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Chapter 2

The Arab World The Asian Arab Countries

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Introduction

The Arab world is located on the continents of Asia and Africa. It is comprised of 22 countries and is divided into five main geographical regions: the Fertile Crescent and the Arabian Peninsula in the Asian part of the Arab world; the Nile Valley; the Northwest African countries; and the African Horn, in the African part of the Arab world.

In the following lessons we will learn about the Asian part of the Arab world.



Saudi Arabia

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Riyadh.

Main cities: Makkah, Medina, Jeddah, Al-Dammam in the Eastern Region, which region is one of the world's largest producers of oil.

Area: 1,960,582 km².

Population: 28,146,656 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

National Day: September 23, 1932 (the unification of the Kingdom).

Government System: Monarchy.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Large deposits of oil, natural gas, iron ore, gold, copper, gypsum, marble and limestone.

Currency: Saudi Riyal (SAR).



Social Information:

Religion: Muslim 100%

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 78.8%



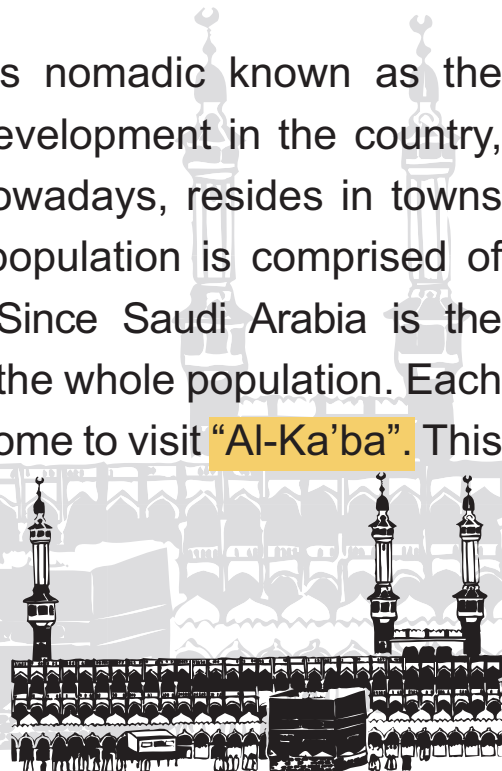
Lesson 1

Saudi Arabia is a large Arab country which occupies most of the Arabian Peninsula. Considerably, more than half of the country is desert known as "The Empty Quarter" or "Rub'al Khali", in addition to "An Nafud" and "Ad Dahna" deserts. A mountain range is delineated to the western limits of the desert, in addition to a narrow coastal plain on the Red Sea.

The climate is **arid** known for its extreme heat. **Precipitation** is rare throughout the country where no permanent rivers or lakes exist.

People, however, are concentrated in the fertile **oases** scattered in the desert. As a result of the scarce aridity, few vegetables, dates and grains grow in these oases. On the other hand, agriculture and livestock cultivation had been the basic economic activities of Saudi Arabia before the discovery and development of the oil industry.

The population of Saudi Arabia was nomadic known as the Bedouins. As a result of the great development in the country, more than 86% of the population, nowadays, resides in towns and cities. Nearly a quarter of the population is comprised of foreign workers primarily from Asia. Since Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam, Muslims make up the whole population. Each year, Muslims from all over the world come to visit **"Al-Ka'ba"**. This pilgrimage to Makkah is known as the Hajj. They also visit Medina which is considered the holy city and cultural center of Islam.



Lesson 1

The economy of Saudi Arabia is oil-based, since the oil industry became the major contributor to the wealth of the country in 1938 when a productive oil field was discovered at Ad Dammam.

The vast reserves and high level of oil production have made Saudi Arabia a leading producer and a strong voice in OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries).

Saudi Arabia provides for more than one-quarter of the world's oil supply.

Most oil and natural gas is generated from the eastern part of the country. Limestone, gypsum, marble, clay, salt, and gold are extracted from Saudi Arabia. Another significant **export** of Saudi Arabia is shrimp.

The Saudi government follows the Sharia Law. It is a Monarchy with a Consultative Council, known as Majlis al-Shura, which consists of members appointed by the King, and work as advisors.

The **Sharia** is the sacred law of Islam.



Did
You
Know?

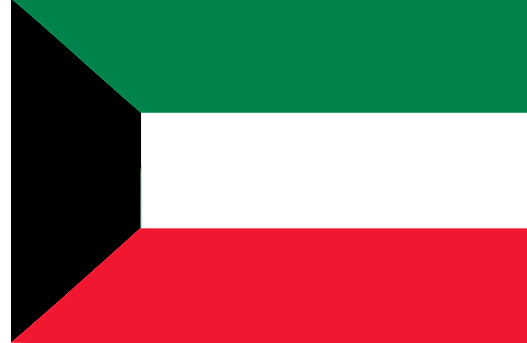
27% of the population in Saudi Arabia are non-resident foreign workers, primarily Arabs and Asians.

Kuwait

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Kuwait.

Main cities: Al-Salimiyah, Hawalli and Al-Ahmadi.

Area: 17,820 km².

Population: 2,596,799 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.

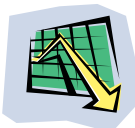


History

Independence Day: June 19, 1961 from Britain.

Government System: Monarchy.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Oil, pearling and sea trade.

Currency: Kuwaiti Dinar.

Lesson 2



Social Information:

Religion: Muslims 85%, the remainder are Christians and Hindu.

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 83.5%



Kuwait is a country located in the Arabian Peninsula, positioned in Southwestern Asia at the Northwestern tip of the Arabian Gulf. Kuwait includes several off-shore islands. The only island with a significant population is Faylakah.

The land is mainly a flat desert with some rolling hills. The soil is barren and farming is nearly impossible because of the dry climate and the extreme heat. There are no rivers or lakes in Kuwait and rainfall is scarce. Therefore, drinking water is obtained through the desalination of seawater.

Desalination is the process of removing salt from seawater.

Most of the population is concentrated in cities along the Arabian Gulf. Thus, almost the entire population is urban. Nearly 55% of the population is made up of foreign worker, from Arab and Asian countries. Although foreign workers are free to practice their religion, the entire Kuwaiti population is Muslim.

For many years, Kuwait was a small Emirate whose economy was centered on sea trade and pearl exports. But since oil was discovered in the early part of the twentieth century, the country has become one of the richest countries in the world; although it is one of the smallest countries.

Kuwait's oil reserves are estimated at one tenth of the world's total reserves. Oil revenues have allowed Kuwait to build an extensive educational system and to offer free medical care to all residents. Efforts have been made to encourage local industry; however, Kuwait **imports** most of its products.

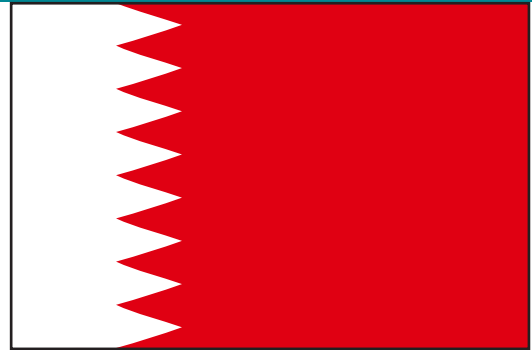
Kuwait is governed by an Emir. A National Assembly, which consists of fifty members, shares power with the Emir and is elected every four years.

Bahrain

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Manama.

