



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

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Subject Area: Geography, Current Events

Grade Level: 1-3

Lesson Title: A Day in the Life of an Iranian Child: An Iran Lesson Plan Using the Learning Center Approach

Objectives:

1. Students will compare and contrast their lives in the United States with the daily life of a young Iranian boy
2. Students will learn about aspects of Iranian culture such as dress, writing,

Time:

One to two hours

CLASS ACTIVITY:

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Script of *A Day in the Life of Ali* with power point notes
- *A Day in the Life of Ali* power point presentation

Anticipatory Set:

Discuss with your students what their typical day is like. Do they eat breakfast? What do they eat? What time do they go to school? What do they eat for lunch? Dinner? Make a list on the board of some of the things that students do throughout the day. Students will have many differing answers. Ask them why they think not everyone does the same thing? Do they think that people in other countries do things differently too?

Development:

Read aloud to the class the story *A Day in the Life of Ali*. Use the power point presentation to show the appropriate pictures that follow the story.

What do students think about Ali's day? How is it different than their own? How is it the same?

At this point, divide the class into 4 groups for learning centers. Descriptions of each Learning Center are included below. Instruct them that Ali has written more letters to the class and he needs their help! At each station, first read Ali's letter and follow his directions. At each station, students will be completing a task that involves drawing, coloring or writing on a piece of paper. Students should save their papers for use in the closing/wrap-up activity.

LEARNING CENTER 1: MAPS

Materials/Resources Needed:

- large outline map of the Middle East
- Middle East countries shapes printed on colored construction paper, labeled with country names, cut out, and laminated
- Blank sheet of paper
- Student Instructions

Objective:

At this Learning Center, students will learn about the geography of the Middle East through the completion of a puzzle.

Development:

Using the outline map of the Middle East, students will place the country puzzle pieces in the right positions on the map.

LEARNING CENTER 2: COSTUME/DRESS

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Blank sheet of paper for each student
- Coloring and drawing supplies
- LC2 Student Instructions

Objective:

At this Learning Center, students will learn about what school children wear in Iran by drawing and coloring pictures of Ali and Zahra.

Development:

Draw and color in pictures of what Ali and Zahra wear to school in Iran.

LEARNING CENTER 3: READING

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Book Mystery Bottle by Kristen Balouch (available for checkout at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies Outreach library)
- Sheet of lined paper

Objective:

Learn about cross-cultural families in the United States and Iran.

Development:

This LC requires teacher supervision and interaction. The teacher should read aloud the story to the students, making sure to show them the pictures which follow the

story. After finishing, the teacher should prompt the students to write two sentences on their sheets of paper about the story.

If time permits, discuss the students feelings about the story. Turn to the last pages of the story where the boy flies home. Ask the students to compare the picture of the boys “home” with the picture of where his grandfather Baba Bozorg lives.

LEARNING CENTER 4: LANGUAGE

Materials/Resources Needed:

- LC 4 Worksheet with instructions for each student
- Writing materials

Objective:

Students will learn how to write Ali’s name in Persian.

Development:

Draw the Persian alphabet by copying the example provided. Students may need initial help understanding that the alphabet is written from right to left instead of left to right.

CLOSURE

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Completed Learning Center worksheets
- One piece of large construction paper for each student
- Stapler or other method of keeping pages together

Objective:

From their completed worksheets, students will be creating a Persian style book to take home.

Development:

Have students gather all their papers which they have completed from the learning centers. They will now be making a book of their activities to bring home. However, they will be making a Persian book! This is different from English books because it opens from the opposite side i.e. the back cover of an English book is the front cover of a Persian book. The binding should be on the right side of the pieces of paper. Have the students take large piece of construction paper and fold it in half to make the cover. Then help them staple or bind the book on the appropriate side. Finally instruct them to write a title like “My Persian Book” and their name on the front cover of the book. They can now take this home and show their families what they have learned.