

EXPLORING COUNTRIES

United Arab Emirates





Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents:

Blastoff! Readers are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

Level 2 offers early readers a bit more challenge through varied simple sentences, increased text load, and less repetition of high-frequency words.

Level 3 advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.

Level 4 builds reading stamina by providing more text per page, increased use of punctuation, greater variation in sentence patterns, and increasingly challenging vocabulary.

Level 5 encourages children to move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" by providing even more text, varied writing styles, and less familiar topics.

Whichever book is right for your reader, Blastoff! Readers are the perfect books to build confidence and encourage a love of reading that will last a lifetime!

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Where Is the United Arab Emirates?

The United Arab Emirates, or U.A.E., is a small country in the **Middle East**. At 32,278 square miles (83,600 square kilometers), it is smaller than Portugal or the U.S. state of Maine. Oman shares part of the U.A.E.'s eastern border as well as a tiny tip of the north edge. The Gulf of Oman lines the remainder of the U.A.E.'s eastern side. Saudi Arabia borders the country to the south and west. The Persian Gulf forms the country's northern shore.

The United Arab Emirates is a young country formed by seven independent areas called **emirates**. Abu Dhabi sits along the Persian Gulf. It is the capital of the country. It is also the name of the largest emirate.





Oman

Gulf of Oman

Persian Gulf

Abu Dhabi

United Arab Emirates

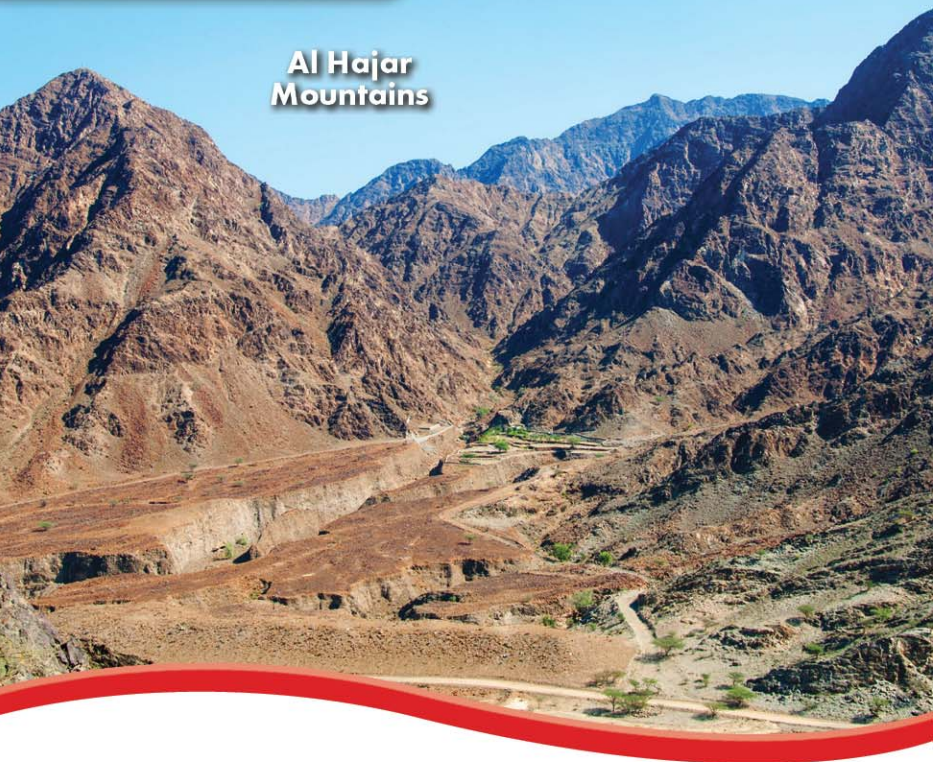
Oman

Saudi Arabia



5

Al Hajar Mountains



Almost all of the U.A.E.'s land is covered by the Arabian Desert. Its sand **dunes** and **salt flats** are interrupted by a few **oases**. In the south, Liwa Oasis has some small farmland. The Al Hajar Mountains near Oman also break up the flat, empty land. The **tropical desert** climate is usually hot and sunny. A strong wind called *shamal* can cause sandstorms and high coastal waves.

The Persian Gulf coast is home to numerous islands and **coral reefs**. The U.A.E. has used **land building** to create more islands and shorelines. **Irrigation** technology brings some new crops and plants to the land. Scientists are also working to grow plants in the U.A.E.'s northern **salt marshes**.



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