# Turkey: Bridge Between East and West

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**Grade Level:** Middle School  
**Duration:** 2 - 3 class periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Geography Standards</th>
<th>Arizona Geography Standards</th>
<th>Other Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. The physical and human characteristics of places</td>
<td>Strand 4 Concept 2 Places &amp; Regions PO1 Identify the characteristics that define a region.</td>
<td>National English Standard &amp; Students apply knowledge to create, critique, and discuss print &amp; non-print texts. Arizona English Standard W.6.3 Write a summary that presents information clearly and accurately.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Overview

Turkey has a long, rich history with cultural influences from east and west. Turkey is strategically located straddling both the Asian and European continents. It has significant political and economic importance in the world today.

## Purpose

In this lesson students will describe Turkey using the five themes of geography.

## Materials

- Map of Turkey
- Cornell Note-taking Handout
- Teacher Script
- Photos of Turkey
- Pre/Post Test
- Overhead Map of Mediterranean Sea Region
- Overhead Map of the Middle East
- Overhead Map of Turkey

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Locate Turkey on a map.
2. Define Turkey as a region: physically, politically, and culturally.
3. Use the five themes of geography to analyze geographic information.
4. Make a physical map of Turkey.
5. Create an annotated map of Turkey.
Procedures
Students should have had experience with the five themes of geography.

SESSION ONE
1. Administer pretest.
2. Locate and label Turkey on a map.
3. Teacher will present information on Turkey using the script and photos.
4. Students will take notes on Cornell note-taking outline provided as the teacher presents the information.
5. Identify the European and Asian continents; major bodies of water: the Bosphorus, Black Sea, Aegean Sea, Dardanelles, Mediterranean Sea, Lake Van, Sea of Marmara, Tigris River, Euphrates River; mountains: Pontic Mountains, Taurus Mountains, Anti-Taurus Mountains, Mt. Ararat; Main cities: Istanbul and Ankara.
6. Students will label a map with the physical features of Turkey and locate its two main cities as the teacher identifies the above features on an overhead map.
7. When notes are complete, the pupils will summarize in 2 – 5 sentences each page of their notes in their own words.

SESSION TWO
1. Students will create a map of Turkey using pictures to illustrate each of the five themes.
2. They will write a 1 – 5 sentence caption for each picture demonstrating key ideas about Turkey.
3. Administer posttest.

Assessment
1. Show an increase in knowledge about Turkey as demonstrated on the pre/post test.
2. ELL students will have successfully matched the pictures and words provided and placed them on the map.
3. Average students will have selected five pictures of Turkey and correctly justified in a 1 – 2 sentence description the geographic theme and significance of the picture.
4. Excelling students will have drawn representative pictures of significant features about Turkey, written a paragraph about each identifying the geographic theme and significance, and arranged them in an aesthetically pleasing way on a map.

Extensions
1. Build a model of the Hagia Sofia, Blue Mosque, etc.
2. Make a three dimensional map of Turkey showing its landforms and waterways.
3. Research famous Turks.
4. Graph imports and exports of Turkey.
5. Create maps placing Turkey in various regions and provide an explanation of each. For example: Turkey as part of the Near East, Turkey as a potential member of the EU, etc.
Pre/Post Test

1. Turkey is located in:
   a. South America
   b. Europe
   c. Asia
   d. Europe and Asia

2. The dominant religion in Turkey is:
   a. Christianity
   b. Islam
   c. Buddhism
   d. Native Religions

3. Turkey could be included in which of the following regions?
   a. Northern Europe
   b. Middle East
   c. Far East
   d. Sub Sahara Africa

4. A main product of Turkey is:
   a. Turkeys
   b. Petroleum Products
   c. Rugs
   d. Silk

5. The government of Turkey is
   a. Secular
   b. Communist
   c. Islamic Fundamentalist
   d. Monarchy

6. The capital of Turkey is
   a. Prague
   b. Ankara
   c. Istanbul
   d. Athens

7. Turkey has which prominent physical features?
   a. mountains
   b. strait
   c. seas
   d. all of the above

8. Over time, people in Turkey have interacted with their environment by:
   a. living in caves
   b. excavating archaeological sites
   c. farming
   d. all of the above

9. Turkey is
   a. in an active tectonic region
   b. an archipelago
   c. named after the bird we enjoy on Thanksgiving
   d. all of the above
Pre/Post Test Answer Key

1. Turkey is located in:
   e. South America
   f. Europe
   g. Asia
   h. Europe and Asia

2. The dominant religion in Turkey is:
   e. Christianity
   f. Islam
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3. Turkey could be included in which of the following regions?
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   e. in an active tectonic region
   f. an archipelago
   g. named after the bird we enjoy on Thanksgiving
   h. all of the above
Location

Location tells us where a place is. It can be an ___________ location, telling us exactly where a place is located. Istanbul is located at _________________.

