



Physical features of the Middle East

Deserts: The Middle East is known for its vast deserts, like the **Sahara Desert** in the west and the **Arabian Desert** in the east. These deserts are hot, dry, and have sand dunes, but they also have oases where water can be found.

Mountains: The **Zagros Mountains** run through countries like Iran and Iraq. These mountains are high and rocky, and they are important for the people who live nearby for farming and as a source of natural resources.

Rivers: The **Tigris and Euphrates Rivers** are two important rivers in the Middle East, flowing through countries like Iraq and Syria. They provide water for farming, drinking, and transportation, and were central to ancient civilizations like Mesopotamia.

Coasts: The Middle East has coasts along the **Mediterranean Sea** to the west and the **Persian Gulf** to the east. These seas are important for fishing, trade, and transportation.

Human features of the Middle East

Cities: Major cities like Dubai, Baghdad, Jerusalem, and Istanbul are important cultural, historical, and economic centers in the Middle East. These cities have modern buildings as well as ancient landmarks.

Oil Reserves: The Middle East is rich in oil, and many countries, like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, depend on oil to make money and develop infrastructure.

Farming: Even though the region is dry, people have adapted by building irrigation systems along the rivers to grow crops like wheat, dates, and cotton. Oases are also used for farming.

Historic Sites: The Middle East is home to many ancient historical sites, such as the Pyramids of Egypt, Petra in Jordan, and the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. These places show the rich history and culture of the region.

Climate of the Middle East

Desert Climate:

- **Hot Summers:** Most parts of the Middle East have very hot summers with temperatures often reaching above 40°C (104°F). Some places, like the **Arabian Desert**, can get even hotter!
- **Cold Winters:** In many desert areas, winters are cooler, and temperatures can drop quite low at night, especially in places like the **Sahara Desert** or the **Iranian Plateau**.
- **Little Rain:** Deserts in the Middle East get very little rain, sometimes only a few days of rain each year. This makes it hard for plants and animals to survive without special adaptations.

2. Mountain Climate:

- **Cooler Temperatures:** The **Zagros Mountains** and other mountain areas in the Middle East have cooler weather. In the higher mountains, temperatures can be chilly, especially in the winter.
- **Snowfall:** Some high mountain regions, like parts of **Lebanon** and **Turkey**, even get snow in the winter. These areas can have skiing resorts and colder temperatures than the desert.

3. Coastal Climate:

- **Hot and Humid:** The coastal areas along the **Mediterranean Sea** and **Persian Gulf** have hot weather, but it's more humid than the desert. This means that while it's hot, the air feels stickier and more uncomfortable.
- **Mild Winters:** The winters along the coasts are milder, with temperatures rarely dropping too low. People living along the coast experience more moderate weather compared to those in the desert.