Main cities (islands): Bahrain, Al-Muharraq, Umm al-Na'san, Sitrah, Jeddah and Hawar.

Area: 665 km².

Population: 718,306 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

Independence Day: August 15, 1971 from Britain.

Government System: Monarchy.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Oil, pearls, natural gas, aluminum and fishing.

Currency: Bahrain Dinar.



Social Information:

Religion: Muslims 81.2%, the remainder are Christians and others.

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 89.1%



Did You Know?

Bahrain was the first country in Arabia to establish a public education system in 1919.

Lesson 3

Bahrain is a group of islands located in the Arabian Gulf in Western Asia. It's comprised of 33 islands off the coast of Saudi Arabia. The main island of Bahrain is the largest. It consists of a low desert plain that rises to a low central plateau called Jabal Ad Dukhan. The rest of the islands are low-lying and some of them are only a few meters above sea level.

The climate of Bahrain is hot and humid with little rainfall in the winter. Water is obtained from underground **aquifers**, since there are no lakes or rivers. Despite the harsh desert conditions and the lack of water, Bahrain has some agricultural and livestock products that include dates, tomatoes, onions, melons and shrubbery. In addition to raising sheep, goats, cows and poultry.

92% of Bahrain's population resides in urban areas. Population is concentrated in Manama, which serves as the country's commercial center, and Al-Muhharaq which is the site of the airport. About 37% of the population is foreign workers made up mainly of Arab and Asian nationals.

Since the discovery of oil in 1932, oil production and refining have dominated Bahrain's economy; in addition to natural gas which comes out of the same oil wells. As a result of having limited oil reserves, the government developed other industries such as aluminum smelting, plastics, ceramic tiles, paper products and tourism.

Lesson 3

Fish, including mackerels, and shrimp in addition to pearls are also obtained from the surrounding waters.

Bahrain is a major air transportation hub; it also has many ports. In addition to a well-developed road network and causeways which link the island of Bahrain to other islands. The King Fahd Causeway links Bahrain to Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain became a constitutional monarchy ruled by a King after a public **referendum** to the constitution in 2002. The National Assembly of Bahrain consists of two houses, the Consultative Council and the Chamber of Deputies.

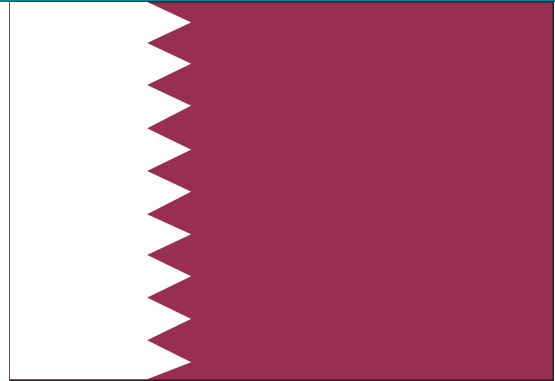


Qatar



Identity card:

Geography



The capital and largest city: Doha.

Main cities: Al-Rayyan and Al-Wakrah.

Area: 11,437 km².

Population: 863,051 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

Independence Day: September 3, 1971 from Britain.

Government System: Traditional Monarchy.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Oil, natural gas and fishing.

Currency: Qatari Riyal (QAR).

**Social Information:****Religion:** Muslims 95%**Language:** Arabic**Literacy rate:** 82.5%

Qatar is a country in Western Asia, located on the Eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula and lying on the Arabian Gulf.

The land is stony and barren with an extremely hot and humid climate. Rainfall is rare and water is scarce, since there are no lakes or rivers. The underground aquifers are also ineffective because they have a high mineral content.

Most of the population resides in urban areas. Over half of Qatar's inhabitants resides in Doha.

Oil and natural gas account for most of Qatar's exports; therefore, the economy is considered to be oil-based. Oil and gas will probably remain the backbone of Qatar's economy for some time to come. The country has become the world's top Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exporter in 2007.

Qatar is also a home to the manufacturing of cement and fertilizers in addition to its oil and gas products.



Did
You
Know?

Qatar Science and Technology Park was established in 2004 as a part of Qatar Foundation. It is a home for international technology companies in Qatar, and an incubator of start-up technology businesses.

Islam is the official religion of Qatar and Arabic is its official language. Qatar has an increasingly high literacy rate since education is compulsory and free for all Arab residents (6-16) years old.

Qatar is an emirate with a conventional hereditary system. The Emir is the head of the State. In accordance with the modified provisional constitution, the Emir decrees laws on the recommendation of the Council of Ministry and after consultation with the Advisory Council.

United Arab Emirates

Identity card:



Geography



The **federal capital and largest city**: Abu Dhabi.

Main cities (independent states): Dubai (the trading center); Al-Shariqah (the industrial center); Ajman; Al- Fujayrah; Ra's Al-Khaymah; and Umm Al-Qaywan.

Area: 82,880 km².

Population: 4,621,399 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

Independence Day: December 2, 1971 from Britain.

Government System: Federation

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Petroleum and natural gas.

Currency: Emirati Dirham.



Social Information

Religion: Muslims 96%, Christians and others 4%

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 77%



Lesson 5

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a country located in the Southeastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula on both the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It is comprised of seven Emirates: Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Al-Fujayrah, Ra's Al-Khaymah, Shariqah, and Umm al-Qaywan.

The climate is arid with extreme heat and humidity. Rainfall is scarce and there are no lakes or rivers. Underground water deposits, however, are found at several oases including Al'Ayn and Liwa. Sea water desalination provides for some of the freshwater needs.

The soil is almost sandy and not suitable for agriculture. Palm, acacia, tamarisk, eucalyptus trees, in addition to some fruits and vegetables grow in the oases. Moreover, camels, sheep, cattle and poultry are raised in the United Arab Emirates.

About 88% of the population is urban. About 40% of the Emiris live in Abu Dhabi, the capital, which is the largest city. It serves as the financial, transportation and political center of the country since it is a port and a home to a majority of the ministries. On the other hand, Dubai is the main trading center which has the main port and the busiest airport. Al -Shariqah is also an important port and industrial center. Foreign workers account for more than 80% of the residents.

Women graduating from the universities outnumber men. They also account for about 15% of UAE's labor force and are increasingly represented in government posts.

Oil and natural gas make up nearly 80% of UAE's exports; in addition to petrochemical production, aluminum, paint, clothes and food processing. Trading and tourism have grown rapidly, especially in Dubai. The UAE has developed a highly efficient transportation infrastructure by constructing highways to connect all the Emirates with each other and with Oman and Saudi Arabia. In addition to this, the UAE is home to six airports and fifteen ports.

The UAE is a constitutional federation of seven independent Emirates which was established in 1971. The President of The UAE rules the country by a federal government that gives much power to the Emirates.

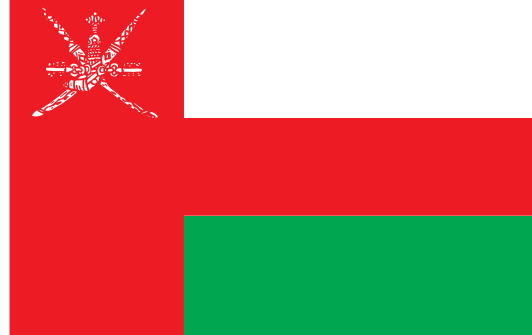
The highest political authority is The Supreme Federal Council. It is comprised of the rulers of the seven Emirates and it establishes the country's policy. There is also a Federal National Council which is selected by the President.