Location can also be ___________, telling us where a place is in relation to another place.

Turkey is on both the ___________ and ________________ continents.

Turkey is bordered by the ________________, ________________, Mediterranean Sea, Iraq, Syria, Iran, ________________, Bulgaria, Georgia and _________________.

Stop here and label these features on a map of Turkey.

Summary:
Turkey: Bridge between East and West
Cornell Notes Teacher Script

**Location**

Location tells us where a place is. It can be an _absolute_ location, telling us exactly where a place is located. Istanbul is located at ______ N 29E____. (n)

Location can also be _relative_, telling us where a place is in relation to another place.

Turkey is on both the ______ Asian____ and ______ European____ continents.

Turkey is bordered by the ______ Aegean Sea____, ______ Black Sea____, Mediterranean Sea, Iraq, Syria, Iran, ______ Greece____, Bulgaria, Georgia, and ______ Armenia____.

Stop here and label these features on a map of Turkey.

**Summary:**
Turkey: Bridge Between East and West
Cornell Notes

Place

The theme of place tells us what a
place is like. We define place by its
________________________ characteristics,
it’s __________________________ characteristics,
and its __________________________.

Physical Characteristics

Turkey’s physical characteristics
include:

a.   mountainous regions:
    Pontic Mountains in the north,
    Taurus Mountains in the south,
    and the __________________________
in the east.

b. major bodies of water:
    The Mediterranean Sea,
    _____________________________ Sea
    and the __________________________ Sea.

c. The Bosphorus, a deep ________,
    running through the city of
    Istanbul

Human Characteristics

Human characteristics are the things
people add to the natural
environment.

Summary:
In Ankara, the capital, you can see
_________________ alongside
modern apartment buildings.
There are modern highways and
ancient ____________.
Bridges arch across the
___________________, the
strait running through Istanbul,
a large modern metropolis.
Image is what a person thinks and
feels about a place.
Our image of Turkey is a country
with warm ______________,
rich ____________, beautiful
coasts and ______________,
diverse ________________
great food, and an identity all its own.

with warm ______________,
rich ____________, beautiful
coasts and ______________,
diverse ________________
great food, and an identity all its own.

Summary:
The theme of place tells us what a place is like. We define place by its **physical** characteristics, its **human** characteristics, and its **image**.

Turkey’s physical characteristics include:

d. mountainous regions:
   
   Pontic Mountains in the north,
   
   Taurus Mountains in the south,
   
   and the **Anti-Taurus** in the east.

e. major bodies of water:
   
   The Mediterranean Sea,
   
   **Aegean** Sea
   
   and the **Black** Sea.

f. The Bosphorus, a deep **strait**
   
   running through the city of Istanbul.
Human Characteristics

Human characteristics are the things people add to the natural environment.

In Ankara, the capital, you can see

{%highlight}
Roman ruins alongside
moder apartment buildings.
{%endhighlight%

There are modern highways and
ancient city walls.

Bridges arch across the
Bosphorus, the strait running through Istanbul, a large modern metropolis.

Image

Image is what a person thinks and feels about a place.

Our image of Turkey is a country with warm hospitality, rich history, beautiful coasts and countryside, diverse regions, great food, and an identity all its own.
**Human-Environment Interaction**

Human Environment Interaction tells how they have modified the land to suit their needs. People have been living in Turkey and modifying the land for centuries. Evidence of this is in the caves and underground cities of ________, which are more than 2,000 years old, the ________ in Istanbul, which stored water for the ________, and the modern ________ spanning the Bosphorous and which provide a physical link from the east to the west. The ________ and ________ rivers have been important to the area for thousand of years and continue to provide water for crops.

Agriculture accounts for 35% of employment. Agricultural products include cotton, fruits and ________, sugar beets, sunflower oil, ________, oil, dates, tea, and tobacco, and livestock.

