

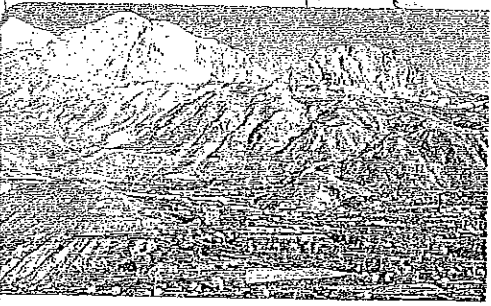
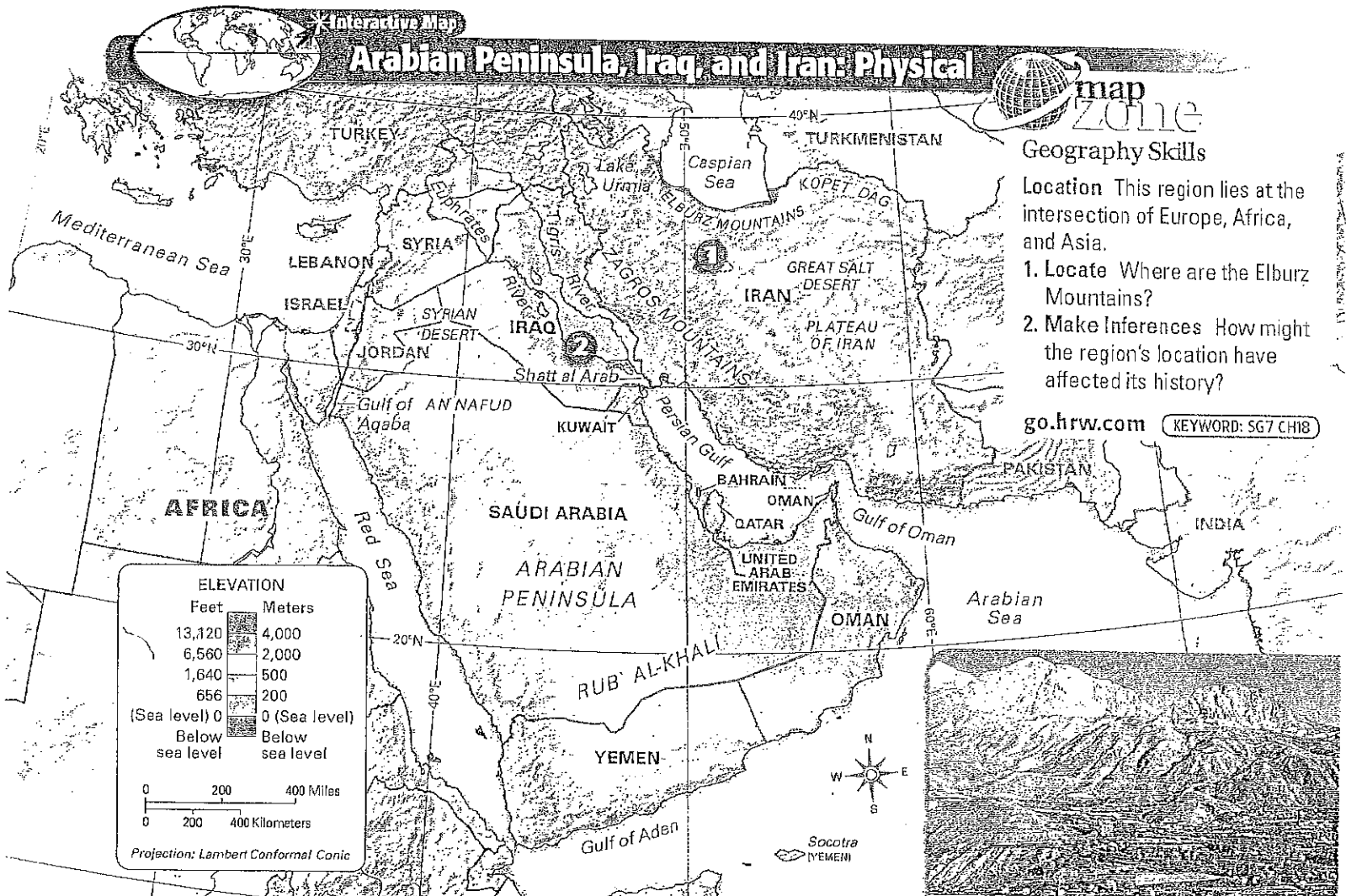
The vast, dry expanse of the Arabian Peninsula is covered by plains in the east. The peninsula's desert plains are covered with sand in the south and volcanic rock in the north. As you can see on the map, the surface of the peninsula rises gradually from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. Near the Red Sea the landscape becomes one of plateaus and mountains, with almost no coastal plain. The highest point on the peninsula is in the mountains of Yemen.

Plateaus and mountains also cover most of Iran. In fact, Iran is one of the world's most mountainous countries. In the west, the land climbs sharply to form the Zagros Mountains. The Elburz Mountains and the Kopet-Dag lie in the north. Historically, this mountainous landscape has kept towns there isolated from each other.

FOCUS ON READING

After you read this paragraph, re-read it to make sure you understand Iran's landscape.

READING CHECK Summarizing What are the major physical features of this area?



1 The Elburz Mountains in Iran are the highest land in the region.



2 The Euphrates River creates a narrow, fertile area in Iraq.