Oman

Identity card:



Geography



The capital: Masqat.

Main cities: Salalah (the largest city and port); Mattrah and Sur (ports); and Nizwa.

Area: 212,460 km².

Population: 3,311,640 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.

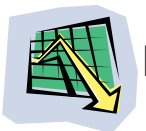


History

Independence Day: 1650 (expulsion of the Portuguese).

Government System: Monarchy.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Petroleum, copper, asbestos, limestone and natural gas.

Currency: Omani Riyal (OMR).



Social Information

Religion: Muslims 100%

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 75%



Oman is a country located in the Southeastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula. It overlooks the Strait of Hormuz and has only some coastline on the Arabian Gulf.

Although there are no rivers or lakes in Oman, numerous oases, including wells, provide water. Despite an arid climate, a variety of plants grow in Oman such as acacia, grapes, apricots, bananas, coconut, palms and frankincense trees. The coast of Oman is also one of the richest fishing areas in the world.

About 84% of the Omani people resides in urban cities and towns. The rest settle in villages or still practice their nomadic ways. People are concentrated in Masqat, the capital; in addition to Mattrah, the port and Ruwi, the commercial hub. Almost 25% of the population is foreign, made up of Arab and Asian nationals.

Oman is a middle-income economy in the Middle East. It has notable oil and gas resources, a substantial trade surplus, and low inflation. Its economy consists of agriculture, fishing and traditional crafts such as boat making and metal-working. Since the discovery of oil and natural gas in the mid 1960s, Oman's economy became oil-based. The income generated from oil was invested in building the infrastructure of the country; which includes roads, schools, hospitals, water and electricity generating plants.

Oman is a Sultanate governed by the Sultan and the Council of Oman. The Council of Oman consists of the Consultative Council and the Council of State. The Sultan gives the final approval to the members who advise him on social, economic and educational policies.

Yemen

Identity card:



Geography

The capital and largest city: Sana'a.

Main cities: Aden, which is the largest port; Al-Hudaydah; Ta'izz and Hadhramaut.

Area: 527,970 km².

Population: 23,013,379 (in 2009).

Rivers: None.



History

Independence Day: November 30, 1967 from Britain.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Fishing, agricultural products, livestock, oil, gold, marble, copper, lead and limestone.

Currency: Yemeni Riyal (YER).

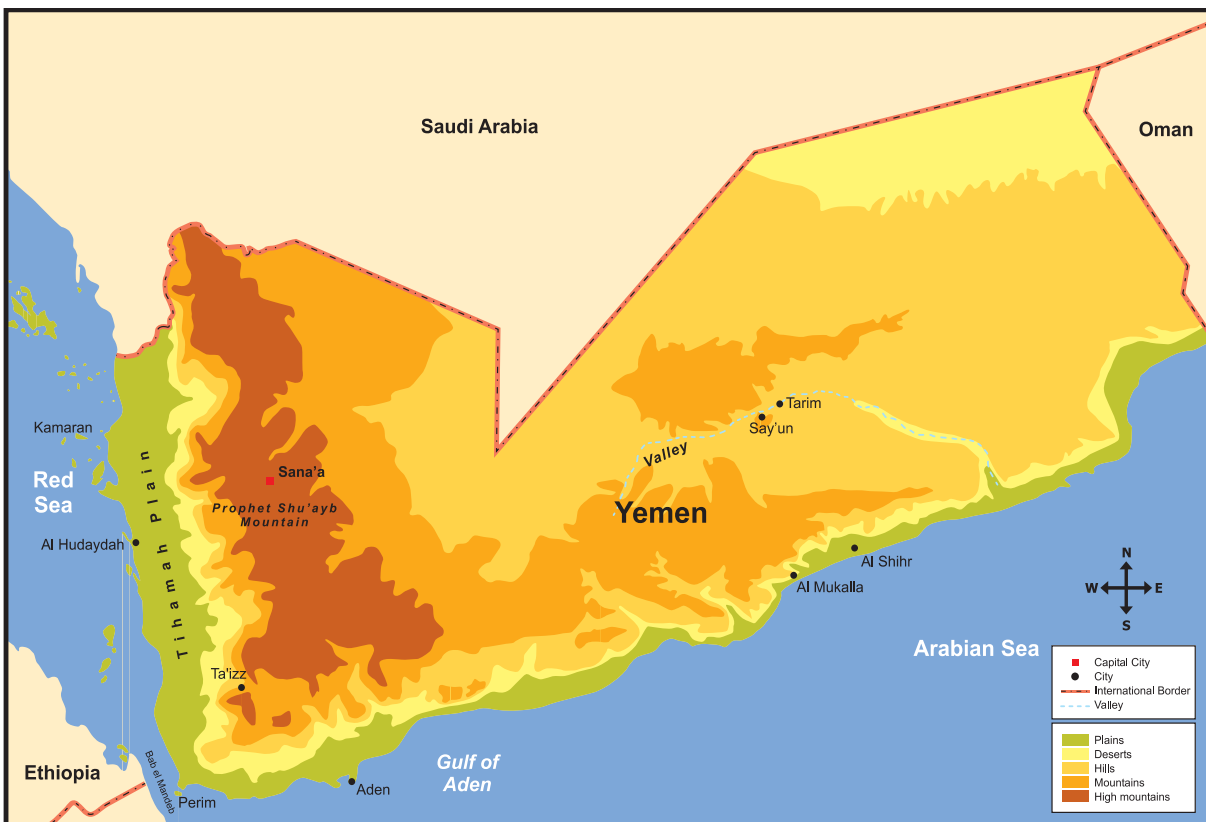


Social Information:

Religion: Muslims 100%

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 50.2%



The Republic of Yemen is a country in Southwest Asia.

The principal geographical regions of the country are: the coastal plains in the west, the western highlands, the eastern highlands and the Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali) desert in the east. The country also borders the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

The climate is arid in the coastal plains, has plenty of rainfall in the western, fertile highlands, sufficient rainfall in the central highland, and little rainfall in the desert.

The population of Yemen is mostly Arab. Communities are still tribal even though most individuals have settled into permanent housing.

Yemen is a democratic, Islamic republic ruled by an elected president.

In 1990, the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen merged and became Yemen.



Jordan

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Amman.

Main cities: Al-Salt, Al-Zarqa, Irbid, Ajloun, Al-Karak and Al-Aqaba, which is the only sea port.

Area: 92,300 km².

Population: 6,342,948 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Jordan River, Al-Yarmouk River.



History

Independence Day: May 25, 1946 from Britain.

Government System: Constitutional Monarchy.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Phosphate, potash, salt, tourism and trade.

Currency: Jordanian Dinar (JD).

