Name: **Answer Key!**

**Geography of SW Asia Study Guide**

Date:

Period:

**Directions: Use your notes, graphic organizers, standard handouts, etc. to help you complete the items below.**

1. What are the differences between an **ethnic group** and a **religious group**?

**Ethnic groups are things you are born into…culture, genetics, language, etc.**

**Religious group are chosen and changeable. Followers believe in the same god/God/etc.**

2. List the three major religions of SW Asia and tell where they originated.

**Judaism (Canaan), Christianity (Jerusalem), Islam (Mecca) – All originated in the Middle East.**

3. List the holy books, leaders, and places of worship for each religion.

**Judaism: Torah, Rabbi, Synagogue (Temple)**

**Christianity: Holy Bible, Preacher/Minister or Priest, Church**

**Islam: Koran (or Qur’an), Imam, Mosque**

4. List the sects of these religions:

**Christianity: Catholic, Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, etc.), Eastern Orthodox**

**Islam: Sunni, Shia**

5. List the **Five Pillars of Islam**.

**Declaration of Faith (Shahadah), Prayer 5 Times a Day (Salat), Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj), Alms Giving/Charity (Zakat), Fast During Ramadan (Sawm)**

6. What caused the split between the Muslim believers?

**Sunni – Want a community leader. Believed any good Muslim could lead the religion.**

**Shia – Believed the leader had to be a relative/descendant of Muhammad .**

7. Which ethnic group is also a religious group? **Jewish People**

8. Where (countries) do most Shia Muslims live? Sunni Muslims?

**Shia – Southern Iraq, Iran, eastern Saudi Arabia**

**Sunni – Northern Iraq**

9. The earliest monotheistic religion that was developed in SW Asia = **Judaism.**

10. Belief in one god = **Monotheism.** Belief in many gods = **Polytheism.**

11. **River Jordan (aka the Jordan River)** is the physical feature that separates Jordan and Israel.

12. Today, “Iran” is what you will see on a map; before 1935, you would have seen **Persia.**

13. List five things you learned about the Arabs.

**\*See “Who are the Arabs?” reading for more information.**

14. List five things you learned about the Kurds.

**\*See “Who are the Kurds” reading for more information.**

15. List five things you learned about the Persians.

**\*See “Who are the Persians?” reading for more information.**

**Read the following statements and decide which religion(s) is (are) described. Use M for Muslims, C for Christians, or J for Jews.**

16. Place of worship is a synagogue or temple **Jews**

17. Celebrates Hanukah, Passover, Yom Kippur, and Rosh Hashanah  **Jews**

18. Has the most followers **Christians**

19. Guided by a religious/spiritual leader called an Imam **Muslims**

20. Follow specific dietary laws called kosher **Jews**

21. Pray toward Mecca (Saudi Arabia) five times per day **Muslims**

22. Celebrates Easter and Christmas **Christians**

23. Followers read the Holy Bible **Christians**

24. Believes Muhammad was the last prophet **Muslims**

25. Rabbi is the religious leader **Jews**

26. Holy writing/text is called Qur’an (Koran) **Muslims**

27. Believes that Jesus is the son of God **Christians**

28. Holy book/sacred text is called the Torah **Jews**

29. Place of worship is a church **Christians**

30. Define **scarcity**. What resource is **scarce** in the Middle East?

**Scarcity – Shortness of supply; not enough of something. Water (in particular, fresh water) is scarce in the Middle East.**

31. Where is the Strait of Hormuz?

**It is located east of the Arabian Peninsula, connecting the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.**

32. List several reasons why the people of SW Asia would want to live near fresh sources of water.

**Irrigation of fields (agriculture; growing food), drinking water, water for animals (more food)**

33. **True or False**. Irrigation is the process of bringing water to an area to assist with the production of crops. **True**

34. What is desalination? What is its purpose?

**Desalination – Taking salt out of water (creating fresh water). People and plants/animals need freshwater to survive.**

35. **Oil** is the major export of Southwest Asian countries.

36. Which country produces the most oil in SW Asia? **Saudi Arabia**

37. What is the (day-time) climate like throughout SW Asia? **Desert, arid, dry, hot, little rain**

38. What has the discovery/production of oil done for the Middle East region?

**It has made them a lot of money ($$$)**

**Created conflict, particularly between countries with lots of oil and countries with little/no oil.**

39. Name the bodies of water that surround Saudi Arabia.

**Red Sea to the west, Arabian Sea to south, Persian Gulf to east**

40. Why are some SW Asian areas more **densely** **populated** than others?

**Near fresh water (rivers, etc.)**

**Wealthy areas, with large oil exports**

41. When flood waters rise, they leave behind a much needed particles used for fertilizing land called

a. fertilizer

**b. silt**

c. water

d. flood water

42. Define canal.

**Canal – An artificial waterway constructed to allow the passage of boats or ships inland, or to convey water for irrigation.**

43. List all of the countries you should be able to locate.

**Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey**

44. List all of the physical features you should be able to locate.

**Euphrates River, Jordan River, Tigris River, Suez Canal, Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Gaza Strip**