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Understanding Contemporary Islam & Muslims

Learning Targets:

- Students will identify and describe aspects of the modern Islamic faith and characteristics of Muslim peoples by evaluating several digital media resources.
- Students will develop an understanding of the complexity of the "Muslim people" by analyzing various points of view.

Use the links below to view videos of Muslim people in the United States.

Meet a Muslim (YouTube Video)
1. View the video at the following link (https://goo.gl/1kn3Qc). Describe at least two characteristics of individuals in the video that you did not previously associate with Islam.
2. What surprised you most about this video? If it's helpful, use specific answers from individuals.
Millennial Muslims on Life in America
1. View the video at the following link (https://goo.gl/5nzAla). Drawing on the voices you heard in the video, explain two concerns that these Muslim-Americans share.
2. Explain at least one perspective that was NOT shared by all five of the interviewees. Where did they differ in their point of view?

3. What surprised you most about the perspectives you heard in this video? Explain.
Hajj Stories (Bay Area)
1. View the video at the following link: (https://goo.gl/C9qpv6). As you've studied the basic tenets of Islam, you learned about the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca). Briefly describe what happens during the Hajj, according to the participants in the video.
2. Cite at least two examples from the video as you describe what makes the Hajj important and unique. Why is this event so meaningful to the people who were interviewed?
3. Make a connection to your own life. Explain an experience you had that was meaningful to you. It can be religious (but doesn't have to be). What happened and how did it make you feel?
Reflection Question: After seeing the videos of American Muslims, what are some words you would use to describe them? Pick one or two terms and explain (drawing on specifics from the videos).