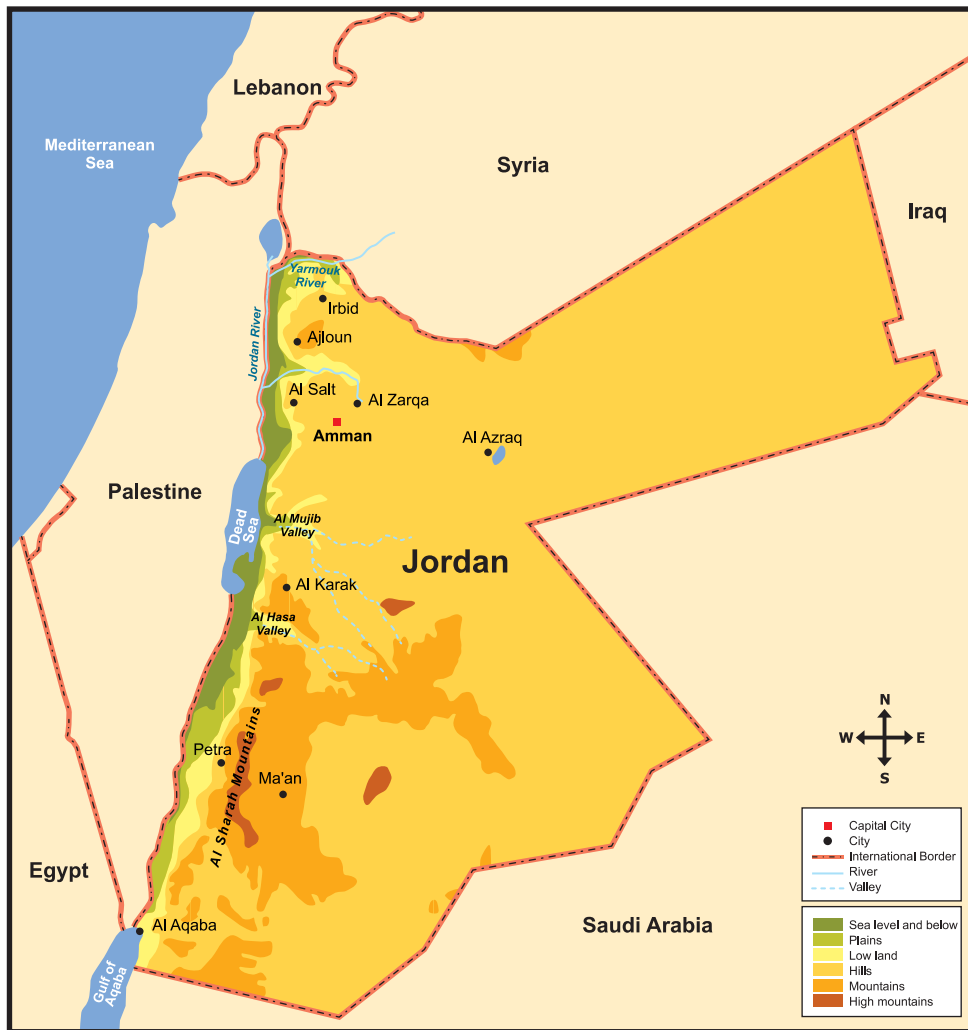


Social Information:

Religion: Muslims 94%, and Christians 6%.

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 91.3%



Did You Know?

The Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a country in southwestern Asia.

The principal geographical feature of the country is an arid plateau. Stretching from the eastern shores of the Dead Sea and the Jordan River, the plateau slopes downward toward the Syrian Desert in the eastern part of the country. The Jordan Valley is in the deep depression of the Great Rift Valley which is 430 meters below sea level at the Dead Sea.

The climate of Jordan varies in both temperature and rainfall. Much of the country consists of desert which gets little rainfall. The northern part of the country, however, is known for its fertile grasslands and woods.

The Jordanian population is mainly Arabs with a minority of Circassians and Armenians. Almost 74% of the population is urban, and nomads consist of approximately 5% of the population.

Jordan has made significant strides in education. In 2001, one hundred percent (100%) of the Jordanian population aged 15 or older was literate.

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy ruled by a king, who is the head of the state. The King shares executive power with a prime minister and the government. The parliament, called the National Assembly, is comprised of two houses: the Chamber of Deputies, and the Upper House of the Senate.

Palestine

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Jerusalem (Al-Quds) (disputed).

Main cities: Gaza, Jericho, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Nablus, Al- Khalil (Hebron).

Area: 6,220 km² (West Bank and the Gaza Strip).

Population: 3,761,904 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Jordan River.



History

Independence Day: Still under occupation.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Arable land and natural gas.

Currency: Jordanian Dinar and Shekel.



Social Information:

Religion: Muslims 80%, Christians 20%.

Language: Arabic and Hebrew.

Literacy rate: 91.9%

Palestine is a country on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea between Syria and Egypt.

The geographical regions of Palestine consist of mountains in the north, wastal plains along the Mediterranean Sea and a desert region in the southern part of the country.

The climate is a typical Mediterranean climate with cool, rainy winters and warm, dry summers. It is colder in the north and warmer in the south where there is desert and little rainfall.



Jerusalem, an important city to Arabs and Muslims alike, has been targeted by different regional and international powers for many centuries. Palestine was taken under British mandate after World War I. In the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the British promised the Jews a national home in Palestine.

Israelis occupied parts of Palestine in 1948 and extended their occupation to include more land in 1967.

In the year 1994, however, and as a result of a peace treaty signed by both Israelis and the Palestinians, Israel granted limited autonomy to the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) in parts of Jericho, Gaza and the West Bank.



Did
You
Know?

There are many religious sites in Palestine such as Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Syria

Identity card:



Geography



The capital and largest city: Damascus.

Main cities: Aleppo (Halab); Hims; Tartus (which is a port); and Latakia, which is the main port.

Area: 185,180 km².

Population: 20,178,485 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Euphrates, Orontes and Barrada.



History

Independence Day: April 17, 1946 from France.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Oil, phosphate, copper, asphalt, iron ore, salt, marble, chrome, manganese and gold.

Currency: Syrian Pound.

