

TURKEY LESSON PLAN OUTLINE

TITLE

Looking at Turkey Through the Eyes of Its Poet

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INTRODUCTION

Briefly state the concept for the lesson, how this lesson fits into your unit/course, as well as information notes you want to share about the population you teach, the approach you took, etc. Please note the prior knowledge students will need to participate successfully.

LEVEL

10th Grade European History/World History - May be used in 11th and 12th grade World/European History classes.

OBJECTIVES

Students will analyze several works by Nazim Hikmet using close reading strategies and will connect key events in the development of the modern state of Turkey to determine his influence on the Turkish people and throughout the world.

CONNECTIONS TO STANDARDS

California State Content Standards

10.10 Students analyze instances of nation building in the contemporary world in at least two of the following regions or countries: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, and China.

1. Understand the challenges in the regions, including their geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic significance and the international relationships in which they are involved.

2. Describe the recent history of the regions, including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.

3. Discuss the important trends in the regions today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.

C3 Framework - Social Sciences

D2.His.11.9-12. Critique the usefulness of historical sources for a specific historical inquiry based on their maker, date, place of origin, intended audience, and purpose.

TIME

This lesson will take 6 class periods of 49 minutes each to teach.

MATERIALS

Students will need the following materials available online:

- Map of Turkey - 1300 - 1924 — <http://web.archive.org/web/20130616225054/http://www.naqshbandi.org/ottomans/maps/f>
- Turkey Profile - Timeline BBC - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17994865>
- Turkish Cultural Tour, Ataturk, Mustafa Kemal, Nazim Hikmet — http://www.turkeyculturaltour.com/tr/turkiye/70/ataturk-famous-personalities/ataturk_founder-of-modern-turkey-and-famous-personalities.html
- “The Revolt of Şeyh Bedreddin in the Context of the Ottoman Civil War of 1402–13” by Dimitris Kastritss — http://www.academia.edu/2183861/The_Revolt_of_Seyh_Bedreddin_in_the_Context_of_the_Ottoman_Civil_War_of_1402_13.Political_Initiatives_From_the_Bottom_Up_in_the_Ottoman_Empire_Halcyon_Days_in_Crete_7_.Edited_by_Antonis_Anastasopoulos.University_of_Crete_Press_2012_221_238
- Nazim Hikmet - <http://www.turkishculture.org/literature/literature/poetry/nazim-hikmet-262.htm?type=1>
- ‘Romantic Communist’: What made Nazim Hikmet the man he was? by Saime Göksu and Edward Timms — http://www.todayszaman.com/arts-culture_romantic-communist-what-made-nazim-hikmet-the-man-he-was_184110.html

Additionally, students will analyze the following poems:

Poems of Nazim Hikmet, translated by Randy Blasing and Mutlu Konuk

- *The Epic of Sheikh Bedreddin*
- *It's This Way*
- *A Sorry Freedom*
- *Letter to my Wife*
- *This Journey*

BACKGROUND ESSAY (YOU CAN COMBINE THIS INTO THE INTRODUCTION)

“Don't you burn with desire to write works full of hope and light for your people, for the nations, for mankind, works appealing for progress, justice, truth, beauty, freedom and brotherhood?”

-Nazim Hikmet, Mid 1920s

After a life changing education trip to Turkey, I came away with two burning thoughts. One was how incredibly forward thinking Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) was in making changes necessary to bring Turkey into the 20th century, and second, how closely the poetry of Nazim Hikmet parallels this growth and the culture of the Turkish people and country. I wanted to try to combine this into a lesson for my AP European and honors world history students.

The development of Turkey as a modern nation is incredible. The foresight of Mustafa Kemal is really not something that is taught in high schools, and with the climate of the Middle East in the front pages of the news today, this needs to change. I want my students to know that Turkey is a secular republic and has been so for almost 100 years. I want my students to learn about the changes Mustafa Kemal made that were drastic but would guide Turkey through a very tumultuous century. I want my students to read more about Turkey, know its important geological location in the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and know the economic, military, and cultural impact that Turkey has on both the United States and the world.

