

1. assume	to take for granted; to suppose	19. Straight of Hormuz	It is a narrow, strategically important waterway between the Gulf of Oman in the southeast and the Persian Gulf.
2. citizen	A person with certain rights and responsibilities in his or her country or community	20. Sunni Muslims	Majority of the Muslims; believe successor of Muhammad can be an elected caliph.
3. culture hearth	a center where cultures developed and from which ideas and traditions spread outward	21. Sunni/Shia Conflict	disagreement over the rightful leader of Islam after the death of Muhammad.
4. Cuneiform	A form of writing developed by the Sumerians using a wedge shaped stylus and clay tablets.	22. sustained	Continuing for an extended period or without interruption
5. Democracy	A political system in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who can elect people to represent them	23. Ziggurat	A rectangular tiered temple or terraced mound erected by the ancient Assyrians and Babylonians
6. Embargo	an official ban on trade or other commercial activity with a particular country.		
7. exceed	to go or be beyond the limit or expectations		
8. feeder streams	a tributary that feeds a larger river		
9. Iran Hostage Crisis	In November 1979, revolutionaries stormed the American embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans hostage. The Carter administration tried unsuccessfully to negotiate for the hostages release. On January 20, 1981, the day Carter left office, Iran released the Americans, ending their 444 days in captivity.		
10. Iranian Revolution of 1979	popular uprising in Iran in 1978-79 that resulted in the toppling of the monarchy on April 1, 1979, and led to the establishment of an Islamic republic.		
11. Kurds	Ethnic group that lives in parts of Iraq and Turkey. They often suffer persecution in both countries, and are currently under the protection of the United Nations in Iraq.		
12. link	to connect		
13. Marshes	wetlands without trees		
14. natural boundary	a fixed limit or extent defined along physical geographic features such as mountains and rivers		
15. OPEC	An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the production and sale of petroleum.		
16. Pastoralism	A type of agricultural activity based on nomadic animal husbandry or the raising of livestock to provide food, clothing, and shelter.		
17. Qanat	an underground canal first built by the ancient Persians		
18. Shia Muslims	a member of the branch of Islam that regards Ali as the legitimate successor to Mohammed and rejects the first three caliphs		