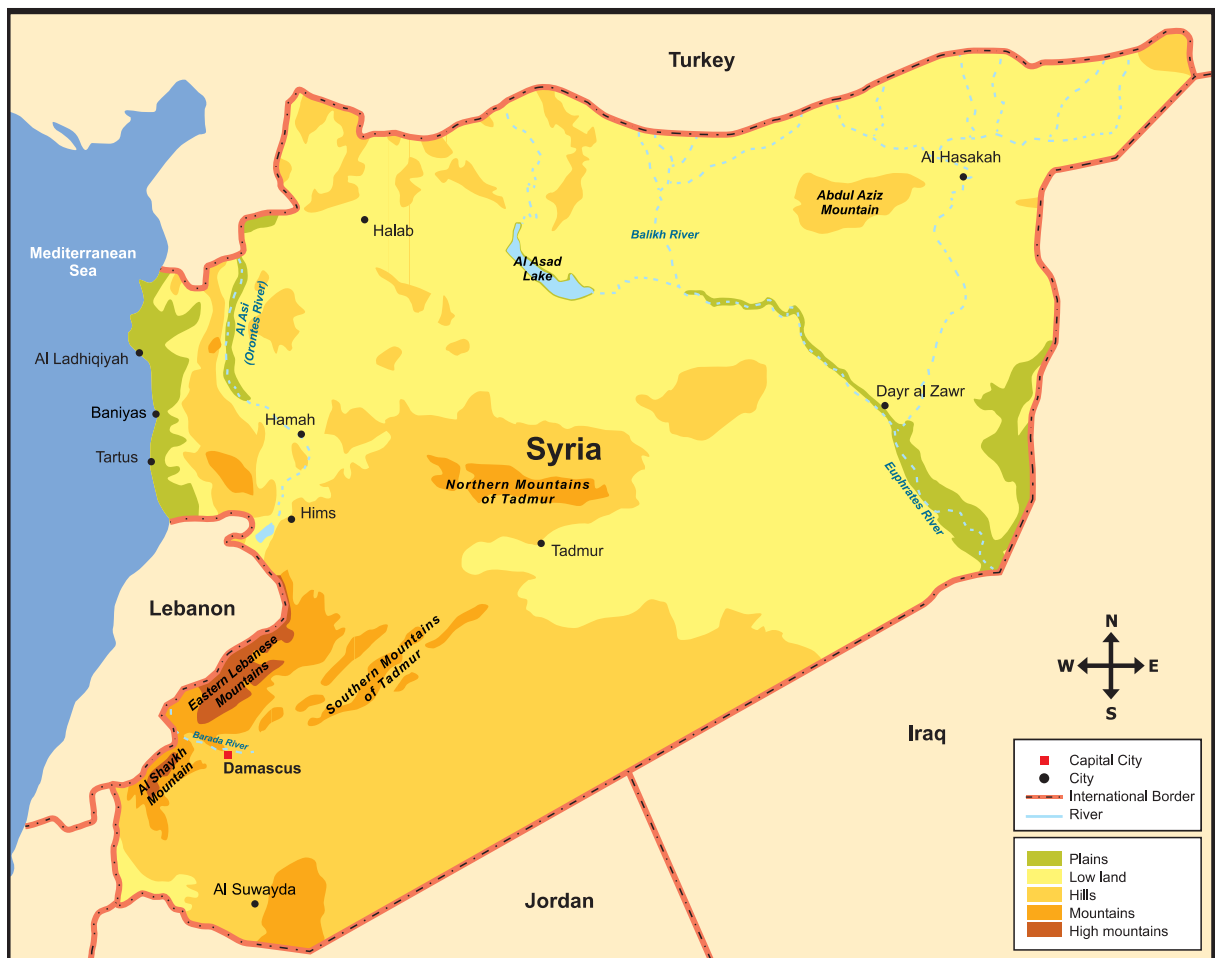


Social Information

Religion: Muslims 90%, Christians 10%.

Language: Arabic

Literacy rate: 76.9%



Syria is a country in southwestern Asia.

The principal geographical feature of the country is a plateau area north of the Euphrates River called the plain of Al Jazirah. There is a significant semicircular plateau in the southeastern Syrian Desert region.

Syria also has a narrow plain along the Mediterranean coast and several mountains ranges. They are called Jabal Al-Nusayriyah, the Anti-Lebanon Mountains and the Golan Heights. The Golan Heights is a hilly region which was captured by Israel in 1967.

Syria has a mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers mild, wet winters and average rainfall. The central and southern parts of the country, however, consist of desert lands with little rainfall.

Arabs constitute approximately 90% of the Syrian population. The largest minorities are Kurds and Armenians.

Syria is a republic governed by a president, who is elected to a seven-year term. The president appoints a council of ministers, who are led by a prime minister. The legislature is the parliament which is called the People's Assembly.

Lebanon

Identity card:



Geography:

The capital and largest city: Beirut.

Main cities: Tripoli (the northern port), Juniyah, Zahla, Sayda and Sur.

Area: 10,400 km².

Population: 4,017,059 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Litani and Orontes.

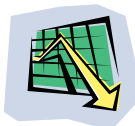


History

Independence Day: November 22, 1943 from France.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Limestone, iron ore, salt, tourism, trade and fishing.

Currency: Lebanese Pound.

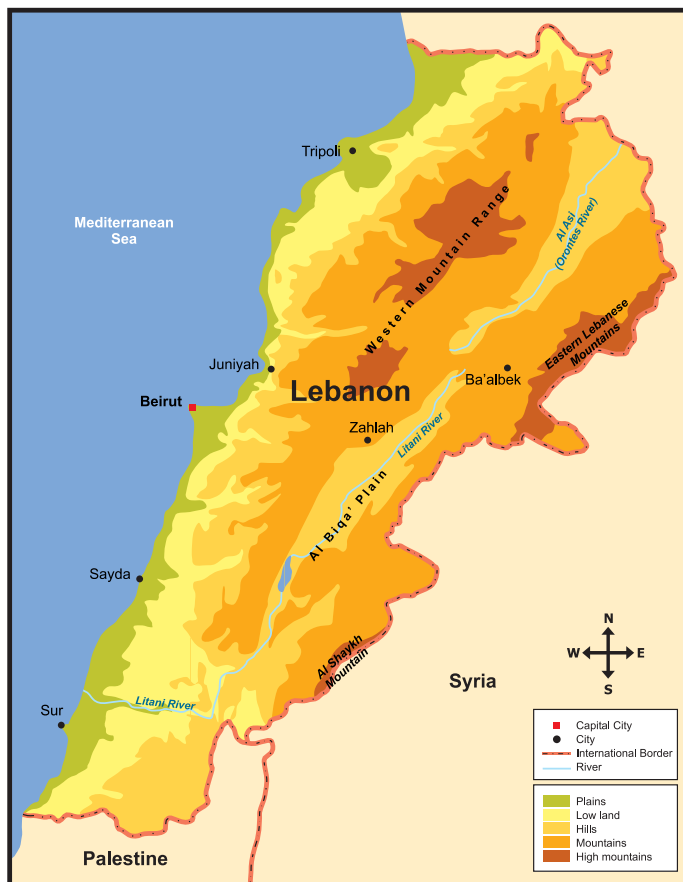


Social Information:

Religion: Muslims 59.7%, Christians 39%, other 1.3%.

Language: Arabic and French.

Literacy rate: 87.4%



Did You Know?

- Lebanon is a word derived from leban which means white and refers to the heavy snow in the country's mountains.
- Lebanon is the only Arab country that does not have desert.

Lebanon is a country located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea in southwest Asia. The coastal location, coupled with its high mountains and favorable climate have influenced the country's people and history.

Lebanon's landform is divided into a narrow coastal plain along the sea, and Mount Lebanon that dominates the landscape of the entire country. There is also the fertile Beka'a Valley and the Anti-Lebanon Mountain range.

Most of the country has a mediterranean climate with warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. In the Beka'a Valley, however, hot summers and cold winters are dominant.

About 90% of the Lebanese population is urban, concentrated along the coast and on the lower slopes of Mount Lebanon. Arabs make up about 95% of the population.

Minority populations include Armenians, kurds and Assyrian. 70% of the population is Muslim and 30% is Christian.

Lebanon is a republic comprised of a multi-religious and multi-party government. The Parliament is elected by the people, but the President is elected by the Parliament for a six-year term. The head of the government is the prime minister who is appointed by the President.

Iraq

Identity card:



Geography

The capital and largest city: Baghdad.

Main cities: Al-Mosul and Karkuk are oil centers, and Al-Basrah is the main port.

Area: 437,072 km².

Population: 28,945,657 (in 2009).

Rivers: The Tigris and the Euphrates.



History

Independence Day: October 3, 1932 from Britain.

Government System: Republic.

Head of the country: _____



Economy

Main resources: Enormous deposits of oil, natural gas, phosphate, sulfur, coal, iron, zinc, silver and salt.

Currency: Iraqi Dinar.

**Social Information:**

Religion: Muslims 97%, Christians 3%.

Language: Arabic and Kurdish.

Literacy rate: 40.4%

Iraq is a country in western Asia. It is situated at the northern tip of the Arabian Gulf.

Iraq is divided into four geographical regions: the great delta plain of Mesopotamia, a northern plateau, northeastern mountains and western deserts. The great delta plain of Mesopotamia lies between the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers.

