
Discovering the United Arab Emirates

Lesson Plans for a Discovering Languages And Cultures course
Project created for the 2023 UAE-WACDFW Educator Study Tour





Discovering the United Arab Emirates

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Subject	Discovering Languages and Culture
Grade Level	6th - 7h grade
Objective	To introduce students to the history, geography, culture, traditions and language of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)	<p>2) The student demonstrates an understanding of cultures. Student is expected to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) identify and describe cultural practices in selected regions or countries;(B) recognize the cultural products such as art, music, food, clothing, or other culturally related examples in selected regions or countries; and(C) compare and contrast aspects of other cultures to the student's own culture. <p>(3) The student develops effective language study skills. Student is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) Engage in a variety of language learning strategies such as identifying cognates and recognizing word origins; and(B) Demonstrate an awareness of language patterns such as words/characters order grammatical structures, and symbols.



Discovering the United Arab Emirates

Essential Question	What are the key features that make the UAE a unique country?
Can Do Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can locate the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on a map and identify its neighboring countries.• I can describe the key features that make the UAE a unique country.• I can explain the historical events and cultural heritage that shape the identity of the UAE.• I can analyze the development and transformation of the UAE over time.• I can identify and compare traditional customs and values in the UAE with those of other cultures.• I can recognize and appreciate the cultural diversity present in the UAE.• I can identify the major economic sectors in the UAE and discuss their significance.• I can analyze the influence of the UAE's geography and climate on its culture and lifestyle.• I can identify and describe notable landmarks and tourist attractions in the UAE.• I can evaluate how the UAE balances its rich cultural heritage with modernization and globalization.



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1



Discovering the Rich Heritage of the United Arab Emirates



Objectives	Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-To introduce students to the history and heritage of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).-To explore significant events, cultural traditions, and contributions of the UAE.-To encourage critical thinking, research skills, and cross-cultural understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Visual aids (maps, images, and videos)- Chart paper and markers- Reference books or online resources- UAE flags or symbols for display- Handouts for activities

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Greet the students and provide an overview of the lesson objectives.
2. Ask students what they know about the UAE's history and culture. Write their responses on the chart paper.

Historical Background (15 minutes):

1. Show a map of the UAE and explain its geographical location.
2. Provide a brief introduction to the UAE's history, starting from ancient times to modern-day. Highlight significant events such as the Trucial States, the Union of the Emirates, and the UAE's formation in 1971.

Cultural Traditions and Contributions (20 minutes):

1. Discuss the cultural diversity within the UAE, emphasizing the influences of Bedouin, Arab, Persian, and other regional cultures.
2. Introduce key aspects of UAE culture, including traditional clothing, food, music, dance, and sports.
3. Highlight the UAE's contributions to art, architecture, literature, and advancements in science and technology.

Interactive Activity: Researching UAE Heritage (25 minutes):

1. Divide students into small groups and assign each group a specific topic related to UAE history or culture (e.g., bedouin, seven emirates, Sheikh Zayed, or any other relevant topic).
2. Provide resource materials (books, websites, etc.) for each group to conduct research on their assigned topic. See works cited for more information.
3. Instruct students to create a short presentation or poster summarizing their findings.
4. Allow time for each group to present their research to the class.

Discussion: UAE's Growth and Development (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion on the rapid growth and development of the UAE, especially in terms of infrastructure, economy, and global influence.
2. Encourage students to reflect on the factors that contributed to the UAE's progress, such as oil discovery, leadership, and vision.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one new thing they found interesting or surprising about the UAE's history.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections with the class.
3. Summarize the key points covered in the lesson and emphasize the importance of understanding and appreciating different cultures.
4. Display UAE flags or symbols as a visual reminder of the lesson.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign a creative writing task where students imagine themselves as residents of the UAE during a historical event and write a journal entry about their experience.
2. Organize a cultural fair where students can present their research findings, showcase traditional UAE artifacts, and demonstrate cultural activities.
3. Invite a guest speaker, such as a UAE resident or expert, to share personal experiences and insights into the UAE's history and culture.



