

AROUND TURKEY IN NINE DAYS

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INTRODUCTION

This lesson is set up as a 9-day interim course. Students in grades 9-11 will have chosen this course from amongst approximately 25 course offerings. Each student owns a Mac Pro computer, which is used in school on a daily basis and will be used in this class. Students all have prior knowledge of how to make an i-Movie. No prior knowledge of Turkey is expected. Each day students will learn about and participate in various aspects of Turkish Culture including Ebru (Paper Marbling), Shadow Puppetry, Traditional Tales, Traditional Dance, Sufism, Architecture, History, etc. Each day in this course mostly stands alone – so it is possible to use only 1 day, or only a few, or all of them, depending on the time and resources available.

LEVEL

Grades 9-11.

OBJECTIVE

Interim Term offers students a unique opportunity to add depth and value to their high school experience. This program aims to enrich the life of the student as well as the school community through the exploration of diverse topics unavailable during the regular curriculum.

Each course provides students with ample opportunities to participate in the '3 E's' of Interim Term - **E**xplore new ideas, **E**nrich your mind, **E**xperience new adventures. This is the objective of Interim Term. **AROUND TURKEY IN NINE DAYS** will allow students to **E**xplore, be **E**nriched by, and **E**xperience aspects of Turkish culture and history.

TIME

9 class periods of 1.5 hours each. Many of these lessons can stand alone.

MATERIALS

<p><i>Marbling lesson -</i> Marbling kits Plastic dishpans Combs Wooden skewers Several rolls of paper towels for cleanup Several days worth of newsprint for splash guard, etc.</p>	<p><i>Shadow Puppets -</i> Manila folders Metal brads Markers 12-18 inch craft dowels (need 2 to 3 for each student) White bed sheet High powered camping flashlight or project light</p>
<p><i>Cooking -</i> 2-3 recipes from <i>My Mother's Kitchen</i>, <i>Homemade Turkish Recipes</i> Ingredients for whichever dishes are chosen</p>	<p><i>Timeline -</i> 20 feet of butcher paper Markers Yardstick</p>
<p><i>Traditional Tales -</i> Stories about Nasreddin Hodja</p>	<p><i>Rumi -</i> YouTube videos of Dervishes There are lots of choices.</p>
<p><i>Dance -</i> Watch YouTube dance - there are lots of videos. One in Resources shows snippets of lots of step, so students can mix and match to make their own dance.</p>	<p><i>i-Movie -</i> List of structures, places, and people (included under Handouts) Computers with internet access.</p>
<p><i>Finale -</i> Various Snacks and Turkish Delight from Turkish Grocery</p>	

Procedures for AROUND TURKEY IN 9 DAYS

Day 1 – INTRODUCTION AND TIMELINE

Each student will be assigned the name of a place, person, etc. from Anatolian history. Students will use their laptops to research information about the assigned person, place, etc., with the goal of presenting a 2-3 minute iMovie report. After 30 minutes of research, students will have found when their person, place, etc. was prominent in Turkish history. A five-yard long sheet of butcher paper will be rolled out in the classroom. As a class group, students will make a timeline and discuss where the person/place, etc. that they are researching belongs. Each student will write his/her topic on the appropriate place on the timeline. Hang the Timeline on the wall in the classroom. Ask students to continue working on i-Movie research for the rest of class.

Day 2 – COOKING

Class will meet in the cafeteria and students will learn how to make 2 or 3 simple Turkish recipes. Once completed, students will sample them and try some Turkish coffee and tea.

Day 3 – MARBLING PAPER

Each group of 3-4 students will receive a dishwashing tub prepared with the Marbling Kit base, several sheets of 8½ x 11 inch paper, a comb and wooden skewer. Using the inks from the kits, the teacher will demonstrate how to make a sheet of marbled paper. Students will then work in their groups so each person makes several sheets of marbled paper.

Day 4 – TRADITIONAL TALES OF NASREDDEN HODJA

Students will read a few tales of Nasreddin Hodja and discuss meanings and information about Turkish culture gleaned from them. After getting in small groups of 2 or 3, they will choose one tale and sketch out a 'screen play' for the activity of shadow puppets. If time remains, they will work on their iMovies.

Day 5 – SHADOW PUPPETS

Students will watch some Shadow puppetry online and then make paper shadow puppets with cardstock and metal brads. Using their new homemade puppets, students will practice and perform scenes from one of the Nasreddin Hodja tales from Day 4.

Day 6 – RUMI POETRY, SUFISM

The teacher will introduce information about Rumi and Sufism. Students will read and discuss some of Rumi's poetry. Students will watch YouTube videos of Whirling Dervishes. If time remains, student will work on their i-Movies.

Day 7 – GUEST SPEAKER

A member of the American Turkish Association will visit class to speak to the students and answer any questions they may have.

Day 8 – DANCE

Class will meet in the dance studio. Students will watch several short YouTube videos of traditional Turkish Halay Folk dances. Following the dancers on the videos, students will attempt to learn some of the various steps. Groups of students will then choreograph their own dance and perform it for the class using accompanying Turkish music they have found online.

Day 9 – FINALE AND CLOSURE

Students will present their i-Movies. Other faculty and students will visit the classroom and see and hear about the various projects made by the students. Students will also be able to sample various Turkish snacks and Turkish Delight during this time. Turkish coffee and tea included again.

ASSESSMENT

Interim Term is a pass/fail course, so students will pass if they have participated in each day's activity and finished and presented their i-Movie.

SOURCES

Turkish Cultural Foundation website:

<http://www.turkishculture.org>

My Mother's Kitchen Cookbook

<http://www.amazon.com/My-Mothers-Kitchen-Homemade-Turkish/dp/6058683904>

American Turkish Association – Houston

<http://www.atahouston.org>

Particularly good YouTube video showing several Halay dance steps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwpWgsMXLkM>

Particularly nice short version of Rumi's story, explanation of the Mevlevi ritual, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcJRXFB5Vc4>

Tales of Nasreddin Hodja

<http://www.readliterature.com/hodjastories.htm>