

MIDDLE EASTERN & ARAB CULTURE



➤ Culture:

The attitudes, values, customs, and behavior patterns that characterize a social group.

➤ Ethnicity:

A person's ancestry; the way individuals identify themselves with the nation from which they or their ancestors came.

What is MIDDLE Eastern
“Culture” or “Ethnicity”?

Ethnicity

Who are Middle Eastern?

People who come from the area comprising the countries of southwest Asia and northeast Africa, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Who are Arab?

- They are descendants of Shem son of Noah
Keeping the surname is an important part of Arabic culture as some lineages can be traced far back to ancient times. Some Arabs claim they can trace their lineage directly back to Noah and Adam.
- Someone who is a resident or citizen of a country where Arabic is one of the official languages or the national language, or is a member of the Arab League or is part of the wider Arab world.

Who are Middle Eastern & Arab?

Middle East



Who are Middle Eastern & Arab?

❖ Southwest Asia

Afghanistan	Armenia	
Azerbaijan	Bahrain	
Egypt	Georgia	
Iran	Iraq	Israel
Jordan	Kuwait	Lebanon
Oman	Pakistan	Qatar
Saudi Arabia	Syria	Turkey
Turkmenistan	United Arab Emirates	Ymen



Who are Middle Eastern & Arab?

❖ **North Africa**

Algeria

Egypt

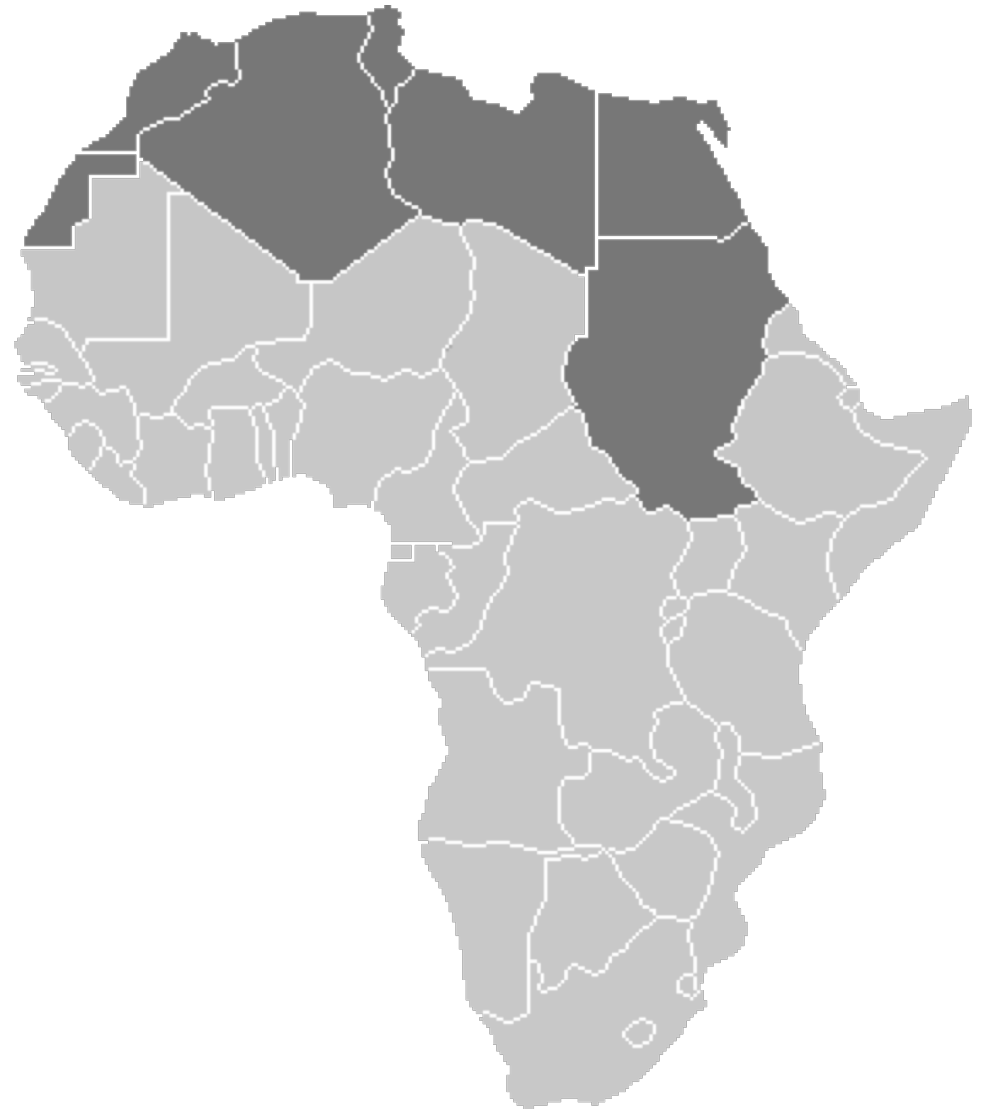
Libya

Morocco

Sudan

Tunisia

Western Sahara



History

- The Middle East was one of the first centers of agriculture, and therefore of civilization.
- It is also the birthplace and spiritual center of the Baha'i Faith, Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.
- As well as, the belief that The Garden of Eden is to be located between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, making the Middle East the cradle of civilization, as God created the first man and the first woman in the Garden of Eden.

History

- The region has experienced both periods of relative tolerance and periods of conflict and war. In the late 20th century and early 21st century, it has been at what could be considered a major center of world affairs; a strategically, economically, politically, culturally, and religiously sensitive area.
- After the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire modern Middle East was formed.
- It possesses significant stocks of crude oil.

History

- 3 Conflicts :
 - Arab-Israeli
 - Israeli-Palentinian
 - Israel-Lebanon



History

- Both Arab-Israeli and Israeli-Palentinian Conflict are based on the differences of ideology of territorial mapping and religious beliefs.
- It involves the establishment of the modern State of Israel as a Jewish nation state, as well as the relationship between the Arab nations and the state of Israel.

