Oil in Southwest Asia: How “Black Gold” Has Shaped a Region

How might having a valuable natural resource affect a region?

How might having a lot of oil affect Southwest Asia? List at least three ways you think this resource might affect the people and places in this region. An example is done for you.

• This resource might provide jobs for many people.
Section 1 - The Geographic Setting

Read the Introduction and Section 1. Then, create an illustrated dictionary of the Geoterm s by completing these tasks:

- Create a symbol or an illustration to represent each term.
- Write a definition of each term in your own words.
- Write a sentence that includes the term and the words *Southwest Asia*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geoterm and Symbol</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>crude oil</td>
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<td>nonrenewable resource</td>
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<tr>
<td>oil reserves</td>
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<tr>
<td>renewable resource</td>
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Section 2 - The Geology and Geography of Oil

Read Section 2. Then, on the map, rank each of Southwest Asia’s oil countries according to the size of its proven oil reserves. Label them from 1 (largest reserve) to 10 (smallest reserve). Shade the three countries with the largest oil reserves.

Southwest Asia: Who Has the Oil?

Answer these questions:
• How does oil form? Explain the process in at least three steps.

• Why is so much oil buried under Southwest Asia?

• Are oil reserves distributed equally among the countries of Southwest Asia? Explain.
Section 3 - Oil Wealth and People’s Well-Being

Read Section 3. Then, on the map, rank each of Southwest Asia’s oil countries according to its Human Development Index (HDI) rank. Label them from 1 (highest rank) to 10 (lowest rank). Shade the three countries with the highest HDI ranks.

**Southwest Asia: Measuring Well-Being with HDI**

Answer these questions:

- How has oil made the people of Southwest Asia better off?

- Why isn’t per capita GDP always an accurate reflection of people’s wealth?

- What are some examples of why some oil countries haven’t been able to end poverty?
Section 4 - The Geology and Geography of Oil

Read Section 4. Then, on the map, place an X on the lines for the countries that are OPEC members. Circle the names of the Southwest Asian countries who were top contributors to the costs of the Persian Gulf War.

**Southwest Asia: OPEC Members and Persian Gulf War Contributors**

![Map of Southwest Asia showing OPEC members and Persian Gulf War contributors](image)

Answer these questions:
- What have been the goals of Southwest Asian OPEC members?
- What two realities have limited OPEC’s power?
- What were the two types of coalition members in the Persian Gulf War? Why were they coalition members?
Processing

Explain the title of this lesson by adding to the map below.

- Around the map, write at least three sentences explaining how oil has affected Southwest Asia.
- Your sentences should mention at least three countries in Southwest Asia.
- Your sentences should use at least three of this lesson’s Geoterms: crude oil, nonrenewable resource, oil reserves, and renewable resource.
- Connect each sentence to a specific part of the map with a line.

An example is done for you.

**Oil in Southwest Asia: How “Black Gold” Has Shaped a Region**

Saudi Arabia has the largest known oil reserves in Southwest Asia.