

# Mobility in the Middle East Lesson Plan

**Overview:** This lesson is designed to introduce students to transportation in the Middle East. They will be introduced to ancient and modern modes of Middle Eastern transport, as well as learn how their own classmates locally travel. The students will also consider how natural resources are utilized in traveling in the Middle East and the United States.

## **Objectives:**

Students will:

1. Be introduced to modes of transportation in the Middle East.
2. Consider how natural resources are harnessed for travel in the Middle East and the United States.
3. Use their imagination to write a fictional travel diary of their travels in the Middle East.
4. Will discuss how the desert affects rail and road construction in the Middle East. They will also discuss the importance of the automobile in the daily lives of people in the United States.

## **Activity:**

1. Give each student a copy of the attached ***blank map of the Middle East***. Ask the students to plan an imaginary trip. Their itinerary should have a starting point and a destination point. Make sure they are traveling through different Middle Eastern countries. They will cross desert and water. This exercise will help the students learn the geography of the Middle East, such as city capitals. Have the student note the different modes of transportation they use, such as cars, trains, and planes. The students should also keep an imaginary travel diary, noting the people and places they see during their journey.
2. Students are required to brainstorm for this activity. They will need paper and writing utensils. Ask the students how are the natural resources of water, wind and oil harnessed for mobility in the Middle East. Make the students create three separate column headings (“Water”, “Wind”, “Oil”) and to write their answers under each heading. Afterwards, ask the students how these same natural resources are used for transportation in the United States. The students will also use three columns to devise their answers. Finally, have the students discuss their answers in the classroom. The students should compare and contrast the modes of mobility between the U.S. and the Middle East.
3. Travel Bingo is an activity that promotes mobility within the classroom. Give each student a copy of the attached ***Travel Bingo sheet*** for this activity. Ask the students to move around the classroom and get different signatures for each box question. While collecting signatures, the students should listen closely to the responses of the signature signers. Once everyone has collected signatures, have the students sit in a circle and share what they have learned about their classmates.

**Further Discussion Topic: Compare U.S. and Middle Eastern rail construction.**

-- Rail and road construction in the Middle East has historically been problematic because of the desert. What effect does the desert have on building and maintaining transportation in the Middle East? Meanwhile, in the United States, the automobile has taken precedence over the train as a mode of transportation. Why do you think this is so?

**Instructional Materials: A blank map of the Middle East**

