

TURKEY

A-B-C

Meet the country of Turkey

A is for Ankara

Ankara is the capital of Turkey today.



[5 minute Ankara video](#)

B is for Bazaar

You can find wonderful Turkish carpets, lamps, spices and jewelry at the Grand Bazaar.



[For more info](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILDKlfb_-4w

C is for Cappadocia

Cappadocia is known for its unusual rock formations and its excellent hot air ballooning adventures.

[2 minute video](#)

[For more
breathtaking images](#)



D is for Dolmabahce Palace

Dolmabahce Palace was the Sultan's Palace from 1856 to 1922.



[3-D virtual tour](#)

[For more info](#)

E is for the “Evil Eye”

It is believed that the Nazar Boncugu (“Evil Eye”) takes the negative energy that is being directed towards a person and puts it on the Evil Eye instead in order to lessen its powers. The Nazar Boncugu is blue in color because of the belief that it is actually the blue color of the stone, which holds the real shielding power and absorbs the negative energy.

[Evil Eye Video](#)

*“Evil Eye Tree”
in Cappadocia*



F is for Fortune Telling

After taking the last sip of coffee, a wish is made. The “fortune teller” then puts the saucer on top of the coffee cup and rotates it around 3 times. The cup & saucer are then flipped upside down to create patterns & symbols inside the cup, which are considered to have special meanings.



[More info on coffee reading](#)

[Watch a fortune being told](#)

G is for Gallipoli

During World War One, the Allied powers of Britain and France invaded Turkey without a strong plan or knowledge of the land. The Turks were able to outnumber and outmaneuver them, forcing the Allies from the area and preventing them from joining with their ally, Russia.

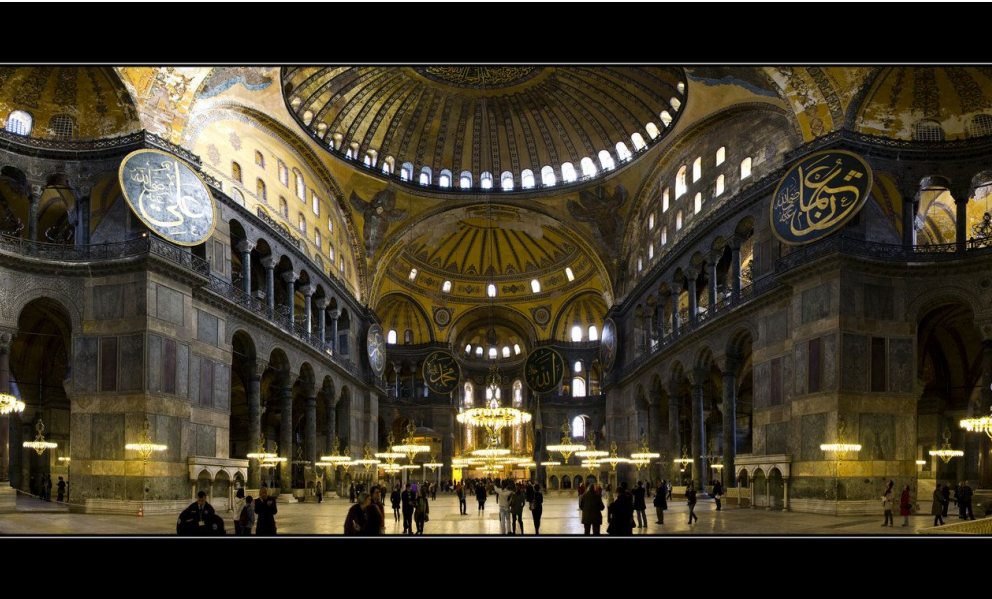
[Intro clip to battle](#)



H is for Hagia Sophia

Once a Christian church, then a Muslim Mosque, now it is a museum that combines the two religions.

[Virtual Tour](#)



I is for Islam

Most people in Turkey are Muslims, who practice the Islamic faith. They pray to Allah and Muhammad in mosques.



