



The Innkeeper's Daughter

emerson

Title: Yemen

Overview:

Students will explore the concept of culture through an examination and discussion of *The Innkeeper's Daughter* by emerson (sic), a discussion of Yemen, and by watching a Yemeni music video.

Using clues from the photograph and the video, their imaginations, and class discussion and worksheets contrasting life in Yemen with life in Colorado, students will identify visible and invisible features of culture, and compare and contrast this information to their own region and culture.

Finally, they will write a letter to the girl in the photograph, describing themselves, their families and community to her.

Subjects:

Social Studies and Geography, Cross-Cultural Understanding, Language Arts, Visual Arts

Age Group :

Middle School

Standards:

21st Century Learning Skills:

- Critical Thinking and Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Collaboration
- Invention
- Self-Direction

Colorado Academic Standards:

Social Studies:

- Regions have different issues and perspectives
- Use geography to research, gather data and ask questions
- Become familiar with the idea that people are interconnected by geography

Language Arts:

- Oral Expression and Listening
- Writing and Composition
- Research and Reasoning

Visual Arts:

- Observe and Learn to Comprehend
- Relate and Connect to Transfer

Additional Standards:

- National Geographic Standard 6
 - *How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions*
- Peace Corps World-wise Schools Classroom Resources

Essential Question(s):

- *How and why does **where** you live influence **how** you live?*
- *What is culture?*
- *What characterizes my culture?*
- *What are the customs, traditions and celebrations of my culture?*

Rationale:

An understanding of ourselves and others is developed and enhanced through an exploration of geographical and cultural differences and similarities.

Objectives:

Students will:

- Students will explore the concept of culture through an examination and discussion of *The Innkeeper's Daughter* by Emerson
- identify and describe the visible and invisible features of culture.
- compare and contrast one's own culture with that of a child from Yemen.
- locate the country of Yemen, comparing and contrasting its physical and cultural features to those of the United States.

Materials:

- Map, globe or internet-based mapping site
- Information about Yemen
 - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14704852>
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemen>
- images of Yemen on an overhead projector or via the internet
- Yemen music video
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MREfx-9Suk4>
- Worksheet 1: T-chart PDF

- Worksheet 2: 20 Questions PDF
- Paper or journal, pen or pencil
- *The Art and the Artist* information on *The Innkeeper's Daughter* (found at the end of this lesson plan)
- One color copy of *The Innkeeper's Daughter* for every 3–5 students, or the ability to project the image onto a wall or screen

Duration:

50 - 60 minutes (potentially longer)

Vocabulary:

Culture: the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group

Traditions: beliefs or customs shared among generations

Custom: a traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, or time

Lesson :

Opener: Today we are going to visit the land of the Queen of Sheba, where mocha originates. Who knows where we are going?

1. Discuss Yemen. Locate Yemen on a globe and show a map of the country. Show students images of Yemen while describing the country:

- The Republic of Yemen is an Arab country in Southwest Asia, on the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. It has been at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East and Asia for thousands of years, thanks to its position on the ancient spice routes. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north, the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea to the south, and Oman to the east. Its capital and largest city is Sana'a. Yemen's territory includes more than 200 islands.
- Yemen as of 2013 has a GDP of \$61.63 billion USD, with an income per capita of \$2,500. Most Yemenis are employed in agriculture, growing sorghum, cotton, fruit trees, and coffee.
- The population of Yemen is 24 million, ethnically diverse, but dominated by Muslims. Islam is the religion of the state, and Arabic is the official language.
- Yemen is a democracy. The Yemen constitution of 1994 granted equal rights to women, but because of conservative Islam, gender disparities are pronounced. A majority of women living in Yemen wear an all-encompassing black cloak called Balto. Women are employed in educational and health care sectors.

2. Ask the students to brainstorm what constitutes "culture." Then read the definition of culture.

- Show students the Yemeni music video, which includes images of people and places of Yemen.
- Draw a T-chart on the board, dividing the columns into 'visible' and 'invisible.' Ask students to identify visible and invisible features of Yemeni culture shown in the video.
 - Visible Cultural Elements: the arts, cuisine, styles, family life, architecture, traditions, government, etc.
 - Invisible Cultural Elements: beliefs, norms, values, laws, etc.

- Ask students to compare and contrast the sights and sounds on the video with their perceptions of life in the US, Colorado and family culture. How does culture influence perceptions, preferences, choices and lifestyle?

3. Show and discuss *The Innkeeper's Daughter*.

- This is a photograph of a young girl from Yemen. Her father is an innkeeper.
- What feelings do you gather from this piece? How old is the subject? What do you think her life is like? Does she go to school?
- Do you see the red stains on the young girl's fingers? This young girl works for a living making rope called jute cord, leaving stains on her fingers.
- What other visible and invisible clues can you discover from the photograph?

4. Have students complete the 20 Questions Worksheet.

- Explain that no answers are right or wrong; they are creating an inventory of their personal culture.
- Have them prioritize their answers, giving special attention to their "Top 5 List."

5. Lead the students in a discussion, comparing and contrasting their culture with that of *The Innkeeper's Daughter*.

Sample questions:

- How is *The Innkeeper's Daughter* similar to you? How is she different?
- What can you see (visible) that illustrates her culture? How does that compare to visible signs of your culture?
- What can you infer (invisible) about her and her culture from the photograph?

6. Instruct students to write a "letter" to *The Innkeeper's Daughter*.

- Ask them to introduce themselves, their family, location, community.
- Tell her a little about the geography of Colorado, giving hints about climate, culture and the people of the area. Then describe what they love about living here.
- Have them refer to their Top 5 List as they tell her a little bit about themselves and what is culturally important to them.
- Suggest they consider cultural sensitivity as they describe themselves.

Additional Resources:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14704852>

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/standards/national-geography-standards/?ar_a=1

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/classroom/>

The Art and the Artist



The Innkeeper's Daughter

emerson

Photograph, c. 1994

19" x 19"

emerson is on a life-long journey across the globe in search of photographic reflections of the inner soul of man. His work captures the essence of the subject - their beauty, their pain, their culture and their individualism - within each photographic image. Combining lush colors, thoughtful composition and juxtaposed textures, Emerson offers us intimate and memorable portraits.

20 Questions What is Culture?

What is culture?

What characterizes my culture?

What are the customs, traditions and celebrations of my culture?

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Custom: a traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, or time

Directions: Answer each question with a sentence, phrase, list or paragraph.
Then prioritize. No answers are right or wrong.

1. What language(s) do you speak?
2. Where do you live?
3. What do you like best about where you live?
4. What music do you listen to? How do you listen to your music?
5. What dances do you know?
6. What art do you like? What art and objects decorate your home? Your room?

7. What are your Top Five favorite books?
8. What foods do you eat at home?
9. What do you wear every day?
10. What do you wear on special occasions?
11. What holidays and ceremonies are important in your family?
12. Describe your favorite holiday tradition.
13. How important is your extended family?
14. What matters most to you about your country? Your state? Your city?
15. What is your favorite subject in school?
16. Imagine your best career. Describe what you want to do.
17. How do you like to spend your free time? What are your favorite pastimes?
18. What is most important to you?

19. What things do you believe are right and wrong?

20. What is your religion?

Worksheet 1: *T-chart template*

