Currency of the Middle East Lesson Plan

Overview:
In this lesson plan, students will become acquainted with the currency from the Middle East. By examining the symbolism in the currency, students will begin to think about the country’s geography, traditions, and histories. This is a good introduction to the Middle East, which can be paired with other CSAMES units and activities.

Objectives:
Students will:
1. Examine a selection of currency from the Middle East found in the CSAMES Unit of Currency.
2. Consider how currency tells a narrative about the values of the peoples they represent by discussing the symbols on the currency.
3. Create a personal banknote.

Activity:
1. Provide students with access to the Middle Eastern currency and the descriptions of the banknotes on the CSAMES website.

2. Assign groups one particular currency to work with and ask them to discuss their particular currency. Why are the symbols important? What story does it tell about the country? Use the CSAMES files on currency for information. (For a longer exercise, have the groups become “experts” on that country through research projects and then teach their classmates about the country. See lesson plan on capitals for more ideas.)

3. Allow students to relate to the activity by making connections between Middle Eastern currency and that of the United States. Discuss what a banknote from the United States represents and then allow students to create their own personal banknotes. Use the worksheet below, asking students to describe the symbolism in their banknote after they have created it.
My Personal Currency

Explain the banknote design:

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