



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## Center for Middle Eastern Studies

# Sacred Water - Morocco

*Lesson Plan for Higher Education, Intercultural Communication*

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### OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

To engage students in having a thought provoking discussion on how rituals and traditions within cultures differ yet have many similarities from an intercultural standpoint. Specifically taking a look at water rituals related to Moroccan culture and environment, as water is a cultural universal element.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Compare similarities and differences universal to all cultures.
2. Demonstrate skills and strategies for dealing with similarities and differences in perception.
3. Identify changes in national and global environments that necessitate the study of intercultural communication.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Students will explore the importance of water.
  - View film on the current concern regarding water resources and sustainability  
"Flow"<https://www.watercache.com/blog/2011/10/must-see-water-documentaries-provide-insight-into-future-water-crisis>
2. Discuss why water is viewed as sacred in many cultures around the world.

- How water is a cultural universal element used in traditional rituals looking specifically at Morocco's use of water fountains in courtyards, public baths in traditional hammams, and Islamic ablution of wudu 5 times per day preparation for prayers.

- Explore and take a deep dive look at the Moroccan water projects aiming for all Moroccans to having access to clean running water.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZbV\\_XXIQZo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZbV_XXIQZo)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7udlyjANi6s>

After viewing videos review essential questions and promote think global act local.

- Some share a perspective that water is a resource similar to air and it should not be charged. What do you think? Should people have to pay for water usage in the world? (privatization of fresh drinkable water)
- What would you do if you did not have running water in your home? Where would you access clean water?
- What are some rituals and traditions in your own family in regards to water?
- What will you do to become more conscious of your water usage and not waste water?

3. Take a deeper dive to see how water is viewed as sacred in many cultural ceremonies.

- “Aware of the strategic issues related to the water sector, the Kingdom of Morocco has implemented a development strategy based on the development of water resources. The Mohammed VI Museum for the Civilization of Water plays the role of the cornerstone in this process, indeed, it highlights the traditional hydraulic heritage in all its technical, social and cultural aspects.”  
- The Aman Museum for Civilization of Water in Morocco.

"From the water, We have made up all living things" Quran, Surah of the Prophets (v-30).

- Explore the Muslim ablution called “Wudu” in Morocco
- The history of Morocco’s “Waterman”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwf7t2mFJVQ>

Being a desert the waterman historically was a main source for thirsty travelers and people living in the area to find much needed hydration. The waterman known many stories as people used to stop and share conversation before moving onward. The waterman is dressed in colorful traditional outfit and rings a bell to be seen and heard by all in the area not to be missed.





4. Discuss the connection to how water is used in Morocco for rituals, hospitality, cuisine.
  - Video: helps illustrate the way Moroccan cuisine is unique and efficient specifically due to its desert environment.
  - Highlighting the importance of socialization and connection to people; as it is the norm for eating and drinking to be a community ritual.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrWVhSp84Ko>
  - Moroccan Mint tea ceremony and culture  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzVckwvTGIU>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5b3Q1T4S4iE>
  
5. Students will then share a cup of Moroccan Mint Tea together sitting in a circle in small groups and discuss with each other their personal examples of how water is used for certain traditions, rituals, and hospitality norms.

Discussion will glean how water is a cultural universal as that we all share and possess.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

1. AV and screen
2. Optional - Flip Chart Paper and Markers for sharing out as small groups

## VERIFICATION

1. Discussion will glean how water is a cultural universal as that we all share and possess.
2. Groups will share out what they learned from one another.

## COMMITMENT ACTIVITY

Group Discussion will reinforce the values of water being sacred to many cultures all around the world. Creating awareness for students to understand their individual role as global citizens.

On a Flipchart paper for the classroom the students will each write their to be up all semester to serve as a reminder of their personal commitment.

Mindfulness of not being wasteful of water. Students will make a commitment pledge to do something small on a local level to conserve water usage.