

Arab Region

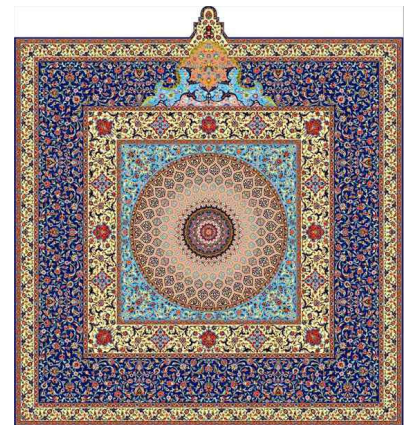
The Arab Region was established in 1999 and replaced the Arab Regional Group that was formed in 1973. It has 160,000 members in 14 countries. The countries in the Arab Region are: Bahrain, Arab Republic of Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritius, Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen Republic. There are also 4 more countries that are in the progress are joining which are Iraq, Algeria, Morocco and Palestine.



Crafts

Prayer Rugs- Prayer mats are used in the Muslim religion for praying towards Mecca. It is designed to keep the worshipper clean and comfortable during prayer. Try designing your own prayer mat using bright colours and symmetrical patterns common in Arabic art.

It is considered disrespectful to God to use images of animals and people in art so they do not feature in art from countries in the Arab region. You can make your prayer mat out of materials or pieces of card made into patterns or simply coloured paper.





































Prayer Beads- Muslim prayer beads are used to count the prayers made to Allah (their name for God). They commonly contain 99 beads, which correspond to the 99 names of Allah. You can make a set which contains 33 beads which is less common but can be used as people praying just count through the beads 3 times to reach 99. You need 33 pony beads, string and 3 flat beads. String 11 pony beads onto the string and then add a flat bead, add the next 11 pony beads and then another flat bead and again with the last 11 beads and last flat bead. Tie the two ends of the string together and leave a tassel style end. To make it more colourful you could use three different coloured beads for the three sets of 11 beads.



Hieroglyphics- The ancient Egyptians did not have letters to write with, they used pictures called hieroglyphics, which represented each letter or combination of letters. The Egyptians used to write their names in oblong enclosures called *Cartouche*. Make a cartouche for your name as a door hanger for your bedroom or a bookmark. Use the table below to spell out your name in hieroglyphics.



A		or		H		or		O		V	
B		I		P		W					
C		or		J		Q		X			
D		K		R		Y		or			
E		L		S		Z					
F		M		T							
G		N		U							
SH =				CH =				KH =			



The Dead Sea Experiment- The Dead Sea is a lake that borders the countries of Jordan and Israel. It is an extremely famous lake for the amount of salt that the water contains. People can't really swim in the Dead Sea because they just float! The water contains so much salt that when a person goes into the water they can float

without any effort. Try and float in the swimming pool some time and see how hard it is to stay afloat. In your unit try some experiments to see how much salt it takes to make objects float. Choose some objects that vary in weight and size (although not too big!). Get a container and fill it with some water. Start by putting a tablespoon of salt in and testing whether your objects float. Keep adding tablespoons of salt and make a record of how many spoons of



salt it takes for each of your objects to float. When the salt stops dissolving in the water then stop your experiment.

Food

Try some food from the countries in the Arab region. Some foods are quite common here in the UK and are becoming more popular.

- Pita bread
- Hummus
- Falafel
- Moussaka
- Couscous
- Lentils
- Chickpeas
- Rice
- Chicken or Lamb
- Tea or Coffee
- Olives
- Dates



Arabian meals usually consist of a meat dish traditionally made of chicken or lamb with vegetables and a staple such as rice. In countries such as Egypt the meals are often vegetarian. Pork is traditionally not eaten in the Arab region as it is against the Muslim religion. As a unit why not gather together some traditional Arab foods and have a tasting night?

Learning

Arab Region Members- Have a look at the different associations in the Arab Region. How do their uniforms differ from yours? What does their promise badge look like? What do you think they do as their activities in their meetings? Does their religion restrict them from doing things that you may be able to do in this country?





Books and Films- One of the most well known stories based on the countries in the Arab Region is the story of Aladdin. As a unit combine your food tasting night with a film night and sit down and watch the Disney Classic together. Alternatively you could look at the book that the Aladdin legend came from which includes many other famous characters such as Sinbad and Ali Baba, the book is called 'One Thousand and One Nights'. As a unit you could each read through the book and pick your favourite story and act it out for parents.

Religion- A lot of the population of the Arab Region are Muslim. They believe in their God, Allah. The rights of women in these countries differ greatly from that of the rights of women in the West. They have to dress a certain way and are restricted in work, their testimony in lawful matters are not carried with the same weight as a mans is, they have to gain permission from her husband before leaving the home, etc. Think about your day-to-day life and consider how it would change if you were Muslim. Would it have an impact on what you would like to do in the future or what your mother does now as a job?



Culture- Belly dancing is a popular source of entertainment in the Arab Region. There are two different kinds, one is the style more familiar to us, the other dance is commonly danced by men and women dance during festivities such as weddings, etc. The traditional dress for belly dancing is an ornate fitted top and ornate belt worn above either harem pants or a skirt. These items are often decorated with beads, sequins, embroidery, etc. Not all countries in the Arab region accept this style dress for belly dancing; in Egypt it is illegal for belly dancers to have their tummy bare so they wear a tight fitting gown. As a unit why not



invite a teacher to show you how belly dancing is done? Or you could just attempt to make your own style up yourself?

Mythology- The ancient Egyptians believed that there were many Gods, each who had a role to play in the world. There was Ra, the God of the Sun, Seth, the God of Evil, Osiris, the God of the afterlife, etc. The ancient Egyptians had myths to explain how things happened in the world, they had myth a myth explaining the start of the earth, why the sun rose each day and went down each night, why crops grew and died, etc. Have a look at an ancient Egyptian myth and look at the Gods involved. Or create your own Gods and your own myths. You could even create Guiding themed Gods inspired by the Egyptian Gods and Goddesses. They were often part animal and part human so take that into consideration when designing your own Gods and Goddesses.

