

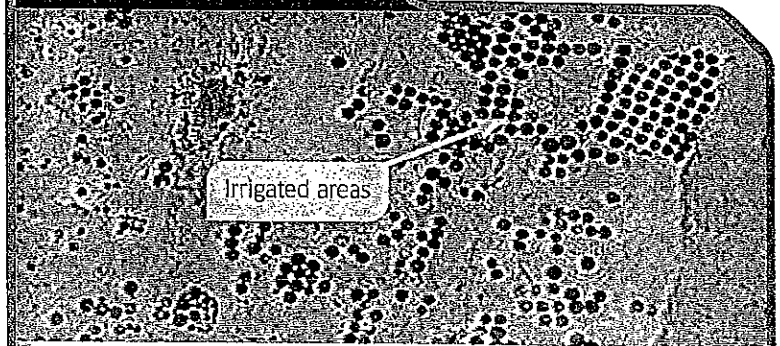
Resources

Water is one of the region's two most valuable resources. However, this resource is very scarce. In some places in the desert, springs provide water. At other places, water can come from wells dug into dry streambeds called **wadis**. Modern wells can reach water deep underground, but the groundwater in these wells is often fossil water. **Fossil water** is water that is not being replaced by rainfall. Wells that pump fossil water will eventually run dry.

While water is scarce, the region's other important resource, **oil**, is plentiful. Oil exports bring great wealth to the countries that have oil fields. Most of the oil fields are located near the shores of the Persian Gulf. However, although oil is plentiful now, it cannot be replaced once it is taken from Earth. Too much drilling for oil now may cause problems in the future because most countries of the region are not rich in other resources. Iran is an exception with its many mineral deposits.

READING CHECK Summarizing What are the region's important resources?

Satellite View



Pivot-Irrigated Fields

This satellite image shows how fossil water has converted desert land into farmers' fields. Each circular plot of land has a water source at its center. An irrigation device extends out and pivots around the center.

Drawing Inferences Why are the fields circular?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran form a desert region with significant oil resources. Next, you will learn more about the countries of the Arabian Peninsula.

Section 1 Assessment

go.hrw.com
Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SG7 HP18

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- Describe** Where was Mesopotamia?
 - Explain** Where are the region's mountains?
 - Elaborate** Why do you think the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** rivers were so important in history?
- Recall** What parts of the region receive the most rainfall?
 - Explain** How have desert plants adapted to their environment?
- Define** What is **fossil water**?
 - Make Inferences** How do you think resources in the region influence where people live?
 - Predict** What might happen to the oil-rich countries if their oil was used up or if people found a new energy source to replace oil?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Using your notes and a graphic organizer like the one here, note physical characteristics unique to each area. Then list characteristics shared by all three areas.

Arabian Peninsula	Iraq	Iran
All		

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Describing Physical Geography** Take notes on the physical features, climate and vegetation, and resources that you could record in your log. What would you see and feel if you were in this region?