

The Eastern Mediterranean

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Eastern Mediterranean's physical features include the Bosphorus, the Dead Sea, rivers, mountains, deserts, and plains.
2. The region's climate is mostly dry with little vegetation.
3. Important natural resources in the Eastern Mediterranean include valuable minerals and the availability of water.

Key Terms and Places

Dardanelles body of water that connects the Sea of Marmara and the Mediterranean Sea; part of the narrow waterway that separates Europe and Asia

Bosphorus body of water that connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara; part of the narrow waterway that separates Europe and Asia

Jordan River river that begins in Syria and flows south through Israel and Jordan, finally emptying into the Dead Sea

Dead Sea lowest point on any continent and the world's saltiest body of water

Syrian Desert a desert of rock and gravel covering much of Syria and Jordan

Section Summary

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Eastern Mediterranean is part of a larger region called Southwest Asia, or the Middle East. The **Dardanelles**, the **Bosphorus**, and the Sea of Marmara separate Europe from Asia. A small part of Turkey lies in Europe. The larger Asian part of Turkey is called Anatolia.

The **Jordan River** flows from Syria to Israel and Jordan, then empties into the **Dead Sea**, the world's saltiest body of water.

Two mountain systems stretch across Turkey. The Pontic Mountains lie in the north, and the Taurus Mountains lie in the south. A narrow plain runs from Turkey into Syria. The Euphrates River flows south-east through this plain. Hills, valleys, and plateaus are located farther inland. Two mountain ridges run north-south. One runs from Syria through western Jordan. The other runs through Lebanon and Israel.

What three bodies of water separate Europe and Asia?

Which two mountain systems stretch across Turkey?

Section 1, *continued*

CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

The Eastern Mediterranean is a mostly dry region. However, there are important variations. Turkey's Black Sea coast and the Mediterranean coast to northern Israel have a Mediterranean climate. Central Syria and lands farther south have a desert climate. Much of Turkey has a steppe climate, and a small area in the northeast has a humid subtropical climate.

The driest areas are the deserts. The **Syrian Desert** covers much of Syria and Jordan. The Negev Desert lies in southern Israel.

Circle the words and phrases that describe some of the different climates in the eastern Mediterranean.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Because the region is so dry, water is a valuable resource. Commercial farming relies on irrigation. Subsistence farming and herding takes place in drier areas.

Many minerals, including sulfur, mercury, and copper, are found in the region. Phosphates are produced in Syria, Jordan, and Israel. They are used to make fertilizers. The area also exports asphalt, the dark tarlike material used to pave streets.

What mineral resources are found in the region?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Based on what you've learned about the climates in the Eastern Mediterranean region, write an essay describing which location you think would be best for farming and why.

The Eastern Mediterranean

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. Turkey's history includes invasion by the Romans, rule by the Ottomans, and a twentieth-century democracy.
2. Turkey's people are mostly ethnic Turks, and its culture is a mixture of modern and traditional.
3. Today, Turkey is a democratic nation seeking economic opportunities as a future member of the European Union.

Key Terms and Places

Ankara the capital of Turkey

Istanbul Turkey's largest city

secular religion is kept separate from government

Section Summary

HISTORY

About 8,000 years ago the area that is now Turkey was home to the world's earliest farming villages.

Turkey has been invaded by powerful empires for centuries. The Romans were the first empire to invade the area. They captured Byzantium, located between Europe and Asia, and renamed it Constantinople. After the fall of Rome, Constantinople became the capital of the Byzantine Empire.

Seljuk Turks, a nomadic people from Central Asia, invaded the area in the AD 1000s. In 1453 the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople and made it the capital of the Islamic Empire. The Ottoman Empire was very powerful during the 1500s and 1600s, controlling territory in northern Africa, southwestern Asia, and southeastern Europe. The Ottomans fought on the losing side of World War I, and lost most of their territory at the end of the war.

What did the Romans rename Byzantium?

Who were the Seljuk Turks?

Section 2, *continued*

Military officers took over the government after World War I, led by Mustafa Kemal. He later adopted the name Kemal Atatürk, which means Father of Turks. Atatürk created the democratic nation of Turkey and moved the capital to **Ankara** from Constantinople, which was renamed **Istanbul**.

Atatürk believed in modernizing Turkey, mainly by adopting some Western methods. He banned certain types of traditional clothing of both men and women, made new laws allowing women to vote and hold office, replaced the Arabic alphabet with the Latin alphabet, and adopted the metric system.

Who was the leader of Turkey after World War I?

Why did Atatürk make so many changes and laws?

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Most of the people living in Turkey are ethnic Turks. Kurds are the largest minority, making up 20 percent of the population.

Turkey's culture today reflects Kemal Atatürk's changes. He created a cultural split between the urban middle class and rural villagers. In general, middle-class lifestyle and attitude reflect middle-class Europeans, while rural Turks are more traditional and reflect Islamic influences.

What is the largest minority living in Turkey today?

TURKEY TODAY

Istanbul is Turkey's largest city, but the government meets in the capital of Ankara. Turkey has a legislature called the National Assembly. A president and prime minister share executive power. Although most of the people living in Turkey are Muslim, Turkey is a **secular** state.