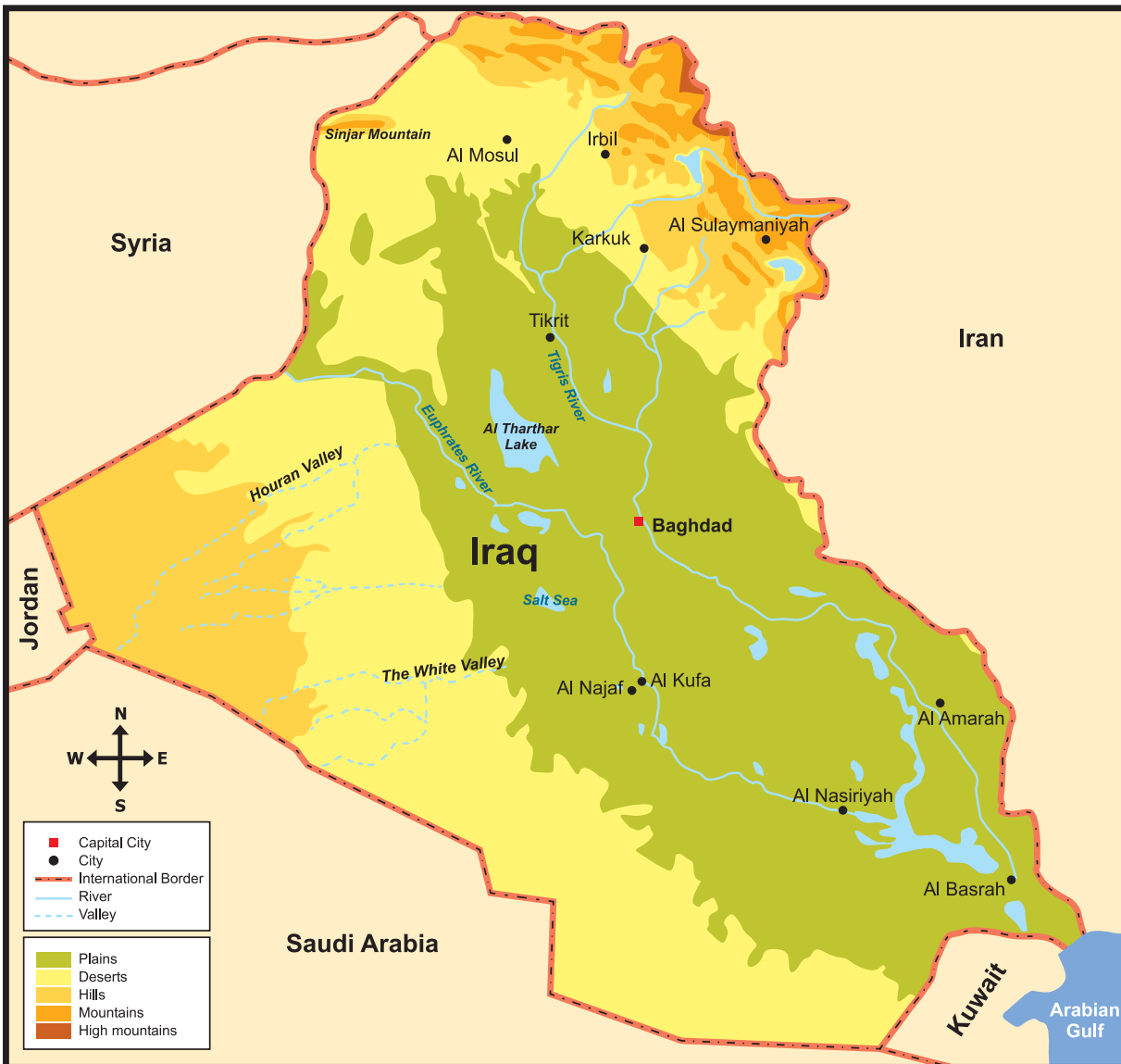
A dry plateau exists in the north. Northeastern Iraq is mountainous, and desert covers most of western Iraq. In most areas, Iraq has hot, dry summers and cool winters.

Arabs make up about 75% of Iraq's population. Kurds constitute 15% and the rest are Assyrians, Armenians and Turkmen. Almost 67% of the population is urban. In rural areas, however, many people still live in tribes.

Iraq's most populated areas lie between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers. This land is fertile and provides access to water.

Lesson 12

In the year 2003, the Alliance Troops, led by the United States of America and Britain, entered Iraq, and, as of 2010, remain stationed there.



Did You Know?

- The Tigris and the Euphrates rivers meet near Al-Basrah and form the Shatt Al-Arab.
- 10% of the world's oil reserves are found in Iraq.

GLOSSARY CHAPTER (2)

- **Monarchy:** A form of government in which one person has the inherited right to rule as head of state during his or her lifetime.
- **Literacy:** The ability to read and write.
- **Arid:** Too dry to support vegetation.
- **Precipitation:** Rain or snow falling to the ground.
- **Oasis:** An area with water and trees in the desert.
- **Pilgrimage:** A sacred journey to Makkah, and one of the five Pillars of Islam.
- **Export:** Selling what one country does not need of its surplus goods to other countries.
- **Sharia:** The laws of Islam.
- **Independence:** Freedom from control by another country.
- **Desalination:** The process of removing salt from water.
- **Import:** Buying goods that one country does not produce, or does not have enough of, from other countries.
- **Aquifers:** A layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel through which ground water flows, containing enough water to supply wells and springs.

- **Referendum:** Votes that are taken on important issues by all the people of country.
- **Federal:** A system of government in which several states unite but remain independent where it comes to their own internal affairs.
- **Republic:** A country whose government or political system is that of a republic.

Chapter 3

Living Together

The United Nations

Lesson 1: The United Nations Organization

Lesson 2: Organs of the United Nations

Lesson 3: Goals of the United Nations

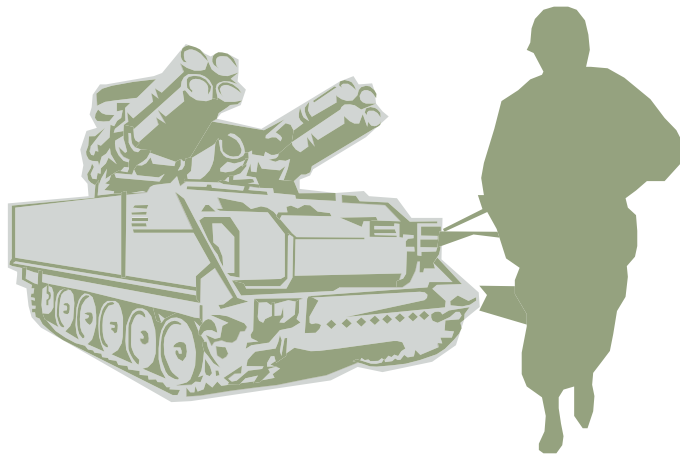
Lesson 4: Human Rights



The United Nations Organization

Have you ever heard about problems facing some countries of the world? Poverty, famines, diseases and child abuse are some of the major problems that face our world today.

One of the problems that resulted in the destruction of lives, homes and industries in the world is war.



In the past 100 years, two major wars, known as the First World War and the Second World War, took place between the years 1914 and 1945.

Why were they called so?

