Chapter 18: The Arabian Peninsula

Unit 7
Section 1: Physical Geography
Landforms

- The Red Sea was created by a rift formed between two tectonic plates.
- The Arabian Peninsula was formed and has natural water boundaries:
  - Gulf of Aden
  - Arabian Sea
  - Gulf of Oman
  - Persian Gulf
Landforms

• The Arabian Peninsula is dominated by an arid climate
• Due to a lack of water, only 2% of the landmass is used to grow crops

The Arabian Desert
  – Northern desert= An Nafud
    • Dunes
    • 25,000 sq. miles
  – South= Rub’ al-Khali
    • “The Empty Quarter”
    • 10x northern desert
Water Systems

• Red Sea
  – Located on the western edge of the Arabian Peninsula
  – Runs to the Gulf of Aden
• Arabian Sea
  – Southeast of the peninsula
• Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf
  – Northeast of the peninsula
• All of these are important for trade, shipping, and other economic factors
Climate, Biomes, and Resources

• Interior: arid desert
  – Little rainfall or life

• Coast:
  – Humidity
  – Monsoons

• Wind
  – In the deserts: simooms-hot, dry wind that blows from time to time
    • Destroy plant and animal life
    • Means “poison” in Arabic
Climate, Biomes, and Resources

• Oil
  – 25% of world’s proven reserves located here

• Others:
  – Fish
  – Pearls
  – Salt
  – Freshwater*
Section 2: Human Geography
History and Government

• Most people are ethnic Arabs
• Most people are Muslims
• In history: no formal government
  – Mostly nomadic tribes based on family relationships
  – Sheikdoms-territory ruled by an Arab tribal leader
• Foreigners invaded areas along the coast
  – Greeks
  – Ottoman Empire
History and Government

• Today, majority of governments in this region are monarchies
• Some areas have had issues with terrorism, corruption, and instability with the government.
• Religious issues between Sunni and Shia (Shiite) Muslims
• Many of the governments base laws and rulings on the Koran
Economics

• Oil
  – Choke point
• Cement manufacturing
• Ship repair
• Fishing
• Tourism
• Textiles
Section 3: Human-Environment Interaction
Managing Resources

• Geopolitics-government policy as it is influence by physical, human, and economic geography
• Oil production/exporting
  – Pollution
• Agriculture
• Climate Change
• Fresh water/water usage
  – Desalination