Nazim Hikmet was a name I had never heard before traveling to Turkey. I listened to his poetry read by our tour guide, Orhan, and by different teachers traveling with us. The simple and descriptive language, which was beautiful in English, and must be even more beautiful and descriptive in Turkish, spoke to my heart, especially visiting so many landmarks mentioned in his poetry, and seeing the beauty in the land. Learning more about Nazim Hikmet became an obsession with me and I quickly purchased several books of his poetry, which I studied, and I also tried to find out as much information about his life. Over and over, his work shines on the development of Turkey, from the old to the new, and shows his love for his country and his people. I feel so strongly that his work transcends language and continents. As his words speak to me, I want to share that with my students, and although I have only selected a few poems and the Epic of Sheikh Bedreddin, I hope that students will want to read more.

My goal for this lesson is to give students a window into Turkey today, seeing, reading, and hearing the wealth of culture and history, especially over the last 100 years, and to give them more insight into the changing politics of the Middle East and to learn more about Turkey through its people and culture.

PROCEDURES

1. Days 1 & 2 (Two 49 minute class periods which include discussion)

This lesson requires a discussion about students' knowledge of the Ottoman Empire and the new modern state of Turkey. This requires students to read information about key events in Turkish history and know the major figures in Turkish history:

Students will work in groups of 4, reading the following items, annotating text, making notes:

- Map of Turkey - 1300 - 1924 — <http://web.archive.org/web/20130616225054/http://www.naqshbandi.org/ottomans/maps/f>
- Turkey Profile - Timeline BBC - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17994865>

- Turkish Cultural Tour, Ataturk, Mustafa Kemal, Nazim Hikmet — http://www.turkeyculturaltour.com/tr/turkiye/70/ataturk-famous-personalities/ataturk_founder-of-modern-turkey-and-famous-personalities.html
- “The Revolt of Şeyh Bedreddin in the Context of the Ottoman Civil War of 1402–13.”, by Dimitris Kastritss — http://www.academia.edu/2183861/The_Revolt_of_Seyh_Bedreddin_in_the_Context_of_the_Ottoman_Civil_War_of_1402_13_Political_Initiatives_From_the_Bottom_Up_in_the_Ottoman_Empire_Halcyon_Days_in_Crete_7.Edited_by_Antonis_Anastasopoulos.University_of_Crete_Press_2012_221_238
- Nazim Hikmet - <http://www.turkishculture.org/literature/literature/poetry/nazim-hikmet-262.htm?type=1>
- ‘Romantic Communist’: What made Nazim Hikmet the man he was? by Saime Göksu and Edward Timms — http://www.todayszaman.com/arts-culture_romantic-communist-what-made-nazim-hikmet-the-man-he-was_184110.html

2. Day 3 - Students will examine the reforms made by Mustafa Kemal, Ataturk, such as Turkey becoming a republic, changing the alphabet to Latin letters, women’s rights, and separation of mosque and state, and compare these reforms to the United States. Discussion questions will follow such as, “What steps did Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) take to change Turkey into a modern nation, and how do you think these steps influenced its development?” “Turkey changed many things very quickly in its efforts to modernize into the 20th century. What were some of the successes?” “Comparing how rapid modernization strengthened countries like Japan, how do you think this set a solid foundation for Turkey?”

3. Student groups will write a news report citing these reforms, circa 1928, and present to the class. Each group will represent a different perspective: Group A - Turkish Traditional news agency, Group B - Turkish Liberal news agency, Group C - Soviet news group, Group D - US new agency, Group E - British news agency, Group F - Greek news agency, Group G - Turkish Women’s news agency. Students will discuss the different perspectives in class.

4. Days 4 - 5 - Students, in groups of four, will read a variety of poetry by Nazim Hikmet, using a close reading method. Students will highlight and annotate material as well as write a brief summary of each work citing the date written, the theme, and how the student feels this might have influenced Turkish citizens.

