**Middle East – Vocabulary Words**

Peninsula - a piece of land surrounded by water on three sides.

Oasis - a place in a desert where water is available near the surface.

Strait - a narrow channel connecting two bodies of water

Bedouin - desert nomads

Landlocked - has no seacoast

Aquifer - layers of underground rock where water runoff from rains and streams is trapped

Hydroelectric Power - electricity produced from the energy of running water

Agricultural Revolution - **8000 B.C. hunters and gatherers first began to raise plants and animals for food**

Monotheism – belief in one god

Protectorates - **Areas that have their own government but are controlled by an outside power**

Chaparral - **drought-resistant herbs and bushes**

Mosque - **Islamic places of worship**

Muezzin - crier

Minaret – tower attached to a mosque

Desalination Plant – a business that is set up to take the salt and chemical out of sea water

Nomads - **people who travel from place to place**

**Fertile Crescent** - a region in the Middle East where farming and the first civilization developed  
**Desalination** - the process of removing salt from seawater  
**Falaj system** - in the Arabian Peninsula, an ancient system of underground and surface canals  
**Secular** - to be run without religious influence  
**Shah** - ruler  
**Ayatollah** - conservative religious leaders