

The Climate Change Web in the Middle East

Climate change isn't happening in a vacuum—it is not merely a scientific issue. Its causes are inextricably linked to social, economic, cultural and political factors, and its effects are likewise intermingled and either compounded or mitigated by local and global politics, other economic factors, the regional culture, and the social conditions on the ground.

We are going to examine the water and climate change situation in three countries: Egypt, Iraq and Turkey. We'll focus particularly on the interwoven factors that make up the complex web of causal factors and the short and long-term effects of climate change in the Middle East region. Of course, this activity can be used for any world region(s).

You've been given a set of readings already, and additional resources for each topic are available. When using this activity in the classroom, you'll want to search for updated articles on the topics you choose to have your classroom groups explore.

Each group will explore one issue, answering questions and developing a matrix of causes and effects.

Prompts for reporting out on your issue

- 1) Write down a sentence or two that present your issue and the region involved. Make sure you have written something you feel confident is accurate.
- 2) List 4-5 pieces of information from the readings or outside that develop or complicate the issue you have defined.
- 3) Write down any terms and definitions you think are critical for a full understanding of your issue.
- 4) Develop a matrix as follows. Use your grid to think about the complex human and geographical web in which climate change occurs. Use your matrix to report back to the full group on your issue. Note that you may have several examples or ideas or no information at all for any particular combination—that's fine!

Country/Issue Related to Climate Change

Factors	Causes/Exacerbation of CC	Effects of CC
Scientific/Geographic		
Political		
Economic		
Cultural		
Social		

- 5) Write down 2-3 questions that might frame further research that would help you come to a more complete understanding of your issue. What more do you need to know? How could you find this information?

Report back to the larger group on your issue, using your matrix and the other information you have developed.