For centuries the people of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia have adapted their lives to the region’s landforms. Many areas in this part of the world have harsh environments. One of the most important challenges facing the people is how to manage water resources to meet current needs while protecting future supplies.

**Directions: Fill in the Blanks** Write the name of this region’s landforms and bodies of water on the line next to its appropriate description.

- Aral Sea
- Caspian Sea
- Kara-Kum
- Khyber Pass
- Mesopotamian Plain
- Nile River
- Persian Gulf
- Rub’ al Khali
- Sahara
- Strait of Gibraltar
- Strait of Hormuz
- Suez Canal

1. ancient Egyptians relied on its floods to enrich the soil with silt
2. desert on the Arabian Peninsula known as the Empty Quarter
3. enables ships to pass between the Mediterranean and Red Seas
4. used for centuries as a trade route through the Hindu Kush, linking Southwest Asia to Asia
5. water drained for irrigation is causing it to dry up and become saltier
6. its shores hold the largest reserves of petroleum and natural gas
7. desert in Central Asia where winters are very cold because of its location in the middle latitudes
8. fertile lowland created by floods of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
9. channel between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean
10. overfishing, pollution, and poaching have harmed its fish populations
11. allows oil tankers to enter and leave the Persian Gulf
12. world’s largest desert, covering almost all of North Africa