



ISLAM AND AFRICA: FROM STEREOTYPES TO KNOWLEDGE

An understanding of Islam in the world today is critical for all students, and Islam is woven throughout the African experience. This presentation will demonstrate how history, culture, and religion intersect in Muslim communities in Egypt and Tanzania.

The following general resources provide a good starting place for discussions about Islam and Africa:

“**Which Continent?**” is an activity in which participants try to categorize images from around the world. The slides used for this activity can be found at <http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/>

Curriculum Guide: What Do We Know About Africa?

<http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/resources/lessonplans/>

Maps: Where is Islam found in the world? Where is Islam found in Africa?

<http://pewforum.org/Mapping-the-Global-Muslim-Population.aspx>

http://www.worldmapper.org/display_religion.php?selected=564

<http://show.mappingworlds.com/world/>

Muslims in Eastern Africa - Their Past and Present <http://www.njas.helsinki.fi/pdf-files/vol3num1/lodhi.pdf>

“**Islam: Empire of Faith**” (PBS) puts the religion of Islam in historical context, particularly within the Bedouin culture. The video follows the spread of Muslim religious and political influence through the early years of the religion and shows how religious principles and ideas inspired significant scientific, technological, and artistic developments. The video is available in full on Google Video. <http://www.pbs.org/empires/islam/>

“**From Silk to Oil: Cross-Cultural Connections Along the Silk Roads**” is a global studies curriculum funded by the U.S. Department of Education and produced by China Institute in America. It is available for free download in PDF format. The curriculum includes lessons on the origins of Islam and the Five Pillars, as well as several maps showing the spread of Islam in the early years of the religion. <http://www.chinainstitute.org/from-silk-to-oil-a-curriculum-guide-for-educators/>

Fulbright Photos of Egypt & Tanzania: A public photo album with images from the 2010 Fulbright-Hayes Summer Program in Egypt and Tanzania is available online. This collection of personal photos from many of the participants includes detail shots of Islamic art and architecture, street scenes, images showing the practice of Islam in everyday life, and more. These photos are available for download and use in the classroom at

<https://picasaweb.google.com/101542506774416759101/EgyptTanzaniaPublic#>

and <https://picasaweb.google.com/101542506774416759101/EgyptTanzaniaPublic2>

Many students come to class with preconceived notions. The following resources help counter these notions, opening the way for discussion:

“Chimamanda Adichie: The danger of a single story”

http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story.html

“Overcoming Religious Illiteracy: A Cultural Studies Approach”

<http://worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/4.1/moore.html>

“Typical Misconceptions” (PBS) <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/questions/types/index.html>

“A Land Called Paradise” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0V4ePb3aOT0>

“The Leopards of Zanzibar” (PBS) <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/about/episode7.html>

Blog: Muslims Wearing Things <http://muslimswearingthings.tumblr.com/>

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