Summary:
Human Environment Interaction tells how they have modified the land to suit their needs. People have been living in Turkey and modifying the land for centuries. Evidence of this is in the caves and underground cities of Cappadocia, which are more than 2,000 years old, the cistern in Istanbul, which stored water for the ancient Romans, and the modern bridges spanning the Bosphorus and which provide a physical link from the east to the west. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers have been important to the area for thousand of years and continue to provide water for crops. Agriculture accounts for 35% of employment. Agricultural products include cotton, fruits and vegetables, sugar beets, sunflower oil, olive oil, dates, tea, and tobacco, and livestock.
Movement tells how one place interacts with another. Turkey is a popular tourist destination and visitors return home with a true appreciation of Turkish food and culture. Major imports include machinery, ______, and raw materials. Turkey exports ______, ______, sugar beets, dates, livestock, textiles, and hazelnuts. Within Turkey, people are increasingly moving from ______ areas into the cities and end up living in overcrowded, poorly built houses on the outskirts of the cities. These migrants from the countryside often end up in low paying jobs or as street vendors. Satellite dishes are a common sight on rooftops and the ______ is an important tool in schools and universities. Within Turkey transportation includes ______, buses, cars, trucks, ______, horses, and donkeys.
Movement tells how one place interacts with another. Turkey is a popular tourist destination and visitors return home with a true appreciation of Turkish food and culture. Major imports include machinery, fuels, and raw materials. Turkey exports tea, tobacco, sugar beets, dates, livestock, textiles, and hazelnuts. Within Turkey, people are increasingly moving from rural areas into the cities and end up living in overcrowded, poorly built houses on the outskirts of the cities. These migrants from the countryside often end up in low paying jobs or as street vendors. Satellite dishes are common sights on rooftops and the internet is an important tool in schools and universities. Within Turkey transportation includes trains, buses, cars, trucks, boats, horses, and donkeys.
Region tells us what characteristics a place has in common. Region can be described physically, politically, and culturally. Physically Turkey has a _______ climate. It also has mountains, and inland _______. Strategically situated where three continents, _______, _______, and _______ meet, Turkey also borders the _______ and the _______ Strait, which are the entrances to the Sea of Marmara and the _______ Sea.

Culturally Turkey is 99% Muslim. The language is Turkish and it is written in the Roman alphabet. _______ are the major shopping areas in the large cities of Istanbul and the capital city of _______. But are equally important in the small towns. Here can be found spices, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, and rugs, along with the generous hospitality for which Turkey is famous. Turks welcome visitors by offering them Turkish coffee or tea called _______. Revered by all Turks is the man responsible for creating modern Turkey.

__________ was elected president of the newly formed Republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923. His aim was to modernize Turkey. Turks gave him the name “Ataturk” which means, “Father of the Turks”. Ataturk created a _______ government with no official state religion, even though 99% of the people are _______ and minarets, the pointed towers of mosques, dot the skyline and the Arabic call to prayer can be heard five times a day.

Summary:
Region

Turkey: Bridge between East and West

Cornell Notes Teacher Script

Region tells us what characteristics a place has in common. Region can be described physically, politically, and culturally. Physically Turkey has a coastal climate. It also has mountains, and inland deserts. Strategically situated where three continents, Africa, Europe, and Asia meet, Turkey also borders the Dardanelles and the Bosphorous Strait, which are the entrances to the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea.

Culturally Turkey is 99% Muslim. The language is Turkish and it is written in the Roman alphabet. Bazaars are the major shopping areas in the large cities of Istanbul and the capital city of Ankara, but are equally important in the small towns. Here can be found spices, ceramics, textiles, jewelry, and rugs, along with the generous hospitality for which Turkey is famous. Turks welcome visitors by offering them Turkish coffee or tea called chai. Revered by all Turks is the man responsible for creating modern Turkey. Mustafa Kemal was elected president of the newly formed Republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923. His aim was to modernize Turkey. Turks gave him the name “Ataturk” which means, “Father of the Turks”. Ataturk created a secular government with no official state religion, even though 99% of the people are Muslim and minarets, the pointed towers of mosques, dot the skyline and the Arabic call to prayer can be heard five times a day.
#1 View of Istanbul from Galata Tower

#2 Asmara with Black Sea
#3 Aegean Sea

#4 Entrance to Black Sea from Bosphorus
#5 Roman theater excavation in Ankara
AD 4th-5th Century

#6 Early recycling
Byzantine wall built with Roman materials
shopkeeper
with
Danita in
traditional
dress
bridge over Bosporus.
#9 Roman bath, Ephesus, Turkey

#10 Boats, Istanbul

Image 14 Agriculture, on road from Konya to Ephesus.
P15  SHEEP HERDERS  -  ON THE ROAD FROM KONYA TO EPHESUS

P16  CARGO BOAT ON BOSPORUS
Man carrying goods to be delivered through the narrow streets of Istanbul.

Satellite dish on a house in Asmara on the Black Sea.