[For more info](#)



J is for Jibneh Cheese

Cheese is an important part of Turkish meals. Jibneh cheese can be sliced and served for breakfast with vegetables and bread, or sometimes it is used to make flatbread pizzas. It is similar to a salty mozzarella cheese.



[For more info & recipes](#)

K is for Karagoz

Karagoz is the hero of Turkish shadow puppet theater stories. He represents the public morals and common sense, the ordinary man in the street, and is straightforward and reliable. He is almost illiterate; usually unemployed and embarks on money earning projects that never work. He is often kind of rude. You can recognize him by his turban, his bald head and his black beard. His left arm is longer than the other one. His friend Hacivat instead is the opposite of him; he is educated speaks well and uses poetical and literary language. He's very clever as well.

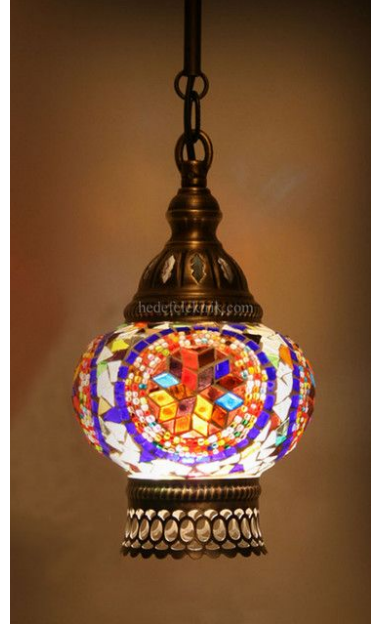


[More images of Karagoz](#)

[More images of Hacivat](#)

L is for Lamp

Glass-making is one of the most ancient and advanced arts among the Turks. During the Ottoman Empire, glass mosaic lamps were considered to be a luxury. Today, Turkish lamps burn candles or oil, or can be electrified.



[More images](#)

M is for Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was a military officer during World War One and he led the Turkish National Movement in the Turkish War for Independence. Under his leadership of the newly independent Turkey, thousands of new schools were built, elementary school was made free and compulsory, the government was no longer based on Islamic laws, and women were given equal rights.



[4 minute video on his life](#)

[For more info](#)

N is for Nigella seed

Nigella is also known as the "seed of blessing" because it is considered to be one of the greatest healing herbs of all times. The small black seeds are about the same size as sesame seeds.



[For more info](#)