History

- After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire (1917), at the end of WWI, the region known as Palestine was controlled by British colonial forces. Jewish immigration increased during this period, which alarmed Arab inhabitants in the region, and Muslim religious leaders helped to cause hatred for the Jewish resident leading to periodic violence. At the end of WWII the conflict became a major international issue. Great Britain, the United Nations along with the U.S., and the USSR were determined to initiate a two-state solutions. The UN mandated partition was put into effect in 1948, but was rejected by the Arab states and was the beginning of the first major Arab-Israeli War.

History

- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
 - A series of related military clashes involving Israel, Lebanon, and various non-state militias acting from within Lebanon.
 - The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) recruited militants in Lebanon from among the families of Palestinian refugees who had left Israel in 1948.
 - By 1968, the PLO and Israel were committing cross border attacks against each other in violation of Lebanese sovereignty.

History

- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
 - After the PLO were expelled from Jordan for creating a revolt, they entered Lebanon and the cross-border violence increased.
 - Israel invade twice (1978 & 1982) Lebanon and forcibly expelled the PLO.

History

- In 1924 there were about 200,000 Arabs living in the U.S.
- The reason why many immigrated was to make more money to send back home and eventually return one day.
- The 1924 Immigration Act gave a quota on immigration from each country, except for Asian who were forbidden.
- In 1953 the Refugee Relief Act was passed
 - 2,000 Palestinian were admitted to the U.S.
- From 1965 to 1992, 400,000 Arab immigrated to the U.S.
- An estimate of Arab American living in the U.S. are about 3 million.

Cool Facts:

- Middle East is approximately the size of U.S.
- Largest population group is Arab.
- Conservative Countries:
 - Iran, Syria, Sudi Arabia
- Liberal Countries:
 - Turkey, Lebanon, Pakistan
- Approximately there are 1.2 billion Muslims (22% or the world's population), which makes Islam the 2nd largest religion after Christianity.
- Mecca is the holiest city of the Islamic faith, then Medina and finally Jerusalem in 3rd.

Cool Facts:

- A Muslim is require to pay 2.5% of a his/her annual wealth.
- Top 4 cities were Arabs live in are:
 - Los Angeles County in CA
 - Wayne and Oakland Counties in MI
 - Brooklyn in NY
 - Cook County in IL
- 60% of Arab Americans work in executive, professional, office and sales staff.