2 ✨ Unveiling the Geographical Wonders of the United Arab Emirates ✨



Objectives	Materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To introduce middle school students to the geography of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).- To explore the diverse landscapes, natural features, and environmental challenges in the UAE.- To develop map-reading skills and critical thinking about the impact of geography on human activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Visual aids (maps, images, and videos)- Chart paper and markers- Reference books or online resources- UAE flags or symbols for display- Handouts for activities

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Greet the students and provide an overview of the lesson objectives.
2. Ask students to identify and share what they already know about the geography of the UAE.
3. Write their responses on the chart paper to refer back to later

Geographical Feature of the UAE (15 minutes):

1. Show a map of the UAE and highlight the key geographical features, such as the Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Hajar Mountains, and the Rub' al Khali desert (Empty Quarter).
2. Discuss each feature, emphasizing its significance and impact on the climate, natural resources, and human settlement patterns in the UAE.

Climate and Natural Resources (20 minutes):

1. Explore the climate of the UAE, including its hot desert climate, limited rainfall, and extreme temperatures.
2. Discuss the UAE's natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, fish, and minerals, and their impact on the country's economy and development.
3. Highlight the challenges of water scarcity and the UAE's innovative solutions, such as desalination and water conservation techniques.

Environmental Challenge (15 minutes):

1. Discuss the environmental challenges faced by the UAE, such as desertification, habitat loss, and the impact of climate change.
2. Explore the UAE's initiatives for environmental sustainability, including the conservation of marine life, protected areas, and renewable energy projects.

Interactive Activity: Mapping the UAE (25 minutes):

1. Provide students with a blank map of the UAE or distribute individual worksheets.
2. Instruct students to label and color-code the geographical features discussed earlier (e.g., mountains, desert, coastline).
3. Encourage students to add additional details like cities, major highways, or important landmarks.
4. Allow time for students to share and discuss their maps with a partner or in small groups.

Discussion: Impact of Geography on Human Activities (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion on how the geographical features and climate of the UAE influence human activities and lifestyles.
2. Explore topics such as fishing and pearl diving in the coastal areas, agriculture in oases and wadis, and urban development in relation to natural resources.
3. Encourage students to think critically about the advantages and challenges presented by the UAE's geography

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one new thing they found interesting or surprising about the geography of the UAE.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections with the class.
3. Summarize the key points covered in the lesson and emphasize the importance of understanding the geographic context of a region.
4. Display UAE flags or symbols as a visual reminder of the lesson.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and present on a specific geographical feature or environmental challenge in the UAE, focusing on its impact and possible solutions.
2. Organize a field trip or virtual tour to a local geography-related site, such as a coastal area, desert conservation area, or renewable energy facility.
3. Engage students in a debate or project-based activity where they propose sustainable strategies for managing the UAE's natural resources and addressing.

3 ✨ Unveiling the Climate of the United Arab Emirates ✨



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to the climate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- To explore the characteristics, challenges, and adaptations related to the UAE's climate.
- To develop an understanding of the impact of climate on the environment and human activities.

Materials

- Visual aids (maps, images, and videos)
- Chart paper and markers
- Reference books or online resources
- UAE flags or symbols for display
- Handouts for activities

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by engaging the students in a brief discussion about different types of weather and climates they have experienced.
2. Show the students a map and point out the location of the UAE.
3. Explain that today's lesson will focus on exploring the climate of the UAE.

Climate Zone and Seasons (15 minutes):

1. Introduce the concept of climate zones and explain that the UAE falls within the desert climate zone.
2. Discuss the characteristics of a desert climate, such as hot and arid conditions, limited rainfall, and extreme temperatures.
3. Highlight the importance of seasons in the UAE and briefly describe the variations in temperature and weather patterns.

Interactive Activity: Climate Data Analysis (25 minutes):

1. Divide students into small groups and provide each group with climate data for different cities in the UAE, including average temperature, rainfall, and humidity.
2. Instruct students to analyze the data and identify patterns and differences among the cities.
3. Guide the students to discuss and compare the climate characteristics of different regions within the UAE.
4. Ask each group to present their findings to the class.

