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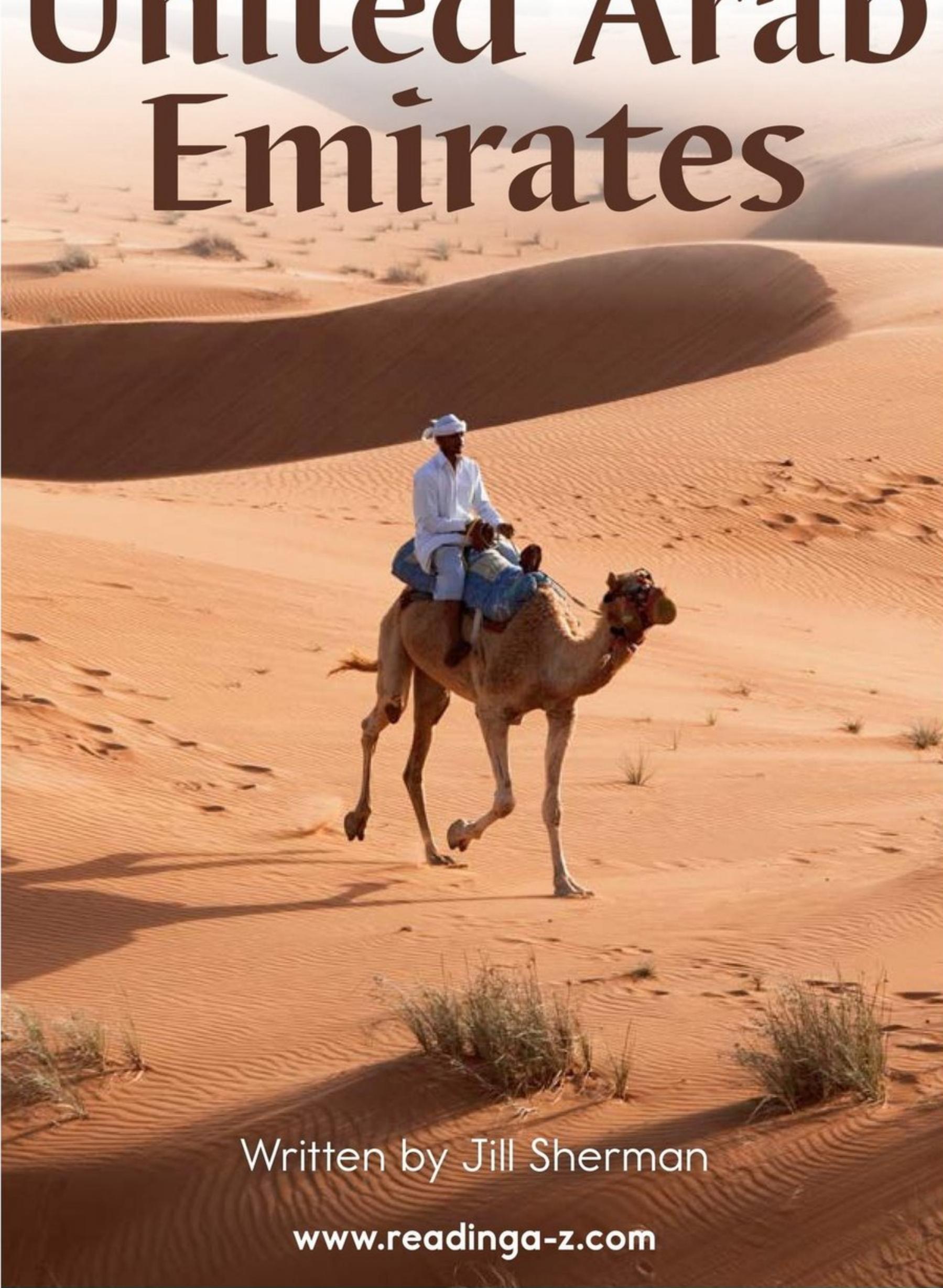
# United Arab Emirates

Written by Jill Sherman



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## Focus Question

What impact has oil had on the United Arab Emirates?

# Words to Know

Arab  
customs  
gulf

Islam  
mosque  
oasis

Front cover: A view from a helicopter shows some of Abu Dhabi's famous skyscrapers.

