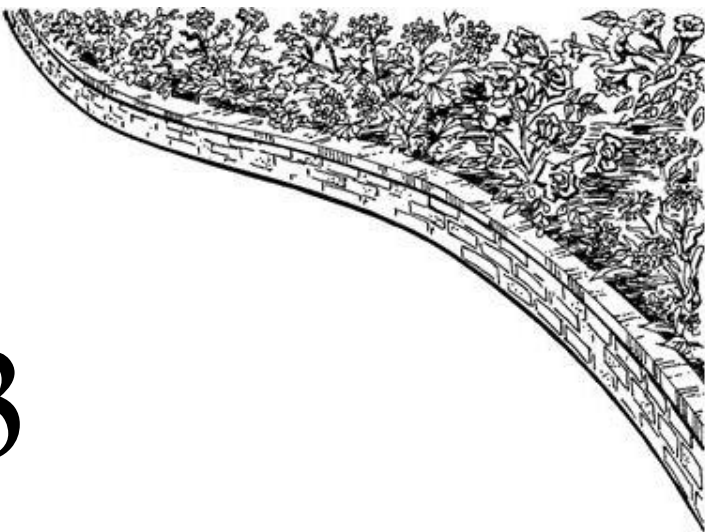


Islamic Studies

Arabia the Cradle of Islam



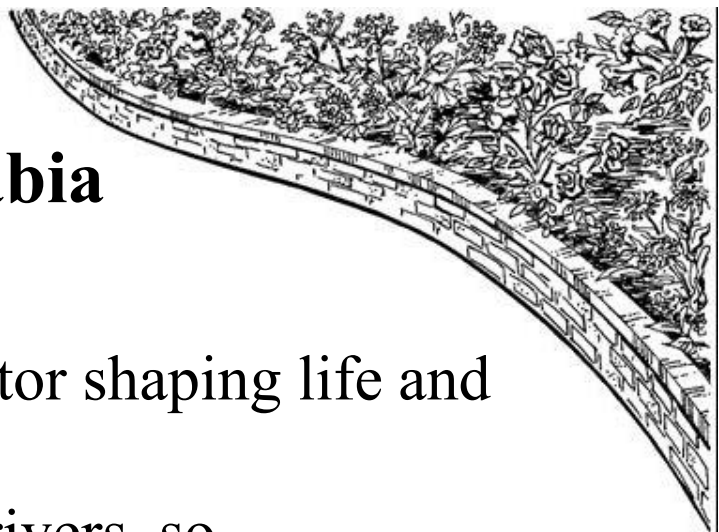
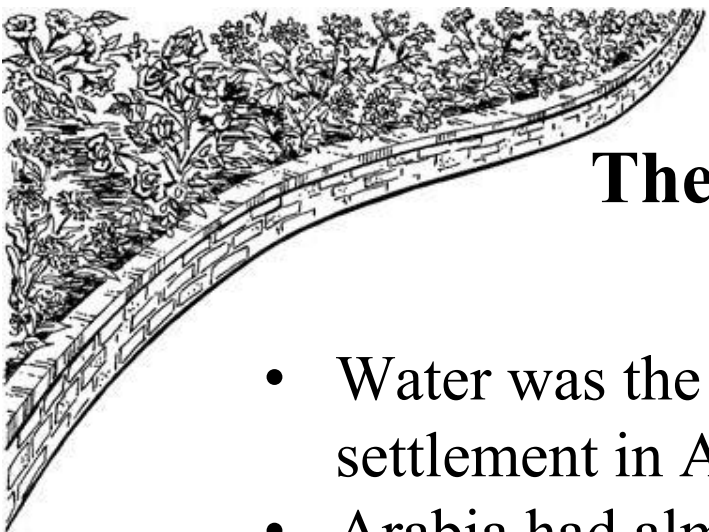
MLO 11.1.3

Understand the key adaptations of Arabian vegetation and animals to desert conditions, and recognize the role of water and oil in shaping the region's ecology and human settlement.

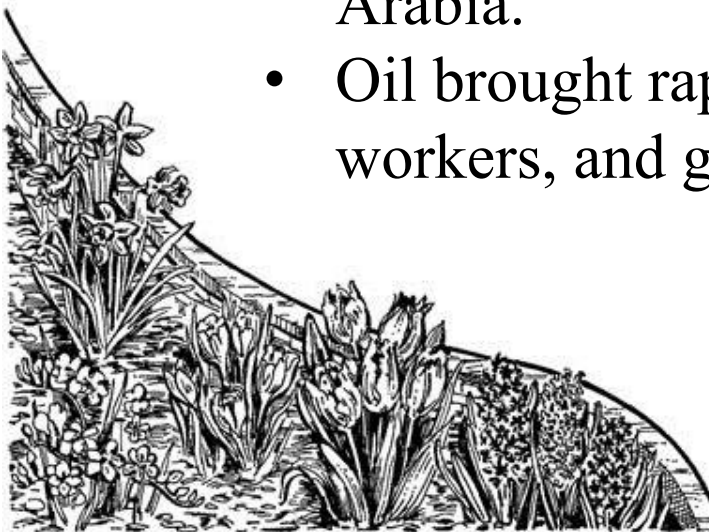
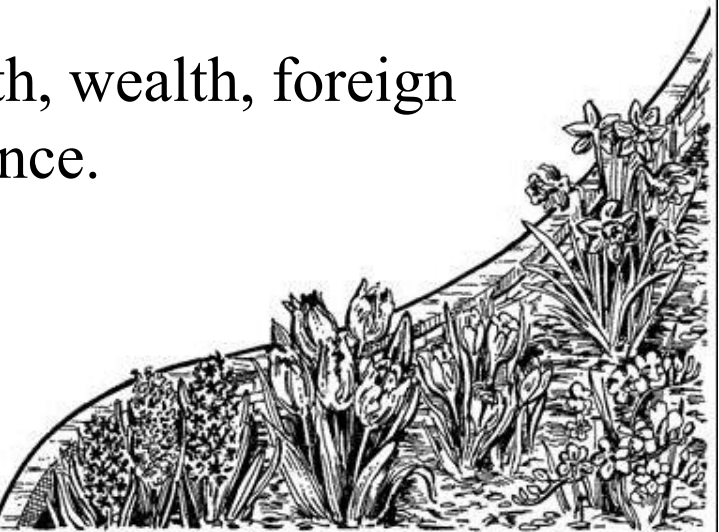


