**Middle East Nation Study Middle School**

**Location**: Middle East **Time Period**: Current Events **Grades:** 6-8

**Essential Question**:

What are the key issues facing the nations of this crucial area of the world?

**Objectives**:

Students will learn about one nation in the region in depth.

 Students will develop/refine research and writing skills.

 Students will gain an appreciation of complexities of international relations in the Middle East.

**Curriculum Standards**:

Grade 6: World Geography: Concepts and Skills:

History and Geography: Reading and Interpreting Maps

 Economics

 Learning Standards: Western Asia (the Middle East)

**Iraq Lesson 2: Middle School Teacher Sheet**

**Overview**

To help students understand the complex forces that shape events related to the entire region, they will each become an expert about one nation. Central to this project will be learning about the geography, history, economy and politics of their country. They will also reflect on the Arab Spring, fundamentalist reaction, and impact within their country.

 **Procedure**

1. Each student in the class will be assigned one of the following countries:

Egypt Israel Lebanon Syria

 Jordan Cyprus Iran Saudi Arabia

 Turkey Afghanistan Pakistan Kuwait

 Qatar Yemen Oman United Arab Emirates

2. Students will conduct extensive research and produce a written report about their country. Specifics are detailed in the Student Sheet for this activity.

3. Once students have completed their reports, have them present what they learned about their country.

**Time Allocation**: One period to introduce assignment, four to share country information. They will need extensive time out of class for research and writing.

Variation on the Activity: Students may work in pairs or in small groups.

**Materials**

Map of the Middle East, 1997, http://maps.bpl.org/details\_10097

For information about countries, begin with

 Arab News: www.arab.net

BBC News:World:Country Profiles

 /news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\_east/country\_profiles

Country Report: [www.countryreports.org](http://www.countryreports.org)

Information Please www.infoplease.coml

Library of Congress: lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs

The World Factbook: www.odci.gov/cia/publications

World Almanac For Kids www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/nations

**Assessment criteria**

Did student present a coherent and thorough overview of his or her country?

Did student conduct sufficient research on his/her country?

**Iraq Lesson 2: Middle School Student Sheet**

You will be learning about one of the Middle Eastern countries in great depth. Central to this project is learning about the relationship between the country you are studying and Iraq. You will need to consider the role that your nation plays in the Middle East.

1. You will be assigned a country to study.
2. You will prepare a written report that includes information about your country on the following topics:

Physical Geography and Climatic Conditions

Brief history

Independence Movement

Religious and Ethnic Groups

Family Structure

Educational System

Economy

Present Government/Political Situation

Response to the Arab Spring

1. Your final project should include the sources you used.

To help begin your research, you may want to consult one of these websites:

Arab News: www.arab.net

BBC News:World:Country Profiles

 /news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\_east/country\_profiles

Country Report: [www.countryreports.org](http://www.countryreports.org)

Information Please www.infoplease.coml

Library of Congress: lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs

 The World Factbook: www.odci.gov/cia/publications

World Almanac For Kids www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/nations