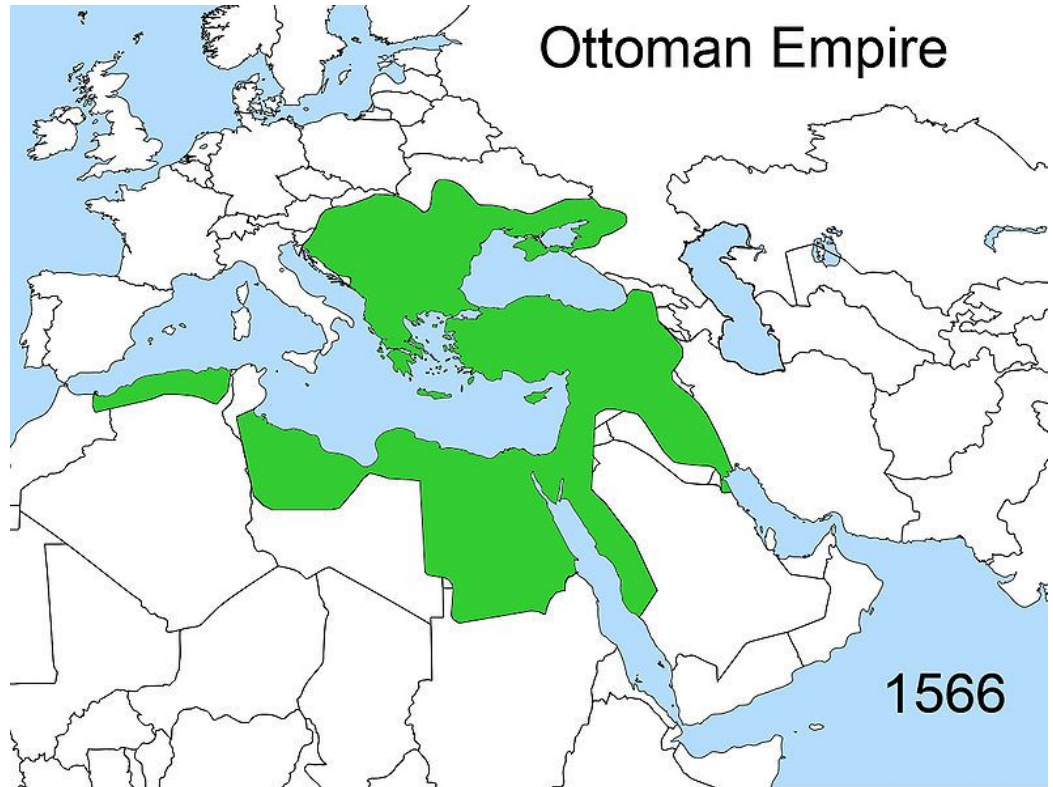


O is for Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire started in what is now Turkey and reached out to parts of Europe, Africa, and Asia. Its primary purpose was to gain land and to spread the Islamic teachings of its rulers. They were the longest continuous dynasty in history.

[Ottoman Empire overview video](#)

[Timeline](#)



P is for Pastirma

Centuries ago, the Turkish horsemen used to preserve meat by placing slabs of it in pockets on the sides of their saddles, where it would be pressed by their legs as they rode. This pressed meat was the forerunner of today's pastirma, a term which literally means 'being pressed' in Turkish, and is the origin of the Italian pastrami.

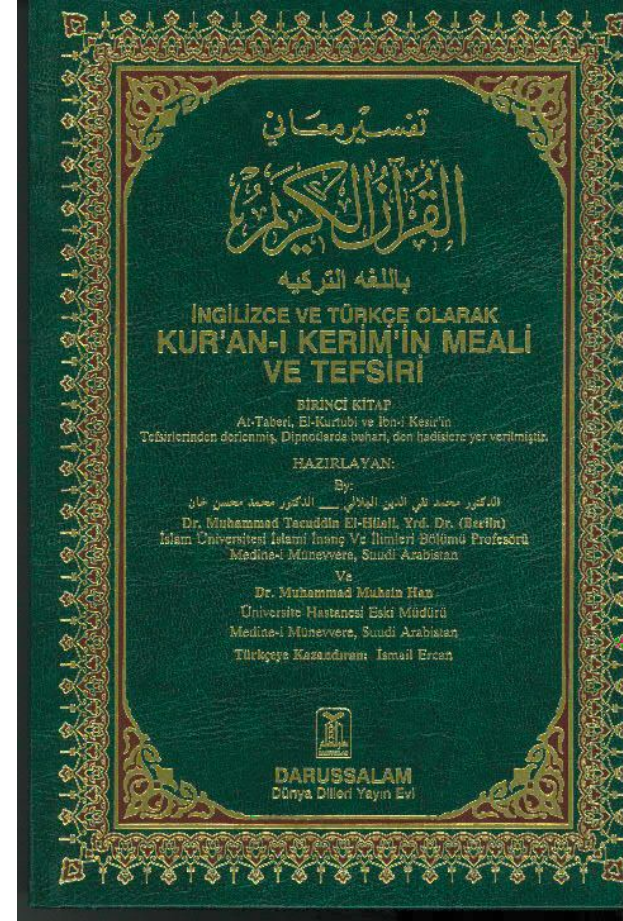


[How to make pastirma](#)

Q is for Qur'an

The Muslim holy book is called the Qur'an. The Qur'an provides Muslims with guidance on their everyday problems through the sayings, actions, and recommendations of Muhammad, the Muslim prophet.

