Investigating the Price and Flow of Oil

World Oil Reserves
The bar graph below highlights the countries around the world with the largest known oil reserves. The length of the bars show the size of each country’s reserves. Closely examine the graph, and discuss these questions in your group:
• Which countries have the largest oil reserves?
• Why might countries with large oil reserves be interested in controlling the price and supply of oil?

![Bar Graph of Top Ten Countries with Oil Reserves, 2018](image)


Critical Thinking Question C
In 1960, several oil-producing countries around the world decided to join together to better control the price and supply of oil. These countries founded the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC. The majority of oil countries in Southwest Asia are members of OPEC. Some OPEC members are countries outside of Southwest Asia, such as Venezuela, Indonesia, Libya, Nigeria, and Algeria.

Based on what you have investigated, which set of countries below do you think are not OPEC members? Why? Be ready to justify your group’s choice to the class.

| Set 1: Iran, Iraq, Kuwait |
| Set 2: Oman, Syria, Yemen |
| Set 3: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates |
World Oil Consumption
The graph below highlights the countries in the world that consume the most oil. The height of the bars reflects the amount of oil each country uses each day. Analyze the graph, and discuss these questions in your group:

- Which countries consume the most oil? What is similar about them?
- Why might countries that consume a lot of oil be interested in controlling the price and supply of oil?
- Analyze the two graphs. What generalization can you form from the two sets of data?

![Top Ten Consumers of Oil, 2017](image)

Critical Thinking Question D
In 1990, Iraq invaded the neighboring country of Kuwait. This invasion threatened the flow of oil from this part of Southwest Asia. In response, the United States and many other countries worked together to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. This became the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Some countries contributed soldiers, equipment, and money to the war. Top contributors included the United States, Germany, and Japan. Many oil countries in Southwest Asia were also big contributors.

Based on what you have learned, which set of countries below do you think contributed the most toward the costs of the Persian Gulf War? Why? Be ready to justify your group’s choice to the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set 1: Iran, Oman, Qatar</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Set 2: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set 3: Yemen, Bahrain, Syria</td>
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