



THE MIDDLE EASTERN ETHNICITIES

In this Topic:

- ▶ What are the Different Ethnicities in the Middle East?
- ▶ How were Arabian Societies from the pre-Islamic, Arab 7th Era to the Mid-20th Century?
- ▶ What are the Differences between Arabs & Arabians?
- ▶ What was the Status of Arabian Women in pre-Islamic Arabia?
- ▶ What were the major Religions in the Middle East in the pre-Islamic era?



France

Austria

Ukraine

Kazakhstan

Romania

Italy

Spain

Greece

Turkey

Uzbekistan

Kyrgyzstan

Portugal

Turkmenistan

Syria

Iraq

Iran

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Nepal

Morocco

Tunisia

Algeria

Libya

Egypt

Saudi Arabia

Oman

India

Myanma (Burma)

Mali

Niger

Sudan

Yemen

Chad

Gulf of Aden

Arabian Sea

Bay of Bengal

Burkina Faso

Nigeria

South Sudan

Ethiopia

Laccadive Sea

Ghana

Gulf of Guinea

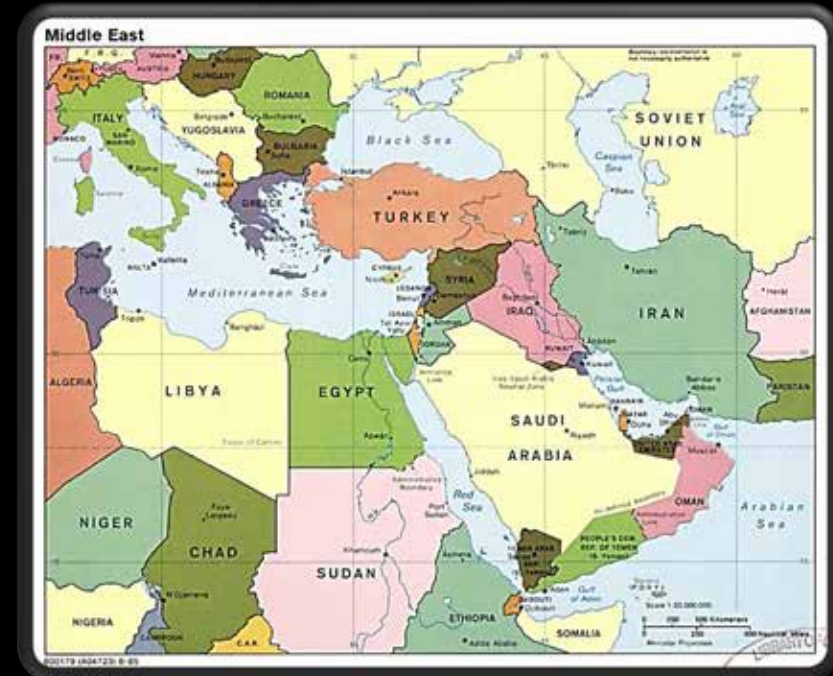
Somalia

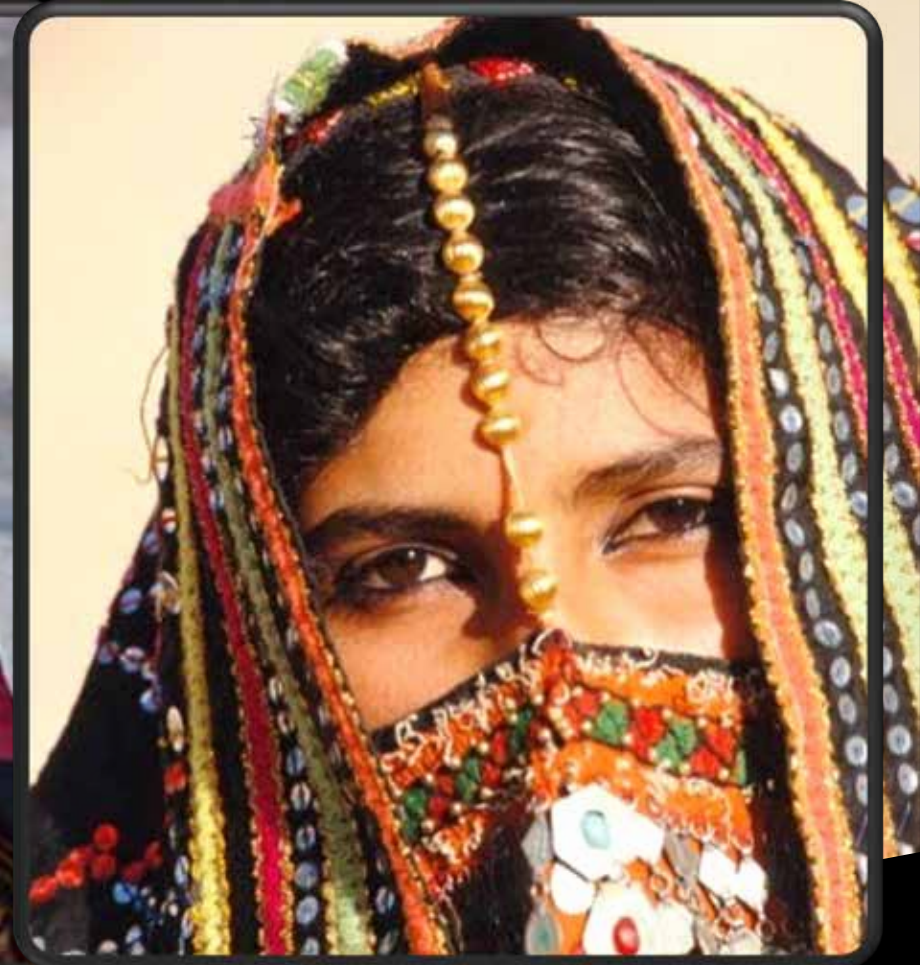
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**What are the Different Ethnicities
in the Middle East & N. Africa?**

The Middle East & N. Africa is a Crossroads of Civilization

- Most of the countries in this region are multiethnic.
- Major ethnic groups in the Middle East today include Arabs, Iranians, Turks,
- Also, many other Minority Native groups, such as Coptic Egyptians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Aramean Syriac, Jews, Berbers (Amazigh – of N. Africa), Kurds,...
- This diversity enhanced the cultural richness of society,
- but it led to many political and religious conflicts.





**Arabian Societies from the Pre-Islamic 7th.c.
Era to Mid-20th. Century.**

What Are The Differences Between Arabians & Arabs?

