

Geography and climate of the Arab world

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The Arab world consists of twenty independent states (in addition to the State of Palestine) divided into four sub-regional groups:

- The States of the Near East: The Syrian Arab Republic, the Hashemite Republic of Jordan, the Hashemite Republic of Jordan and the Republic of Iraq.

- The countries of the Nile Valley and East Africa: the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Somalia, and the Republic of Djibouti.

- North African States: The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Republic of Tunisia, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

- The countries of the Arabian Peninsula: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Yemen, the State of Kuwait, the State of Bahrain, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (comprising seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, um Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah).

I - Geography of the Arab World:

The Arab world has an important strategic geographical location, and its extension from west to east is about 6000 km and from the far south to the far north 5000 km.

The Arab world overlooks the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, and controls the three most important waterways from the point of view of navigation and international trade, namely the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, and controls four critical maritime sites: the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Strait of Hormuz.

- Topography of the Arab world:

The Arab world is characterized by various terrain forms, which include mountains, highlands, plateaus, plains, deserts, rivers, lakes and coasts.

- Medium-height plateaus:

These plateaus are spread in most parts of the Arab countries, and their average height ranges between 500 m and 1500 m, and is characterized by its plateau surface, which is predominantly level, and these plateaus are interspersed with many depressions that are due to the air erosion factor.

- Mountains and highlands:

Mountains are spread throughout the Arab countries, where we find the newly formed towering torsional mountains such as the Atlas Mountains in the Maghreb, the Zagros mountain ranges in Iraq, and the heights of Oman in the southeast of the Arabian Peninsula, and there are the old cut ranges, which are very old refractive mountains affected by erosion factors, and they are represented in the Red Sea mountain ranges in Egypt and Sudan, the Hijaz and Asir mountain ranges, the highlands of Yemen and the Levant mountain ranges.

- Plains:

Two types of plains are spread in the Arab countries: floodplains and coastal plains. The floodplains include the plains of the Nile Valley and the plains of the Tigris and Euphrates, and the breadth of the plains of the Nile Valley varies from one place to another, while it expands and becomes fan-shaped in South Sudan, we note that the group of plains of Bahr al-Jabal and Bahr al-Ghazal extends to include the southern Nile plains, and begins to expand after Aswan and then expands further until it reaches the delta.

- Rivers:

In the Arab countries, there is a great water wealth, although its distribution between its countries is unequal, and this wealth consists of internal rivers, confined to each of its countries, and rivers that extend across more than one country, whether originating in the Arab countries or flowing through them, and the most famous of these rivers:

1 - The Nile River: whose length between its source, at Lake Victoria, and its mouth in the Mediterranean Sea is 6700 km, and it penetrates nine African countries: Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zear, Abyssinia, Sudan, and Egypt.

2 - Senegal River: 1700 km long, consists of two main tributaries in Guinea, then penetrates Mauritania, and flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

3 - The Euphrates River: 2780 km long, it originates in Turkey, then penetrates Syria, before meeting the Tigris River in Iraq, where they run together to pour into the Shatt al-Arab.

4 - Alaasy River: 570 km long, it originates in Lebanon and penetrates Syria, to flow into the Gulf of Alexandretta.

5 - The Jordan River: 360 km long, originates from the slopes of Mount Hermon and penetrates Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian and Palestinian territory to flow into the Dead Sea.

- Deserts:

The Sahara covers a large area of Arab countries, in the African and Asian parts of it. It should be noted that most of the mining areas in the Arab countries are located in desert regions that are poor in their water, vegetation, livestock and population, and these regions lack easy, fast and cheap transportation. The discovery and extraction of oil in desert areas has attracted manpower, increased population density and led to the emergence of urban centers that

did not exist before the discovery of oil and the exploitation of other natural resources.

- The coasts of the Arab countries:

The Arab world overlooks seas, oceans, bays and coasts of more than 14 thousand kilometers, the most important of which are the coasts of the Red Sea, the Pacific Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Arabian Gulf, and the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean: It is the longest and most important Arab coast, extending from the Gulf of Alexandretta in the Syrian Arab Republic to the Strait of Gibraltar on the Mediterranean Sea, and from the Strait of Gibraltar in the Kingdom of Morocco to the mouth of the Senegal River on the Atlantic Ocean.

As for the islands near the sea coasts, the most important of which is Arwad Island, located three kilometres west of Tartous in the Syrian Arab Republic, and its people live on navigation, fishing and building small dhows, and the island of Kerkennah and the island of Djerba, located on the eastern coast of the Republic of Tunisia, and its people are engaged in fishing and tourism.

II - Climate of the Arab world

The largest part of the Arab countries is located within the hot tropical zone, and there is a limited area of its land that occupies a margin within the warm temperate zone, and this has resulted in a diversity in temperature, which helped the growth of tropical plants in the south and plants that grow in a temperate climate in the north, and the rise in the north helped the growth of plants of cold regions over slopes and mountain peaks, and the diversity of rain was reflected in terms of its quantity and the system of its fall on plants in general, as it is graded in richness and diversity from the center towards the north and towards the south. The Arab countries can be divided into major climatic regions:

- Mediterranean Region (Winter Rain Range):

This region is located in the northern edges of the Arab world along the coastline, and it is characterized by the division of the year into two distinct seasons: a mild winter characterized by rainfall and a hot summer characterized by drought, and rainfall in winter is concentrated in the months of December, January and February (December, January, February).

- Tropical region (summer rain range):

This region is located in the southern outskirts of the Arab world, as in Sudan and in the southwestern center of the Arabian Peninsula, and the Sudanese region in the Arab-African world is characterized by high temperatures throughout the year, and the rainy season is concentrated in the summer months from June to October (June to October). As for the summer rain region in the Arabian Peninsula, it is characterized by the division of the year into a hot, rainy season and a dry season that falls in the winter months and is characterized by low temperature.

- Desert region (dry range):

This region is located in the largest part of the area of the Arab countries and it includes the Sahara African desert and its extension in the Arabian Peninsula, and this huge extension represents the largest extension of the hot desert in the world and the area of the Somali Democratic Republic is located in that region, and the latter is characterized by a sharp rise in temperatures in the summer months, and a noticeable decrease in the winter months, and almost complete dryness, so it does not fall from rain to a little, and there is a possibility of little rain in the northern margins Winter and in the southern margins summer.

The climate factor plays a prominent role in the pattern of population distribution in the Arab countries, as there is a close link between the distribution of population and the annual distribution of

rainfall in the Arab countries, as desert areas where the amount of rain that falls annually is less than ten millimeters almost represent the non-urban areas in which the population density is low. However, the population gathers and their density increases in some areas with little rain if water is available from sources other than rain, whether in the form of surface water, or groundwater, as in the Nile Valley.

Since the southern edges of the Arab world are located in the heart of the tropical region, and its northern edges are located in the warm temperate region, this has led to the diversity of agricultural yields in it, such as cotton, rice, sugar cane and hemp, and in some other parts the yields of the transition zone that require moderate heat, such as wheat and barley.

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