Climate Adaptations in Flora and Fauna (15 minutes):

1. Discuss the adaptations of plants and animals in the UAE to survive in the desert climate.
2. Show images or videos of various desert plants and animals, such as date palms, camels, and desert foxes.
3. Explain how these organisms have adapted to conserve water, tolerate high temperatures, and thrive in the arid environment.

Discussion: Impact of Geography on Human Activities (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion on how the geographical features and climate of the UAE influence human activities and lifestyles.
2. Explore topics such as fishing and pearl diving in the coastal areas, agriculture in oases and wadis, and urban development in relation to natural resources.
3. Encourage students to think critically about the advantages and challenges presented by the UAE's geography

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one new thing they found interesting or surprising about the geography of the UAE.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections with the class.
3. Summarize the key points covered in the lesson and emphasize the importance of understanding the geographic context of a region.
4. Display UAE flags or symbols as a visual reminder of the lesson.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and create a presentation or infographic on climate-related challenges and initiatives in the UAE, such as water conservation or renewable energy projects.
2. Organize a weather monitoring project where students track and record daily weather data for a week or month, comparing it to historical averages.
3. Invite a meteorologist or climate scientist to speak to the class about the factors that influence the UAE's climate and the impact of climate change.



4 ✨

UAE Customs and Traditions: Embracing Cultural Heritage



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to the customs and traditions of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- To foster an appreciation for the cultural diversity and heritage of the UAE.
- To develop cross-cultural understanding and respect for different customs and traditions.

Materials

- Visual aids (images, videos, and artifacts representing UAE customs and traditions)
- Chart paper and markers
- Reference books or online resources
- UAE flags or symbols for display
- Handouts for activities

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by engaging the students in a brief discussion about the importance of customs and traditions in different cultures.
2. Show the students images of UAE cultural symbols or artifacts and ask them to share any prior knowledge or experiences related to the UAE's customs and traditions.
3. Explain that today's lesson will focus on exploring the customs and traditions of the UAE.

The Importance of Hospitality (15 minutes):

1. Discuss the concept of hospitality and its significance in emirati culture.
2. Explain the importance of welcoming guests and treating them with generosity and respect.
3. Share stories or examples that demonstrate the value placed on hospitality in the UAE.

Interactive Activity: Cultural Symbols and Artifacts (25 minutes):

1. Display various cultural symbols and artifacts from the UAE, such as traditional clothing, jewelry, or handicrafts.
2. Divide students into small groups and assign each group a specific symbol or artifact to explore.
3. Instruct the groups to research and present information about the cultural significance and historical background of their assigned symbol or artifact.
4. Encourage students to share their findings with the class and engage in a discussion about the diversity and richness of UAE culture.

Traditional Festivals and Celebrations (15 minutes):

1. Introduce students to some of the major traditional festivals and celebrations in the UAE, such as Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and National Day.
2. Show images or videos of these celebrations and explain their significance and customs.
3. Discuss the importance of these celebrations in promoting unity, community bonding, and preserving cultural heritage.

Interactive Activity: Traditional Dance and Music (25 minutes):

1. Show videos or play audio recordings of traditional Emirati dances and music, such as the Al Ayala dance or traditional music played with instruments like the oud or the tabla.
2. Explain the cultural significance of these art forms and how they are used to celebrate and express Emirati identity.
3. Teach students some basic steps and movements of an Emirati dance and encourage them to participate in a group activity.

Discussion: Cultural Exchange and Respect (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion about the importance of cultural exchange, understanding, and respect.
2. Encourage students to share their own cultural customs and traditions, emphasizing the value of embracing and learning from different cultures.
3. Discuss the role of customs and traditions in promoting unity, respect, and social cohesion within a community.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one new thing they found interesting or valuable about UAE customs and traditions.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections with the class.
3. Summarize the key points covered in the lesson and emphasize the importance of appreciating and respecting cultural diversity.
4. Display UAE flags or symbols as a visual reminder of the lesson.

