

Grade 7 Islam Unit Project | Islamic Cultural Fair

Introduction

Without the work of Muslim scholars, much of the science of the early Greeks, Egyptians, and Indians might have been lost. Muslim doctors, mathematicians, astronomers, and geographers studied early scientific works. Through their efforts, early science was preserved, added to, and then transmitted to Europe. In addition to science and math, the Islamic world is also responsible for many advances in fashion and beauty, art and music, and language and culture. We will hold an Islamic Cultural Fair exhibiting some of the advances made in the Islamic world.

Plan and Do

1) First you must choose a topic to present at the fair. Begin by choosing a general area of knowledge:

- ✓ Math & Science
- ✓ Fashion & Beauty
- ✓ Art & Music
- ✓ Language & Culture

2) Once you've chosen a general area of knowledge, that will be the focus of the rest of your research. Your next goal will be to decide on the specific topic you will present. Make a list of 2-3 possible research topics.

3) Now it is time to choose the best topic on your list. Ask four questions about each topic and assign a point value (1-3) to each answer, with 1 being "no," 2 being "maybe," and 3 being "yes." The topic that gets the highest score should be the topic you select. The four questions you should ask about each possible topic on your list are:

- ✓ Will you be able to find enough information about this topic?
- ✓ Can you plan an interesting and unique presentation around this topic?
- ✓ Is this topic of interest to you, and do you think others will be interested?
- ✓ Will the activity/presentation you plan around this topic do a good job of reflecting something important about Islamic culture in the Golden Age?

4) Make a plan showing what you will present and how you will present it at the cultural fair. Check your plan against the rubric to make sure you're on the right track.

5) Share your topic and plan with Dr. G or Ms. Crace to get approval.

6) Once your topic is approved, be sure you are ready to present at the Islamic Cultural Fair, which will take place at the end of the unit (see the Moodle calendar for date).

Need Ideas?

These ideas are just suggestions; feel free to explore the topic and come up with your own ideas.

Math & Science

- ✓ The use of Arabic numerals (before there was only Roman Numerals or the abacus) was a huge innovation. This breakthrough led to innovations in algebra, trigonometry, and computation.
- ✓ You may want to research astronomy, another science that was well-researched during the time of the Islamic Golden Age. In fact, many constellations were named by the Islamic astronomers of the time. You could look at the star charts that existed then and talk about the advances Islamic scientists made by looking at the night sky.

✓ Ibn Sīnā was the father of modern medicine, and 40 of the books he wrote on that topic survive today. You could look at the advances he made in medicine (or in many other areas of research like astronomy, alchemy, geography and geology, psychology, Islamic theology, logic, mathematics, physics or poetry.)

Fashion & Beauty

✓ Fashion changed dramatically during the spread of Islam in the 8th through 12th centuries. In Al-Andalus, Hair, which had always been worn long and straight, began to be styled in many different ways for both women and men. Shaving, soaps, and general hygiene also changed at this time. Ziryab, the court musician, was greatly involved in these advances. You may wish to demonstrate some of these advances.

✓ Ibn Sīnā, the father of modern medicine mentioned earlier, is also credited with developing a process for distilling the essential oils of flowers and plants (called steam distillation)—in short, he made the first perfumes and aromatherapies.

Art & Music

✓ You may wish to research the oud, a Persian lute. Ziryab innovated on this instrument by adding a fifth string. The oud eventually became the Spanish guitar. In fact, the word for guitar comes from the Persian word “sitar” and the Arabic word “qitara”. The music from this instrument evolved and, when mixed with gypsy influences, became modern-day Flamenco music.

✓ You may wish to research and create examples of Islamic art. You could model art forms like calligraphy for the audience at the fair and give them a chance to create it as well.

✓ You could share the forms of poetry that were popular at this time. By introducing the poetic forms, visitors to the fair can get involved by writing their own Islamic poetry.

Language & Culture

✓ You may wish to build a Language Center for the fair based on the Arabic words you've learned that have been adopted in the English language.

✓ You may wish to research the food of the time. You could collect recipes that demonstrate the basics of Islamic cooking in the Islamic Golden Age. You could cook some of the foods to share with visitors to the fair.

✓ One of the first universities, known as the Al Azhar, was established over a thousand years ago in Cairo by the Fatimid Caliphs. You could present on its history.

Remember: these are just suggestions; you can also follow your own ideas--just be sure to get them approved by Dr. G or Ms. Crace before you begin.

Research

Use multiple sources for your research. You may use an Internet encyclopedia as a starting point, but you should go beyond this source and look for other authoritative sources both on and off the Internet. Our librarian would be happy to help you locate sources on your topic.

Here, again, are our reliable online research sources:

First, go to the portal page at: ask.follettdestiny.com

Chose any of the following resources from the portal page:

Facts on File (username = americankwt; password = kuwait (all lower case))

Encyclopedia Britannica (to personalize access enter ‘askxxxx’ (where xxxx= your surname) into the login window, then select Middle School (MS).

Ebscohost (username = amer; password = kuwait (all lower case))

Islamic Cultural Fair | Project Rubric

Criteria	No Evidence	1-D	2-C	3-B	4-A
Thoroughness of Research		Used only one online source for information.	Used only one or two sources, Relied heavily on online encyclopedias.	Used multiple online resources. Used some additional resources.	Used a variety of resources, both online and in print; used only high-quality, authoritative sources.
Effectiveness of Presentation		Presentation was poorly organized; ideas did not connect or build on one another.	Presentation was not very well organized; most ideas did not connect or build on one another.	Ideas were well connected and easy to understand, Some new ideas were explored.	Multiple ideas were presented and joined together. Organization and data was clear. Students learned new ideas.
Effect on the modern world		An unsatisfactory answer is provided to the question: "How did this Muslim innovation or adaptation influence the modern world?" Still, an attempt was made.	"How did this Muslim innovation or adaptation influence the modern world?" We couldn't really tell from your presentation.	A satisfactory answer is provided to the question: "How did this Muslim innovation or adaptation influence the modern world?"	Clearly and accurately answers the question: "How did this Muslim innovation or adaptation influence the modern world?"
Reflection Of the Culture		At least one fact was given that advanced an understanding of Islamic culture.	The ideas did not do much to advance an understanding of Islamic culture.	Ideas were related to Islamic culture during the Golden Age.	The Golden Age of Islamic culture was the central theme of the presentation. Students learned new ideas about Islamic culture through the presentation.
Knowledge of the topic		The student is able to answer at least 1 reasonable question asked by the teacher or the audience about his/her topic.	The student is able to answer at least 50% of reasonable questions asked by the teacher or the audience about his/her topic.	The student provides satisfactory answers to reasonable questions asked by the teacher or the audience about his/her topic.	The student provides very well-thought-out answers to reasonable questions asked by the teacher or the audience about his/her topic.