



Customs and Rituals Societal Comparisons

Topic: Societal Comparisons	Grade Level: Middle School	Time: 1 class period of 40-50 minutes
Lesson Goal: Students will discuss how American customs and rituals are similar and different from the cultures shown on the <i>Windows and Mirrors DVD-Middle East</i>		
Lesson Objectives: Student will: Brainstorm American custom and rituals. Research the custom and rituals from the Windows and Mirrors DVD-Middle East Create a photo comparison of one American ritual and one Middle-Eastern ritual using the Cultural Jambalya website and other websites. Discuss the similarities and differences of the customs and rituals.		
Materials Needed: <i>Windows and Mirrors DVD-Middle East</i>		Vocabulary: Customs Rituals
Lesson: 10 minutes: Large Group- View Customs & Rituals module on <i>Windows and Mirrors DVD-Middle East</i> .		
20 minutes: Students work in pairs to research the custom or ritual they have chosen. Students should answer the following questions: Are the rituals/custom family related? Are there special foods prepared and eaten at the ritual/custom? Are there special clothes worn? Are there songs, music, dances performed?		

Windows & Mirrors-Middle East-DVD Study Guide

Are the rituals/custom religious?

Are the rituals/customs held on the same date or the same time every year? (If not, how is the time/date determined?)

Where are the rituals/customs held? (family home, inside, outside)

Who is involved in the ritual (adults, children, family only, community, region, etc.)

15 minutes: Large group discussion on similarities and differences between American customs and rituals and those on *Windows and Mirrors DVD-Middle East*
Refer back to DVD if necessary.