

## North Africa and Southwest Asia

### Learn About It

In this unit, your child will learn:

- how and why civilization began in the Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia and flourished in other parts of the region
- what events made the region a sacred place to three great religions
- the origin of regional conflicts that continue to this day

Here are some ways that you can help your child learn:

### Talk About It

Chapter 15: North Africa and Southwest Asia: Place and Times

**Geographical influences.** Talk about geographical features that shaped your area, such as hills, plains, or bodies of water. Discuss how your neighborhood or town might have been different if its physical geography were different.

Chapter 16: North Africa and Southwest Africa Today

**Current events.** Events that occur in the region have consequences that can travel all the way to the United States. Cut out from the newspaper or download articles about the region. Keep track of the number of times the region is mentioned on television or radio news. Discuss current events in the region.

### Make It

**Picture writing.** Work together to brainstorm a list of words your family members often write on a family message board or calendar. Using Egyptian hieroglyphics as a model, create a picture to represent each word. Use the family picture code to leave messages for each other.

### Read to Learn More About It

*Israel and the Arab Nations in Conflict* by Nathaniel Harris. This book introduces readers to the conflict.

*The Riddle of the Rosetta Stone: Key to Ancient Egypt* by James Cross Giblin. The author describes how the discovery and deciphering of the Rosetta Stone unlocked the secret of Egyptian hieroglyphics.

*The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers* by Melissa Whitcraft. The author describes how the rivers affect human settlements in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.



### Technology

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