



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## Center for Middle Eastern Studies

### Iran, Iraq: What's the Difference?

**Purpose:** Both Iran and Iraq are in the news these days, and students have trouble telling them apart. This lesson is an introduction to two very different cultures in the Middle East.

**Time needed:** One class period

**What you need for the lesson:**

Computer with Powerpoint and hookup to projection system (to show the music videos and slides)

Presentations in this lessons.

**Lesson:**

- To get students thinking about geographical, cultural, and religious differences between the countries, you will begin with some short presentations: Show the music video from country #1 (Iraq) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d29X6MGIJ78&list=PLiYAETnJf5Lf0vGjBfDJ2KeSflykQ5axS> - and then the slides from country #1. Then show the music video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6G9-bx7Kbc> - from country #2 (Iran) and then the pictures. (Do not tell the students which is which. They should try to guess.)
- Then, do the main presentation with pictures which illustrate the similarities and differences. The presentation and the notes/explanations are included in this lesson.

**Activity:** Have the students make a chart or write a paragraph comparing/contrasting Iran and Iraq.