



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

QFI and GEEQ Scholarship

Summer 2019

“Where in the World is Jordan?”

By Joan Boyle- La Jolla Elementary School

Jordan Project Plan and Implementation
supported by readings and videos

By Joan Boyle

Part 2:

UNIT 4 - Standard 3.2 - Religious beliefs, customs, and folklore.

a) Folklore: Jordanians are very superstitious people. They are firm believers in fate and omens. When someone is sick or injured, it is believed to be the result of *rire* (jealousy) and *hassad* (envy). "Coffee ladies" read fortunes in the dregs of a cup of coffee. To ward off the "evil eye," incense is burned, a lamb is offered to the poor, and a blue medallion is worn around the neck.

Jordanian folktales, particularly those of the Bedu (Bedouin), often feature themes of honor, generosity, and hospitality, all considered important Arab attributes. One folk story revolves around the legendary Hatim al-Ta'i, whose name means "generosity." Before Hatim's birth, when his mother was newly married, she dreamt that she was offered a choice: she could either bear ten brave sons or she could have one son, Hatim, who would possess superior generosity. She chose to have Hatim, and indeed he proved to be highly generous.

When Hatim was sent to take the family's camels to pasture, Hatim proudly returned to tell his dismayed father that he had given away every one of the camels, and this no doubt would bring fame to the family name. This story typifies the importance that Jordanians place on generosity.

Read more: <https://www.everyculture.com/wc/Japan-to-Mali/Jordanians.html#ixzz5tINv3OQ4>

Untold Bedouin Traditions

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/untold-bedouin-traditions-still-alive-wadi-rum>

What traditions do you have in your family?

CA Standard ELA CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2

Activity:

Students write their own folktale using the character trait of generosity, based on their learning about Jordan.

Students can perform a Reader's Theater in groups based on their folktales.

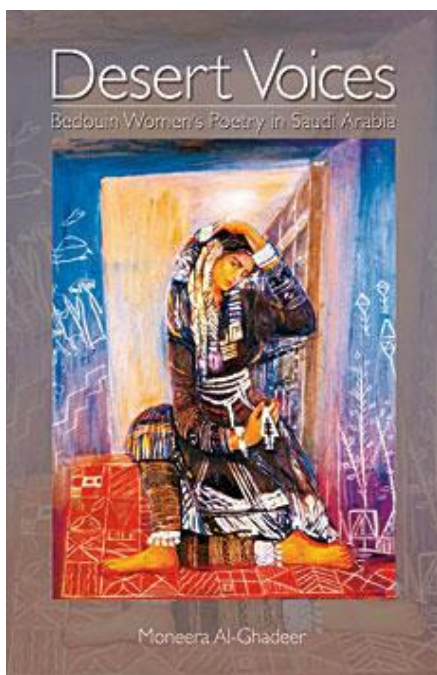
Resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=RbT8WMwXGvU>

<https://mysteryofascension.com/a-tale-of-generous-king-hatim-tai/>

Students can choose to write their own poetry based on what they have learned in this unit of study and from resources supplied.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/328763>



Activity:

Art- - Wooden mosaics – this is a typical handicraft. One type uses thick layers of factory-made veneers or olive wood. However, in the more traditional style, each piece of wood, bone, or mother-of-pearl is cut and set

by hand resulting in beautiful objects such as boxes, trays, tables, or game boards.

Activity:

1. Students will draw out the pattern they want to make first. They can view the examples seen when I visited Jordan for traditional pattern ideas.

Materials:

For students, 100 blocks can be used or 1 inch ceramic tile. The blocks can be decorated with sequins, beads, etc. or geometric patterns can be drawn on the ceramic tile using quick-dry paint pens.

*Students who need support can work and plan with a partner or in a group to make their own mosaic.