Culture

- **Language**
 - Languages spoken:
 - Arabic, Azerbaijani, Farsi, Hebrew, Kurdish, and Turkish.
 - Arabic is the world's sixth most common language
 - Arabic has many spoken dialects
 - All Muslims must use Arabic in their daily prayers.
 - “Umm” means mother.
 - “Abu” mean father.

Culture

- **Writing Style**

- The Arabic alphabet derives from the Aramaic script, to which it bears a loose resemblance like that of Greek Script.
- Arabic calligraphy has not fallen out of use as in the Western world, and is still considered by Arabs as a major art form.
- The composition is often abstract, but sometimes the writing is shaped into an actual form such as that of an animal.

Culture

- **Writing Style**

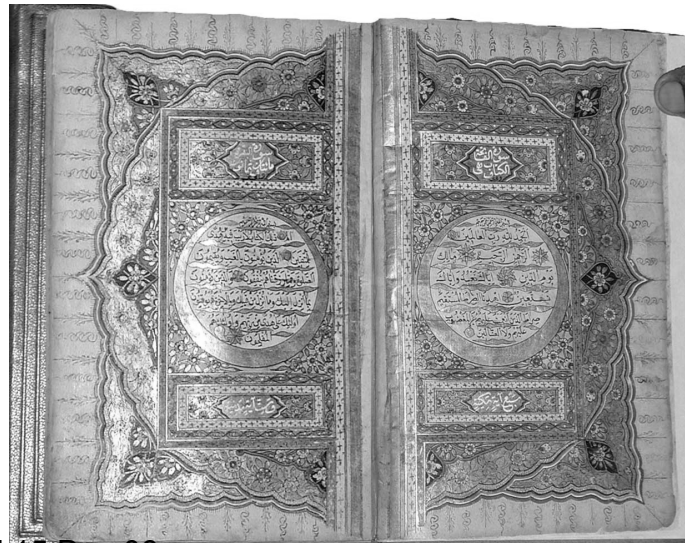
- There are a number of different standards of Arabic writing: methods of accurately and efficiently representing Arabic with the Latin alphabet. The more scientific standards allow the reader to recreate the exact word using the Arabic alphabet. However, these systems are heavily reliant on diacritical marks such as "š" for the English *sh* sound.



Culture

- **Writing Style**

- The Koran is considered the ultimate book of style and grammar for Arabs.
- There is only 29 letter in the Arabic alphabet.
- Arabic and Farsi are written from right to left.



Culture

- Writing Style**

Arabic alphabet

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE ORIENT									
ا	ب	ت	ث	ج	ح	خ			
a	b	t	<u>th</u>	j	ḥ h	<u>kh</u>			
د	ذ	ر	ز	س	ش	ص			
d	<u>dh</u>	r	z	s	<u>sh</u>	ṣ s			
ض	ط	ظ	ع	غ	ف	ق			
ḍ d	ṭ t	ẓ z	ʿ	<u>gh</u>	f	q			
ك	ل	م	ن	ه	و	ي			
k	l	m	n	h	w/ū	y/ī			
ء	ة	ـ	ـ						
No sound	Gives "a" in the end of words	a	u	i	EXPLANATION For some letters two transcriptions are given. The first is the correct one (with dots), the second (bold letter) is used in this encyclopaedia due to font limitations.				
ARABIC ALPHABET									

Culture

- Writing Style**

ج Jiim	ث Thaa	ت Taa	ب Baa	أ Alif
ر Raa	ذ Dhaal	د Daal	خ Khaa	ح Ḥaa
ض Daad	ص Saad	ش Shiin	س Siin	ز Zay
ف Faa	غ Ghayn	ع 'Aayn	ظ Dḥaa	ط Ṭaa
ن Noon	م Miim	ل Laam	ك Kaaf	ق Qaaf
		ي Yaa	و Waw	ه Haa

