

Svalbard Environment

Climate of Svalbard

- Winters are long, cold and dark. The average is around -30°C by mid-December it is dark all day!
- Summers are very cool (3 to 12°C) and short, but with long hours of daylight. In mid-July it is light for 24 hours a day.
- It is dry and there is less than 25cm of rain or snow.
- There are harsh biting winds.

Human uses of Svalbard

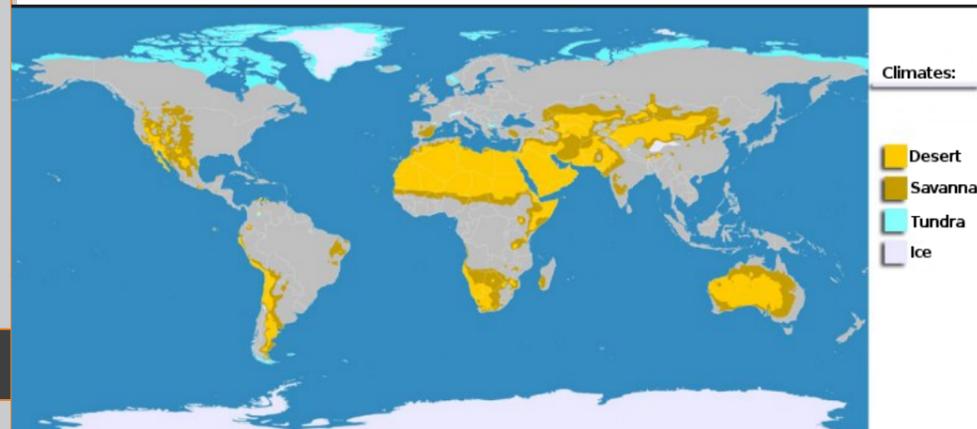
- Primary Resources: Coal and Fish
- Svalbard developed as a coal mining community. The islands have deposits of coal which are close to the surface.
- The Arctic Ocean which surrounds Svalbard is a fertile hatchery. Over 150 different species of fish are here.
- Svalbard has an increasing number of tourist looking to see the Northern Lights. 70,000 tourist visited in 2015.

Why is Svalbard dark for 3 months of the year?

- Svalbard, the North and South Pole are cold because they don't get direct sunlight.
- The sun is low on the horizon, even in the middle of summer, and in winter the sun doesn't rise at all!
- The Earth is tilted on its axis and during different times of the year the poles either face towards or away from the sun.
- This means that for three months of the year the North pole has 24 hours a day darkness.

Key Vocabulary

Middle East	This is a collection of countries in the West of Asia, Turkey and Egypt. Saudi Arabia is the largest nation is the largest nation.
Svalbard	This is a collection of islands owned by Norway. The islands are located to the North of Europe and in the Arctic Ocean.
Tundra (Polar Desert)	A vast, flat, treeless Arctic region of Europe, Asia, and North America in which the subsoil is permanently frozen
Hot Desert	A barren or desolate area, dry, often sandy region of little rainfall, extreme temperatures, and sparse vegetation.
Desertification	This is when land is gradually turned into desert. This is when land is overgrazed by livestock or deforestation.
Fragile Environment	These are environments which take a very long time to recover from any damage that is done by human activity.



Middle East Environment

Climate of the Middle East

- The North of the Middle East has hot dry summers when the weather is similar to a desert. Winters are warm and wetter.
- The South of the Middle East is a desert. There is only light and brief rainfall. In the desert the sun bakes the ground and temperatures can reach **52°C** !
- There is little vegetation due to the lack of water.

Human uses of the Middle East

- Primary Resources: Oil and Gas
- The Middle East currently holds 48% of the world's oil reserves and 43% of the world's natural gas.
- Over 50% of China's crude oil comes from the Middle East.
- Oil and Gas has stimulated economic growth in the Middle East but their economies are reliant on two products—oil and gas.
- Water scarcity creates food insecurity in the region.

Why is the Middle East one of the hottest places?

- The Middle East is located on the Tropic of Cancer where the air is descending high pressure air.
- As the air is not rising and evaporation is not occurring this means that the air is very dry.
- In the Middle East winter and summer are known as hot and hotter!
- During the summer in the Middle East it can be **dangerous** to spend more than 4 hours outside. Heat stroke and dehydration can be deadly!