

Name: _____

Date: _____



THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

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THE ARABS

People who speak Arabic as their primary language are known as Arabs. Traditionally, the Arabs lived on the Arabian Peninsula, but the language and culture of the Arabs spread throughout the Middle East with the expansion of Islam. Arabic is the language of the Quran, the holy book of Islam. Today more than 250 million Arabs live throughout the world. Arabs constitute the substantial majority of people in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco.

A century after the death of Mohammad in AD632, belief in Islam spread as far as Spain in the west to northern India in the east. Arab merchants

and traders extended their influence to as far away as Southeast Asia. Today the nation with the largest Muslim population is Indonesia, a group of islands in Southeast Asia far from the Arab world.

The Arabs were interested in learning and in other cultures. Western Europe was in a period often called the “Dark Ages” from about AD500 to AD1000 because the civilizations of Greece and Rome had been extinguished. During that time, Arabs made great advances in mathematics, medicine, and physical science. Algebra and Chemistry are both Arabic words. Many Western Europeans once used Roman numerals until they discovered the more efficient Arabic numbers we use today.

Fill in the Blanks

An Arab is someone who s_____ Arabic. The Arabs traditionally lived on the Arabian p_____, but their l_____ and c_____ spread with the expansion of I_____. Arabs comprise a substantial m_____ of the populations of S_____ Arabia, Sy_____, Yemen, O_____, Bahrain, Q_____, the U_____ Arab E_____, Kuwait, J_____, Lebanon, I_____, Sudan, E_____, Libya, T_____, Algeria, and M_____.

Language experts say A_____ is the fifth most *s_____ language in the world. More than 250 m_____ people are Arabs because A_____ is their *p_____ language. Chinese is the world's most spoken language, with one billion speakers. *E_____, with 500 million speakers is second, followed by Hindi, a language spoken in *I_d_a, with 490 m_____ speakers. Spanish is the world's fourth most prevalent language with more than 350 million s_____. *S_____ is spoken in Spain, most of *C_____ America and *S_____ America. Portuguese is spoken in *P_____, Brazil and five African nations. Other widely spoken languages include Russian, Japanese, German, French, Bengali, the official l_____ of Bangladesh.

By the *e_____ century, the lands of I_____ stretched from S_____ in the w_____ to I_____ in the e_____. The Arabs merchants and were great t_____ who spread I_____ to many parts of the world. The most populous Muslim nation is I_____ a group of islands in s_____ Asia far from the A_____ peninsula. The Arabs also made great advances in m_____, medicine and physical science. Many Western Europeans once used R_____ numerals until they discovered the more efficient A_____ numbers we use today.

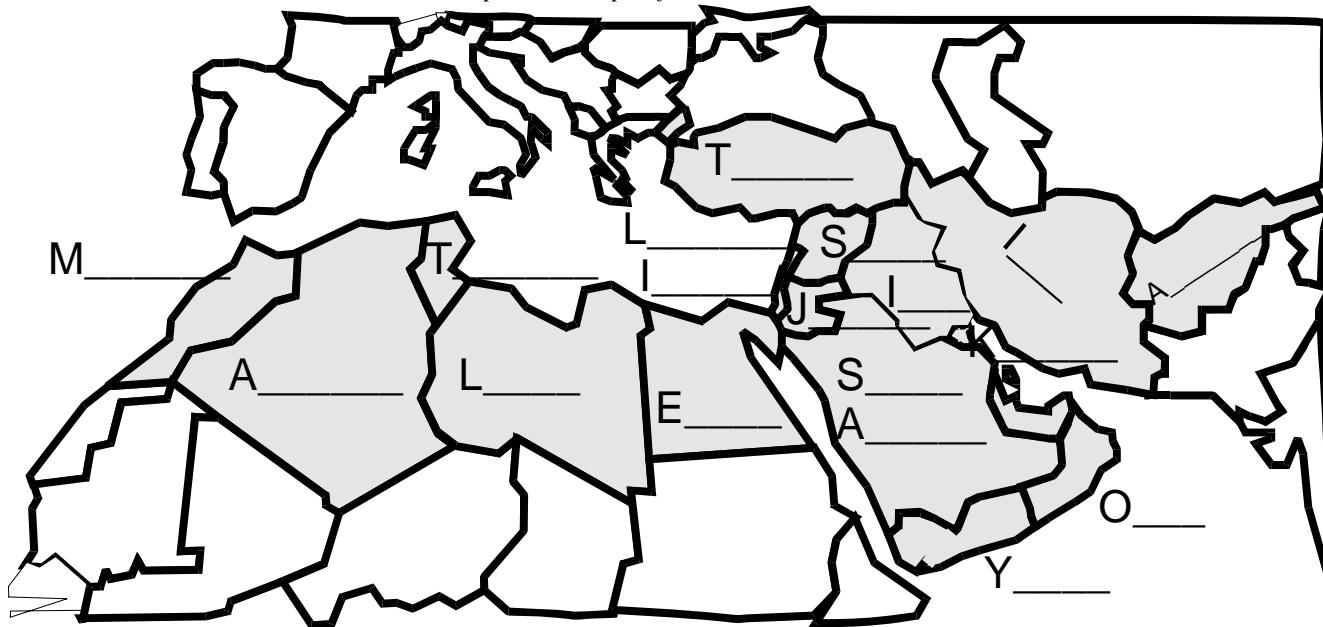
*A higher order learning question. I will accept any reasonable answer.

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Label the Map

Use a political map to find the correct answers.



Answer in complete sentences

1. Who are the Arabs?

- *2. List twelve nations where Arabic is the primary language in alphabetical order.

3. Describe why AD500 to AD 800 is often known as the “Dark Ages” of Western Europe.

- *4. Copy using Roman Numerals: “I was born in (year) it is now (year). This means I am (age) years old. Remember that with Roman numerals, I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500, M=1000

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