Culture

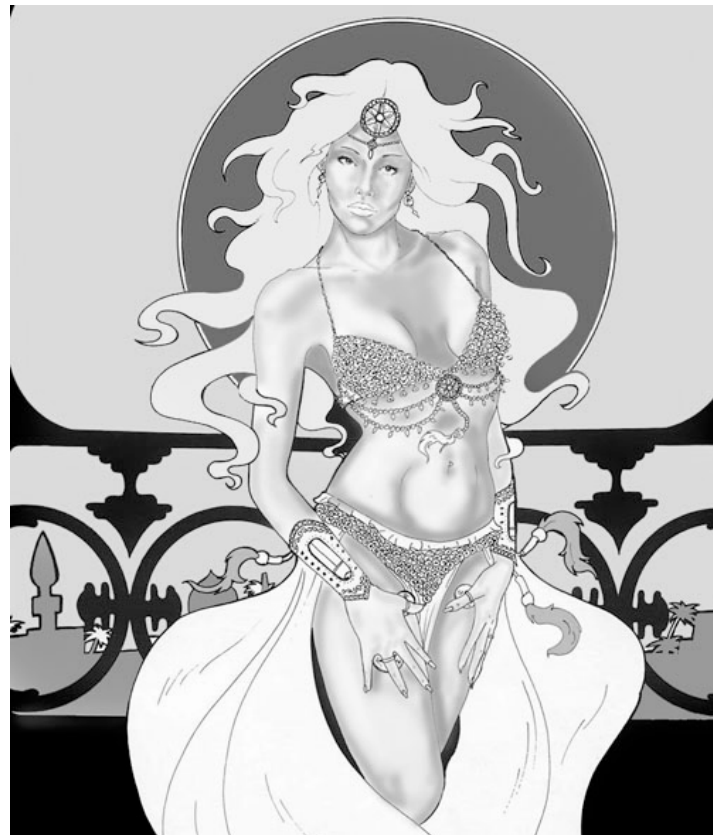


- **Music and Dance**

- Belly Dancing is a Western terminology for an Arabic dance style that developed in the Middle East.
- **aqs sharqi** يقرش صقر ("eastern dance") or sometimes **raqs baladi** يدلب صقر ("national" or "folk" dance). The term "raqs sharqi" may have originated in Egypt.
- Also the Turkish have their own style of belly dancing.

Culture

- **Music and Dance**



Culture

- Family is primary focus on loyalty.
- Arranged marriages are common.
- Polygamy is some countries life Iran.
- Patriarchal; the father is the head of the household.
- Women submit to and serve husband(s).



Culture

- Male children are preferred over female.
- Boys are encourage to think of themselves as superior to girls.
- Girls may stop education after elementary; boys are expected to excel.
- Disabled children are looked down upon. The mother feels shame and guilt. The father views as defeat, blemish on the family pride. Their reaction is typically abandonment, overprotection, denial and isolation.
- Women are not allowed to be seen by a male doctor.

Culture

- The left hand is considered unclean.
- Women must be covered from head to toe in public.
- In some areas, women cannot leave home or speak with strangers without their husband's permission.
- Men and women may not make eye contact or even socialize together in public.
- Speaking loudly is accepted.



Family Values

- Middle East Style
 - Children are brought up to live interdependently.

 - Identity by family achievement.

 - More flexible about time line for timeliness, like sleeping, eating, toilet training.
- Mainstream U.S.
 - Children are raised to be independent.

 - Identity defined by individual achievement.

 - More regulated time schedule for these things.

Family Values

- Middle East Style

- Less freedom for independent exploration.
- More respect for the old age, wisdom, spiritual maturity.



- Mainstream U.S.

- More freedom for exploration.
- Respect for youth, physical fitness, intelligence.

