

Cultivating Turkey

by ReadWorks



map of Turkey

Turkey-the country, not the bird-is famously known as the "gateway to Asia" because of its location between the Middle East and southeastern Europe. With such a key position on the map, Turkey has a great deal of historical importance, and people have traveled through, traded across, and settled there for thousands of years.

It's only about a tenth as big as the United States, but Turkey's terrain and climates are remarkably varied. From mountains to plateaus to low-lying coastal regions, the environments of Turkey have offered challenges and opportunities to their inhabitants throughout history. In turn, people have learned how to make the most of what the land has to offer.

Climatologists (people who study the long-term weather patterns and trends over specific areas) divide the country into seven zones, each of which has its own usual weather and distinct terrain. People have learned to use the land within each section of the country for what it can best provide, which is different for each area.

The Marmara region, in the northwestern part of Turkey, is a small region of the country; however, it is also the most populous region, primarily because it is home to the country's largest city, Istanbul. The Marmara region is noted for its rolling hills, which are built up with houses, as well as the many apartment complexes and businesses throughout the metropolis of Istanbul.

The hills sometimes slope gently into the Bosphorus, the strait that divides Istanbul into eastern (Asian) and western (European) sides, but other hills have eroded into sharp cliffs. Ruins of fortresses built into the sides of these cliffs are reminders of how people once used the natural defensive quality of the land to their advantage. With high, steep vantage points, the cliffs helped the troops stay safer, while fighting with greater aggression.

The Bosphorus not only divides Istanbul into east and west sides but also joins two bodies of water: the Sea of Marmara to the south and the Black Sea to the north. Because of all the waterways around (and through!) the city, Istanbul has long been a vital trade hub. Day to day, people use the strait for

transportation and commerce. Businessmen commute via ferries.

Where there is water, it has been easier, historically, to support many types of agriculture. Additionally, seas and rivers offer easy trade and transportation routes. The Aegean region of Turkey is home to the second-largest port city in the country, Izmir, and people have made the most of the mild winters and wet climate by farming crops like olives and figs. The Black Sea Coast also has a rainy climate, which supports the growth of a lot of the world's supply of hazelnuts.

Where there isn't water, farming and getting around can be more challenging. Southeastern Anatolia, a geographical region in (you guessed it!) the southeast of Turkey, has always been dry and hot. Despite the little rain in the area, grains like wheat and barley are able to grow there. However, the nearby Tigris and Euphrates rivers have become the water sources of new irrigation programs, which help farmers in the region grow a greater variety of plants.

Turkish people have certainly been able to adapt and use the country's sources of water, building cities along shorelines or developing strong agricultural production over time in areas with good rainfall. However, Turkish people have also been able to adapt to inland portions of the country that may not have as much access to water. North of the Mediterranean coast, mountain ranges butt up against Central Anatolia's characteristic plateau lands. Although these lands receive little rain, grains like corn, wheat, and barley can be grown there, as well as cotton.

Turkey's terrain is also known for its incredible mountains. Eastern Anatolia's signature peaks aren't suited for farming the same fruits as the more temperate regions of the country, in part because of the terrain and also because temperatures can drop deep below zero during the winter. However, the mountains are suited for grazing and pastures, so livestock is a traditional livelihood for people living there.

Turkey's varying climates and terrains have challenged settlers and travelers from the time of the Silk Road trade route (many centuries ago) to the modern day. One of the best ways to get an idea of how people adapt to climatic and geographic challenges is to look at the agriculture. Based on Turkey's varied agriculture, it seems as though people have learned how to get what they need to survive out of Turkey's different lands.

livelihood live · li · hood

Advanced Definition

noun

1. means of subsistence.

Farming is his livelihood.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Lastly, many people rely on wetlands for their **livelihood**, as they are important centers for hunting, fishing, and recreation.
2. If tourism declines due to high wildlife casualties, then the locals who depend on income from tourism will lose their **livelihood**.
3. French fur-trappers and traders populated the Great Lakes region and funneled countless pelts to forts and outposts as a way of earning their **livelihood**.
4. As a result, the snow leopards had started to feed on the livestock, creating more interactions between leopards and humans. To protect themselves and their **livelihood**, humans often made this interaction fatal for the snow leopards.

terrain ter · rain

Advanced Definition

noun

1. the natural surface features of a tract of land, esp. considered in relation to some use or activity.

The battle was fought over rugged terrain.

Spanish cognate

terreno: The Spanish word *terreno* means terrain.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. By diverting water, ancient Egyptians were able to keep it from washing onto un-farmable desert **terrain**, where it would essentially be wasted.
2. Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery were charged with finding a route from the east through this enormous and uncharted new **terrain** all the way west to the Pacific Ocean.
3. It's only about a tenth as big as the United States, but Turkey's **terrain** and climates are remarkably varied. From mountains to plateaus to low-lying coastal regions, the environments of Turkey have offered challenges and opportunities to their inhabitants throughout history.
4. Curiosity, a rover the size of a station wagon, contains advanced instruments that will help it probe, sample, record, and analyze its way through Martian **terrain**. Collecting evidence on the biological, geological, chemical, and radiological profile of the red planet will prepare NASA for the next space flight to Mars.

varied var - ied

Advanced Definition

adjective

1. marked by diversity; having many different forms or types.
2. altered; changed.
3. having many different colors; variegated.

