

Teacher's Guide for FACES: *Islam in Africa*

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What is Islam?

Pages 10-11

Read the passage and put the following events in chronological order.

- a. Mohammed told his wife he heard the angel Gabriel in a cave.
- b. Mohammed's parents died.
- c. Mohammed and his followers escaped to Medina, i.e. the Hijrah.
- d. The year 570.
- e. Mohammed took all the statues of other gods out of the Ka'bah.

Islam in Africa

Pages 8-12

Comprehension Questions

1. Who were the "People of the Boat" and why were they known by that name?
2. Which pillar of Islam might vary in its practice from country to country?
3. As a traditional Muslim, what was a concern of Abu al-Bakri regarding the society of the then West African Kingdom of Ghana?

The Five Pillars of Islam

Pages 12-13

Match the Arabic word/phrase with the English translation or definition.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • <i>Qur'an</i> | • Holy Site in Mecca |
| • <i>Shahadah</i> | • Fasting |
| • <i>La ilaha illallah, Mohammed</i> | • Testimony of faith |
| • <i>Rasulullah</i> | • Holy book of Islam |
| • <i>Salat</i> | • Charity |
| • <i>Ka'bah</i> | • Prayer |
| • <i>Mecca (Makkah)</i> | • Pilgrimage |
| • <i>Zakat</i> | • Holiest city in Islam |
| • <i>Sawm</i> | • There is no god but God, and Mohammed is a messenger of God. |
| • <i>Ramadan</i> | • Month of fasting, 9 th month in the Islamic calendar |
| • <i>Hajj</i> | |

Across the Rainbow

Pages 14-17

Growing Up in Islamic Africa: Life in Tunisia, Life in Egypt

Pages 30-33

Discussion. Compare and contrast some of the customs and activities of the Cape Malay children, Nura, and Ghassen. What is similar? What is different? What, if anything, is similar in the way they practice Islam? What is different? Why would the differences occur?

Writing

1. Think of customs and activities in which you participate. Select one: Cape Malay children, Nura or Ghassen. Then think about your two social situations. Write about three similarities and three differences in your daily lives and/or how you participate in customs and activities in your societies.

2. What do you think would be your favorite thing to do either in the Western Cape of South Africa or Tunisia or Egypt if you were able to visit there and participate in the activities the articles describe? Why?

The Islamic Calendar

Page 38

Math Connection

Take the year of your birth and calculate, using the second formula on page 38, the Islamic year when you were born.

The Damba Festival

Pages 37-38

Internet Extension

To listen to an actual lead *lunga* drum being played, click on:

<<https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/DagombaDanceDrumming/Baamaaya+Lead+Lunga+Drum>>

Kibaraka and the Giant Horse: A Folktale from the Swahili

Pages 42-45

Comprehension Questions

1. What are some of the natural features of Africa that play a role in the folktale?
2. What was the custom to become engaged in this folktale?
3. Why did the sultan reject Kibaraka as a potential son-in-law for his youngest daughter? What changed his mind?
4. What might be a lesson that the original author(s) of *Kibaraka and the Giant Horse* was trying to teach?