Arabs and Muslims: Their culture through literature
Curriculum Materials Center
David & Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

This is a selected list of resources available at the Cheng Library for teaching about the culture of Arabs and Muslims to students in Grades K-12.

**Picture Books**

   Yasmin’s grandmother teaches her Muslim daily prayers, makes special clothes, and gives her a gift so she can remember when to pray.
   **Call Number: PJ Add**

   While Nora waits for the couscous her father is cooking, he tells her a story about his youth in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco.
   **Call Number: PJ Ala**

   Two boys and their families, one in Australia and the other in Morocco, go shopping. Two wordless stories: one reads from left to right and the other from right to left.
   **Call Number: PJ Bak**

   In Mauritania, an Arab girl who wants to wear a malafa, the veiled dress worn by her mother and older sister, learns what the garment represents.
   **Call Number: PJ Cun**

   Nabeel is persuaded by a shoemaker to buy a new pair of pants for himself. The only pair left is too long and no one has time to shorten them.
   **Call Number: PJ Gil**

   A young Egyptian boy describes the city of Cairo as he goes about his daily work and waits for the evening to share a special surprise with his family.
   **Call Number: PJ Hei**
With seed money borrowed from a bank, a young woman and four of her friends in Bangladesh change their lives by starting their own businesses.

**Call Number: PJ How**

In Pakistan, Rani believes that her mother loves their pet chicken Bibi more than her, until the day that a fluffy chick appears and steals Rani’s own affections.

**Call Number: PJ Kha**

Two girls work hard all day to help support their family. Yasmin seeks a way to attend school, and learn to read so she can have a better life.

**Call Number: PJ Mal**

Alex’s Arabic-speaking grandfather comes to visit the United States, and Alex learns about his grandfather’s Middle Eastern homeland.

**Call Number: PJ Mat**

Aneesa and her grandmother come up with a plan to help two girls who are refugees celebrate Eid in America.

**Call Number: PJ Mob**

A young girl describes a visit to see her grandmother in a Palestinian village.

**Call Number: PJ Nye**

A description of the Islamic celebration, Ramadan including the closing celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr from the perspective of children and family.

**Call Number: PJ Rob**

**Juvenile Fiction**

Living in the midst of civil war in Beirut, Lebanon, Zeina and her brother worry when their parents do not return home from a visit to the other side of the city.

**Call Number: J Abi**
Fourteen-year-old Nadira, and her family are immigrants from Bangladesh when the events of 9/11 bring frustration and sorrow for the family.

**Call Number: J Bud**

Samir, a Palestinian boy, is sent for surgery to an Israeli hospital where he makes friends with an Israeli boy, Yonatan.

**Call Number: J Car**

Amani longs to be a shepherd like her grandfather. Threatened by a new highway and Jewish settlements, her father and uncle disagree on how to handle the threats.

**Call Number: J Car**

Living in Gaza City, Malaak and her family are touched by the increasing violence between Israelis and Palestinians when her father and older brother become involved.

**Call Number: J Cli**

Lailah is delighted that she is old enough to fast during the month of Ramadan. She needs to explain this to her teacher and classmates and gets advice from the librarian.

**Call Number: J Far**

After her mother’s death, Jameela is abandoned by her father and stepmother in a busy marketplace. Her memories of her mother give her strength.

**Call Number: J Kha**

Abdul and Grandfather pass through the streets of Fez, Morocco, and stop at an old gate, where Grandfather performs as a storyteller.

**Call Number: J Lew**

Magid is determined to celebrate Ramadan by fasting despite his family’s feelings that he is not old enough.