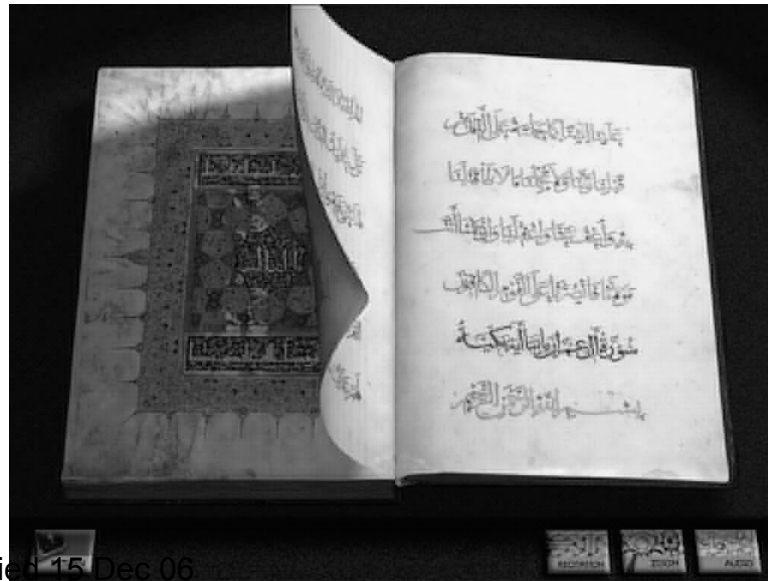


Family Values

- Religion and family are extremely important.
- Children are greatly valued.
- Respect and care for the elderly.
- An individual achievements is how the family is perceived.
- A women primary role is to care for the husband and children.
- The husband takes more of role once the boy is 5 years old.
- Boys are expected to be aggressive, whereas girls are to be passive.
- Adults do not reason with children.

Rituals and Religion

- Islam is the most common religion for the Arabic people.
- Those who endure this are called “Muslim.”
- Approximately 95% of Arabic are Muslim.
- To refer to Muslims as Mohammedism is offensive.
- Qur'an is the name of their Bible.



Rituals and Religion

- Mohammad, who as a shepherd is the prophet in the Islam religion.
- He would receive messages from God through the angel Gabriel.
- Islam was taught by Mohammad, which showed Arabs on monotheism (the belief in only one God.)
- Prior to Mohammad, the Arabs were polytheistic (believed and worshipped many god.) Yet, they believed in a supreme God called, *al-ilah* “the God.”

Rituals and Religion

- Mohammad's message:
 - That there is only one God, he is all powerful, creator of the universe, that there will be a Judgment Day and for those who carried God's command will enjoy paradise in heaven and those who do not will be condemned to hell.



There exist different versions of him.

Rituals and Religion

- There are Five (5) Pillars of Islam that are important:
 - 1. Creed (Shahada): Declaration of faith, which needs to be announced publicly once in a Muslim's life.
 - 2. Prayers (Salate): Holy day, which is Friday, when they gather past noon in a *masjid* (a Muslim place of worship.)
 - They must pray 5 times daily (at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset and nightfall.

Rituals and Religion

- Continuation:
 - 3. Purifying Tax (Zakat): All things belong to God and that wealth should be distributed throughout the community.
 - 4. Fasting (Sawm): During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast between dawn and dusk.
 - They must abstain from food, liquid and intimate contact during those hours.
 - 5. Pilgrimage (Hajj): To make one pilgrimage to Mecca in their lifetime.



Celebrations, Holidays and Traditions

- Ramadan (Fasting) - Is celebrated on the ninth (9th) month of the Islamic calendar. Also it is the fourth pillar.
- Hijj (Pilgrimage) - For every able-bodied Muslim who can afford to do so is obliged to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in his/her lifetime.
- A tradition may call for the father's name to be the middle name of sons and daughters.

Celebrations, Holidays and Traditions

- It is tradition for the men to wear a checked kafiyyeh on their heads, which shows identity and pride in one's culture.



Eating Habits

- Common foods include dates, olives, wheat, rice, legumes, and lamb.
- Bread is common with every meal.
- Yogurt and cheese.
- Pork is only eaten on Christian not Muslims or Jews.
- Fruit is eaten as a snack or as desert.
- Eggplant is the common vegetable.
- Grilling, frying ,grinding and stewed are the most used methods of cooking.

Teaching and Learning Implications

- They do not eat any form of pork or meat that was not been slaughtered without mentioning God's name.
- Muslims do not drink alcohol or any foods flavored with alcohol.
- They have a high incidence of being lactose intolerance.
- They have low blood pressure due to the high use of olives.



**THE
END !**