Extension Activities:

1. Encourage students to research and create a presentation or poster about a specific emirati custom or tradition, its history, and its importance.
2. Organize a cultural fair where students showcase customs and traditions from different cultures, including UAE customs and traditions.
3. Invite a guest speaker, such as a UAE cultural expert or someone from the UAE community, to share their experiences and insights about emirati customs and traditions.

5 ✨

Sports of the United Arab Emirates: Embracing Athletic Traditions



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to the diverse sports and athletic traditions of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- To explore the cultural significance of sports in UAE society.
- To encourage physical activity, teamwork, and an appreciation for different sports.

Materials

- Visual aids (images, videos, and equipment related to UAE sports)
- Chart paper and markers
- Reference books or online resources
- UAE flags or symbols for display
- Sports equipment (optional, depending on the chosen activities)

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by engaging the students in a discussion about sports and their importance in promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and community spirit.
2. Show images of popular sports from around the world and ask students to share their favorite sports and any sports they associate with the UAE.
3. Explain that today's lesson will focus on exploring the diverse sports and athletic traditions of the UAE.

Overview of the UAE sports (15 minutes):

1. Show images or videos of various sports and traditional games played in the UAE, such as falconry, camel racing, football (soccer), and traditional boat racing.

Overview of the UAE sports (15 minutes) Cont.:

2. Discuss the cultural significance of each sport and how it reflects UAE traditions, values, and heritage.
3. Highlight the importance of Emirati athletes' achievements in national and international sporting events.

Introduction Activity: Traditional Games (25 minutes):

1. Introduce students to traditional Emirati games, such as Al-Saktouna (a form of tag), Al-Madfaa (tug-of-war), or Al-Razfa (a rhythmic clapping game).
2. Divide students into small groups and assign each group a traditional game to learn and play.
3. Provide instructions and any necessary equipment for the games, allowing students to practice and play the games within their groups.
4. Encourage students to reflect on the experience and discuss the skills, strategies, and teamwork required for each game.

Discussion: Sports and Cultural Identity (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion about the connection between sports and cultural identity.
2. Discuss how sports can reflect Emirati traditions, values, and social cohesion.
3. Ask students to share examples of sports or athletic activities that they believe represent their own cultural or regional identities.

Exploring Modern Sports (15 minutes):

1. Show videos or play audio recordings of traditional Emirati dances and music, such as the Al Ayala dance or traditional music played with instruments like the oud or the tabla.
2. Explain the cultural significance of these art forms and how they are used to celebrate and express Emirati identity.
3. Discuss the growing popularity of these sports in the UAE and their impact on promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one new sport or activity they found interesting or inspiring from the UAE.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections and ideas with the class.
3. Summarize the key points covered in the lesson and emphasize the importance of physical activity, sportsmanship, and cultural appreciation through sports.
4. Display UAE flags or symbols as a visual reminder of the lesson.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and create a presentation or poster about a specific Emirati sport or athlete, highlighting their achievements and cultural significance.
2. Organize a sports day or mini Olympics event where students can participate in traditional Emirati games and modern sports.
3. Invite a guest speaker, such as a local athlete or coach, to share their experiences and insights about Emirati sports and physical fitness.

6 ✨

Journey into the Future: Exploring the Museum of the Future in Dubai



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to the concept and vision of the Museum of the Future in Dubai.
- To explore innovative technologies and ideas shaping the future.
- To inspire creativity, critical thinking, and engagement with future possibilities.

Materials

- Visual aids (images, videos, and virtual tours of the Museum of the Future)
- Chart paper and markers
- Reference books or online resources
- Notebooks or writing materials

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by engaging the students in a discussion about the future and the role of technology in shaping it.
2. Ask students if they have heard about the Museum of the Future in Dubai, and gather their initial thoughts and expectations.
3. Explain that today's lesson will focus on exploring the Museum of the Future and the ideas it represents.

Overview of the Museum of the Future (15 minutes):

1. Show images or videos of the Museum of the Future, highlighting its unique architecture and design.
2. Provide an overview of the museum's purpose and mission, emphasizing its focus on cutting-edge technologies, innovation, and sustainable solutions.
3. Discuss the significance of the museum in promoting dialogue and envisioning future possibilities.