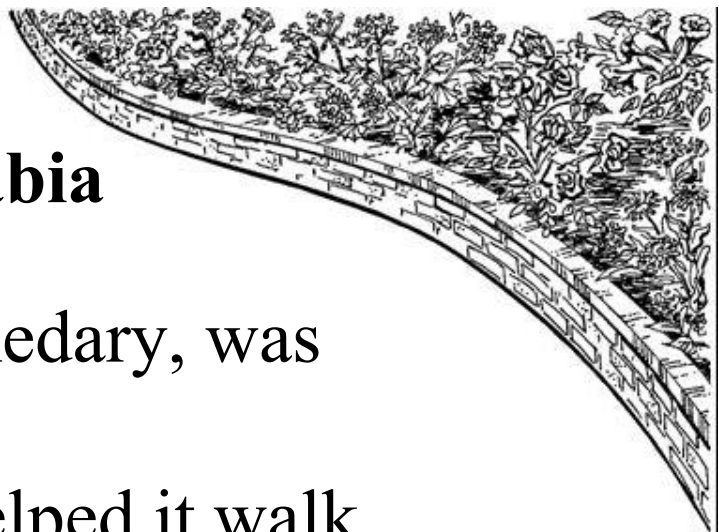
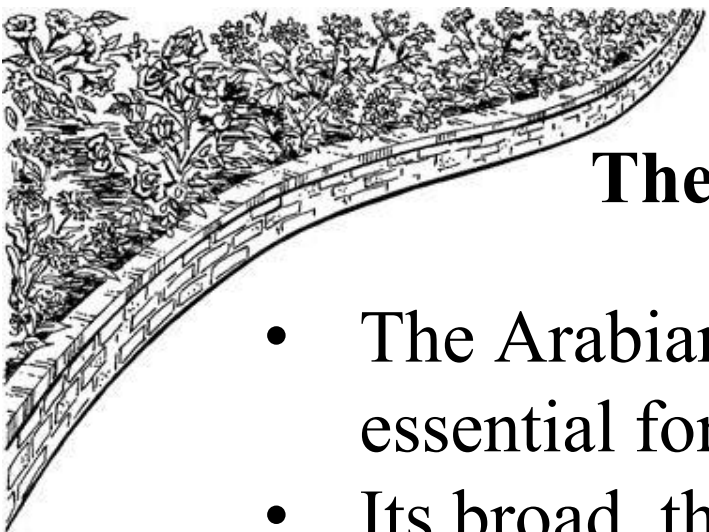
Vegetation

- Vegetation is sparse due to little rainfall and salty soil.
- Shrubs are common, while trees are rare.
- Date palms grow where water is available and are highly important.
- Wheat, barley, oats, maize, and millet are common crops.
- Coffee grows in Yemen, while cotton is grown in Yemen and Oman.
- Water, especially the Zamzam spring, played an important role in settlement and history.

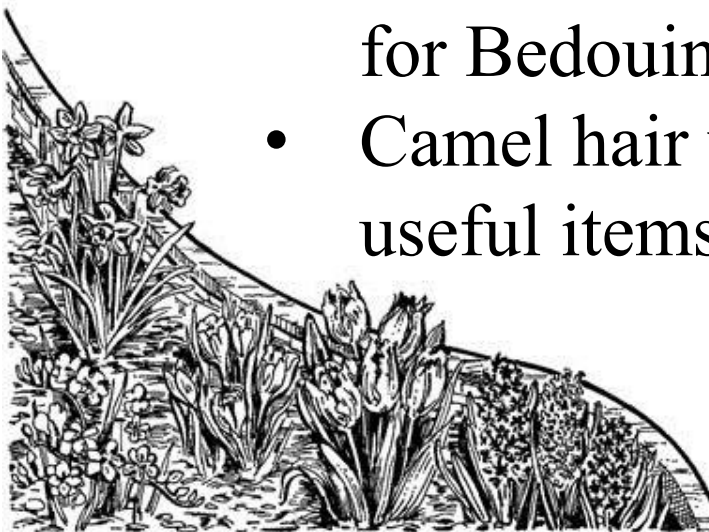


The Ecology of Arabia

- Water was the most important factor shaping life and settlement in Arabia.
 - Arabia had almost no permanent rivers, so settlements developed around available water sources.
 - Makkah grew around the Zamzam well.
 - The discovery of oil in the 20th century transformed Arabia.
 - Oil brought rapid economic growth, wealth, foreign workers, and greater global influence.
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The Ecology of Arabia

- The Arabian camel, or dromedary, was essential for desert life.
 - Its broad, thick-soled feet helped it walk easily on sand.
 - It could travel long distances across the desert.
 - Camel milk was an important source of food for Bedouins.
 - Camel hair was used to make tents and other useful items.
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