

WORLD OIL RESERVES AND TRADE ROUTES

Performance Standard (17B/17C).J

List the major oil-producing and oil-consuming regions of the world and write an essay on how oil trade can lead to cooperation and conflict among nations of the world accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: Identify the major oil-producing and oil-consuming regions of the world; identify examples of international issues and problems associated with international oil trade.
- *Reasoning*: Explain how location, distribution, and trade of oil can lead to cooperation and conflict among nations of the world.
- *Communication*: Create a list and write an essay that is well-focused, well-organized and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedures

1. *In order to analyze and explain characteristics and interactions of Earth's physical systems (17B) and understand relationships between geographic factors and society (17C)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following skills:
 - Analyze the global distribution of natural resources to determine the relationship of resource availability to international problems and issues.
 - Explain how the uneven distribution of resources can result in global cooperation and conflict among nations in an increasingly interdependent world.

Note: Have students acquire knowledge of the location and movement of major world resources among nations.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Ask each student to make two lists: one of the major oil-producing regions and another of the major oil-consuming nations. Students should list Southwest Asia (Middle East), the United States and Mexico, the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), and Venezuela as major producers. Major consumers should include the United States, Europe, and Japan.
4. Ask each student to write about two examples of international issues or problems that relate to the distribution and trade of oil.
5. Ask each student to write an essay explaining how the location, distribution, and trade of oil can lead to cooperation and conflict among nations of the world.
6. Evaluate each student's work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge*: The list of major oil-producing and oil-consuming nations was complete and correct, the description of two examples of international issues or problems was complete and correct.
 - *Reasoning*: The explanation of how oil trade can lead to cooperation and conflict was thorough and accurate.
 - *Communication*: The lists and the essay were well-focused, well-organized, and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work follow

