

Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story

A Multidisciplinary Examination of Culture and Lunar Cycles

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AUDIENCE

This unit is intended for K-5 elementary students.

PURPOSE

This unit is an excellent opportunity to explore Islamic culture and include Muslims in cultural holiday studies. Recognizing that every moment in the classroom is precious this unit uses a multidisciplinary approach integrating reading and listening comprehension, writing, science, math and social studies, allowing teachers to more easily incorporate social studies and science into the curriculum. By detailing two core lessons with detailed extensions, teachers have the ability to navigate where they need, while reinforcing the social studies component.

In order to make the lesson adaptable to multiple levels, there are basic instructions for a variety of levels as well as extensions to extend the lesson to levels beyond. The materials included for this unit allow teachers to adequately teach to a variety of levels and meet students' needs individually within a classroom setting. The materials are provided in Word format so that the teacher may make the necessary adjustments for his/her classroom. Each of the attached materials also has corresponding notes indicating possible changes that may be made to the template, providing for the adjustment of different student levels and needs.

REQUIRED:

"The Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story" by Hena Khan and Julie Paschkis. (Note: The book may be borrowed from the University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies.)

TIME

The two core lessons provided in this unit each last 30-60 minutes. The detailed extensions utilizing thematic instruction would expand into a unit lasting several weeks. The unit could be taught all year, but it is best if it could coincide with Ramadan. If that is not possible, try to time the unit to "fit" with the phases of the moon as presented in "Night of the Moon."

STANDARDS

Each lesson or worksheet states its corresponding Educational Standards. Lessons also provide detailed extension lessons that would address additional standards. The following shows the interdisciplinary nature of this unit, particularly addresses:

Arizona State Science Standards

Strand 1: Inquiry Process

Concept 1: Observations, Questions, and Hypothesis

Strand 2: History and Nature of Science

Concept 1: History of Science as a Human Endeavor

PO1 Give examples of how diverse people use science in daily life

Strand 6: Earth and Space Science

- Concept 2: Objects in the sky
 - Identify objects in the sky
- Concept 3: Earth in the Solar System

National Science Education Standards- http://www.nde.state.ne.us/science/Documents/National_Science_Standardspdf.pdf

A. Science as Inquiry- Requires students to combine processes and scientific knowledge with scientific reasoning and critical thinking to develop their understanding of science.

- E.A.1 Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
 - a. Ask a question about objects, organisms, and events in the environment.
 - b. Plan and conduct a simple investigation.
 - c. Employ simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend the senses.
 - d. Use data to construct a reasonable explanation.
 - e. Communicate investigations and explanations.

D. Earth and Space Science- Earth and space science focuses on science facts, concepts, principles, theories, and models that are important for all students to know, understand, and use.

- E.D. 2 Objects in the sky
 - a. The sun, moon, stars, clouds... all have properties, locations, and movements that can be observed and described.
- E.D. 3 Changes in the sky
 - c. Objects in the sky have patterns of movement... The moon moves across the sky on a daily basis much like the sun. The observable shape of the moon changes from day to day in a cycle that lasts about a month.

U. Unifying Concepts and Processes- Identifying concepts and processes help students think about and integrate a range of basic ideas which builds an understanding of the natural world.

Social Studies

Strand 4 Geography

- Concept 3: Physical Systems
- Concept 4: Human Systems

National Council for the Social Studies

I: Culture

IX: Global Connections

Arizona State Standards

Reading

- Strand 1: Reading Process
 - Concept 4: Vocabulary
 - Acquire and use new vocabulary in relevant contexts*
 - Concept 6: Comprehension
 - Employ strategies to comprehend text.*
- Strand 2: Comprehending Literary Text
 - Concept 2: Historical and Cultural Aspects of Literature

Recognize and apply knowledge of the cultural aspects of world literature.

Language Arts

- Standard 3: Listening and Speaking
LS-R4: Listen and respond to stories, poems, and nonfiction.
LS-R5: Participate in group discussions.

Arizona State Mathematic Standards

- Strand 3: Patterns, Algebra, and Functions
Concept 1: Patterns
Strand 4: Geometry and Measurement
Concept 4: Measurement

MATERIALS

Reading/Read Aloud & Social Studies:

Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story by Hena Khan

Science:

Phases of the Moon Flip Book

LESSONS

1. “Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story” Modeling Reading Strategies in a Read Aloud

This reading, language arts, and social studies lesson provides the platform for the unit. It includes a class discussion about holidays, the read aloud, followed by revisiting the holidays in comparison to Ramadan.

This lesson could be easily changed to a lesson preparing for a reading group (third grade level) to read the book with more vocabulary support and sufficient copies of the book.

2. Exploring the Phases of the Moon in “Night of the Moon”

This science lesson easily extends from children’s natural curiosity about the changes occurring in the moon throughout the story. It provides an explanation for the changes in the moon with a global perspective.

This lesson also easily extends to exploring the reasons for seasons.

EXTENSIONS

While both lessons have detailed extensions, if the lessons are expanded into a thematic unit, it would be fun and meaningful to include class events including a star gazing night, class celebration exploring Middle Eastern foods mentioned in the book, find pen pals, the possibilities are endless!