The economy in Turkey is based on important industries, including textiles and clothing, cement, and electronics, as well as agriculture.

What is the National Assembly?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences In what ways do you think Turkey might benefit by becoming a member of the European Union?

The Eastern Mediterranean

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Israel's history includes the ancient Hebrews and the creation of the nation of Israel.
2. In Israel today, Jewish culture is a major part of daily life.
3. The Palestinian Territories are areas within Israel controlled partly by Palestinian Arabs.

Key Terms and Places

Diaspora the scattering of the Jewish population

Jerusalem the capital of Israel

Zionism a movement that called for Jews to establish a country or community in Palestine

kosher the term used to refer to Jewish dietary laws

kibbutz a large farm where people share everything in common

Gaza a small, crowded piece of coastal land disputed over by Jews and Arabs

West Bank a largely populated, rural piece of land disputed over by Jews and Arabs

Section Summary

HISTORY

Israel is often referred to as the Holy Land. It is home to sacred sites for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. The Hebrews established the kingdom of Israel about 3,000 years ago. In the 60s BC the Roman Empire conquered the region, calling it Palestine, and forced most Jews to leave the region. This was known as the **Diaspora**. Arabs then conquered the land, but it was later invaded by Christian Crusaders, who captured the city of **Jerusalem**, but were eventually driven out. Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire until it came under British control after World War I.

In the late 1800s European Jews began a movement called **Zionism** that called for Jews to establish a country or community in Palestine. After World War II, Jewish leaders declared Palestine the nation of Israel. Arabs living in the region opposed

Why is Israel often referred to as the Holy Land?

When did the Roman Empire conquer the region?

Section 3, *continued*

the new nation. Israel and Arab countries have fought in several wars over this issue, and disputes between the two sides continue today.

ISRAEL TODAY

Despite its problems, today Israel is a modern, democratic country with a diverse economy. About 80 percent of Israel's population is Jewish. The rest of the population is mostly Arab. Tel Aviv is Israel's largest city.

Jewish holidays and traditions are an important aspect of Israeli Jewish culture. Many Jews follow a **kosher** diet based on ancient religious laws. About 100,000 Israeli Jews live in **kibbutzim**, large farms where people share everything in common.

What percentage of Israel's population is Jewish?

What are kibbutzim?

THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

In 1967 Israel captured land occupied by Palestinian Arabs—**Gaza**, the **West Bank**, and East Jerusalem. Since then Jews and Arabs have fought over the right to live in these two regions.

In the 1990s Israel agreed to turn over parts of the territories to Palestinians if the Palestinian leadership—the Palestinian Authority—agreed to work for peace. In 2005, Israelis transferred Gaza to the Palestinian Authority. The future of the peace process remains uncertain.

Which areas of land have been the source of the greatest conflict, tension, and violence between Arabs and Israelis?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Based on what you've learned about the conflicts between Israelis and Arabs, write a proposal you think would help ensure lasting peace. Be sure to explain why you think your proposal would be successful.

The Eastern Mediterranean

Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. Syria, once part of the Ottoman Empire, is an Arab country ruled by a powerful family.
2. Lebanon is recovering from civil war and its people are divided by religion.
3. Jordan has few resources and is home to Bedouins and Palestinian refugees.

Key Terms and Places

Damascus the capital of Syria

Beirut the capital of Lebanon

Bedouins Arab-speaking nomads who mostly live in the deserts of Southwest Asia

Amman the capital of Jordan

Section Summary

SYRIA

The capital of Syria, **Damascus**, is believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. Syria became part of the Ottoman Empire in the 1500s. After World War I, France controlled Syria. Syria gained independence in the 1940s.

The Syrian government was led by Hafiz al-Assad from 1971 to 2000. Assad's son, Bashar, was elected president after his father's death in 2000. Syria's government owns the country's oil refineries, larger electrical plants, railroads, and some factories.

More than 18 million people live in Syria. About 90 percent of the population is Arab, and the remaining 10 percent include Kurds and Armenians. About 74 percent of Syrians are Sunni Muslim, about 16 percent are Alawites and Druze, and about 10 percent are Christian. There are also small Jewish communities in some Syrian cities.

Which country controlled Syria after World War I?

Underline the sentence that describes Syria's main industries and who owns them.

LEBANON

Lebanon is a small, mountainous country. Many ethnic minority groups settled in Lebanon during the Ottoman Empire. After World War I it was

Section 4, *continued*

controlled by France. Lebanon finally gained its independence in the 1940s.

Most Lebanese people are Arab, but they are divided by religion. The main religions in Lebanon are Islam and Christianity, with each of these groups divided into smaller groups. Muslims are divided into Sunni, Shia, and Druze. The Maronites are the largest Christian group.

After gaining independence, Christian and Muslim politicians shared power. However, over time this cooperation broke down and tensions mounted. Warfare between the groups lasted until 1990. The capital, **Beirut**, was badly damaged.

When did Lebanon gain its independence?

What are the two main religious groups in Lebanon?

