1. **Aquifer** – An underground layer of rock that stores water.
2. **Bedouin** – Member of the nomadic desert peoples of North Africa and Southwest Asia.
3. **Buffer zone** – A neutral area separating conflicting forces.
4. **City-state** – An independent state consisting of a city and the surrounding land and villages.
5. **Civilization** – Highly organized society marked by advanced knowledge of trade, government, arts, science, and often written language.
6. **Covenant** – A solemn pledge or agreement (like a contract).
7. **Delta** –Fan-like landform made of deposited sediment, left by a river that slows as it enters the ocean.
8. **Demographics -** The statistical study of human populations and characteristics that can include information on population size, density, growth, and organizational groupings such as race, gender, or age.
9. **Desalinization** –The removal of salt from ocean water.
10. **Desert –** Area of land having a very warm climate and receiving less than 10 inches of sporadic rainfall annually.
11. **Dome of the Rock** –A shrine in Jerusalem, located on the Temple Mount, which houses the spot where Muslims believe Muhammad rose into heaven and where Jews believe Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac to God.
12. **Guest worker** –A largely unskilled laborer, often an immigrant from South and East Asia, brought into the oil-booming countries to fill job openings that the region’s native peoples find culturally or economically unacceptable.
13. **Kurds** – An ethnic group in SW Asia that has occupied Kurdistan, and parts of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran for about a thousand years.
14. **Megalopolis** - A region in which several large cities and surrounding areas grow together.
15. **Nomad** – A member of a group that has no permanent home, wandering from place to place in search of food and water.
16. **Oasis** – A place where water from an aquifer (an underground source of water) has reached the surface; it supports vegetation and wildlife.
17. **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries -** (OPEC) A group established in 1960 by some oil-producing nations to coordinate policies on selling petroleum products.
18. **Palestinians** – A group of Arabs who lived or still live in the area formerly called the Palestine Mandate (modern-day Israel).
19. **Pastoralism** – The practice of herding as the primary economic activity of a society that emerged in parts of Africa and Eurasia.
20. **(1) Polytheism & (2) Monotheism** – (1) Worship of many gods & (2) belief in a single god.
21. **Quran** –The holy book of Islam.
22. **Renewable resource** - A resource that can be used repeatedly and does not run out because it is naturally replaced.
23. **Rub al-Khali –** The largest sandy desert in the world located on the Arabian Peninsula; also known as the Empty Quarter.
24. **Shari’ah** – Islamic code of law that includes rules for all aspects of life.
25. **Shi’ite** –One of the two main branches of Islam including most Iranians and some populations of Iraq and Afghanistan.
26. **Suez Canal** – Man-made waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea.
27. **Sunni** –One of two main branches of Islam, comprising about 83 percent of all Muslims.
28. **Theocracy** – Government headed by religious leaders or a leader regarded as a god.
29. **Torah** – The first five books of the Hebrew Bible – the most sacred writings in the Jewish tradition.
30. **Wadi** – A riverbed that remains dry except during the rainy seasons.