

Our Story, Our World



Unit 1

Land and Community

Unit: 1

Lesson: 8

Cultures of the Middle East



Essential Question:

How do cultural values and beliefs affect daily living in the Middle East?

Objective:

I can explain how the cultures of a region spread.

Theme Vocabulary

- Diverse
- Ethnic
- Values
- Modesty
- Charity
- Alms

- The GCC has six countries and is part of the MENA (Middle East and Northern Africa) region with 14 countries across three continents.
- Many people visit and do business in the MENA region, creating cultural diversity.
- People who trade and travel spread different cultures throughout this region .

On which three continents does the MENA region lie?

Europe, Asia, and Africa



The MENA region covers parts of three continents.

Different Ways of Life

- The MENA region has long been a meeting place for people from Europe and Asia, exchanging goods and customs.
- Some travelers pass through, while others settle, creating a diverse population (people from different places and backgrounds) with different ethnic (cultural and racial) backgrounds.
- Newcomers and locals share and sometimes adopt each other's diverse cultures and beliefs, spreading traditions.



How did the population in the MENA region become diverse?

People from all over the world came to trade. Some settled there and brought their culture with them.

Culture and Values

- A culture shares customs, beliefs, and values (important ideas or behaviors).
- In the MENA region, modesty (dressing and acting without drawing attention or causing offense) and hygiene (staying clean) are highly valued.
- Charity (helping those in need) is important, with giving alms (money or food given to the poor) being a key part of Arabic values and religion.





Mission Links: Find Evidence

- Underline parts of the text that reflect the culture of your community. How do these values make your area special?
- Discuss it with a classmate.



Culture and Family

- Many people in the MENA region live with extended families, including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.
- Migration to cities has spread out large families, but family remains important.
- Family values include respect (treating people well) and hospitality (welcoming guests).



- Travel and trade bring diverse cultures, dress, food, art, and values to the MENA region.
- People combine ideas from different cultures into their lives, such as eating diverse foods and wearing many types clothing.
- Some countries, like Bahrain, adopt western clothing, while others maintain traditional customs.



Checkpoint

- How did trade help make the Middle East become a more diverse region?

Traders from Europe and Asia traveled through the area and brought both goods and cultures.

- List two ways culture affects people's daily lives.

Culture affects how people dress and how they spend time with family.

- What are two ways culture has changed in the MENA Region?

Some people have brought different ways to dress and different foods to eat.



Unlock the Mission Links

How do the values discussed in the text relate to those of the people in your country?

