

The Middle East Explored

Our newest Unit on the Middle East has been designed to build on the previous work that we have done this semester. It is quite possible that the only recent contact that you've had with the Middle East is through the United States involvement in it, but the Middle East holds some of the most ancient stories and interesting societies of the modern world. (40 points)

Objective: To investigate and examine the current and historical problems of the Middle East.

Geography Lesson: Think you know where the countries of the Middle East are located? Okay "hot shot" here's your chance to prove it! Go to this site and follow the directions. **Repeat until you're over 95%. When you have finished the entire exercise contact the teacher, so that he can record your score on the screen before moving on!**

<http://www.ilike2learn.com/ilike2learn/MidEast.html>

Political Cartoon:

Find a political cartoon involving any country of the Middle East. The only "catch" is that you may not use a cartoon involving the United States' involvement in Iraq or Afghanistan; all other topics are acceptable. Once you have found your cartoon, print it off and in one paragraph or less describe what is going on in the cartoon and state clearly why you agree or disagree with the political situation described in it. (need help? Try www.cagle.com)

Current Event:

Find a "current event" for the Middle East and write out a "current event-style" response to the article that you have found.

Requirements –

1. Again, you may not use the United States' involvement in Iraq or Afghanistan as your topic choice (too easy).
2. Do not print out the article that you have found, instead cite the web-address/article on your response document.
3. Summarize the problem/event that is the topic of your article.
4. Create a one-paragraph statement opinion of the article's topic.
5. **YOU MAY NOT USE THE SAME COUNTRY FOR YOUR "CURRENT EVENT" AS YOU USED IN THE POLITICAL CARTOON.**

Leaders: Select one of the following historic leaders to complete the final task for this assignment. **Saddam Hussein (Iraq), Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (Iran), Ariel Sharon (Israel), Osama bin Laden (linked to Afghanistan terror-cell), or Yasser Arafat (PLO).**

Please answer the following questions based on the leader that you have selected.

1. What country/group was your leader in control of? For how long? How did they gain power/lose power?
2. Evaluate whether or not you feel this leader was "effective" or not. Give one specific example as evidence.
3. Evaluate whether or not you feel this leader was "a good and moral leader" or not. Give one specific example as evidence.
4. As a United States citizen would you support the removal of this person from office by military force (UN or US) based on their actions as a leader? Was the US involved in their loss of power? Explain.

Religion: The Middle East is also a bit unique based on its religious ties. Unlike the United States, the countries of the Middle East are mostly homogeneous with their choice of religion. There are two major religions found in this region, Islam and Judaism. For this section you will need to choose one of two religions to work with.

1. Define the religion you have chosen to work with. What does it mean to be Muslim, or Jewish? (focus on a brief history, and a basic code of conduct).
2. What is the name of their Holy Book? Who do they pray too?
3. What are the major Holidays/Holy Days that they recognize in their religion?
4. In Israel, these two religious groups are in conflict with each other over who has the right to live on the land made up by modern day Israel. Describe the argument that the religion you have chosen to work is using as a reason for their claim to the land. Explain why/why not their reasoning in your opinion is valid/not valid.