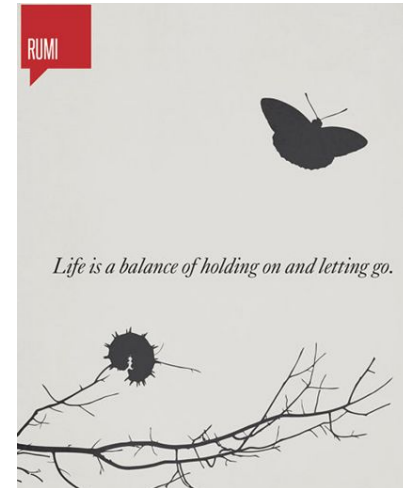
[For more info](#)



R is for Rumi

Rumi, the 13th century Persian poet, has been called the greatest mystical poet of all time. During a period of 25 years, he composed over 70,000 verses of poetry.

[More Rumi Quotes](#)



S is for Sultans

Sultans ruled the Ottoman Empire from 1258 - 1922. Many lived in Topkapi Palace in Istanbul.



[List of Sultans](#)
[Topkapi Palace virtual tour #2](#)

[Topkapi Palace website](#)
[Topkapi Palace virtual tour #3](#)

[Topkapi Palace virtual tour #1](#)

T is for Troy

Troy was the site of the Trojan War, where it is said that Spartans hid inside of a giant horse to sneak through walls of the city.



[For more info on Troy](#)

[Archaeological site of Troy](#)

U is for Usak Carpets

Usak carpets are Turkish carpets that use a type of design, named after the city of Uşak, Turkey, which was a major center of rug production from the early days of the Ottoman Empire, into the early 20th century.



[Video of Carpet weaving
done by hand](#)

V is for Veil

Turkish women often choose to wear a veil, or hijab in order to honor Allah. It is required, however, in traditional Muslim mosques for women to cover their heads with a veil or scarf.

[For more info from CNN](#)



W is for the Whirling Dervishes

Just as all things in nature rotate, Sufi Dervishes whirl with heads slightly tilted, right hands facing up to receive the light Allah (God), and left hands facing down to deliver such blessings unto humankind.



[For more info](#)

[2 minute video](#)

X is one of the letters not found in the Turkish alphabet

The letters q, w and x are not in the Turkish alphabet. They have additional letters, though that blend sounds into one letter.

LETTER		PRONUNCIATION	LETTER		PRONUNCIATION
A	a	u as in cup	M	m	m as in milk
B	b	b as in bit	N	n	n as in no
C	c	j as in jam	O	o	o as in off
Ç	ç	ch as in chip	Ö	ö	u as in urge
D	d	d as in deep	P	p	p as in pin
E	e	e as in ten	R	r	r as in rent
F	f	f as in fit or full	S	s	s as in sit
G	g	g as in get or girl	Ş	ş	sh as in shape
Ğ	ğ	Has No Sound	T	t	t as in time
H	h	h as in hope	U	u	u as in put
I	ı	i as in cousin	Ü	ü	u as in nude
İ	i	ee as in keen	V	v	v as in very
J	j	s as in leisure	Y	y	y as in you
K	k	k as in kept	Z	z	z as in zoom
L	l	l as in lamp	www.onlineturkishlessons.com		

Y is for Yoghurt

Over 8,000 years ago, herdsman began milking their animals, and the enzymes in the milk containers they used (animal stomachs) curdled the milk, turning it to yogurt. Not only did the milk keep longer that way, it is thought that people preferred the taste. Today, yoghurt is not only eaten plain, but is used to make sauces, dips and even soup.



[Recipes made with yoghurt](#)



[History of yoghurt](#)



Z is for Zurna

The zurna is a woodwind instrument used to play Turkish folk music. The zurna is a conical oboe, made from the wood of the apricot tree, and uses a double reed which makes a sharp, piercing sound. It has historically been played outdoors during festive events such as weddings and holidays. It has eight holes on the front, seven of which are used while playing, and one thumbhole which provides a range of one octave.



[Watch and listen to a zurna](#)



Thanks to GeoMan or should I say Tom Selleck!