**Call Number: J Mat**
**Call Number: J Sch**

**Call Number: J Sto**

**Literature: Poetry, Folktales, etc.**

**Call Number: j398.209 Hic**

**Call Number: j811.542 Nye**

**Call Number: j808.81 Spa**

**Call Number: J Sim**

**Call Number: j398.2 Tar**
After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, Nasreen stops speaking. While attending a secret school, she slowly breaks out of her shell.
Call Number: j958.1 Win

**Non Fiction: History, Geography, Biography, etc.**

A girl tells how her family celebrates the festive holiday, Girgian, which comes in the middle of the holy month of Ramadan.
Call Number: j297.36 Add

Through the point of view of 19-year-old Thura, we see the build-up to war, the actual war itself, and its aftermath. Covers the period from March to August 2003.
Call Number: j956.7 Alw

Examines the influence of Islamic culture on our music, books, language, clothes, science, and more.
Call Number: j297 Bar

Presents profiles of fourteen teenagers from countries around the world, revealing their struggles to fit into American society and their personal triumphs.
Call Number: j920 Bud

Introduces the fundamentals of Islam through the eyes of a Muslim child living in Detroit.
Call Number: j297 Cha

This series provides comprehensive information on the geography, history, government, economy, cultural diversity, peoples, and religion of the countries.

- Afghanistan: Call Number: j958.1 Ali
- Bahrain: Call Number: j953.65 Coo
- Iran: Call Number: j955 Raj
- Iraq: Call Number: j956.7 Has
- Israel: Call Number: j956.94 DuB
Pakistan  Call Number: j954.91 She  
Saudi Arabia  Call Number: j953.8 Jan  
Syria  Call Number: j956.91 Sou  
Turkey  Call Number: j956.1 She  

**Call Number:** jB Muhammad  

The children in this book talk about how the choices other people have made have affected their lives.  
**Call Number:** j956.04 Ell  

What is al Qaeda? What is Islam? Who are the Taliban? Who is Osama bin Laden? These are some questions answered in this report.  
**Call Number:** j973.93 Fra  

Frank explains the complex issues and history surrounding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict using a question-and-answer format. Maps, sidebars, and photographs reflect all sides.  
**Call Number:** j956.94 Fra  

Follow Ibraheem’s New Jersey family as they participate in the most important Islamic holiday, Ramadan.  
**Call Number:** j297 Hoy  

Looks at some of the inventions and innovations that were developed in the Arab world.  
**Call Number:** j090.0974 Hus  

Presents biographical information about militant Islamic leader, Osama bin Laden, his role in international terrorism and the beliefs that fuel his actions.  
**Call Number:** jB Bin
This book shows the methods and materials used to design and construct a mosque in late sixteenth century Turkey.
Call Number: j726.2 Mac

This reference book uses maps to explain how Muslim society, culture, and history rose to full global significance.
Call Number: j911.17 Mar

Three Arab-American girls learn about their family and culture from their grandmother, who grew up in Egypt. Includes directions for making Egyptian paper boats.
Call Number: j305.89 Mor

Cultural songs that carry the values, stories, and soul of the Arabic people both in the Middle East and from the Dearborn Arabic Community.
Call Number: [Videorecording] j784.624 Chi

During the Nazi occupation of Paris few Parisians were willing to risk their own lives to help. Many Jews found refuge in the sprawling complex of the Grand Mosque of Paris.
Call Number: [Holocaust] j940.53 Rue

Introduction to the journeys of Ibn Battuta, a little known Muslim figure who traveled from Morocco to China and Russia to Tanzania for 29 years.
Call Number: j910.92 Rum

Discusses the history of Afghanistan, the rise and fall of the Taliban, and daily life under the regime.
Call Number: j958.1 Ste

An introduction to the Arabic alphabet that uses the spelling of English names and words to introduce the Arabic letters.
Call Number: j492.78 Whi
This lyrical story introduces Ramadan, one of the most special months of the Islamic year.
Call Number: j297.36 Whi

This is a true story about a librarian’s struggle to save her community’s priceless collection of books
Call Number: j020.92 Win

Packed with historical and biographical facts that follow Saladin's influence on Egypt, Syria and the entire region.
Call Number: jB Saladin

Teacher Resources:

Provides background information about the countries and people of the Middle East. Recommends literature and how to incorporate it in the classroom.

This resource was developed for librarians, parents, students, teachers, and other readers who are interested in resources on the topic of Islam and the Muslim culture.
Call Number: [CMC-Reference] BP161.3 .G37 2006

Written in Arabic this series provides guidance for teaching music theory and rhythmic reading, etc., to children.
Call Number: Curr.Mats. MT7 .P66 2005

Prepared by
Pat Moore
August 2018