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

### Major Religion: Islam

- 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**