Virtual Tour or Video Presentation (25 minutes):

1. Conduct a virtual tour of the Museum of the Future using available online resources or show a pre-recorded video presentation.
2. Guide students through different sections of the museum, highlighting key exhibits, interactive displays, and immersive experiences.
3. Encourage students to observe and take notes on innovative technologies, ideas, and concepts they find intriguing or inspiring.

Discussion: Future Technologies and Their Impact (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion about the innovative technologies and concepts showcased in the Museum of the Future.
2. Encourage students to share their observations, questions, and ideas related to the exhibited technologies.
3. Discuss the potential impact of these technologies on various aspects of society, such as healthcare, transportation, and education.

Brainstorming Future Solutions (20 minutes):

1. Divide students into small groups and provide each group with chart paper and markers.
2. Instruct the groups to brainstorm and discuss potential challenges or problems that may arise in the future.
3. Encourage students to think creatively and propose innovative solutions to these challenges, drawing inspiration from the technologies and ideas presented in the museum.
4. Ask each group to present their problem and solution to the class, fostering discussion and feedback.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on their experience exploring the Museum of the Future and write down one idea or concept that stood out to them.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections and ideas with the class.
3. Summarize the key takeaways from the lesson, emphasizing the importance of curiosity, innovation, and critical thinking in shaping the future.
4. Encourage students to continue exploring and engaging with emerging technologies and ideas.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and create a presentation or project about a specific future technology or concept that interests them.
2. Organize a classroom debate on the ethical implications and challenges associated with future technologies.
3. Invite a guest speaker, such as a technology expert or futurist, to share their insights and experiences related to future trends and innovations.



7 ✨

Reaching New Heights: Exploring the Burj Khalifa



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to the Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.
- To explore the architectural marvel, engineering feats, and cultural significance of the Burj Khalifa.
- To foster appreciation for human achievements and inspire curiosity about architecture and urban development.

Materials

- Visual aids (images, videos, and virtual tours of the Burj Khalifa)
- Chart paper and markers
- Reference books or online resources
- Notebooks or writing materials

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by engaging the students in a discussion about skyscrapers and their impact on cities and society.
2. Show images of iconic skyscrapers from around the world and ask students to share their observations and thoughts.
3. Introduce the Burj Khalifa as the tallest building in the world and the focus of today's lesson.

Overview of the Burj Khalifa (15 minutes):

1. Show images or videos of the Burj Khalifa, highlighting its distinctive design and impressive height.
2. Provide an overview of the building's construction, architectural features, and its location in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
3. Discuss the cultural significance of the Burj Khalifa as a symbol of modernity, progress, and innovation.

Virtual Tour or Video Presentation (25 minutes):

1. Conduct a virtual tour of the Burj Khalifa using available online resources or show a pre-recorded video presentation.
2. Guide students through different sections of the building, showcasing its interior, observation decks, and unique features.
3. Encourage students to take notes and observe architectural elements and design aspects that capture their attention.

Discussion: Architecture and Engineering Marvels (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion about the architectural and engineering aspects of the Burj Khalifa.
2. Ask students to share their observations and thoughts on the challenges faced during its construction, such as structural stability and materials used.
3. Discuss the importance of teamwork, creativity, and advanced engineering techniques in creating such a towering structure.

Design a Skyscraper Activity (20 minutes):

1. Divide students into small groups and provide each group with chart paper and markers.
2. Instruct the groups to design their own skyscrapers, taking inspiration from the Burj Khalifa and other architectural marvels.
3. Encourage students to think creatively and consider factors such as aesthetics, functionality, and sustainability in their designs.
4. Ask each group to present their designs to the class, explaining their architectural choices and unique features.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on their experience learning about the Burj Khalifa and write down one aspect that fascinated them the most.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections and ideas with the class.
3. Summarize the key takeaways from the lesson, emphasizing the significance of human achievements in architecture and urban development.
4. Encourage students to continue exploring and appreciating architectural wonders in their own cities and beyond.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and create a presentation or project about another famous skyscraper from around the world.
2. Organize a class field trip or virtual visit to a local skyscraper or architectural landmark to further explore architectural concepts and design.
3. Invite a guest speaker, such as an architect or urban planner, to share their experiences and insights related to skyscrapers and city planning.

