Notes: The Eastern Mediterranean (Part of the Middle East)

LG: Analyze the cultures in the Eastern Mediterranean
1. History and Government

A. Three major religions have long histories in this sub region

i. Christianity
ii. Judaism
iii. Islam
B. The Jews had an ancient kingdom in the land of Israel. As time passed, they were conquered. Some Jews stayed in the land and others went to other parts of the world.

C. Around 750 A.D, the Muslims took over most of this region, including the land of Israel.
D. Over the next 600 years, the Eastern Mediterranean would change hands many times as empires rose and fell.
E. Independence:

i. By the late 1800s, Western European powers controlled large areas in this sub-region.

ii. These countries gained independence around the time of WWII.

- Many new countries were formed after WWII, including a new Israel for the Jewish people.
F. Conflict:

i. Arab-Israeli conflicts—in the 1948 and 1967 conflicts, victorious Israeli forces occupied Arab lands.

ii. The status of Palestinian refugees is an ongoing dispute.
2. Population Patterns

A. Migrations, claims to ancestral homes, and boundary disputes have influenced population in the eastern Mediterranean.

i. The people:

• 80% of the people in Israel are Jewish.

• Tensions between Arabs and Jews resulted in six wars.
B. Majority of people live along coastal plains and in the Euphrates River valley. (This is a desert climate)

C. More than 80% of the people in Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon live in cities.
3. Culture

A. Most Common Religions:
   i. In Israel- Judaism
   ii. In all other places in the region- Islam

B. Most Common Language:
   i. In Israel- Hebrew and Arabic
   ii. In all other places in the region- Arabic
Origins of Western Religions

God the Creator, Allah, Yahweh, Jehovah, etc. → Adam and Eve → Abraham

- Wife-Sarah → Son-Isaac → Hebrew People
  - Torah + Talmud
  - Judaism
- Wife-Hagar → Son-Ishmael → Arab People
  - Jesus Christ
  - Christianity
- Muhammad → Islam
C. Education—most young people attend school, but literacy rates vary widely.
D. Health care—this has improved in recent decades.
E. The arts—expression through arts and architecture; artists and writers found inspiration in religion.
1. What is monotheism? P395
2. Which of the three is the oldest religion? P.395
3. What did Jesus’s teaching emphasize? P.396
4. What sacred text do Christianity and Judaism share?
5. What are followers of the religion of Islam known as?
6. What did Muhammad preach?
7. What is the name of a Muslim place of worship?