Challenge Activity

Diary entries will vary but should reflect what life might have been like at the time the Muslims conquered the Persian Empire. They may include feelings of sadness or anger about what was happening.

Central Asia

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING

1. oil and gas, minerals, and water
2. rugged mountains, landlocked
3. gold—natural resources, shrinking Aral Sea—environmental issues, yurts—people and culture

SECTION 1

Call-Out Boxes

1. landlocked, rugged land
2. Two important rivers are the Syr Darya and the Amu Darya.
3. Aral Sea
4. Kara-Kum, Kyzyl Kum
5. water, oil and gas, minerals such as gold, lead, and copper

Challenge Activity

possible key facts—harsh, dry climate with extreme temperatures; physical features include mountains, plains, lakes, rivers, and deserts; prone to earthquakes; resources include oil, gold, lead, copper; possible list of supplies—food and water; coats and blankets for the cold, umbrellas for shade from the sun; veil to keep blowing sand out of face and eyes

SECTION 2

Call-Out Boxes

1. Europe and India, Europe and China
2. They discovered they could sail to East Asia on the Indian Ocean.
3. from the 700s to 1200s
4. They became independent countries.
5. yurt
6. Cyrillic

Challenge Activity

Students' travel journal entries might describe many different kinds of products and wares being transported, and people from many different cultures traveling together and interacting with one another.

SECTION 3

Call-Out Boxes

1. the Taliban
2. But it is growing again, because of oil reserves and a free market.
3. Only 5 or 6 percent of the land is arable.
4. shrinking Aral Sea, leftover radiation, crop chemicals harming farmlands

Challenge Activity

Students' posters might appeal to people's sympathies, showing people who are sick or devastated farmlands. They might also show how money can be used to help restore the environment.

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