

## Svalbard Environment

### Climate of Svalbard

- Winters are long, cold and dark. The average is around  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; by mid-December it is dark all day!
- Summers are very cool ( $3$  to  $12^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and short, but with long hours of daylight. In mid-July it is light for 24 hours a day.
- It is dry and there is less than 25cm of rain or snow.
- There are harsh biting winds.

### Human uses of Svalbard

- Primary Resources: Coal and fish.
- Svalbard developed as a coal mining community. The islands have deposits of coal which are close to the surface.
- The Arctic Ocean which surrounds Svalbard is a fertile hatchery. Over 150 different species of fish are here.
- Svalbard has an increasing number of tourist looking to see the Northern Lights. 70,000 tourist visited in 2015.

### Why is Svalbard dark for 3 months of the year?

- Svalbard, the North and South Pole are cold because they don't get direct sunlight.
- The sun is low on the horizon, even in the middle of summer, and in winter the sun doesn't rise at all!
- The Earth is tilted on its axis and during different times of the year the poles either face towards or away from the sun.
- This means that for three months of the year the North pole has 24 hours a day darkness.

## Key Terms

### Middle East

This is a collection of countries in the West of Asia, Turkey and Egypt. Saudi Arabia is the largest nation.

### Svalbard

This is a collection of islands owned by Norway. The islands are located to the North of Europe and in the Arctic Ocean.

### Tundra (Polar Desert)

A vast, flat, treeless, Arctic region of Europe, Asia, and North America in which the subsoil is permanently frozen.

### Hot Desert

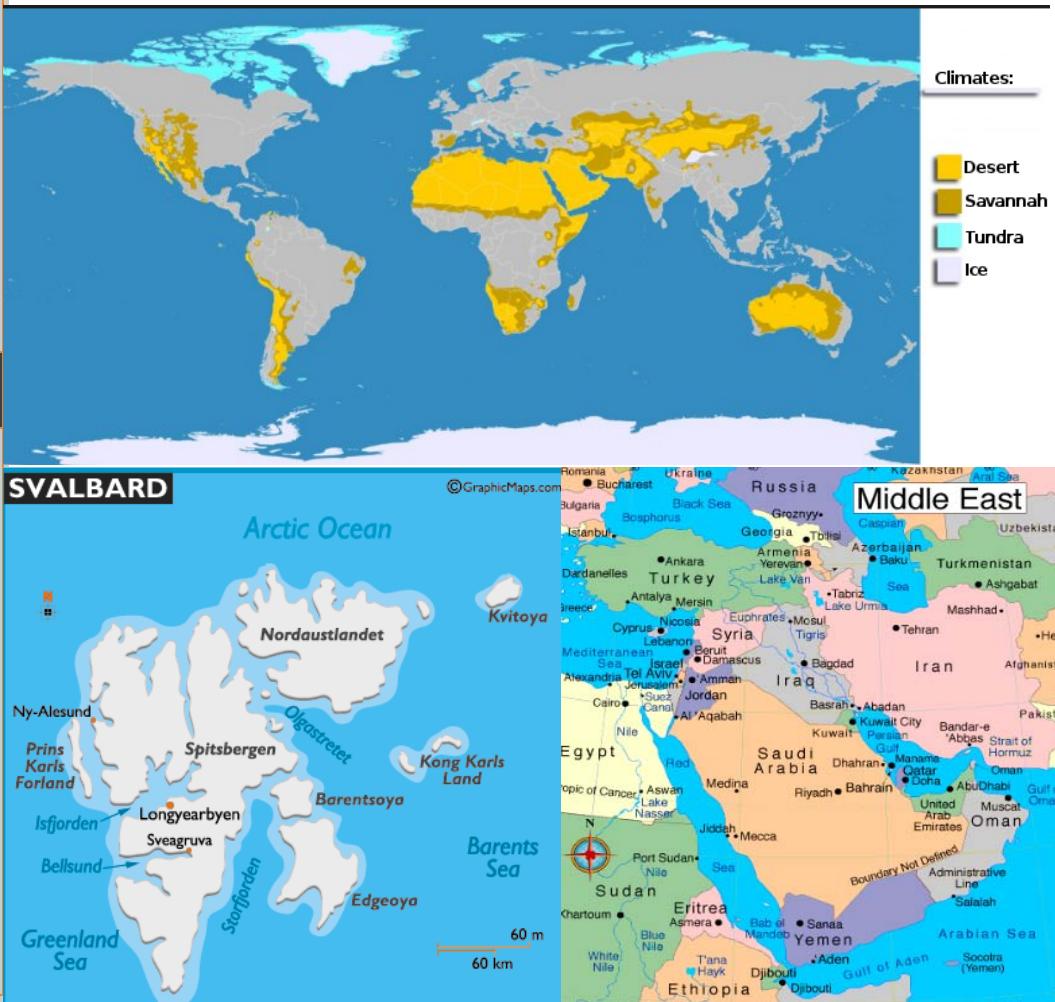
A barren or desolate area, dry, often sandy region of little rainfall, extreme temperatures, and sparse vegetation.

### Desertification

This is when land is gradually turned into desert. This is when land is overgrazed by livestock or deforestation.

### Fragile Environment

These are environments which take a very long time to recover from any damage that is done by human activity.



## Middle East Environment

### Climate of the Middle East

- The North of the Middle East has hot dry summers when the weather is similar to a desert. Winters are warm and wetter.
- The South of the Middle East is a desert. There is only light and brief rainfall. In the desert the sun bakes the ground and temperatures can reach  $52^{\circ}\text{C}$ !
- There is little vegetation due to the lack of water.

### Human uses of the Middle East

- Primary Resources: Oil and Gas
- The Middle East currently holds 48% of the world's oil reserves and 43% of the world's natural gas.
- Over 50% of China's crude oil comes from the Middle East.
- Oil and Gas has stimulated economic growth in the Middle East but their economies are reliant on two products — oil and gas.
- Water scarcity creates food insecurity in the region.

### Why is the Middle East one of the hottest places?

- The Middle East is located on the Tropic of Cancer where the air is descending high pressure air.
- As the air is not rising and evaporation is not occurring this means that the air is very dry.
- In the Middle East winter and summer are known as hot and hotter!
- During the summer in the Middle East it can be **dangerous** to spend more than 4 hours outside. Heat stroke and dehydration can be deadly!