Title page: A man rides a camel in the desert in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Page 3: A UAE family

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## Correlation

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| DRA               | 20 |



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## Where Is It?

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a small country in the Middle East. The Middle East is the area where Europe, Africa, and Asia meet. The UAE's coast runs along a gulf that connects to the Indian Ocean.

The UAE is made up of seven Arab states. The capital city is Abu Dhabi. The city is old. Its history dates back to 3,000 BCE. Modern Abu Dhabi blends old **customs** with modern buildings.

Camels were used for hundreds of years to travel in the desert (top). In cities of the UAE, many cars travel on busy roads (bottom).



# People

Millions of people call the UAE home. Most of the people who live there are from other countries. They came to work or to build new buildings.

The people of the UAE come from different Arab groups. Those groups settled in the area long ago. Many people share customs and wear Arab clothing. Men and women wear scarves and cover their heads. They do this to respect their religion.



A family poses for a picture.

Most of the people of the UAE also share the religion of Islam. Arabic is the main language, but many people speak local languages.

Most people live in cities and towns along the UAE coast. Oil has made the country rich. It has turned poor UAE villages into modern cities.



People pray together in Dubai.

## Landforms of the United Arab Emirates



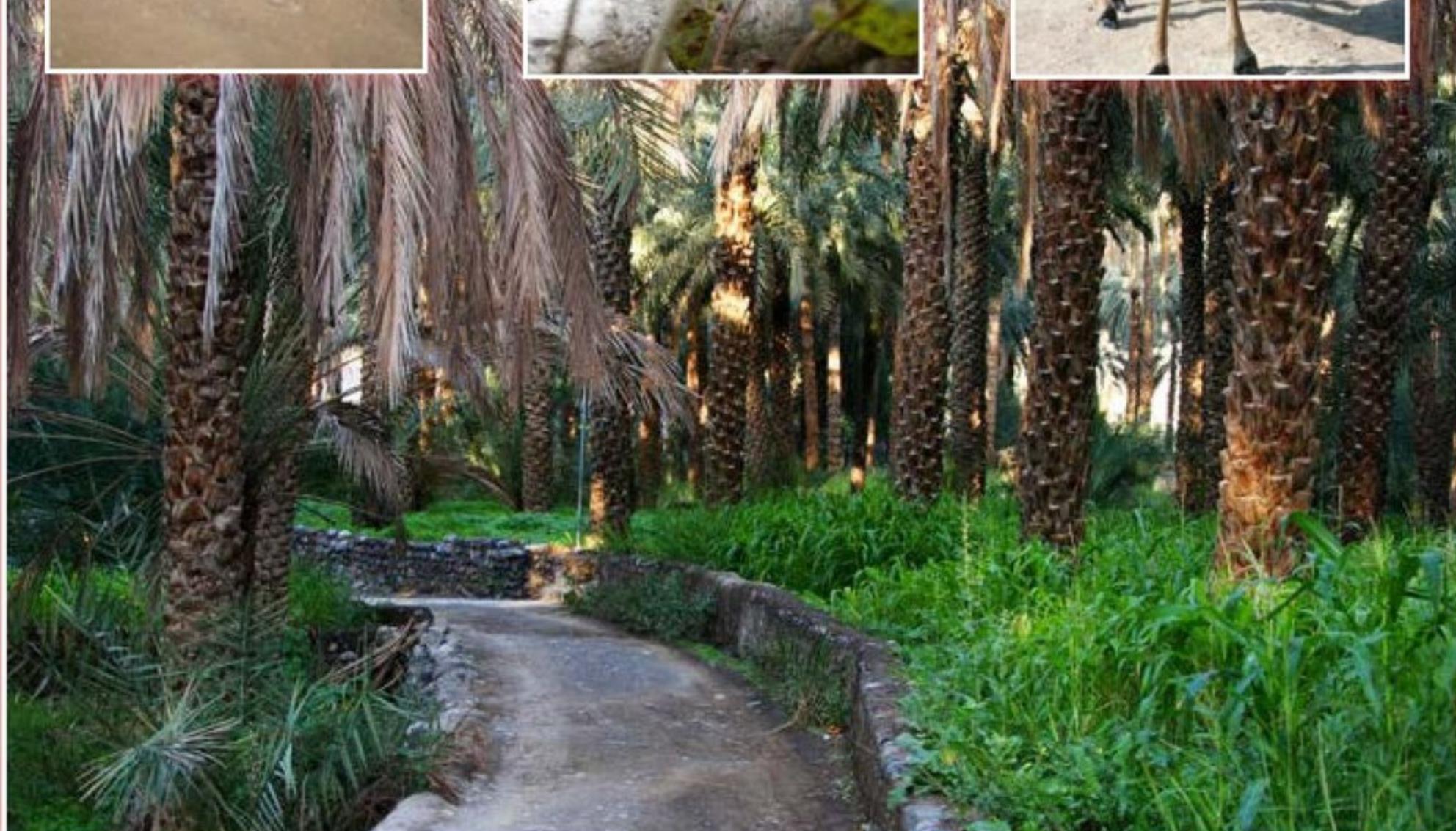
## Land

On the coast, the UAE is hot. The country gets little rain. In the east are the tall Hajar Mountains. A little rain falls in the mountains.

Inland, the UAE is mostly made up of desert. There it is even hotter. In summer or winter, wind may carry dust and sand. The wind creates huge sand hills.

Only a few grasses and bushes grow in most parts of the desert. There is more water in an **oasis**. Plants and animals can live there.

Dates, grain, mangoes, and other foods grow in an oasis. These spots also help animals live.



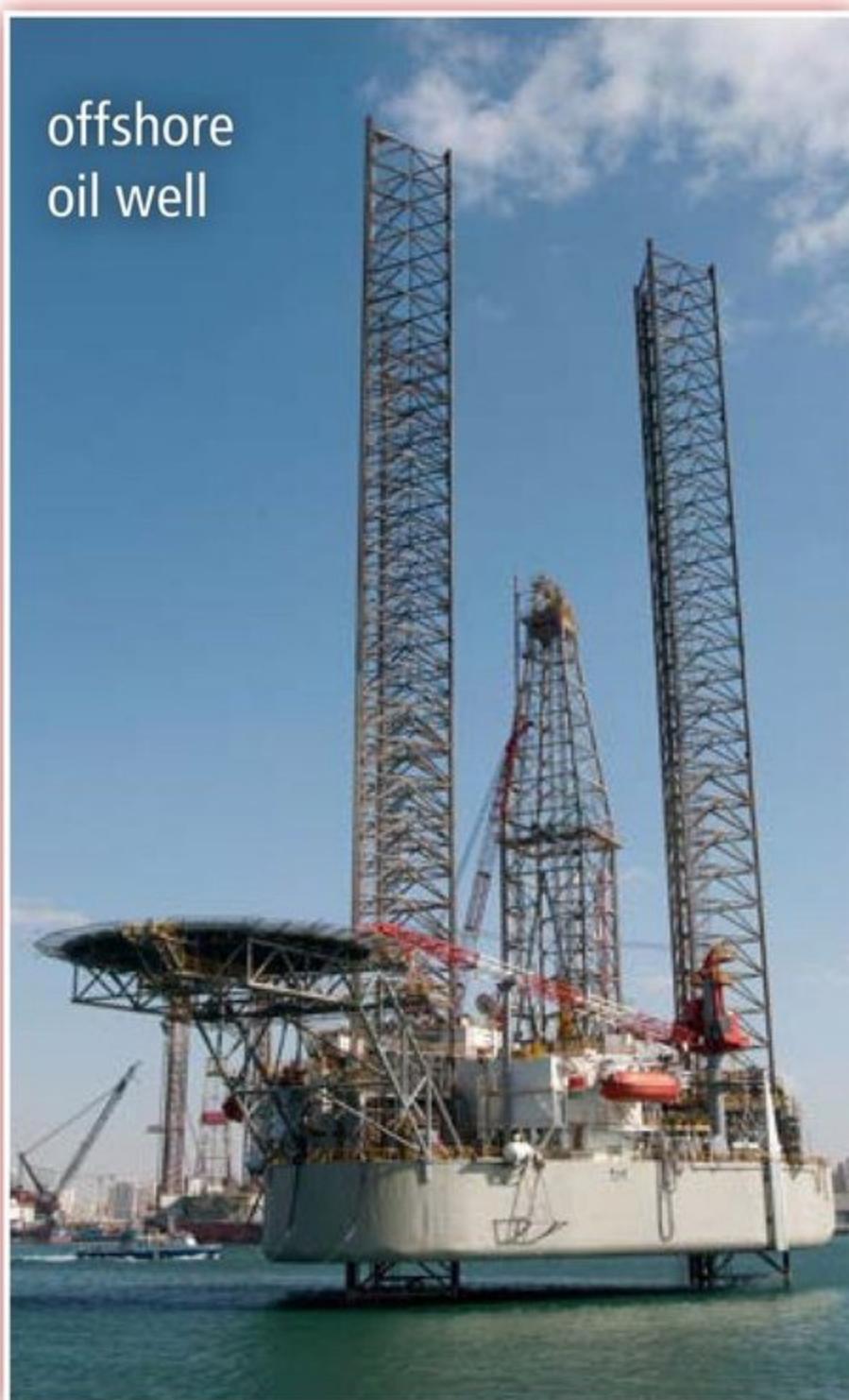
Wild animals of the UAE (top) find water to drink in an oasis (bottom).