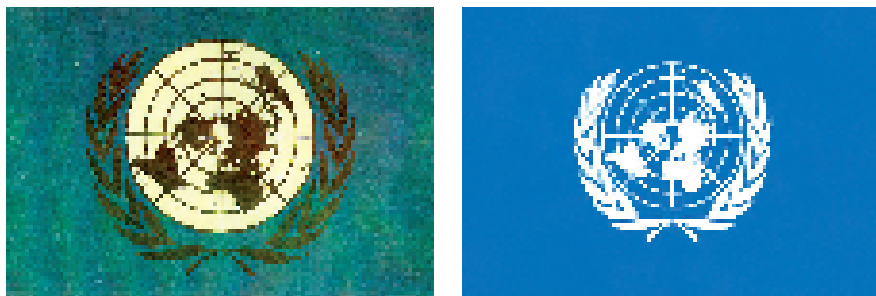
The First and Second World Wars were called world wars because the battles took place in more than one country, and many countries took sides and became involved.

As the Second World War ended, a worldwide organization was established on October 24, 1945, known as the United Nations. Fifty-one countries were committed to preserving peace through international cooperation and collective security.

Today, 191 countries are members of the United Nations and have accepted their obligations with respect to the UN Charter.

What are the goals of the United Nations?

The main goals of the United Nations are to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, cooperate to solve international problems, promote respect for human rights and harmonize the actions of nations.



UN emblem and flag



Did
You
Know?

- The UN emblem and flag were approved on December 7/1946.
- The olive branches symbolize peace, whereas the world map depicts the area of concern to the United Nations.

Organs of the United Nations

The United Nations consists of six main organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Secretariat and the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The United Nations main headquarters are based in New York. The International Court of Justice is located at the Netherlands.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is known as a “parliament of nations” because all UN Member States are represented in it. It meets regularly to consider the world’s most pressing problems, such as international peace and the UN budget. Decisions are made by a two-thirds majority.



The Security Council



The Security Council is responsible for maintaining peace and security. It may convene whenever peace is threatened. All Member States of the UN are obligated to carry out the Council's decisions.

The Council consists of 10 elected members by the General Assembly for a two-year term and 5 permanent members. The permanent members are China, France, The Russian Federation, The United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Decisions of the Council require nine “yes” votes. The permanent members have the power to veto (reject) any resolution, which, in turn can prevent any decision from being taken.

The Economic and Social Council

This Council is responsible for fostering international cooperation for development and maintaining a vital link with civil society. It reviews major economic, social and humanitarian issues.

The Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council is responsible for providing international supervision over 11 trust territories administered by seven Member States. It was established to ensure that adequate steps are taken to prepare these territories for independence.



Did
You
Know?

Palau-the pacific island-was the last trust territory that was administered by the United States of America and thereafter became the 185th Member State.

The International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice is also known as the World Court. It consists of 15 judges elected jointly by the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is voluntary to participate in the World Court. However, Member States who participate in it are obligated to comply with its decisions.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat carries out the administrative work of the UN. Its head is the Secretary-General who presides over all administrative guidance.



Who is the Secretary-General of the UN today?

Goals of the United Nations

In the face of wars, floods and other disasters, the United Nations organs supply food, shelter and support to the victims.

As a result of raising billions of dollars from international donors, the world leaders gathered at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 and adopted a set of goals known as the eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The Eight Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

There are about 2.8 billion people out of 6.7 billion around the world who are living on less than \$2 a day. They suffer from extreme hunger.



The UN aims at solving the problem of at least half of these people by the year 2015.

Lesson 3

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.

There are 115 million children around the world who do not attend primary schools; about 70 million of them are girls. Another 100 million children will be forced to leave school before they learn to read and write in order to support their families.

The UN aims at ensuring that by the year 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete their primary schooling.



Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

About 880 million people around the world are illiterate; two thirds of them are women.

The UN aims at ensuring that women have the same chances as men to improve their lives and the lives of their families.



Goal 4: Reduce child mortality.

One out of every six babies in the least developed countries are born to a teenage girl. Early pregnancy carries a high risk of illness and death. More than 10 million children die each year in the developing world because of illness.

The UN aims at reducing child mortality by providing better health care to mothers and children and raising the standard of living for women.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health.

More than 500,000 women die each year because of pregnancy and childbirth.

The UN aims at providing women with more health care and raising their standard of living.

Lesson 3

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

About 8,000 people die every day from AIDS, whereas 1 million people die from Malaria each year and 2 million because of Tuberculosis. The UN aims at stopping and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases by 2015.



Suggest three ways of decreasing death rates because of such diseases.



Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

Uncontrolled use of our Earth's natural resources, such as forests, land and oceans, has harmed the environment and disturbed its balance.

The UN aims to improve the way people manage the environment to protect natural resources.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

In order to achieve the goals of the UN for a better life for everyone on earth, all nations should participate in development.

The UN aims at promoting higher standards of living, full employment for young people, and overall progress in health, education, economy and social life to create conditions for lasting world peace.

Human Rights

The history of human rights has been shaped by all major world events and by the struggle for dignity, freedom and equality everywhere.

Yet, human rights were recognized formally and universally by the establishment of the United Nations. As a result, a Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the General Assembly to carry out this mission in 1948. This Declaration implies that recognizing human rights is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Some of the human rights:

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
- Everyone must be protected from discrimination.
- Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security.
- Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- Everyone has the right to own property, such as a house, a car or a piece of land.
- Everyone has the right to a standard of living sufficient to maintain good health.
- Everyone has the right to education.

Discrimination: The unfair treatment of people because of their religion, nationality, color, gender or age.

The United Nations adopted other conventions, such as:

- The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1951.
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1965.
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1979.
- The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1984.
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

Some of the Child's Rights:

- Every child must have a name and a nationality.
- Every child must have adequate food and medical care.
- Every child must have access to free education.
- Every child must be protected against child labor.

Lesson 4



Read the following list of human rights and classify them in the table by writing the number of the statement under the correct heading:

1. One black student and one white student applied to the same Law School and both were accepted.
2. My father owns the house in which we live.
3. Omar went to the mosque while Samer went to the church for prayer.
4. Sami and Una were nominated for a scholarship in the United Kingdom.
5. I am provided with a proper education and a good health care system.
6. Zeid decided to relocate his store from one area to another.
7. I live in a proper dwelling and I eat healthy food.

Equality

Freedom

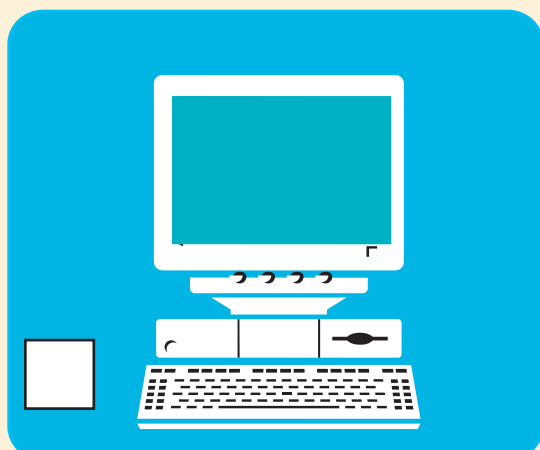
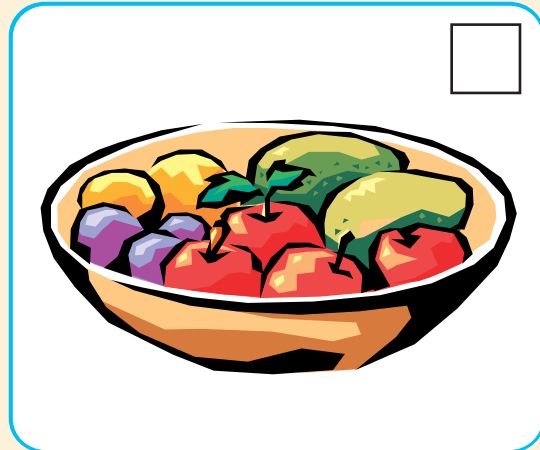
Owning property