8 Discovering Art and Culture: Exploring the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, its significance, and its collection of art and cultural artifacts.
- To explore the diverse art styles and cultural influences represented in the museum's exhibits.
- To foster an appreciation for art, history, and cultural heritage.

Materials

- Visual aids (images, videos, and virtual tours of the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi)
- Chart paper and markers
- Reference books or online resources
- Notebooks or writing materials

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by engaging the students in a discussion about museums and their role in preserving and showcasing art and culture.
2. Show images of famous museums from around the world and ask students to share their observations and thoughts.
3. Explain that today's lesson will focus on exploring the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, a unique museum that blends art from different cultures.

Overview of the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi (15 minutes):

1. Show images or videos of the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi, highlighting its architectural design and location.
2. Provide an overview of the museum's history, purpose, and the significance of its establishment in the United Arab Emirates.
3. Discuss how the Louvre Abu Dhabi promotes cultural exchange, understanding, and appreciation for art and heritage.

Virtual Tour or Video Presentation (25 minutes):

1. Conduct a virtual tour of the Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi using available online resources or show a pre-recorded video presentation.
2. Guide students through different galleries and exhibits, showcasing the diverse art collections and cultural artifacts on display.
3. Encourage students to take notes and observe the different art styles, historical periods, and cultural influences represented in the museum.

Discussion: Art Styles and Cultural Influences (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion about the various art styles and cultural influences observed in the museum's exhibits.
2. Discuss the significance of artworks from different regions and time periods, highlighting their historical, social, and cultural contexts.
3. Encourage students to share their thoughts and opinions on the importance of preserving and appreciating cultural heritage through art.

Artwork Analysis Activity (20 minutes):

1. Divide students into small groups and provide each group with an image or description of a specific artwork from the Louvre Abu Dhabi collection.
2. Instruct the groups to analyze the artwork, considering elements such as subject matter, style, composition, and cultural symbolism.
3. Encourage students to discuss their interpretations, ask questions, and share their observations with the class.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one artwork or cultural artifact from the Louvre Abu Dhabi that stood out to them.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections and ideas with the class.
3. Summarize the key takeaways from the lesson, emphasizing the importance of art and cultural preservation in promoting understanding and respect.
4. Encourage students to explore local museums and cultural centers to further enhance their appreciation for art and heritage.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and create a presentation or project about a specific artist or cultural artifact from the Louvre Abu Dhabi collection.
2. Organize a class visit to a local museum or art gallery, encouraging students to observe, analyze, and appreciate artworks in person.
3. Invite a local artist or art historian to share their experiences and insights related to art, culture, and heritage.

9

The Palm in Dubai: An Engineering Marvel and Environmental Impact



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to The Palm, a man-made island in Dubai, and its significance as an engineering marvel and tourist attraction.
- To explore the environmental impact of large-scale land reclamation projects.
- To foster an understanding of the balance between economic development and environmental sustainability.

Materials

- Visual aids (images, videos, and maps of The Palm in Dubai)
- Chart paper and markers
- Reference books or online resources
- Notebooks or writing materials

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin by engaging the students in a discussion about unique architectural and engineering projects around the world.
2. Show images of impressive man-made structures and ask students to share their observations and thoughts.
3. Explain that today's lesson will focus on exploring The Palm in Dubai, a remarkable man-made island.

Overview of The Palm (15 minutes):

1. Show images or videos of The Palm, highlighting its distinctive palm tree shape and its location in Dubai.
2. Provide an overview of the history, development, and purpose of The Palm, emphasizing its role in expanding Dubai's tourism industry.
3. Discuss how The Palm was constructed and the engineering challenges involved in its creation.

