



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Assignment Description (For Teachers)

Title: Middle Eastern Money: A Math and Social Studies Lesson

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Purpose/Connection to the Curriculum: This lesson is designed to meet particular 5th grade math and social studies standards through a discussion of Middle Eastern currency. Students use mathematical operations to exchange currencies and then learn about Middle Eastern cultures and forms of government by looking at pictures of banknotes from different countries.

Overview: Using multiplication and division of numbers, students convert currencies from dollars to other currencies and vice versa. Then, students work in small groups to look at pictures of some banknotes from a Middle Eastern country in order to answer some questions about it. The lesson concludes with a whole class discussion, using powerpoint slides of currency and soliciting student responses.

Grade Level: 5th grade

Time: 1 class period for math, 2 for social studies

Objectives:

Targeted Skills - Based on Arizona State Standards:

5th Grade Math Standards:

- NBT.5. Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
- NBT.7. Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals to hundredths, using concrete models or drawings and strategies based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction; relate the strategy to a written method and explain the reasoning used..

5th Grade Social Studies: World History Strand:

- Concept 9: Contemporary World
 - PO 1.** Describe current events using information from class discussions and various resources (e.g., newspapers, magazines, television, Internet, books, maps).
 - PO 2.** Use various resources (e.g., newspapers, magazines, television, Internet, books, maps) to discuss the connections between current events and historical events and issues.

5th Grade Social Studies: Civics/Government Strand:

- Concept 5: Government Systems of the World
 - PO 1.** Describe the characteristics of a monarchy and a republic.

Suggested Procedures

- Mathematics Lesson:

Required: Photocopies of the currency conversion sheet (document #2) and of the math exercise (document #3a).

1. Introduction: Explain that every country has its own currency. If you want to visit another country, you have to change dollars into the local money. You also have to know how to calculate the exchange rate from local currency into dollars in order to understand how much money you are spending. (For example, if you pay 5 Turkish lira for one apple, are you getting a good deal or being cheated?!)
 2. Hand out the currency conversion guide and the math exercise. Have students work, individually or in pairs, to complete the math problems. (Document #3b is the answer key.)

- Social Studies Lesson 1:

Required: Access to a computer lab. Photocopies of the group research guides – one per person (documents #4 – in the folder).

1. Divide students into groups of 2 or 3. Give each member of each group one of the study guides. Have them go to the proper website and look up pictures of the currency and the information needed to answer the questions.
2. Collect the sheets when they are finished, but keep them in the classroom so that students can use them for Social Studies Lesson 2 below.

- Social Studies Lesson 2:

Required: Laptop and projector to show a powerpoint presentation to the class. The powerpoint presentation and teachers' notes (documents #5a and 5b).

1. Hand out the sheets the students completed for Social Studies Lesson 1. Tell them that they can refer to their sheets to give examples or provide information during the class discussion of the slides.
2. Go through the slides and use the teachers' notes to lead them in a discussion. Different students should have ideas to share with their peers because of the previous assignment.

Extending the Lesson: Students could look in child-friendly newspapers about events in the contemporary Middle East, particularly in the country that they studied during Social Studies Lesson. Students could also learn about a country that is experiencing great changes right now and design a new banknote for that country reflecting the change.