



Discovering Islam: Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr

Overview:

Each year, Muslims from across the globe take part in the celebration of Eid al-Fitr marking the official end of [Ramadan](#). In Islamic tradition, Ramadan is a time of reflection encouraging Muslims to participate in charity, fasting and prayer. For Muslims, fasting during this sacred time is significant as it is one of the [Five Pillars of Islam](#) (Belief, Worship, Fasting, Almsgiving and Pilgrimage). In 2012, [The Pew Research Center](#) found that there are over 1.6 Billion Muslims across the world. This lesson plan will help students explore how Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr is celebrated in Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia and Turkey by utilizing the [AFS-USA Sponsored Program Country Specific Handbooks](#), to provide them with a clearer understanding of the Muslim faith in those countries. Students will then design their own handbook on a country of their choice from with a high Muslim population, and examine their culture and traditions.

Background and Information:

Important Vocabulary:

Five Pillars of Islam: Belief, Worship, Fasting, Almsgiving and Pilgrimage

Ramadan: In the ninth month of the Muslim Calendar, it is the period of time when Muslims abstain from food and drink between the time of sunrise to sunset.

Eid al-Fitr: The celebration that marks the official end of Ramadan.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Identify the Five Pillars of Islam
- Describe the different ways Eid is celebrated in Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia and Turkey
- Design a country specific hand book based on the culture and traditions of that country and explore how they celebrate Eid
- Compare the similarities and differences of their findings

Time: 60 minutes

Materials: [Muslim Start Observing Ramadan](#), [Muslims Break Fast Worldwide after Ramadan as Eid al-Fitr Festival Gets Underway](#), [Five Pillars of Islam](#), [AFS Egypt Handbook](#), [AFS Ghana Handbook](#), [AFS Indonesia Handbook](#), [AFS Turkey Handbook](#), Poster Board

Common Core Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9

Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.2

Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text

AFS Educational Goals:

Interpersonal Realm:

- To have a deeper concern for and sensitivity to others and expand their capacity to perceive and respond to the values, and realities of others

Cultural Realm:

- To learn about and understand the institutions, customs, traditions, practices and current issues in a country, and to understand the values, attitudes and behaviors in.

Global Realm:

- To develop an increased curiosity and concern about world affairs, to develop a sustained commitment to obtaining information from many sources and seek out perspectives from other cultures in understanding world situations and problems

Activity:

- Review the Five Pillars of Islam
- Break students into five group and assign each group a pillar
 - Belief

- Worship
- Fasting
- Almsgiving
- Pilgrimage
- Challenge students to explain the relevance of that pillar in Islam reference: [Five Pillars of Islam](#)
- Watch [Muslim Start Observing Ramadan](#)
- Explore the Religion Section of the [AFS Egypt Handbook](#) [AFS Ghana Handbook](#), [AFS Indonesia Handbook](#), [AFS Turkey Handbook](#)
- Discuss the similarities of how these countries participate in Ramadan and Eid
- Assign students a country with a high Muslim population and challenge them to create a handbook on how that country participates in Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr and the Muslim Culture (Countries may include, Sudan, India, Pakistan, Yemen, Kuwait, Somalia, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan etc)
 - Encourage the use
 - [The World Fact Book](#)
 - [UNdata](#)
- Allow students to present on their finding
- Watch [Muslims Break Fast Worldwide after Ramadan as Eid al-Fitr Festival Gets Underway](#)
- Ask students to write a reflection on what they have learned and the importance of awareness other cultures

** This activity may require students to complete research outside of the classroom*