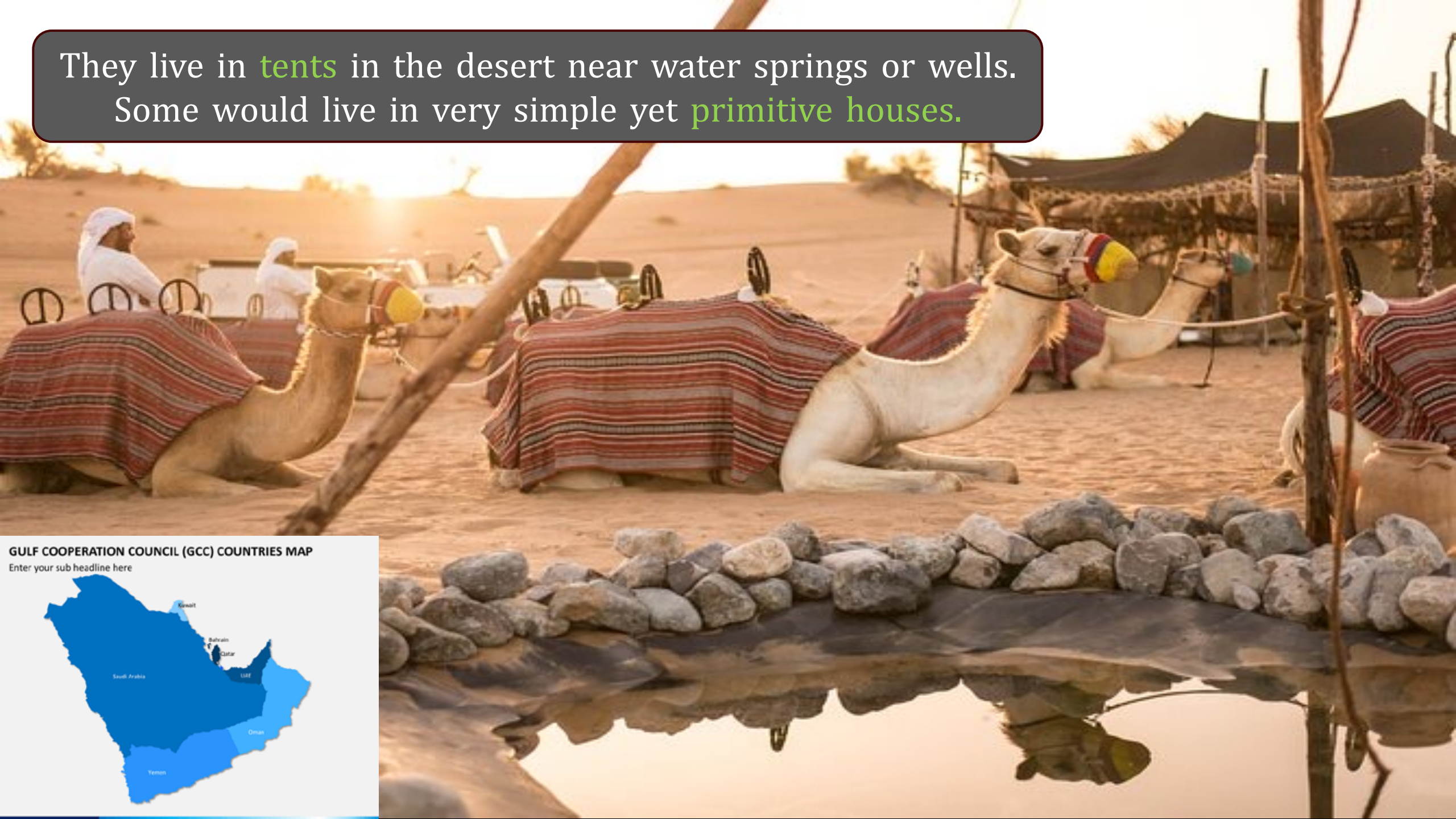


Arabians are an **ethnic group** belonging to the **Peninsula of Arabia**.



Nomads / **Bedouins** (Man of the Desert)

They live in **tents** in the desert near water springs or wells.
Some would live in very simple yet **primitive houses**.





GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (GCC) COUNTRIES MAP

Enter your sub headline here



They claim to be descendants of **Abraham** through **Ishmael**, his firstborn son, who is from the maidservant **Hagar**.

Family, Clan, and Tribe

Tribal culture based on Loyalty. But **My cousin and I** against the **alien**, yet **my brother and I** against my **cousin**;





Bedouin Arabians were **mostly illiterate**; they had their **own laws** and **rules**.

The Arabian Societies as Nomad Bedouins

- ▶ Their Main business was **Trade Caravans** from **Yemen** to **Damascus**.
- ▶ The Town of **Mecca** was an important **Commercial Center**



