

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## BEDOUINS

Bedouins are nomadic people who inhabit the Middle East and North Africa. Bedouin is an Arabic word that means “desert dweller.” Like the plants and animals, the Bedouin have adapted their lifestyle to the severe desert climate. They use their extensive knowledge of the location of water and seasonal weather changes to survive.

Traditionally, the Bedouin prefer to herd animals such as camels, sheep, and goats. They generally travel in extended family units called goums. A goam is headed by a sheik, a position handed down from father to eldest son. Many Bedouins live in tents. The

tents allow the Bedouins to move easily. Almost all of the Bedouins are Muslims who speak Arabic.

Severe droughts in the region have forced many Bedouins to give up herding and take traditional jobs. The oil wealth of many nations of the Middle East and North Africa has provided economic opportunities for the Bedouin. The wealth derived from oil provides social services that would not be available to people living a nomadic lifestyle. It is estimated that about 2.5 million people continue to practice the traditional Bedouin lifestyle, but the population of people following the traditional Bedouin lifestyle continues to dwindle as they are offered better opportunities.

### Fill in the Blanks

Bedouins are n\_\_\_\_\_ people of the Middle East and North Africa who have a\_\_\_\_\_ to the severe c\_\_\_\_\_ of the d\_\_\_\_\_. They use their extensive k\_\_\_\_\_ of the l\_\_\_\_\_ of w\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_ weather c\_\_\_\_\_ to s\_\_\_\_\_. The Bedouin generally prefer herding c\_\_\_\_\_, sheep, and g\_\_\_\_\_ to \*f\_\_\_\_\_. They generally live with their extended f\_\_\_\_\_ and are led by s\_\_\_\_\_. The Bedouin have traditionally lived in t\_\_\_\_\_ so they can m\_\_\_\_\_ easily. The traditional B\_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle is slowly \*d\_\_\_\_\_ as o\_\_\_\_\_ wealth and strong g\_\_\_\_\_ evolve in the M\_\_\_\_\_ East and North A\_\_\_\_\_. Almost all of the B\_\_\_\_\_ are M\_\_\_\_\_ who speak A\_\_\_\_\_. The B\_\_\_\_\_ comprise a small m\_\_\_\_\_ of the people of the Middle East and North Africa, but they live across a w\_\_\_\_\_ area of l\_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer in complete sentences

1. What does *bedouin* mean?

---



---

2. Explain how the Bedouins have adapted to the environment of the desert.

---



---

\*3. Why do you think the population of Bedouins following their traditional lifestyle is slowly decreasing in the Middle East and North Africa?

---



---



---



---