Interactive Activity: Design Your Own Palm Island (25 minutes):

1. Divide the class into small groups and provide each group with chart paper and markers.
2. Instruct the groups to design their own version of a palm-shaped island, considering factors such as environmental impact, sustainable features, and tourism attractions.
3. Encourage students to think creatively and consider the balance between economic development and environmental conservation.
4. Ask each group to present their designs to the class, explaining their choices and the sustainability measures incorporated.

Discussion: Environmental Impact (15 minutes):

1. Facilitate a class discussion about the environmental impact of large-scale land reclamation projects like The Palm.
2. Discuss the potential effects on marine ecosystems, coastal erosion, and the loss of natural habitats.
3. Encourage students to consider both the positive and negative aspects of such projects in terms of economic benefits and environmental concerns.

Environmental Stewardship (15 minutes):

1. Explain the concept of environmental stewardship and its importance in preserving natural resources and protecting ecosystems.
2. Discuss the measures taken to mitigate the environmental impact of The Palm, such as artificial coral reefs and sustainable construction practices.

Environmental Stewardship (15 minutes) Cont.:

3. Encourage students to brainstorm and share their ideas on how individuals and communities can contribute to environmental stewardship in their own lives.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one aspect of The Palm project that fascinated them the most.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections and ideas with the class.
3. Summarize the key takeaways from the lesson, emphasizing the importance of considering the environmental impact of large-scale development projects.
4. Encourage students to continue exploring and learning about sustainable practices and environmental conservation efforts.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and create a presentation or project about another land reclamation project around the world, highlighting its environmental impact and sustainability measures.
2. Organize a field trip or virtual tour to a local coastal area or wetland, encouraging students to observe and analyze the natural ecosystems and their significance.
3. Invite an environmental scientist or expert to discuss the environmental impact of land reclamation projects and sustainable development practices.



10



Let's Learn Some Arabic!



Objectives

- To introduce middle school students to basic Arabic greetings, introductions, and cultural customs.
- To familiarize students with common Arabic phrases and vocabulary related to greetings and personal information.
- To encourage students to practice basic Arabic conversation skills.

Materials

- Visual aids (charts, flashcards, or slides with Arabic phrases and vocabulary)
- Reference books or online resources
- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Notebooks or writing materials

Introduction (10 minutes):

1. Begin the lesson by engaging the students in a discussion about the importance of greetings in different cultures and languages.
2. Show images or videos representing Arab culture and traditions.
3. Ask students if they have any prior knowledge or experience with Arabic language or culture.

Greeting in Arabic (15 minutes):

1. Display visual aids or slides with common Arabic greetings, such as "Marhaba" (Hello), "Sabah Al-Khair" (Good morning), "Masaa Al-Khair" (Good evening), and "Ahlan wa sahlam" (Welcome).
2. Teach students the proper pronunciation of these greetings and encourage them to practice saying them aloud.
3. Discuss the importance of greetings in Arab culture and how they are used in various social settings.

Introductions (20 minutes):

1. Introduce students to basic Arabic phrases for self-introductions, such as "Ana ismi..." (My name is...), "Min ayna anta/anti?" (Where are you from?), and "Kaifa haluka/ haluki?" (How are you?).
2. Display visual aids or slides with these phrases and their English translations.
3. Model and practice the pronunciation of these phrases as a class.
4. Encourage students to pair up and practice introducing themselves using the provided phrases.

Cultural Customs (15 minutes):

1. Discuss cultural customs and norms related to greetings and introductions in Arab culture, such as the importance of handshakes, maintaining eye contact, and using appropriate titles.
2. Emphasize the significance of showing respect and politeness in Emirati culture.
3. Encourage students to ask questions and share their observations or experiences related to cultural customs.

Interactive Activity: Role-Play (25 minutes):

1. Divide the class into pairs or small groups.
2. Assign each group a scenario where they will engage in a conversation using Arabic greetings and introductions.
3. Provide scenarios such as meeting a new classmate, greeting a teacher, or introducing themselves to a guest.
4. Encourage students to use the Arabic phrases and vocabulary they have learned to create realistic dialogues.
5. Have groups perform their role-plays in front of the class.

