



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Free Resources about Middle East Conflicts (to Use with Your Students)

General Middle East:

- “What Is Going on Here? An Inquiry Lesson in Current Events in the Muslim World” (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/what-going-here-inquiry-lesson-current-events-muslim-world>
- “The Middle East’s Cold War, Explained” (10-minute video on Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Middle East conflict): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veMFCFyOwFI&t=3s>

Syrian civil war and ISIS

- “The War on ISIS: Views from Syrian Activists and Intellectuals” (short article with different primary source views): <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/war-isis-views-from-syrian-activists-and-intellectuals>
- “Teaching Notes: What to Do about Syria” (with lesson plan): <https://www.cfr.org/teaching-notes/teaching-notes-what-do-about-syria>
- “Debating the US Response to Violence in Syria” (Choices lesson plan): <https://www.choices.edu/teaching-news-lesson/debating-u-s-response-violence-syria/>
- “The ISIS Threat: Teaching about the Complex War Raging in Iraq and Syria” - https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/09/17/the-isis-threat-teaching-about-the-complex-war-raging-in-iraq-and-syria/?_php=true&_type=blogs&emc=edit_in_20140918&nl=learning&nid=56340402&r=0
- “Fractured Lands’ Focus Lesson: An ISIS Fighter’s Background” (a Pulitzer Center lesson based on journalism and students’ writing): <https://pulitzercenter.org/builder/lesson/fractured-lands-focus-lesson-isis-fighters-background-19172>
- “Teaching about the Horrific – ISIS, Slavery, and Rape”:
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/teaching-about-the-horrib b_8009766
- “Examining How the Syrian Crisis Has Shaped the Lives of Young Refugees”:
- “Syrian Civil War and Human Rights Violations”: <https://cmes.arizona.edu/syrian-civil-war-and-human-rights-violations>
- “Syria’s War: Who’s Fighting and Why” (6-minute animated video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFpanWNgfQY>
- “Syria: Seven Years of War Explained” (6-minute video) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoL0L_DbuQQ
- “The Syrian War Explained in 5 Minutes” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5H5w3_QTG0
- “Syrian Kids Explain the War” (4-minute video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iz2tNiRpeY>
- “How Syria’s Kurds Are Trying to Create a Democracy” (6-minute video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaKwjvukvg&vl=en>

Peacebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan

- “100 Years in Mesopotamia: A Century of Conflict in Iraq, 1914-2014” (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/100-years-mesopotamia-century-conflict-iraq-1914-2014>
- “Examining the Influence of the US Constitution on the Iraqi Constitution Ratified in 2005” (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/examining-influence-us-constitution-iraqi-constitution-ratified-2005>
- “Post-War Reconstruction: What Happens AFTER the Conflict Ends?” (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/post-war-reconstruction-what-happens-after-conflict-ends>
- “Lesson Plan on Afghanistan” (lesson plan that is great but needs a few tweaks to update it): https://www.socialstudies.org/system/files/publications/articles/se_7307350.pdf
- “Afghanistan Unveiled: Women’s Rights in Post-War Afghanistan” (lesson plan): https://www-tc.pbs.org/independentlens/afghanistanunveiled/edu_2.pdf

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

- “Palestine/Israel – 1948: One Event, Two Perspectives” (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/palestineisrael-1948-one-event-two-perspectives>
- “Palestinian-Israeli Issue/High School Social Studies (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/palestinian-israeli-issuehigh-school-social-studies>
- Palestinian-Israeli Issue/High School English (literature-based lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/palestinian-israeli-issuehigh-school-english>
- “The Arab-Israeli Conflict” (5-lesson curriculum): <https://icsresources.org/curriculum/the-arab-israeli-conflict/>
- “Making a Difference in the Midst of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict/Wide Angle” (lesson plan): <https://az.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/wa10.socst.global.20cent.lpheartjen/making-a-difference-in-the-midst-of-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict/#.Xk8E5ChKiUk>
- “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Lesson in Perspective” (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/israeli-palestinian-conflict-lesson-perspective>
- “Conflict in Israel and Palestine: Crash Course World History 223” (13-minute animated video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLIMhiw>

Refugee crises

- “Examining How the Syrian Crisis Has Shaped the Lives of Young Refugees”:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/26/learning/lesson-plans/examining-how-the-syrian-crisis-has-shaped-the-lives-of-young-refugees-a-guest-lesson-plan.html>
- “Ideas for Teaching about the Arab Refugee Crisis”:
http://ncmideast.org/files/2011/07/TeachingIdeas_ArabRefugees1.pdf
- “Syria’s Children” (lesson plan using “Flight from Syria – Refugee Stories”):
<https://pulitzercenter.org/builder/lesson/syrias-children-16671>
- “The Historical Roots of the Syrian Refugee Crisis” (9-minute video):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tR2laJSOLGw&list=PLSdIeNHvfGHOtItmAtuBzkfsedc18vDP3&index=1>
- “The World’s Refugees in Numbers” (great visuals to use in your classroom – and a possible short research-activity of having kids each look up a refugee-receiving country to research where the refugees come from, where they go, and what resources the country has to help them/GDP):

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/global-refugee-crisis-statistics-and-facts/>

- “Teaching about Refugees” (from UNHCR): <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/teaching-about-refugees.html>
- “Mapping the Refugee Crisis” (free Choices lesson): <https://www.choices.edu/teaching-news-lesson/refugee-stories-mapping-crisis/>
- “Migrations across Morocco” (a history lesson plan that goes to the present day and includes materials on sub-Saharan migration to the EU and sometimes decades-long sojourn in Morocco): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/migrations-across-morocco>

Minorities/Women

- “Kurds: A People without a Country” (lesson plan): <https://cmes.arizona.edu/kurds-people-without-country>
- “Women in Islam” (lesson plan): <http://www.middleeastpdx.org/resources/original/women-in-islam/>
- “Women and Family in the Islamic World” (lesson plan): <http://teachmiddleeast.lib.uchicago.edu/historical-perspectives/the-question-of-identity/islamic-period-diversity/classroom-connections/QuestionofIdentityIslamicPeriodPartILesson1.pdf>

Environmental issues

- “Syria’s Climate Conflict” (comic – perfect for classroom use): <https://grist.org/climate-energy/syrias-climate-fueled-conflict-in-one-stunning-comic-strip/>
- “A Siege of Salt and Sand” (42-minute film on the impact of global climate change on Tunisia – perfect for high school students): <https://vimeo.com/97702722> (If

Political transitions/upheavals

- “Why the World Is Worried about Turkey” (7½-minute video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBZHdbfuFtw>
- “Saudi Arabia and Iran Compared” (9-minute, partly animated video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnnDLlaqRu0>

US versus Iran

- “The United States and Iran: A Troubled History” (lesson plan from Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations): <https://shafr.org/teaching/united-states-and-iran-troubled-history>
- “The US and Iran: Confronting Policy Alternatives” (Choices Lesson Plan featured in *Social Education*): https://www.socialstudies.org/system/files/publications/articles/se_7305220.pdf
- “Iran’s Revolutions: Crash Course” (14-minute video on 20th century Iranian history) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w4Ku6l7OEI>
- “How the Iran Nuclear Deal Works, Explained in 3 Minutes” (video) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqvghou5m3U>
- “How Decades of US Sanctions Crushed Iran’s Economy” (9-minute video) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0g6hau0FN4>