

Handout 1 Nasreddin Hodja



Image of Hodja from Guldiz, Mehmet. (1997) *Nasreddin Hodja*. Istanbul: Revas Publishing. ISBN 975-8212-16-8.

Handout 2 Nasreddin Hodja Tales

Story 1

One day Nasreddin Hodja borrowed a cauldron from his neighbor. A few days later, when he had finished with it, he sent it back with a pot inside it. “What’s this?” asked the neighbor, pointing to the pot. “Your cauldron gave birth,” replied the Hodja. Without making any comment, the neighbor took the pot.

A few days later, Hodja needed the cauldron again and asked his neighbor to loan him his cauldron once more. The neighbor gladly gave it to Hodja.

Some time passed and the cauldron wasn’t returned. The neighbor went to Hodja and asked, “Hodja, what happened to my cauldron?” “Your cauldron died,” said the Hodja. When the neighbor protested, saying, “Sir, how can a cauldron die?” the Hodja replied, “You believed a cauldron could give birth so why don’t you believe it could die?”

Story 2

One day someone came to the Hodja’s house and asked to borrow his donkey. “The donkey’s not at home,” replied the Hodja. Just then, the donkey on the roof started braying. “Oh,” said the man, “you say that your donkey’s not at home but what is that braying then?”

“What a strange man you are!” exclaimed the Hodja. “Are you going to believe the donkey’s words or mine?”

Story 3

One of the Hodja's two sons was making a living from growing produce in his orchard, and the other was making his living from making clay jugs and pitchers. Hodja asked the first son how he was doing and the son said, "This year I planted all sorts of things. If there's enough rain, I will be fine. But if it doesn't rain, Mom will shed tears for me."

Hodja went to his other son and asked how he was doing and the second son said, "This year I mixed a lot of earth and water. If it doesn't rain, everything will be just fine. But if it rains, Mom will shed tears for me."

When the Hodja went home, his wife asked how the sons were doing and he answered, "I don't know about the boys, but whether it rains or not, you're going to shed a lot of tears."

Story 4

On a moonlit night, the Hodja saw in his backyard a white figure. Thinking it might be a burglar, he asked his wife to hand him the bow and an arrow. He took aim and let the arrow fly, right on target.

The Hodja waited until daybreak to go into his backyard. He was shocked to see that what he thought was a burglar was his own cloak that his wife washed and hung on the clothesline.

He knelt down and repeated, "Thank God! Thank God!"

His wife asked, "Why are you thanking God?" and the Hodja replied, "Sure I have to thank God. I managed to strike right in the middle of the cloak. Just imagine what would have happened if I were in it!"

Handout 3 Writing Assignment

Retelling means to tell a story in your own words.

On a separate piece of lined paper, you will write a retelling of your favorite Hodja tale. Be sure to include all of the key details.

Grading Rubric

5	4	3	2	1
I have included all of the important part of the story and many details.	I have included most of the important parts of the story and many details.	I have included some of the important parts of the story and some details.	I have included a few of the details of the story and few details.	I have not included the important parts of the story or any details.

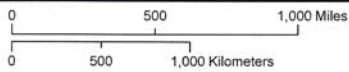
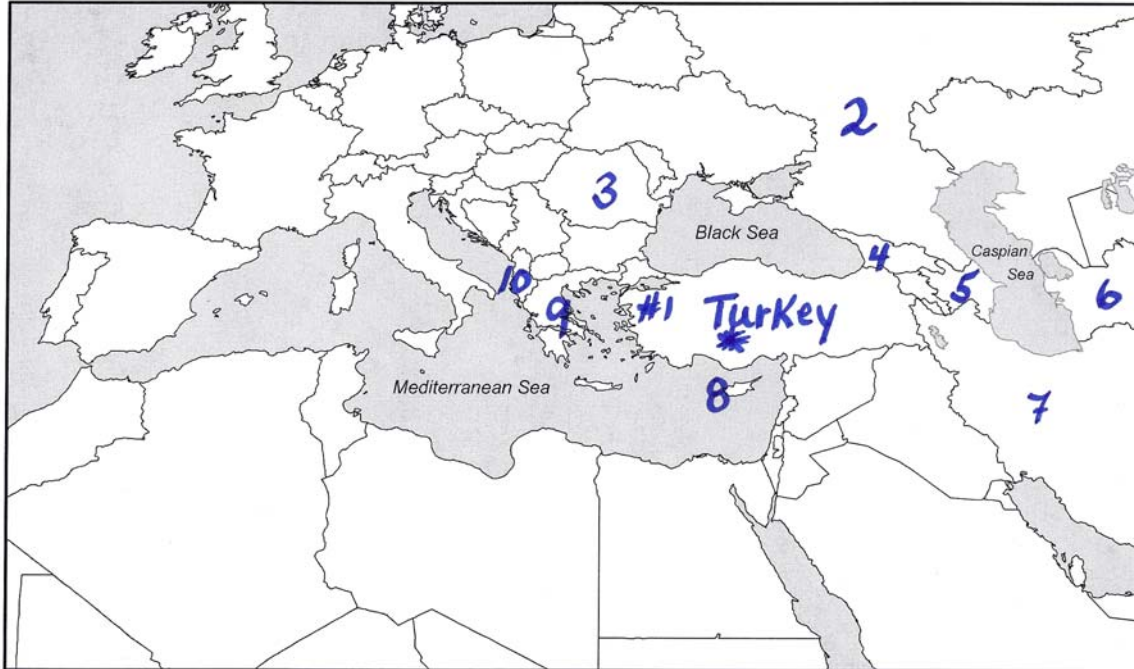


Handout 4 Locate these countries with Hodja Tales on your map.

- 1. Turkey**
- 2. Russia**
- 3. Romania**
- 4. Georgia**
- 5. Azerbaijan**
- 6. Turkmenistan**
- 7. Iran**
- 8. Cyprus**
- 9. Greece**
- 10. Albania**

Map Key

Europe and Mediterranean Regions



Courtesy: Arizona Geographic Alliance <http://geoalliance.asu.edu>
School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning
Arizona State University
Cartographer Becky Eden EuropeMedReg.pdf12