

SS7G8 The student will describe the diverse cultures of the people who live in Southwest Asia (Middle East).

a. Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group.

Essential Question: What are the differences between ethnic group and a religious group?

Ethnic Group

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Religious Group

a. _____

b. _____

b. Explain the diversity of religions within the Arabs, Persians, and Kurds.

Essential Question: How diverse is the religion of the Arabs, Persians and Kurds?

Arabs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The majority of Arabs Sunni Muslim 2. Minority Coptic Christian 3. Speak Arabic
Persians	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Majority Shi'a Muslim 2. Live in Modern day Iran 3. Less than 30,000 Christian 4. Minority also still hold to old Persian religion: Zoroastrianism 5. Small group Bah'ia
Kurds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mostly Sunni Muslim 2. Not as strict as other Muslims 3. Have no homeland 4. Persecuted by Turkey and Iraq

c. Compare and contrast the prominent religions in Southwest Asia (Middle East): Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Essential Questions: How do the prominent religions of Southwest Asia (Middle East): Judaism, Islam, and Christianity compare and contrast?

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Founder	Abraham	Jesus; but trace their roots to Abraham	Muhammad (Mahomet) but trace their lineage to Abraham
Basic Beliefs	Monotheism	Monotheism; Jesus is the Christ	Monotheism: Mahomet is the prophet of God
Holy Book	Torah and the Writings (Law and the Prophets)	Bible	Qur'an (Koran)
Holy Places	Jerusalem	Jerusalem; Bethlehem	Mecca; Medina, Jerusalem

d. Explain the reason for the division between Sunni and Shia Muslims.

Essential Question: What are the reasons for the division of the Sunni and Shia Muslims?

Shia	Believe that the LEADER must be a descendant of Mohammed through his son-in-law Ali married to Mohammed's daughter Fatimah
Sunni	Best person for Caliph may be their leader.