JORDAN

The country of Jordan was created after World War I. The British controlled the area until the 1940s, when the country gained full independence. King Hussein ruled Jordan from 1952 to 1999. He enacted some democratic reforms in the 1990s.

Jordan is a poor country with limited resources. Many people in Jordan are **Bedouins**, or Arab-speaking nomads who live mainly in the deserts of Southwest Asia. **Amman**, the capital, is Jordan's largest city. The country's resources include phosphates, cement, and potash. In addition, the tourism and banking industries are growing. Jordan depends on economic aid from oil-rich Arab nations and the United States.

When was Jordan created?

Underline the sentences that describe Jordan's economy.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Based on what you've learned about Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, how do you think each country could work to maintain peace and improve their economies? Why do you think your plan would work?

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Biography

Suleyman I

c. 1494–1566



HOW HE AFFECTED THE REGION

Suleyman I ruled the Ottoman Empire from 1520 to 1566. During that time, he conquered many lands, developed new laws, and favored cultural growth in his realm. He was a highly respected and well-liked leader.



As you read the biography below, think about what characteristics helped make Suleyman I a good leader.



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What traits or actions would you want to be known for? Sultan Suleyman I was known as “Suleyman the Magnificent” because of his glorious empire. He was also known as “Suleyman the Law-Giver” because he established a new code of laws.

The Ottoman leader could also have been called “Suleyman the Conqueror” because he took over many lands. The Ottoman Empire was already large when Suleyman I took control, but he made it even bigger. During his reign, the empire grew to include much of Southwest and Central Asia, parts of Europe, and parts of North Africa.

But Suleyman did not only make his empire bigger—he made it better! Suleyman built great palaces, **mosques**, and bridges in many cities. He also turned Constantinople (Istanbul) into the great center of his empire.

Unlike most Islamic empires, the Ottoman Empire under Suleyman did not follow only the laws taken from the **Koran**. The empire also relied heavily upon laws written for situations not covered in the Koran. This new set of laws stayed in place, even after Suleyman’s death.

VOCABULARY

mosques Muslim places of prayer

Koran Muslim holy book

ornate highly decorated

Suleyman I, *continued*

Ottoman culture flourished under Suleyman. A poet himself, Suleyman encouraged other writers. Baki and Fuzuli are two great Ottoman poets of the age of Suleyman. Suleyman's own verses were generally written to his favorite wife under the pen name Muhibbi. In addition to literature, Suleyman supported music and visual arts. Many of the buildings of his age were decorated with **ornate** tiles and ceramics.

Suleyman is remembered for many achievements. His fame extended beyond the vast bounds of his empire. He expanded his empire, developed cities, brought new laws to his land, and left a lasting legacy of architectural wonders, literature, and art.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. **Recall** Why did Suleyman I earn the nickname of "Suleyman the Magnificent" during his reign in the Ottoman Empire?

2. **Express and Support a Point of View** Which of Suleyman's accomplishments do you think is the most important? Why?

ACTIVITY

Write an epitaph for Suleyman I. An epitaph is brief text or a poem inscribed on a tomb or plaque. In the epitaph, mention one or more of Suleyman's accomplishments and describe his legacy as a leader.

The Eastern Mediterranean

Chapter Review



BIG IDEAS

1. The Eastern Mediterranean, a region with a dry climate and valuable resources, sits in the middle of three continents.
2. Although Turkey has historically been more Asian than European, its leaders are seeking to develop closer economic ties to Europe.
3. Israel and the Palestinian Territories are home to Jews and Arabs who continue to struggle over the region's land.
4. Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan are Arab nations coping with religious diversity.

REVIEWING VOCABULARY, TERMS, AND PLACES

Choose from the three letter sets on the right to complete the vocabulary terms.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. DIAS _____ A | NBU |
| 2. ISTA _____ L | AMM |
| 3. BE _____ T | CUL |
| 4. _____ AN | PHA |
| 5. PHOS _____ TES | IRU |
| 6. SE _____ AR | POR |

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING

Answer the questions on the lines provided.

1. Give two reasons why the Dead Sea is notable.

2. What did Kemal Atatürk do for Turkey?

3. What areas in Israel are disputed?

4. Compare the religious make-up of the populations of Syria and Lebanon.

REVIEWING THEMES

Using the themes listed below, determine which is identified by each statement.

Themes

location	place	regions	movement	human-environment interaction
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_____ 1. Zionism resulted in many Jews from around the world moving to Palestine.

_____ 2. Turkey has built many dams to increase its water supply and to provide hydroelectricity.

_____ 3. Jordan is a poor country with limited resources.

REVIEW ACTIVITY: ANNOTATED MAP

Create an annotated map for the Eastern Mediterranean region. Start by creating a large map of the area on a separate sheet of paper. Label the four countries and the key places in each country. For each place you label, add an interesting fact or note about the significance of the place.

Label the four countries discussed in the chapter and the key places listed below.

Beirut	Bosporus	Damascus	Dead Sea
Istanbul	Jerusalem	Jordan River	West Bank

Include notes about the people, places, or things listed below.

Kemal Atatürk	Christians	Holy Land	Jews
Bedouins	Muslims	phosphates	Zionism