Spanish cognate

variado: The Spanish word *variado* means varied.

These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Jews and Christians were never fully equal to Muslims under Islamic law, and their treatment **varied** based on changing political and religious decisions of Muslim leaders.
2. But Farquhar and his colleagues found that in rocks older than about 2.4 billion years, the proportion of sulfur-33 **varied** widely, whereas rocks younger than about 2.1 billion years showed no significant variation.
3. Darwin understood each human to be a product of his or her parents. He recognized that a child, while resembling each parent, has a **varied** collection of the traits both parents managed to pass on.
4. It's only about a tenth as big as the United States, but Turkey's terrain and climates are remarkably **varied**. From mountains to plateaus to low-lying coastal regions, the environments of Turkey have offered challenges and opportunities to their inhabitants throughout history.
5. He proposed that all species alive have evolved through adaptation to their surroundings. Natural selection, the process by which **varied** traits that increase survival and enable reproduction are passed down from generation to generation, is probably the most famous principle from the book.
6. Hundreds of years ago, before North America was split up according to states and countries, native populations lived in the many **varied** areas of the continent. There were jungles, forests, riverlands, dry prairies, wetlands, and many other types of geographies where people lived.
7. Men along the eastern Great Lakes wore necklaces of grizzly claws from the far West, while others on the upper Rio Grande listened to music from flutes fashioned from the leg bones of Gulf coastal whooping cranes. The first Europeans, then, encountered a land far more culturally **varied** than the one they had left. They would only gradually realize that variety, however.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where is Turkey located?

- A. between North Africa and southwestern Europe
- B. between the Middle East and southeastern Europe
- C. between the Black Sea and northeastern Europe
- D. between the Mediterranean Sea and northwestern Europe

2. In this text the author discusses the country of Turkey. How is the discussion of Turkey structured?

- A. The author begins by describing a specific region of Turkey and then describes the whole country.
- B. The author begins by describing the government of Turkey and ends by describing the different languages spoken in Turkey.
- C. The author begins by describing the Aegean region of Turkey and ends by describing the Marmara region of Turkey.
- D. The author begins by describing the whole country and then describes specific regions of it.

3. The author claims that Turkey's terrain, or land, is "remarkably varied." What evidence in the text supports this claim?

- A. The mountains of Eastern Anatolia are not suited for farming the same fruits as the more temperate regions of Turkey are.
- B. Central Anatolia is a part of Turkey with plateau lands where grains and cotton are grown.
- C. There are hills, plateaus, mountains, and low-lying coastal regions in Turkey.
- D. The Marmara region of Turkey is known for its rolling hills, which are built up with houses.

4. The author also claims that Turkey's climate is remarkably varied. What evidence in the text supports this claim?
- A. The Aegean region of Turkey has mild winters and a wet climate, while Southeastern Anatolia is dry and hot.
 - B. The Sea of Marmara is located to the south of the Bosphorus, while the Black Sea is located to the north.
 - C. The Aegean region of Turkey has mild winters and a wet climate; the Black Sea Coast also has a rainy climate.
 - D. Southeastern Anatolia is dry and hot, and the plateau lands of Central Anatolia receive little rain.
5. What is the main idea of this text?
- A. Turkey is a country where hazelnuts, wheat, and barley are grown.
 - B. Southeastern Anatolia is a region of Turkey that is dry and hot.
 - C. Turkey is a country with various climates and terrains.
 - D. The Marmara region of Turkey is located in the northwestern part of the country.
6. Read these sentences from the text.
- "Where there isn't water, farming and getting around can be more challenging. Southeastern Anatolia, a geographical region in (you guessed it!) the southeast of Turkey, has always been dry and hot."
- Why might the author have included the parenthetical phrase "you guessed it!" in this sentence?
- A. to briefly criticize the name of Southeastern Anatolia as inappropriate to the region it describes
 - B. to forcefully argue that visiting Southeastern Anatolia is necessary to understand its climate
 - C. to playfully highlight the connection between the name of Southeastern Anatolia and its location
 - D. to enthusiastically invite readers to imagine what life is like for people in Southeastern Anatolia

7. Read this sentence from the text.

"The hills sometimes slope gently into the Bosphorus, the strait that divides Istanbul into eastern (Asian) and western (European) sides, but other hills have eroded into sharp cliffs."

How could this sentence be broken up without changing its meaning?

- A. The hills sometimes slope gently into the Bosphorus, the strait that divides Istanbul into eastern (Asian) and western (European) sides. As an illustration, other hills have eroded into sharp cliffs.
- B. The hills sometimes slope gently into the Bosphorus, the strait that divides Istanbul into eastern (Asian) and western (European) sides. However, other hills have eroded into sharp cliffs.
- C. The hills sometimes slope gently into the Bosphorus, the strait that divides Istanbul into eastern (Asian) and western (European) sides. Primarily, other hills have eroded into sharp cliffs.
- D. The hills sometimes slope gently into the Bosphorus, the strait that divides Istanbul into eastern (Asian) and western (European) sides. Consequently, other hills have eroded into sharp cliffs.

8. Describe the terrain of Eastern Anatolia.

9. Why is livestock a traditional livelihood for people living in Eastern Anatolia?

10. The author claims that people in Turkey "have learned to use the land within each section of the country for what it can best provide." What evidence in the text supports this claim?