Relocation

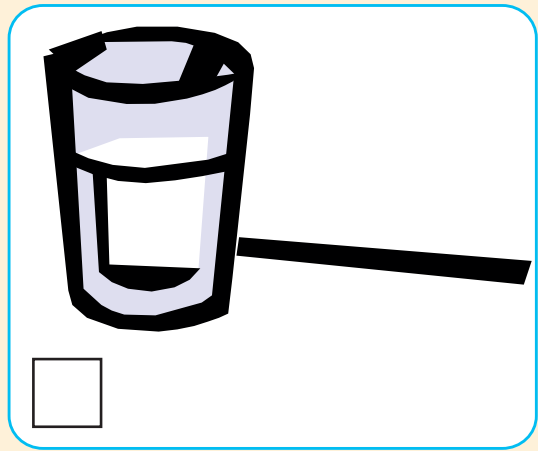
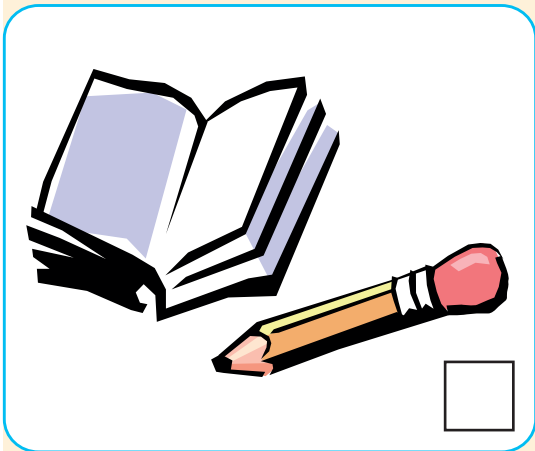
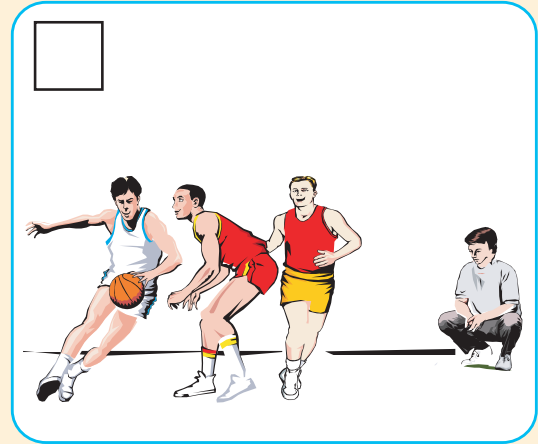
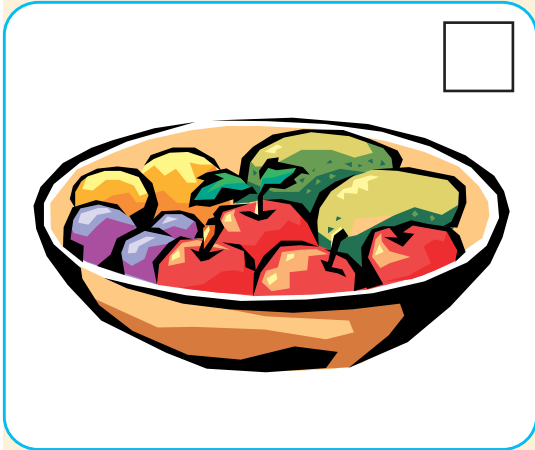
Proper life

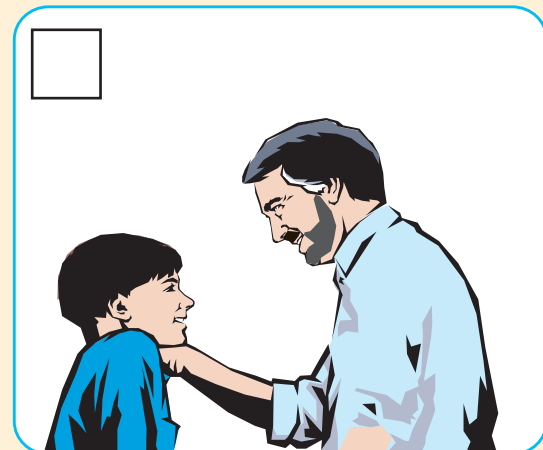
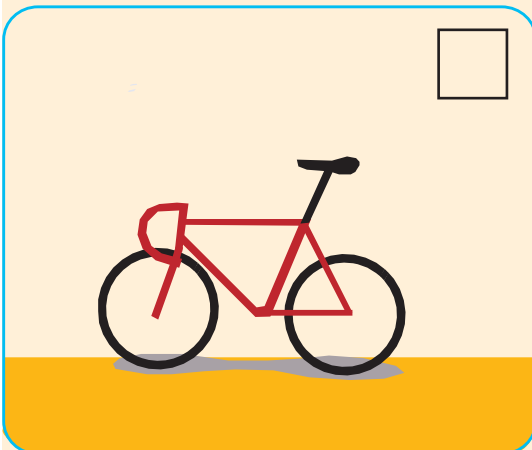
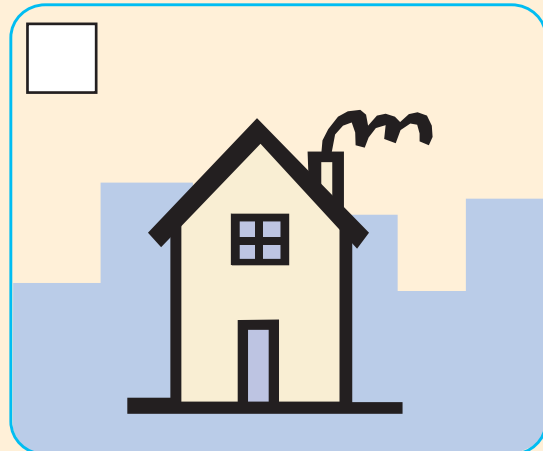
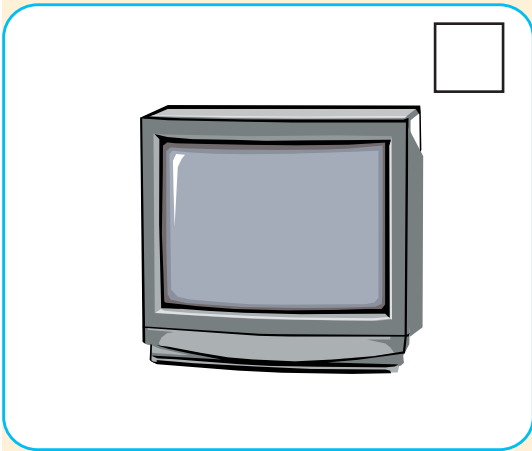
Lesson 4

Which of the following are rights?



Lesson 4





GLOSSARY CHAPTER (3)

- **Discrimination:** Unfair treatment of people because of their religion, nationality, color, gender or age.