# History

People have lived in the UAE for thousands of years. The area has always been important for trade. In the 1800s, Great Britain took over the states to control trade. They traded for things such as tea and silk from Asia.

Though trade passed through the states, most villages stayed poor

for hundreds of years. In 1958, people looking for oil found it in the Middle East. They quickly began drilling to get the oil.



The British ruled the area for hundreds of years. In 1968, the states decided to form one country. When all seven states joined, the UAE was free from Britain. The country grew rich with its oil.



Every year on December 2, people celebrate their freedom in the UAE. Fireworks are usually part of the celebration.



The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque (left) is the biggest mosque in the UAE. A building called the Burj Khalifa (right) has 163 floors.

## Landmarks

**The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque** is one of the most beautiful UAE buildings. The mosque is important to the religion of Islam. Islam teaches respect, peace, and love.

The Burj Khalifa in Dubai sets the record as the tallest building in the world. It stands for everything that is possible in Dubai.

Another landmark in Dubai is Palm Jumeirah. It is one of the world's largest man-made islands. From above, it looks like a palm tree.



Visitors to the UAE can enjoy an indoor amusement park (top) and ski hill (left). The Palm Jumeirah island (bottom) has more than four thousand places for people to stay.

# Conclusion

The United Arab Emirates is a new country in an old part of the world. Mosques and clothing show its customs. Modern buildings look to tomorrow. The UAE will continue to grow and change.



Old mosques and tall buildings tell a story of the UAE. The UAE people hold onto the past and look to the future.

## United Arab Emirates



**Population:** 5,927,482

**Land:** 83,600 sq km (32,278 sq. mi.)

**Capital City:** Abu Dhabi

**Primary Language:** Arabic

**Primary Religion:** Islam

**Name of Currency:** UAE dirham



Source: CIA World Factbook (2016)

# Glossary

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Arab</b> ( <i>n.</i> )    | a member of the people living in the Middle East or Northern Africa whose people are from the Arabian Peninsula (p. 4) |
| <b>customs</b> ( <i>n.</i> ) | traditional ways of doing something in a culture (p. 5)  |
| <b>gulf</b> ( <i>n.</i> )    | a part of an ocean or sea that is almost completely surrounded by land (p. 4)  |
| <b>Islam</b> ( <i>n.</i> )   | the monotheistic faith of Muslims, based on the teachings of the prophet Muhammad (p. 7)                               |
| <b>mosque</b> ( <i>n.</i> )  | a place of worship in the Islamic faith (p. 12)  |
| <b>oasis</b> ( <i>n.</i> )   | a fertile place with water in a desert (p. 9)  |

# United Arab Emirates

A Reading A-Z Level L Leveled Book

Word Count: 512

## Connections

### Writing

How is the United Arab Emirates similar to where you live? How is it different?

Write some sentences comparing and contrasting the two countries.

### Social Studies and Art

Choose one famous landmark in the United Arab Emirates. Draw a picture of the landmark and write some facts about it.

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