

**Montana Arabic Summer Institute, The Univ of MT
STARTALK Student Program Curriculum – Week 1**

Theme: Intro to Arab Culture

Target Proficiency Level: Novice-Low

Number of Hours: 2.5 hrs (Part of Week 1)

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Brief Description of Program

This is the first of five culture sessions in the MASI program. The students will learn about one of the main aspects of the Arab culture highlighting the significant impact of Islamic Civilization on the Arabic language. Students will also learn about weddings in the Arab World and their similarities and/or differences to weddings in the USA. The lesson will be presented in the form a movie and two presentations given by two guest speakers. Students will ask questions and engage in conversations with the presenters.

What Enduring Understandings are Desired:

Students will learn about two important aspects in the Arab culture: faith and weddings. They will:

- learn how Arab recorded history started with the advent of Islam
- understand the two-layer nature of Arabic writing, with or without diacritical marks
- understand how Islam has affected the standardization of the Arabic language
- understand how Islam is an important component of the Arab culture on a daily basis
- learn about weddings in the Arab World
- appreciate the differences between the Arab and American cultures

What Essential Question Will Guide this Program and Focus Teaching/Learning:

The lesson and presentations will address the main essential questions (a) *What is a culture?* and (b) *What are the components of a culture?*

Standards/Goals:

1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.2

Content:

Knowledge

- The Arabic language was standardized based on the linguistic structure found in the Quran, the sacred book in Islam
- Islam is not the only religion in the Arab World
- Arabs belong to several faiths: Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Druze and Agnostic
- The role of Islam in the daily life of Arab Muslims
- Short vowels are represented by diacritical marks

Key Vocabulary

السلام عليكم، وعليكم السلام، الإسلام، القرآن، الرسول، حديث، سلام، عرس، عروس، عروسة، زواج، شقافة

Connections to Other Disciplines:

- Social Studies: comparing the American culture with the Arab culture, appreciate the differences
- Faith Studies: learning about the role of Islam in standardizing the Arabic language
- History and Culture: the Arab World

Technology Integration:

- Movie, PowerPoint Presentations

Assessments:

Performance tasks

- Interaction with instructors and presenters
- Writing a short essay (as homework assignment) on the similarities and differences between a typical wedding in the US and a typical wedding in the Arab World

Quizzes, Tests, Prompts, Work Samples

- Writing new vocabulary items used in the presentations in Arabic
- Listing similar cultural components in the American and Arab cultures
- Listing different components in the American and Arab cultures

Unprompted Evidence (observations, dialogues)

- Classroom participation and interaction
- Questions asked to the presenters
- Performance on quizzes described above

Can do Statements From Linguafolio

I can:

- compare weddings in the Arab World and the USA
- identify major similarities and differences between the Arab and American cultures
- describe the role of Islam in standardizing the Arabic language
- explain the meanings of سلام، قرآن، حديث، رسول from an Islamic perspective

Required Resources:

- Map of the Arab World
- Movies of some weddings in the Arab World

Differentiation of Instruction:

The use of PowerPoint presentations with images and short movie clips will help students with disabilities to follow the content of the presentations. Students will engage in conversations with the instructors and presenters and will demonstrate an understanding of the products/practices and perspectives of the cultures in the Arab World.

Instructional Strategies:

- Classroom presentations by two guest speakers
- Classroom interaction between students and presenters
- Dialogues and Discussions
- Pair and Group Work

What do they already know that will help them learn new information?

- Culture is an important factor in language evolution
- Religions and cultures are diverse in the world

Links to relevant web sites:

Presentations by guest speakers will be used.