Reflection and Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually reflect on what they learned during the lesson and write down one new Arabic phrase or vocabulary word they found interesting.
2. Invite a few students to share their reflections and ideas with the class.
3. Summarize the key takeaways from the lesson, emphasizing the importance of greetings, introductions, and cultural awareness when learning a new language.
4. Encourage students to continue practicing basic Arabic phrases and explore more about Arabic culture and language if they find it intriguing.

Extension Activities:

1. Assign students to research and create a presentation or project about a specific emirate from the UAE, its people, and cultural traditions.
2. Organize a cultural event where students can showcase their knowledge of Arabic language and culture through displays, presentations, or performances.
3. Invite a native Arabic speaker or Arabic language student to the class to share their experiences, language skills, and cultural insights with the students.

Resources





Resources

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Washington, D.C. <https://www.uae-embassy.org/>

Louvre Museum in Abu Dhabi. <https://www.louvreabudhabi.ae/>

The Abrahamic Family House. <https://www.abrahamicfamilyhouse.ae/>

Burj Khalifa. <https://www.burjkhalifa.ae/en/>

Museum of the Future. <https://museumofthefuture.ae/en>

The Palm. <https://www.visitdubai.com/en/places-to-visit/palm-jumeirah-2>

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre. <https://www.szgmc.gov.ae/en/>

The United Arab Emirates' Government Portal. <https://u.ae/en#/>

Falconry in the UAE. <https://abudhabiculture.ae/en/discover/traditions/falconry>

UAE Ministry of Sports and Recreation. <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/culture/sports-and-recreation>

UAE Heritage site. <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/culture/arab-and-islamic-heritage>

UAE Food and culinary arts. <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/culture/food>

UAE Energy and Environment. <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/environment-and-energy>



Resources

Transportation in the UAE. <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/transportation>

Emirates Airlines. <https://www.emirates.com/mx/english/>

Music of UAE. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/paid-content-soundtrack-of-abu-dhabi>

UAE music and dance. <https://gulfnews.com/uae/music-and-dance-feature-in-heritage-1.592716>

Nature and Landscape of the UAE.

<https://gulfnews.com/going-out/uae-nature-50-best-mountains-deserts-and-beaches-to-explore-1.1607933684738>

The Culture of the UAE.

<https://theculturetrip.com/middle-east/united-arab-emirates/articles/11-traditional-emirati-customs-all-visitors-should-know-about/>

Digital Transformation in the UAE.

<https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/digital-uae/digital-transformation/cooperation-and-collaboration/the-uae-s-regional-and-international-cooperation-in-digital-transformation>

Expo 2020 UAE- Dubai. <https://www.expo2020dubai.com/>

Masdar City - The City of the Future. <https://masdarcity.ae/>



Resources

Duolingo- Learn Arabic. <https://www.duolingo.com/course/ar/en/Learn-Arabic>

Learning Arabic- Aljazeera Media Institute. <https://learning.aljazeera.net/en>

Youtube Kids- Learn Arabic. <https://www.youtubekids.com/watch?v=ityVW2gR0Rs>

UAE Aerial 360 virtual tour. <https://www.youtubekids.com/watch?v=b7BUpveunKo>

NYU Abu Dhabi. <https://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/>

Al Fahidi Historical Neighborhood.

<https://dubaiculture.gov.ae/en/attractions/heritage-sites/al-fahidi-historical-neighbourhood>

Qasar Al Hosn Fort. <https://qasralhosn.ae/>

UAE Heritage Village.

<https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/what-to-see/historical-and-cultural-attractions/heritage-village>

UAE Culture and Traditions. <https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/plan-your-trip/culture-and-traditions>

Qasr Al Muwajji Palace. <https://visitabudhabi.ae/en/what-to-see/iconic-landmarks/qasr-al-muwajji>

Emirati Clothing. <https://emiratitimes.com/emirati-clothing-a-point-of-national-pride/>



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<https://creazilla.com/nodes/36518-emblem-of-the-united-arab-emirates-clipart>

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<https://pixabay.com/vectors/united-arab-emirates-uae-flag-26815/>

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