

Middle Eastern Dolls Lesson Plan

Overview: The purpose of this lesson plan is to introduce students to Middle Eastern dolls. Students will also compare and contrast the Arab Fulla doll with the American Barbie doll. Lastly, there is also a creative writing activity in which students will write stories about Middle Eastern dolls.

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Be exposed to several Middle Eastern dolls. They will compare and contrast the dolls. They will write a short essay about one particular doll.
2. Compare and contrast the Arab Fulla doll with the American Barbie doll.
3. Write a creative story about a Middle Eastern doll.

Activity:

1. The Students are divided into six groups. Each group receives a copy of the *Arab Dolls Summary Worksheet* and *Middle Eastern Dolls Worksheet* (*see two attached sheets). Each group is assigned a specific doll (although they will answer the questions for all the dolls). After filling out the questionnaire, each student is required to write a short essay about the doll. Some research will be required to learn about the background of each doll. Afterwards, students may share their essays with their teacher and classmates.
2. The teacher provides each student with a copy of the worksheet entitled “*Comparison Between Barbie and Fulla*” (*see attached worksheet). The teacher instructs the students to complete the worksheet. Some research may be required.

For help in research, here are some informative online links:

New York Times article on Fulla:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/09/22/international/middleeast/22doll.html?ex=1285041600&en=72bb8cc089bf9435&ei=5090>

Chicago Sun-Times article on Fulla:

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4155/is_20051030/ai_n15910241

Al-Ahram Weekly article on Fulla (courtesy of Yale Global online):

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/article.print?id=7545>

Afterwards, the students should discuss their findings with the rest of the class. Special emphasis should be stressed on discussing how Barbie and Fulla represent femininity and beauty.

3. In this activity, the students are responsible for writing a creative story about an Arab doll. The students must turn the doll into a fictional character. The dolls to choose from are the
 - a) Fulla doll
 - b) Razanne doll (a choice of three dolls: African, South Asian, or Caucasian)
 - c) Sinai doll
 - d) Egyptian doll

After choosing their doll, the students begin by brainstorming. They should create a set of buzzwords (such as adjectives) that describe the doll. These words will be used to create a story. As for the story itself, let the students use their imagination. Characters, dialogue and plot are up to their own discretion. Note: The fictional story does not necessarily have to be set in the Middle East (perhaps the doll travels to another country). When finished, the student should share the story with the teacher and classmates.