Poems of Nazim Hikmet, translated by Randy Blasing and Mutlu Konuk

- The Epic of Sheikh Bedreddin
- Its This Way
- A Sorry Freedom

- Letter to my Wife
- This Journey

Students will discuss in their groups how Nazim Hikmet's poetry might have influenced a nation, and cite examples from his work to support their answer. Questions may include, "How did Nazim Hikmet's experiences with WWI influence his work?" "How did Nazim Hikmet's travels to the Soviet Union during the revolutionary years and after impact his work?" "Does Nazim Hikmet have a strong patriotism for his country?"

5. Students will listen to The Byrds recording - I Come and Stand at Every Door, lyrics by Nazim Hikmet, - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tj5p5iEmS_U

Students will answer the question - "Did Nazim Hikmet's influence extend beyond Turkey?"

5. Groups will work on choosing a poem written by Nazim Hikmet, create a picture reflecting the poem and write a brief summary of the work. Students have several books of Nazim Hikmet's poetry to choose to complete this assignment. Students will present their work to the class.

6. Next, students will use the information they obtain to write news reports.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be in student's projects. Students will turn in their notes, annotations, as all as work. While answers may vary, efforts by students to show insight and higher level thinking in their work must be evident to receive the highest marks.

Students must show that they have used evidence from the readings or from their own research to support their work/thesis.

Each student, while working in a group, must explain his/her contribution.

Grades will be given on a 4 point scale. Students meeting requirements will receive a 3. Students who do not meet all requirements will receive a 2. Students who put forth little or incomplete efforts, will receive a 1. Students that go over and above the requirements will receive a 4.

EXTENSION IDEAS

Extended Assignment - Students will write their own free verse poem about an issue in our country, ex. poverty, patriotism, war, prison reform, racism, etc., and present to the class.

SOURCES

"Ataturk_Founder of Modern Turkey and Famous Personalities - Turkey Cultural Tour." *Ataturk_Founder of Modern Turkey and Famous Personalities - Turkey Cultural Tour*. Turkey Cultural Tour, n.d. Web. 27 Aug. 2015.

Hikmet, Nazim, Jeanette Turner, Pete Seeger, and The Byrds. "The Byrds - I Come and Stand at Every Door." *YouTube*. YouTube, 8 Oct. 2014. Web. 2 Sept. 2015.

Hikmet, Nazim, Randy Blasing, and Mutlu Konuk. *The Epic of Sheikh Bedreddin and Other Poems*. New York: Persea, 1977. Print.

Nazim, Hikmet, Randy Blasing, and Mutlu Konuk. *Human Landscapes from My Country An Epic Novel in Verse*. New York: Persea, 2008. Print.

Hikmet, Nâzım, Randy Blasing, and Mutlu Konuk Blasing. *Poems of Nazim Hikmet*. New York: Persea, 2002. Print.

James, Marion. "'Romantic Communist': What Made Nazim Hikmet the Man He Was?" *Today's Zaman*. Today's Zaman, 16 Aug. 2009. Web. 29 Dec. 2015.

Kastritsis, Dimitris. "'The Revolt of Şeyh Bedreddin in the Context of the Ottoman Civil War of 1402–13.'" Political Initiatives 'From the Bottom Up' in the Ottoman Empire: Halcyon Days in Crete 7. Edited by Antonis Anastasopoulos. University of Crete Press (2012), 221–238 | Dimitri Kastritsis - Academia.edu." Academia, n.d. Web. 27 Aug. 2015.

"Map of Expansion and Decline of the Ottoman Empire." *Map of Expansion and Decline of the Ottoman Empire*. The Way Back Machine, n.d. Web. 29 Sept. 2015.

"NAZIM HIKMET." *Nazım Hikmet*. The Turkish Cultural Foundation, n.d. Web. 27 Aug. 2015.

"Turkey Profile - Timeline - BBC News." *BBC News*. BBC News, 30 Nov. 2015. Web. 05 Dec. 2015.

HANDOUTS

Handout attached. It may work out to have students view the material using a chromebook or tablet to save on copying.