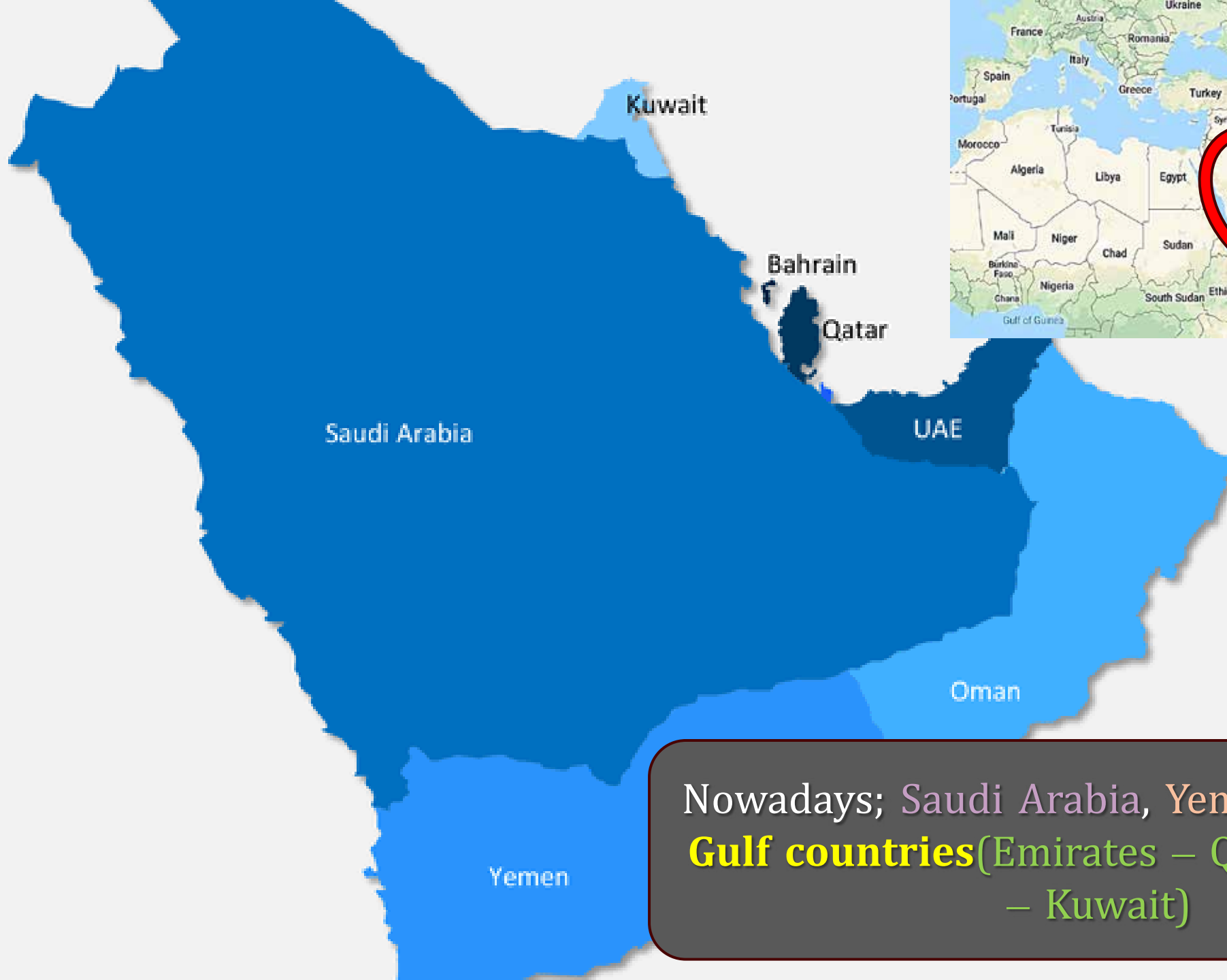












Nowadays; Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, and **Gulf countries**(Emirates – Qatar – Bahrain – Kuwait)



Bedouin life

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Q3uhqv8epM>

Basha'ah

- ▶ https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1740090133431427073/pu/vid/avc1/480x668/GyceVi1-RHLRzUZg.mp4?tag=12

