

Ethnic Groups of the “Middle East” Summative Assignment

Background: In “The Geography Behind War and Terror” and “Interpreting Terrorism’s Geographic Manifestations” de Blij attempts to indicate the vast complexity of Southwest and Central Asia. All too frequently, those of the West assume that the Middle East is a monolithic region in which all who live there are of similar culture, heritage, and religion. This oversimplification often leads to misunderstanding.

Purpose: Your purpose in this assignment is to reach a more nuanced understanding of the complexity of the region through careful map study using the excellent resources of the Gulf2000 project, a project sponsored by the Middle East Institute at Columbia University along with several foundation and corporate sponsors and National Geographic Education. In particular, you will be using the exceedingly detailed maps of Dr. Michael Izady to gain a deeper understanding of the region.

Objective: Your objective is to craft a sketch map that includes significant human and physical features of the region, with researched annotations of various ethnic groups of your choice from the region.

Methodology: You will create a sketch map of Southwest Asia and Egypt that includes the following countries: Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, The UAE, Oman, Yemen, Qatar, Bahrain, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. You will include the important rivers of the Nile, Tigris, and Euphrates, along with all modern political borders. In addition, you will include the capital cities of each country, as well as one other city of significance for each country, as well as five additional physical features (five for the entire map, NOT each country). You will then choose 6 ethnic groups as found on the maps of the Gulf2000 project, specifically the Mid East Ethnic map

(http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/images/maps/Mid_East_Ethnic_lg.png) . Once your ethnic groups are chosen, you will create a key with a representative color for each ethnic group, and you will shade their location on your sketch map with the corresponding color. Finally, you will provide annotations for each of these ethnic groups. These annotations will be brief, but should include the following: 1. Majority Religion (be specific about particular denominations and sects of major religions) and notation of any significant minority religions. 2. Brief history of the people (important info – no longer than a paragraph) 3. Main economic activity (service fields, agriculture, herding, industry, oil, etc.) 4. A brief summary of how the local physical geography impacts this ethnic group’s culture or economic activity. 5. At least four of your ethnic group’s annotations should include a related illustration or photograph. This information should be sourced using HISD Library Services digital resources (<http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/93089>) such as ABC-CLIO, Britannica Online, or World Book. The CIA Fact Book may also provide information.

Product: Your final assignment submission will be your sketch map with attached annotations. You may wish to paste your sketch map on a larger paper or ½ a poster board (please don’t go larger! I don’t have room for full poster boards!!) to include your written annotations (these may be typed) of your ethnic groups (I find doing these in powerpoint and then printing the slides 2 per page is about the right size). *This information should not be extensive or exhaustive, rather a snapshot of the ethnic group’s main cultural and historical identity.* Also, please remember a sketch map is not perfect! It is not my goal to create amazing cartographers, but for you to interact with the geography of a region in a way that will enhance your ownership of the information. You will also include a separate bibliography to cite the sources used for your information regarding the ethnic groups. Many of the HISD library digital resources will offer preformatted bibliographic information. Copying and pasting this information is acceptable. Please use MLA or Chicago/Turabian styles of formatting.

Scoring: This is a summative grade. You will be assessed on your inclusion of above mentioned requirements on the sketch map, as well as your ethnic group annotations. A rubric is attached. All maps and annotations will be due 15 February at 4:00 regardless of class meeting days. A rubric is attached. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT** as grades will be due for me on Monday 18 February.

RUBRICS

Citations (daily grade)

Citations (daily grade)	100	90	80	0
Bibliography	Citations are correct for use of style	Citation are mostly correct with 1-2 errors	Citations are incomplete or have more than 3 errors.	No attempt at citations

Sketch Map (Total of 44 points)

Rivers		
Nile		1
Tigris		1
Euphrates		1
Sovereign States		
Egypt		1
Israel		1
Lebanon		1
Jordan		1
Syria		1
Iraq		1
Kuwait		1
Saudi Arabia		1
The UAE		1
Oman		1
Yemen		1
Qatar		1
Bahrain		1
Turkey		1
Iran		1
Afghanistan		1
Turkmenistan		1
Pakistan		1
Capital Cities		18
Additional cities (1 per country, except Bahrain)		17
Physical Features		
5 additional physical features for entire region (not 5 per country)		5
Total for map portion		44

Ethnic Groups

Ethnic Groups Annotations		
6 ethnic groups represented via shading on map (2 pts each)		12
Religions for each group (2 pts each)		12
History (BRIEF!) of each group (2 pts each)		12
Major economic activity (2 pts each)		12
4 illustrations (2 pts each)		8
Total for Ethnic Groups Annotations		56