

Name Evan Steelhammer

Date _____

Ch. 15-19 Vocab

(390-494)

- 1) Alluvial Soil: rich soil made up of sand and mud deposited by running water
- 2) Wadi: in the desert, a streambed that is dry except during a heavy rain
- 3) Phosphate: a natural mineral containing chemical compounds often used in fertilizers
- 4) Domesticate: to adapt plants and animals from the wild for human use
- 5) Hieroglyphics: an ancient writing system used in Egypt in which pictures and symbols represent words or sounds
- 6) Nationalism: a belief in the right of a nation to be an independent state
- 7) Nomad: a member of a wandering pastoral people
- 8) Bedouin: member of the nomadic desert peoples of North Africa and Southwest Asia
- 9) Aquifer: underground water- bearing layers of porous rock, sand, or gravel
- 10) Rift Valley: a valley formed by the separation of tectonic plates
- 11) Kibbutz: a communal farm or settlement in Israel
- 12) Moshav: a cooperative settlement of small individual farms in Israel
- 13) Monotheism: belief in one God
- 14) Prophet: person believed to be a messenger from God
- 15) Mosque: in Islam, a house of worship
- 16) Stateless Nation: an ethnic group without a formal country
- 17) Fertilizer: a chemical or natural substance added to soil or land to increase its fertility
- 18) Pesticide: a chemical used to kill insects, rodents, and other pests

- 19) Desertification: process in which arable land becomes desert
- 20) Overgrazing: grazing so heavily that the vegetation is damaged and the ground erodes
- 21) Pastoralism: the raising of animals for food and other products
- 22) Natural Boundary: a boundary created by a physical feature, such as a mountain, river, or strait
- 23) Culture Hearth: a center in which cultures develop and from which they are spread
- 24) Cuneiform: a system of writing using wedge-shaped symbols that were pressed into clay tablets
- 25) Qanat: an underground canal first built by the ancient Persians
- 26) Ziggurat: a large temple built by the Sumerians
- 27) Embargo: ban on trade
- 28) Feeder Stream: a tributary that feeds a larger river
- 29) Marsh: a wetland typically covered with grasses
- 30) Arid: excessively dry
- 31) Monsoon: a seasonal wind that brings warm, moist air from the oceans in summer and cooler, dry air from inland in winter
- 32) Simooms: a hot, dry, suffocating wind that blows from time to time in the Arabian Peninsula
- 33) Shamal: a northwesterly wind in the Persian Gulf area
- 34) Sheikdoms: territory ruled by an Arab tribal leader
- 35) Sunni: a branch of Islam that regards the first four successors of Muhammad as his rightful successors
- 36) Shia: a branch of Islam that regards Muhammad's son-in-law Ali and the imams as his rightful successors
- 37) Ibadhism: a conservative form of Islam distinct from Sunni and Shia sects

- 38) Shari'ah: Islamic law derived from the Quran and the teachings of Muhammad
- 39) Hajj: in Islam, the yearly pilgrimage to Makkah that Muslims must make at least once in a lifetime
- 40) Choke Point: a strategic, narrow waterway between two larger bodies of water
- 41) Desalination: the removal of salt from seawater or from brackish groundwater to make it usable for drinking and irrigation
- 42) Steppe: wide, grassy plains of Eurasia; also, similar semi-arid grassy areas elsewhere
- 43) Cereal: any grain like barley, oats, or wheat that is grown for food
- 44) Mujahideen: Islamic guerrilla fighters
- 45) Taliban: from Arabic for "seeker" or "student"; name of a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim group, active in Afghanistan, which controlled the Afghan government from 1996 to 2001
- 46) Exclave: a territory that belongs to a particular political unit but is separated from it and surrounded by another political unit
- 47) Enclave: a distinct territorial or cultural area that is within a foreign territory
- 48) Radioactive Material: material contaminated by residue from the generation of nuclear energy or the testing of nuclear weapons