Who are the Arabs?

Who are the Arabs?

▶ Cultural and Linguistic:

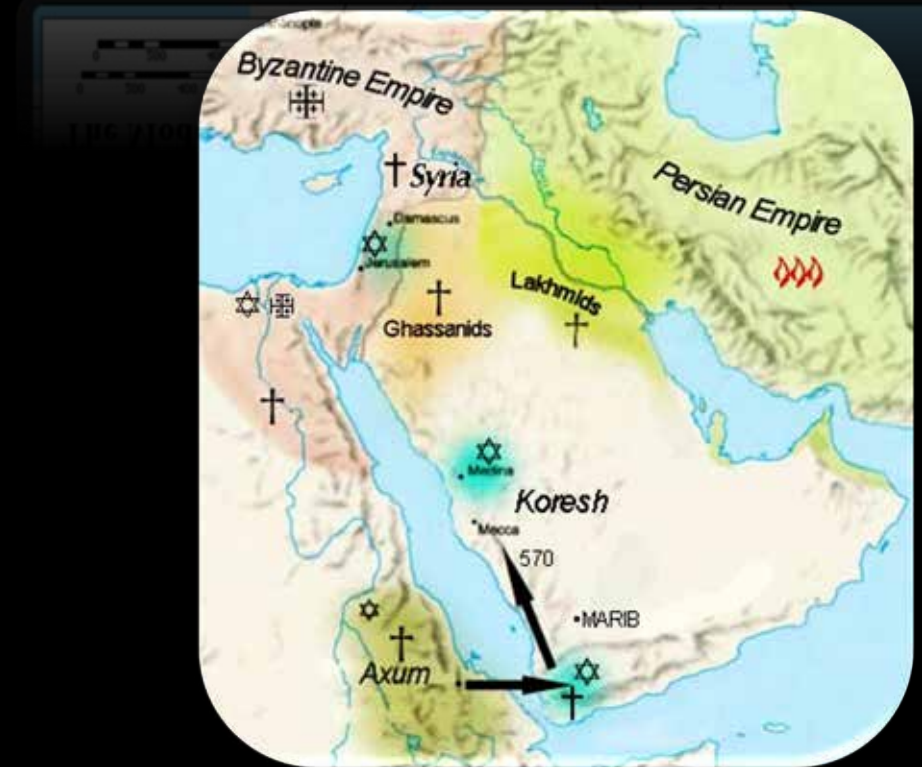
- ▶ Arabs are generally defined by their use of the Arabic language.
- ▶ Arabic is spoken by various ethnic groups across multiple countries, each with its own dialect, unique cultures, and traditions.



