. This method of controlling a water supply for farming is call irrigation.

About 1000 years later the small farming villages began to develop into larger cities in the area of Sumer. These large cities included the main city, normally surrounded by tall walls, and the farmland around it. As these Sumerian cities grew, each developed their own form of government and came to be called city-states. Each city-state also included a center area that had a large temple dedicated to the god of that city. The people of Mesopotamia believed in a polytheistic religion as well, so each city-state had its own dedicated god.

Critical Thinking:

Did the people of Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia see the floods as a positive or negative event? What makes you think so?

Three World Religions

Is there a church, synagogue or a mosque in your area? These three places of worship represent three of the worlds major monotheistic religions. Judaism, Christianity and Islam are all monotheistic religions, these religions believe in one god. All three

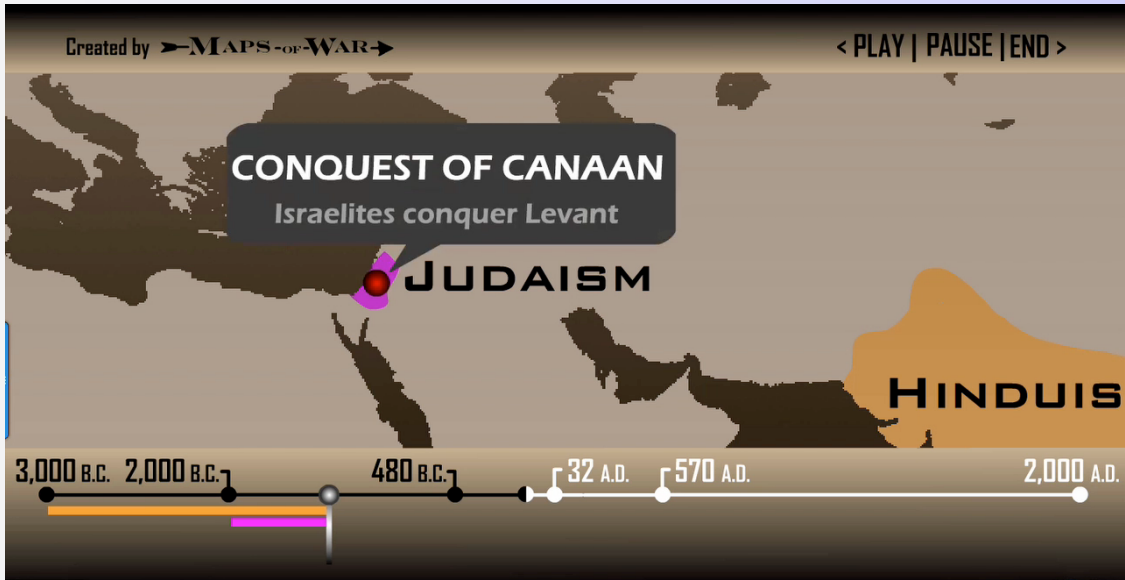
religions were “born” in the region and continue to claim portions of this region as holy land.

Gallery 1.4 Places of Worship



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Movie 1.1 The Spread of Religion



Judaism

Judaism is the oldest of the three religions. In the beginning, a very small group of people in Israel, known as Jews, followed the beliefs. Over time the number and location of the Jewish people has changed. Today, Israel is still the center of the Jewish religion, but many believers are spread out worldwide.

The history of the Jewish people and their religion is found in their holy book, the Tanakh, or Hebrew Bible. According to the Torah, the first four books of the Tanakh, Judaism was founded by a man named Abraham. Around 1800 B.C.E God told Abraham to leave his home along the Euphrates River and move his family to the land of Israel. The Torah states that God made a covenant or agreement with Abraham. If he moved to the land of Canaan (Israel), he and his family would be blessed. The descendants of Abraham, known as Israelites today, believe that they would continue to be blessed as long as they follow God’s laws.



Jews believe that the most important laws were given to a prophet, or messenger of God, named Moses. According to the Torah, Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt. After escaping slavery, the Hebrew people endured the long journey back to the promised land. Along the way Moses received God's laws, the most important being the Ten Commandments. These laws were very different from others of the time because they were based on how the people should worship God.

Around 1000 B.C.E. the kingdom of Israel was created in the area of present-day Israel by King David. The capital city of Jerusalem was established and a temple built. Later on the kingdom split into two states-Israel and Judah. In the coming centuries, the people of Israel would be conquered by outside invaders and forced to leave their homeland. This scattering of the Jews is known as the Diaspora.



Interactive 1.3 YouTube Overview - Judaism



Learn a little more about Judaism through this YouTube video (requires internet connectivity)

Christianity

Christianity, another monotheistic religion, began about 2,000 years ago with a Jew named Jesus. About 30 C.E. Jesus began preaching in the present day region of Israel. The life and teachings of Jesus is presented in the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament. The New Testament is part of the Bible, the Christian holy book. Jesus taught that God loved all people, even those



four

New

who had sinned. He explained that if people placed their trust in God, their sins would be forgiven. Jesus' followers declared that he was the son of God and savior of all people.



Many people view Jesus as a savior sent by god to save them. The large following the he was building worried many of the Jewish and Roman leaders in Israel. Jesus was convicted of treason under Roman law and sentenced to be crucified, executed on a cross. According to the Gospels, Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to his followers.

Over time, Jesus' followers spread his message all throughout the Mediterranean region. Jews and non-Jews alike accepted the message, becoming known as Christians. Churches formed in communities large and small. Eventually the Gospels, accounts of Jesus' life, and other writings from early Christians came together to form the Christian Bible. Christianity spread all over Europe and became to dominated religion there and eventually around the world. It is presently the worlds largest religion with about 2 billion followers.

Islam

Islam began in the 600s in present day Saudi third monotheistic religion region. Muslims, the believe that a man named Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet of Islam. He follows the prophets Abraham, and Jesus.



Muhammad, born around 570 C.E., was a merchant living in the trading city of Mecca. According to the Quran, the holy book of Islam, Muhammad was given messages about god from an angel. The angel told him that god wanted him to preach to the people, telling them that there is only one God, Allah. In his messages, Muhammad was also sent to tell people that all whom believed in



Allah were equal in his sight.

After the death of Muhammad in 632 C.E., a group of religious leaders know

as caliphs ruled the Muslim community. The caliphs led the Arab Muslim armies in conquering many neighboring lands, creating a vast empire. For the next few centuries, Islam spread into Asia, North Africa, and parts of Europe. Muslim control of trade in these areas helped their cities grow. These cities became centers for trade, learning and government in the Muslim world. Muslim scholars made many important contributions to math, chemistry and medicine.

How does where you live impact how you live? Living in the Middle East exposes people to three of the world's major religions. How do you think these religions influence the way people your age live in the Middle East?

Comparative Religion Activity- [Click here](#) to complete the notes to compare the three monotheistic religions that started in the Middle East. Once finished answer the Focus Question.