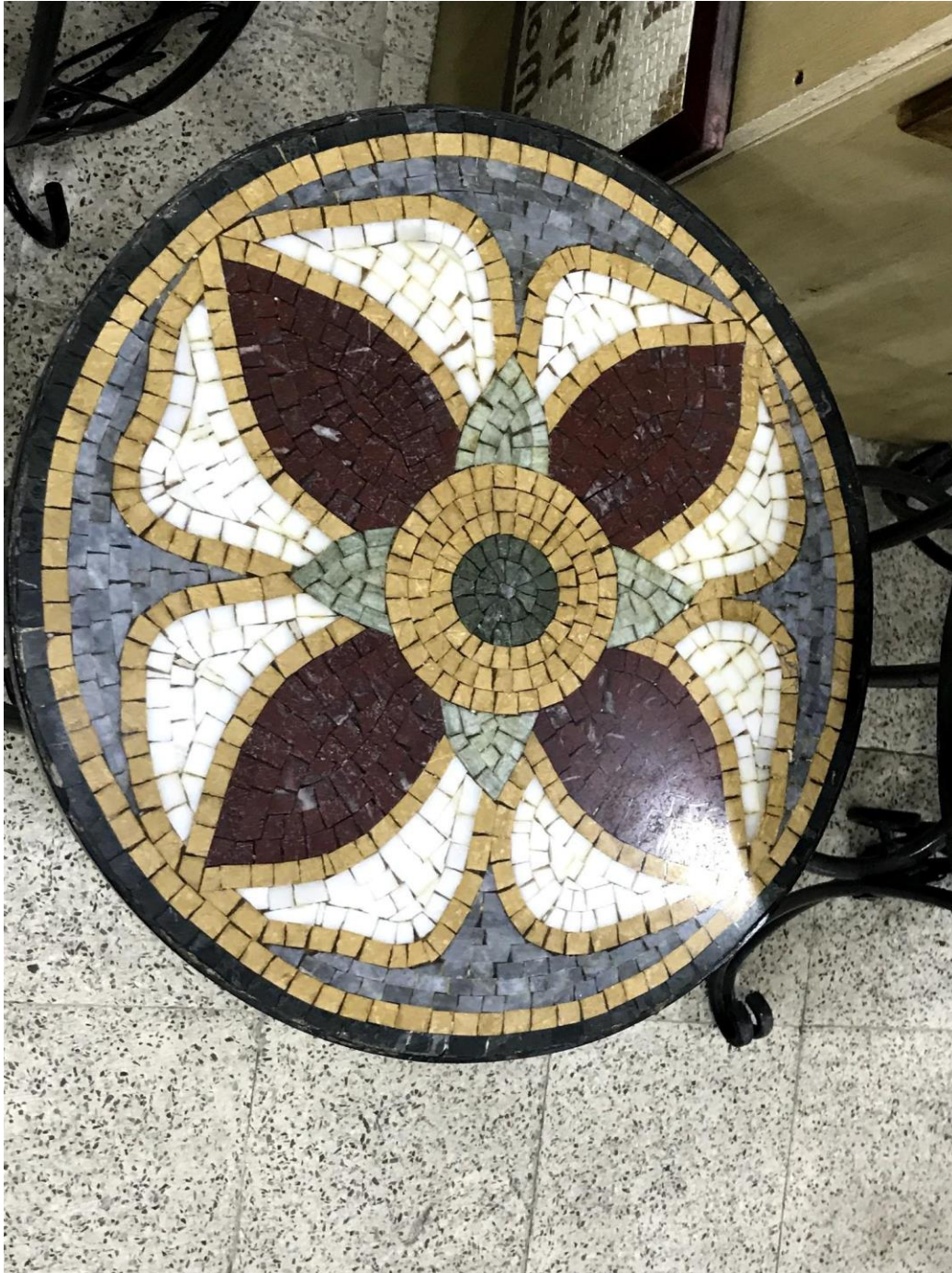
Note:

Traditional mosaics were stuck with flour and water - try it? They must be left unmoved for several days to stick properly.

Resources:

<https://www.britannica.com/art/mosaic-art>

Photos taken on location at Tree of Life - traditional method - Jordan







Fine detail is attended to when making mosaics. Photo Credit Amy Perkins



Tree of Life pattern Photo Credit Amy Perkins

Actual original mosaics below photographed at Mount Nebo Siyagha Memorial of Moses -
Christian Holy Place







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