Who are the Arabs?

► Religion:

- Islam originated in the Arabian Peninsula, and Arabic is the liturgical language of Islam; not all Arabs are Muslims, and not all Muslims are Arabs.
- Arabs may follow various religions, including Christianity, Islam, Druze, and many others.



Who are the Arabs?

▶ Arabization:

- ▶ Arabization refers to the spread of the Arabic language and culture.
- ▶ Ethnic minority native groups, although they speak Arabic, they refuse to be identified as Arabs.

Simply we can say the following:

- ▶ “The Arabs are the people who converted to Islam and adopted the Arabic language and Islamic culture.”
- ▶ In a similar way, the term **Arab** is used as the term **Latinx in the USA!**



Arabian Bedouin Women in the Pre-Islamic Era



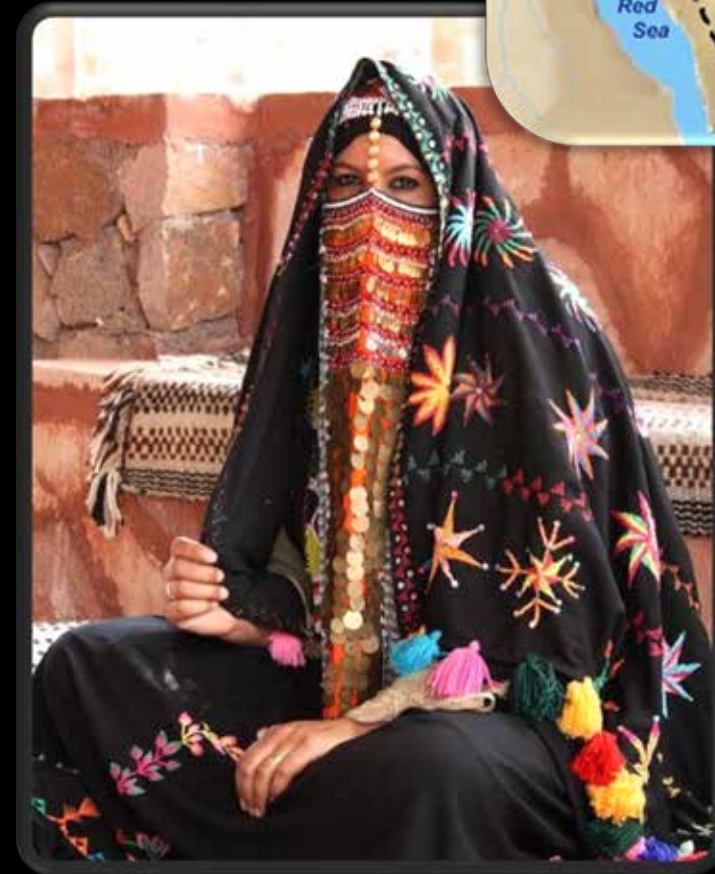
Women in Pre-Islamic Arabia

Bedouin Women

- ▶ In pre-Islamic Arabia, **women held various roles** and had different statuses depending on their **tribe and region**.

❑ **Social Status:**

- ▶ They had the right to inherit property, engage in business, and make significant social contributions. Such as **Khadijah** and **Aisha** Mohammed's wives.