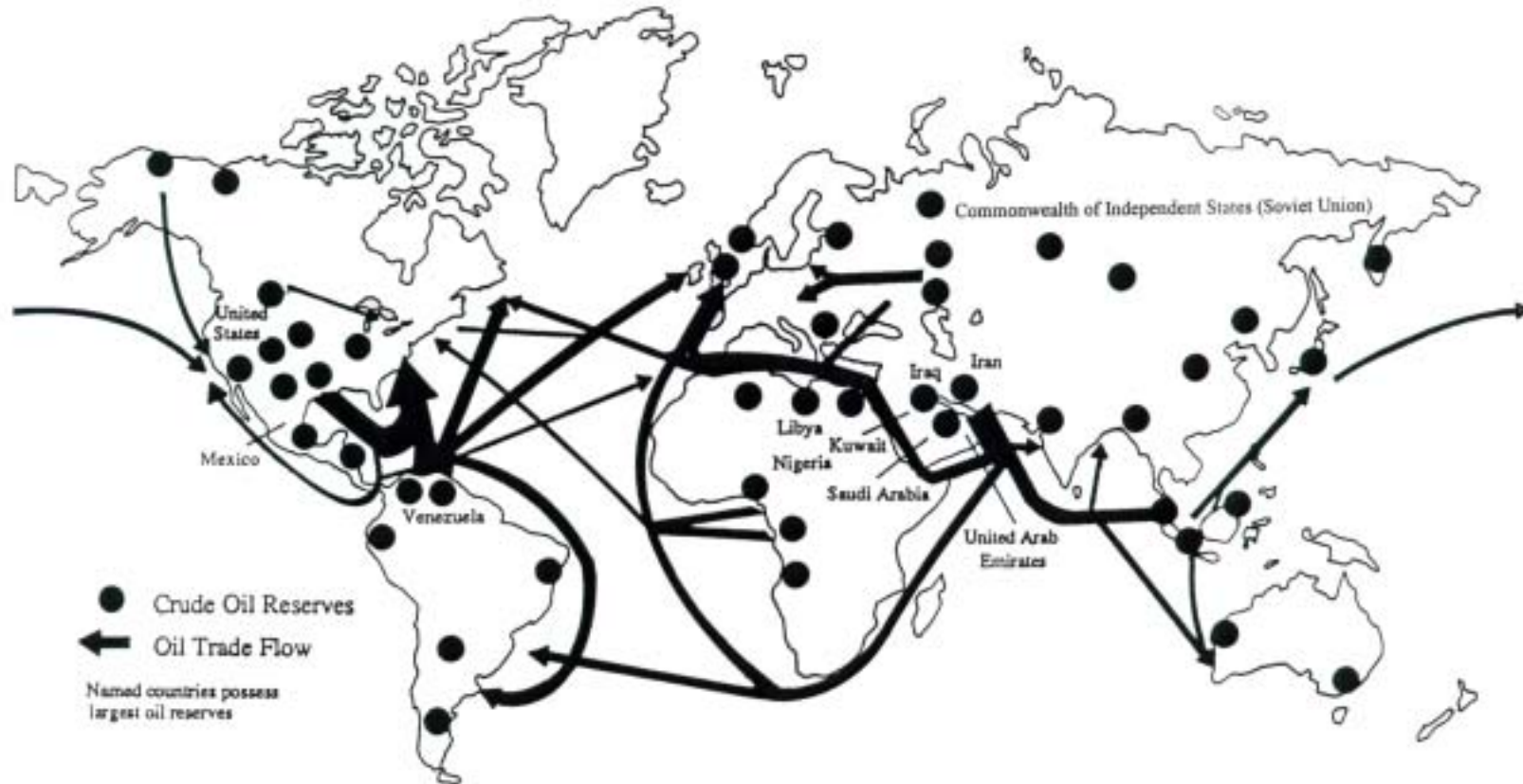
Resources

- World Oil Reserves and Trade Routes Maps
- Social Science Rubric

Time Requirements

- One class period

World Oil Reserves and Trade Routes



1. regions of major oil producers:

- Middle East
- Central United States
- Central Mexico
- North South America (Venezuela)
- West central coast of Africa
- Malaysia / Indonesia

2. regions of major oil consumption:

- Eastern United States
- Middle East
- Western Europe
- Southern South America

Some international issues of distribution and trade of oil occur between the United States and Middle East; as well as, between the Middle East and Western Europe.

United States w/ Middle East → the Middle East is a far distance to travel which raises prices, and there is tension because the Middle East is limiting the flow to the US causing prices to soar.

Middle East w/ Western Europe → the Middle East is located near Western Europe but chooses to ship twice as far, and there is constant battles over the stretch of water between them.

When a nation needs oil but is too far for travel, prices go up making it hard to pay or make money. Not all countries get the same amount of oil causing the consumer problems, hardships and eventually causing conflict with the supplying country. When a country receives the amount of oil they need, at a fair price, then they are cooperating easily as opposed to

"Meets" (page 2)

when a nation wants more or less oil than is supplied, at a higher or lower price which will cause conflict with the supplying nation creating an instable market for this consuming nation.

Major Oil Producing Regions

Middle East

U.S.

Soviet Union

South America

Major Oil Consuming Regions

North America

Europe

"Exceeds" (page 1)

A country's economy is related in one way or another. For any country to prosper, it will need to consume oil. The U.S. is one of the most industrialized countries in the world and we import oil all over the world, and we use oil off of our national reserves. Every country wants to be the best and on the top. In this day, that is determined by how much oil your country contains, and with a limited supply of oil in the world, countries are bound to be fighting.

All over the world, countries are fighting over their national boundaries. Such as Turkey and Greece. Greece claims almost all of the islands in the Aegean Sea and Turkey owns almost none. Now, when found oil in the waters near those islands that Turkey does belong to them. But Greece won't give those islands up, because the more oil you have, the more money you'll bring in. Problems like this are going on all over the world, which could eventually lead to war. If war breaks out then alliances will be made between other countries and it could easily turn into a world war over oil.

The OPEC countries easily carry the most oil in the world. Now they decide to distribute their oil at their nations all around. If they decide to put out a very little amount of oil, every nation's economy will suffer. Gas prices

go up, industry slows down, prices for consumer goods are raised, and puts a strain on the public. So when this starts to happen, countries will be willing to go to war for oil.

These along with many other world problems can be resolved. High oil consuming countries need to find ways to maintain industry with substitutes other than oil. And as easy as it sounds and how hard it is, countries need to share the oil they do have, to benefit countries across the world.