

Resources illustrated in Southwest Asia and Northeast Africa

12

Very approximate grade level

R/1

2 a big geographic idea
(and a good place to study it)

Resources
are worth studying in Southwest Asia,
where floodplain soil resources
supported early civilizations
and oil is important today.

Economics:
supply and demand -
how scarcity raises price

Earth science:
petroleum deposits
occur in geologic traps

Economics:
resources and BIG Jobs -
trace purchased goods
back to their sources

History:
many early civilizations
developed on floodplains
surrounded by deserts

Compare countries
in terms of production,
consumption, and reserves
of energy resources.

Explain how the Red Sea
became a key resource
for traders after the fall
of the Roman Empire.

Describe floodplains as
resources for civilization:
they are regions where soil
is fertile and easy to work.

Learn position words:
in the group or area
e.g., in the good soil,
the desert, the city, etc.

(clearly identified
as geography)

Map skill:
interpret
flowline
map of
oil trade

Map skill:
identify
strategic
straits

Map skill:
interpret
map of
landform
regions

(map
skills)

3 some important
consequences
of the big idea

A valuable resource like oil
can allow rulers and countries
to become less democratic.

Oil discoveries helped make SW Asia
a target of global power struggles.

After Rome fell, Islamic cities became
centers of commerce and science.

Resource-based prosperity supported
cities, traders, scholars, organized religions

People can make different societies
even with similar resources.

Flooding rivers were resources
for ancient civilizations.

(positioned
where appropriate
in the curriculum)

Things come from fields, forests,
mines, factories, etc. - not from stores!

A discussion question:

What are some implications
of the fact that profits from oil exports
are supporting terrorist organizations
and undemocratic governments?



1 a scaffold of thinking skills
and background knowledge
that supports the big idea