Women in Pre-Islamic Arabia

Bedouin Women



❑ Marriage and Family:

- ▶ Marriage customs **varied**, with some practices allowing women to **choose their husbands**, such as **Khadijah** Mohammed's 1st. wife.
- ▶ And others involving **arranged marriages**.
- ▶ Women could also **initiate divorce** in certain tribes.

▶ Religious Roles:

- ▶ Women **participated in religious practices** and held roles as **priestesses** in some tribal religions.

Women in Pre-Islamic Arabia

Bedouin Women

❑ Restrictions and Challenges:

- Despite the freedoms some women enjoyed, there were also significant restrictions and challenges.
- Practices like **female infanticide** and limitations on women's autonomy existed in many areas.
- Fathers sold their daughters into marriage for a price.



Women in Pre-Islamic Arabia

Bedouin Women

❑ Restrictions and Challenges:

▶ The Motives:

- The fear that an increase in female offspring would result in **economic burden**,
- and the fear of humiliation frequently caused when girls were captured by a hostile tribe and became **sex slaves**.



Bedouin Women in Nomadic Style of Life!

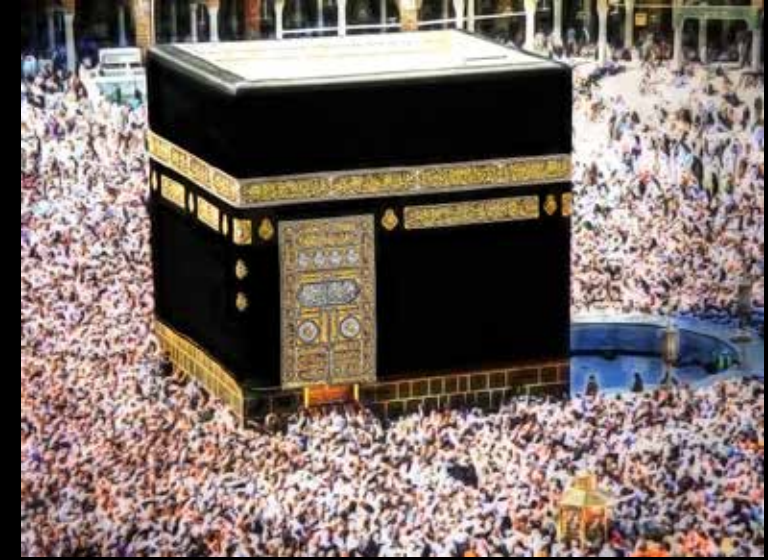




Religion in Pre-Islamic Arabia

Religion in Pre-Islamic Arabia

- ▶ In **pre-Islamic** Arabia 7th. CE, was a mix of **polytheism, Christianity, Judaism, & Zoroastrianism**.
- ▶ Most Arab people practiced polytheism in the form of **animism & idolatry**.
- ▶ Arabs' polytheism, the dominant belief system, gods and goddesses were worshipped at **local shrines**, such as the **Kaaba** in Mecca.
- ▶ There were **360 idols gods worshipped** in and out of the Kaaba.



The Kaaba is a cube-shaped building in Mecca



figurines from Yemen, now in the National Museum of Oriental Art, Rome

Religion in Pre-Islamic Arabia

- ▶ The chief god in pre-Islamic Arabia was **Hubal**, the Syrian god of the **moon**.
- ▶ The three daughters of Hubal were the chief goddesses of Meccan Arabian mythology: **Allāt, Al-‘Uzzá, & Manāt**.
- ▶ **Allāt** was the goddess associated with the **underworld**.
- ▶ **Al-‘Uzzá**, “The Mightiest One” or “The Strong,” was the goddess of fertility and **protection**.
- ▶ **Manāt** was the goddess of **fate**.



Allāt, Al-‘Uzzá, and Manāt.



Hubal, god of the moon

Religion in Pre-Islamic Arabia

- ▶ The Arabian peninsula had been subject to **Jewish migration** since the Romans time.
- ▶ **Three** of the ruling **tribes** of Yathrib (**Medina**) were **Jewish**.
- ▶ **Christian** communities, mostly **Arians** and **Nestorians** who were **exiled to Arabia** after **Constantine** and the **Council of Nicaea**, considered them heresies in 325 CE.
- ▶ **Zoroastrianism** existed in the East and South.



Grace & Peace!

