

Shared Land, Shared Impact

Trace how environmental issues affect people and places across Southwest Asia.

SS7G6 "Explain the impact of environmental issues across Southwest Asia (Middle East)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each environmental issue in the passage. Number the effect or effects that follow each issue so you can trace how environmental problems affect the region.

Environmental Connections

- ① Across Southwest Asia, freshwater is limited, and many places receive little rain. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers cross national borders, so water decisions in one country can affect people downstream in another. Dams and irrigation can store or divert water for farms and cities, but less water may reach neighboring communities. In some dry areas, people pump groundwater faster than nature replaces it. Lower groundwater levels can make wells fail, raise farming costs, and increase competition for safe drinking water.
- ② Energy production also creates regional environmental problems. Burning oil, natural gas, and other fuels releases pollutants that can worsen air quality in crowded cities. Wind can carry some air pollution beyond a city's borders, affecting nearby areas. Oil spills from ships or pipelines can damage Persian Gulf coastlines, fisheries, and tourism. Desalination plants change seawater into fresh water for homes and businesses. They help meet water needs, yet their salty waste, called brine, can harm marine ecosystems if it is released carelessly.
- ③ These issues are linked. Hotter temperatures and long droughts can increase water demand while shrinking supplies. When farms cannot get enough water, food production may fall, and families may move in search of work or reliable water. Governments, farmers, and communities can reduce damage by repairing leaky pipes, using water-saving irrigation, treating wastewater, and setting pollution rules. Because rivers, air, and seas connect countries, cooperation can protect shared resources and reduce conflict over them in the future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can dams and irrigation in one country affect communities in a neighboring country?

2 What are two impacts of pumping groundwater faster than it is replaced?

3 Explain one way energy production can affect places beyond the location where fuels are burned or transported.

4 How can desalination both help people and create an environmental challenge?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences explaining an environmental issue in a Southwest Asia country or shared waterway. Name a cause, describe one impact on people or ecosystems, and propose one realistic action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each environmental issue in the passage. Number the effect or effects that follow each issue so you can trace how environmental problems affect the region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can dams and irrigation in one country affect communities in a neighboring country?	They can store or divert river water, so less water may reach communities downstream in a neighboring country.
2	What are two impacts of pumping groundwater faster than it is replaced?	Wells can fail, farming costs can rise, and competition for safe drinking water can increase. Accept any two.
3	Explain one way energy production can affect places beyond the location where fuels are burned or transported.	Wind can carry air pollution beyond city borders, or oil spills can damage Persian Gulf coastlines, fisheries, and tourism.
4	How can desalination both help people and create an environmental challenge?	Desalination provides fresh water for homes and businesses, but its salty brine can harm marine ecosystems if released carelessly.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Jordan, pumping groundwater faster than it refills can lower water levels in wells. Families and farmers may have less water, and farmers may spend more money to get it. Drip irrigation and repairs to leaking pipes can reduce water waste.

Accept accurate cause-and-effect explanations that connect an environmental issue to people, ecosystems, or more than one place in Southwest Asia. For Part 3, accept a realistic action that addresses the stated cause or impact.