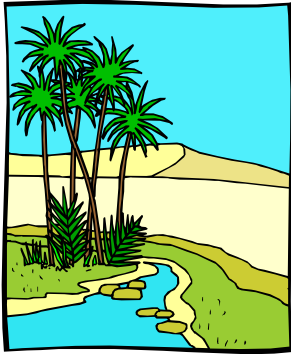


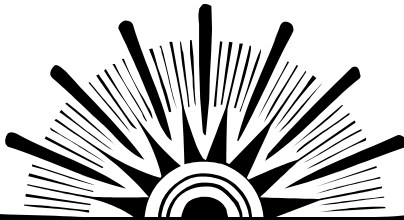
Morocco's Physical & Human Characteristics

5 Major Landforms



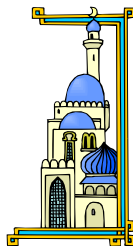
- 1) Atlas Mountains - located in the center, forms the “backbone” of Morocco.
- 2) Sahara Desert – located in the SE, has regions of sand dunes, called *erg* in Arabic.
- 3) Oases (plural) / oasis (singular) – Palm-filled green belts located in the deserts; watered by underground springs or aquifers.
- 4) Coastal Areas – located along the Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines.
- 5) River Valleys – located throughout Morocco along rivers; such as the Draa Valley.

3 Major Types of Climate



- 1) Mediterranean Climate – in the coastal regions
 - * Summers = hot & dry
 - * Winters = mild & rainy
- 2) Highland Climate – in the mountain regions
 - * cool year-round
 - * snow in the winter months
- 3) Desert Climate – in the desert region
 - * Rainfall is less than 10 inches/year

Major Religion: Islam



- * 99 % follow Islam & are called Muslims
- * Worship in a building called a mosque
- * Called to prayer 5 times / day
- * zellij = art form of geometric tiles & mosaic patterns that decorate mosques

Major Languages



- * Official language = Arabic
- * Beautiful handwriting = calligraphy
- * Many also speak French - Morocco’s “business language” – taught in schools.
- * Original people & native language of Morocco called Berber