

# Our Story, Our World



## Unit 1

# Land and Resources

Unit: 1

Lesson: 2

# Landforms and Land Use



**Essential Question:** How do people use the land and water near me?

**Objective:**

I can describe the ways people use land and water near me.

# Theme Vocabulary

- Agriculture
- Mining
- Quarry
- recreation

# Land and Water Use

- River valleys provide water, food, and transportation, known as water use.
- Fertile soil and easy construction in river valleys are examples of land use.
- Tall, rocky mountains are hard to live on due to lack of soil and building challenges.
- Rocky mountains may contain useful minerals, so extracting them is another way to use the land.



Which other landforms can you think of that would be a difficult place to build a settlement? Name one and explain why you chose it.

A desert would be a difficult place to settle because it is too dry, too hot, and there is not a water source nearby.



# Agriculture

- Agriculture includes growing crops and raising animals for food and goods like cotton.
- Not all land is good for farming; farmers must adapt to the land if the climate or terrain is not ideal.
- Saudi Arabia grew wheat in the desert using deep wells for irrigation, but this can deplete water supplies.
- The country is working to solve water depletion problems for sustainable farming.



Sprinklers connected to underground water sources irrigate wheat fields in a desert in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Date palms grow in Al Ula in western Saudi Arabia.  
How might this orchard find enough water to grow this crop?

The orchard may be irrigated by a well or by bringing water in from a source farther away, or it might grow in an oasis, where water is plentiful.





# Mining and Drilling

- Mining involves digging for resources like stones and rocks for construction.
- Quarries are open pits where rocks are blasted or cut for materials like limestone and marble.
- Mines are deep tunnels used to extract metals (iron, copper, gold, silver), precious gems (diamonds), and common minerals (salt).
- Fossil fuels like coal are mined, and oil and natural gas are removed by drilling.



Quarries provide building materials, but they scar the land. The Khor Khuwair Limestone Quarry in United Arab Emirates is the largest limestone quarry in the world.

- These nonrenewable resources are important, but their extraction can harm the planet.
- Mining and drilling can damage land and pollute water sources.
- In the Appalachian Mountains, mining companies remove entire mountaintops to access coal.
- We must protect Earth while extracting important minerals.



A mining company has removed the tops of mountains to reach the coal. It is cheaper than digging a traditional mine. Do you think saving money is a good reason to do this? Explain your answer.

No, it is not a good reason. The mountains have been destroyed. They cannot be replaced. This practice can pollute the water, which will flow to communities in the region, spreading the pollution far and wide

# Building Cities

- Building cities is a major land use, but not all land is suitable.
- On the Sultanate of Oman map, dots show cities, and blue lines show rivers.
- Broken blue lines indicate rivers that flow only after heavy rain.



# Checkpoint

- Where are most of the cities in Oman? Why do you think they were built there?

They are on the coast of the Gulf of Oman. I think they were built there so they would be close to a source of water.

- Are any cities built directly beside one of the temporary rivers? Why do you think that is?

No cities are built directly beside these rivers. I think that is because the rivers do not flow all the time. They are not a reliable source of water.

- Look at the red lines on the map. They are roads. Why were they built?

The roads were built to connect the cities so that people and goods could move between them.

- Look at the landforms and bodies of water where you live. Why do you think the first people to settle there chose to stay? Discuss with a small group of classmates.

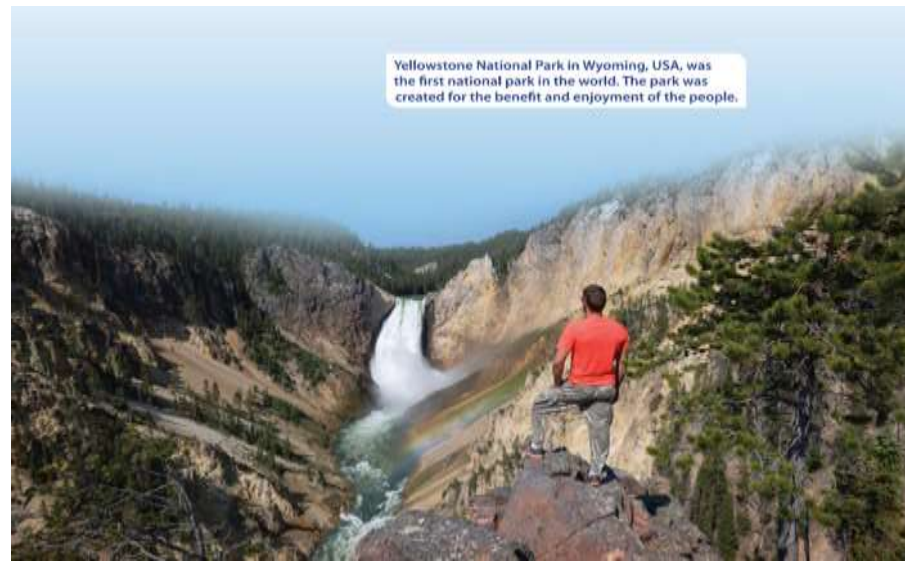


Muscat is the capital city of Oman. It is an important port and center of trade.



# Having Fun

- Land is used for recreation, offering spaces for fun and relaxation.
- Green spaces and parks host activities like picnics, football, hiking, cycling, and camping.
- Recreational areas lower city temperatures and improve air quality.
- Saudi Arabia planted over 10 million trees to enhance air quality.





# Mission Links: Find Evidence

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- Read back through the text.
- Highlight examples of the benefits of land use.
- Underline examples of land use that can harm it.
- With a classmate, discuss ways your country has developed the land.



- Water is essential for survival and recreation.
- Popular water activities include boating and fishing.
- Public spaces like beaches, boardwalks, and marinas are built near bodies of water for these activities.



Summarize the benefits of using landforms and bodies of water for recreation. Use examples from your own community, if possible.

Green spaces, such as parks, can lower the temperature in a city. It is a place for people to relax and have fun. It can also improve air quality.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the world's largest producers of dates. A date is a fruit that grows on a palm tree. Parts of the country are ideal for growing date palms. There are many kinds of dates. The Saudis export more than 300 types! The harvest season begins in June and ends in November. Although most dates are used for food, the fruits and the palms on which they grow are used to make other products, such as medicine and building materials.



Explain how the land has been changed by the growing and selling of dates worldwide.

The land was developed when date trees were planted to produce a crop.

Roads were built to get to the fields. Factories were built to process and distribute the dates.

# Checkpoint

- Circle the word that best describes the meaning of the word ideal.

kind

perfect

harmful

thoughtful

- Predict the benefits a community might see from selling dates worldwide.

People would have jobs and earn money harvesting the dates. People could make other products with the dates. Factories could be built to process the dates.

- **Describe** two problems the growing region might see from selling dates worldwide.

Factories could pollute the air. There could be increased traffic due to more people moving into the community.





# Unlock the Mission Links

In a small group, discuss some of the problems land use and development can produce in a community. Identify the problems you have noticed where you live. In your group, choose one problem and suggest solutions. List the problem and your solutions to help you gather ideas for your poster.

People change the land in my community by building houses and stores. This can cause more traffic. One solution might be to encourage people to walk to the stores or take public transportation.

