

Region Detectives

Spot natural features and human features across North Africa and Southwest Asia.

WG.8 "The student will analyze the characteristics of the regions of North Africa and Southwest Asia by identifying and analyzing the location of major geographic regions and major cities on maps and globes..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PHYSICAL FEATURE

A physical feature is part of Earth's natural surface or environment. It was not built or planted by people.

The Dead Sea is a natural salt lake.

HUMAN FEATURE

A human feature is made, built, grown, or changed by people. It can show culture, settlement, or economic activity.

The Burj Khalifa is a building people constructed.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1: Circle PHYSICAL or HUMAN for each item; Part 2: Pick two items, one from each category, and explain what makes each fit.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Taurus Mountains | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 2. The Persian Gulf | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 3. The Port of Jebel Ali | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 4. The Euphrates River | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 5. An oil refinery in Kuwait | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 6. Terraced olive groves in the West Bank | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 7. The Rub' al Khali desert | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |
| 8. The Atlas Mountains | ☐ PHYSICAL | ☐ HUMAN |

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new PHYSICAL example from North Africa or Southwest Asia. Then write one new HUMAN example from the region.

PHYSICAL _____

HUMAN _____

CHALLENGE

In two sentences, explain how one physical feature in the region affects a human feature or an economic activity.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The Taurus Mountains	PHYSICAL	A mountain range formed by natural Earth processes.
2	The Persian Gulf	PHYSICAL	A natural body of water.
3	The Port of Jebel Ali	HUMAN	A port is built and used by people for trade and shipping.
4	The Euphrates River	PHYSICAL	A river is a natural water feature.
5	An oil refinery in Kuwait	HUMAN	A refinery is an industrial facility built by people.
6	Terraced olive groves in the West Bank	HUMAN	People shape terraces and grow olive trees for agriculture.
7	The Rub' al Khali desert	PHYSICAL	A desert is a natural environmental region.
8	The Atlas Mountains	PHYSICAL	A mountain range is a natural landform.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PHYSICAL:** The Jordan River is a physical feature.
- **HUMAN:** A market in Muscat is a human feature.

Challenge: The Persian Gulf gives coastal countries access to shipping routes. Ports along its coast move oil and other goods to global markets.

Sort key: 1 PHYSICAL, 2 PHYSICAL, 3 HUMAN, 4 PHYSICAL, 5 HUMAN, 6 HUMAN, 7 PHYSICAL, 8 PHYSICAL. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify whether the feature is natural or shaped by people.