



educating for cultural literacy
and mutual respect

Muslim Contributions to Civilization



An Interactive Curriculum for Middle and High Schools

Developed by ING

Introduction

This curriculum, *Muslim Contributions to Civilization*, was designed to supplement content standards in social studies and world history. The curriculum was developed by ING based on our long experience delivering this and other presentations through live speakers. If you live in an area where there is a local Islamic Speakers Bureau (ISB) program, we recommend inviting a live speaker to deliver the presentation since this provides an opportunity to interact face-to-face. If you live in an area where there is no speaker's bureau, or you prefer to deliver the presentation yourself, we have provided the scripts for each slide to accompany the digital presentation.

The curriculum is composed of six lesson plans that each focus on the different parts of the digital presentation *Muslim Contributions to Civilization*. The curriculum begins with notes for each slide in the presentation. In addition to the presentation notes, each lesson includes discussion questions, activities, and film clips that you can link to as well as discussion questions about the films. While the presentation can be used independently, it is more effective when supplemented by film clips which highlight the different topics addressed in each lesson. Please use the clips that you feel will resonate best with your students. These lessons were designed to be used either jointly or independently as stand-alone curriculum depending on the time available and your desired focus. For educators who want a more general overview, we also provide a basic curriculum about Muslim beliefs and practices called *Getting to Know American Muslims and Their Faith*.

The mission of Islamic Networks Group (ING) is to promote interreligious understanding, tolerance, and harmony through dialogue and religious literacy. It is our hope that through this curriculum we can provide balanced information to educators that will supplement their curriculum in a manner that is relevant, engaging, and informative.

Curriculum Standards

This six-part series of lessons and accompanying films for *Muslim Contributions to Civilization* is designed to support teachers working in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. This curriculum addresses many themes put forth by the National Council for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards and the National Center for History in the Schools at UCLA. Many of these themes are also addressed in state social studies content standards including those of California, Texas, and New York.

Relevant Themes

How have changes in science and technology impacted individuals, groups, societies, nations, and the environment, past and present, in both positive and negative ways? (National Curriculum Standards for Social Sciences - 8: Science, Technology, and Society)

What can be learned from the past about how science and technology have resulted in broad social change, planned or unanticipated? (National Curriculum Standards for Social Sciences - 8: Science, Technology, and Society)

How do we balance the possibilities and advancements in science and technology against ways in which they may conflict with existing beliefs, ethics, and values? (National Curriculum Standards for Social Sciences - 8: Science, Technology, and Society)

Values, beliefs, and attitudes that have been influenced by new scientific and technological knowledge (e.g., invention of the printing press, conceptions of the universe, etc.). (National Curriculum Standards for Social Sciences - 8: Science, Technology, and Society)

Science and technology have contributed to making the world increasingly interdependent. (National Curriculum Standards for Social Sciences - 8: Science, Technology, and Society)

Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of Islam in the Middle Ages. (Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools – 7.2)

Understand the intellectual exchanges among Muslim scholars of Eurasia and Africa and the contributions Muslim scholars made to later civilizations in the areas of science, geography, mathematics, philosophy, medicine, art, and literature. (Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools – 7.2.6)

Describe the Golden Age of cooperation between Jews and Muslims in medieval Spain that promoted creativity in art, literature, and science, including how that cooperation was terminated by the religious persecution of individuals and groups (e.g., the Spanish Inquisition and the expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain in 1492). (Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools – 7.9.7)

Students analyze the historical developments of the Scientific Revolution and its lasting effect on religious, political, and cultural institutions. Discuss the roots of the Scientific Revolution (e.g., Greek rationalism; Jewish, Christian, and Muslim science; Renaissance humanism; new knowledge from global exploration). (Social Science Content Standards for California Public Schools – 7.10.1)

Identify the origin and diffusion of major ideas in mathematics, science, and technology that occurred in river valley civilizations, classical Greece and Rome, classical India, the Islamic caliphates between 700 and 1200, and in China from the Tang to Ming dynasties. (Texas Education Agency Curriculum Standards-Social Studies – World History Studies - 27.A)

Lesson Topics

This curriculum *Muslim Contributions to Civilization* is divided into six lesson plans with accompanying presentation notes, discussion and test questions, activities, and supplemental films. Each lesson covers the topics outlined below and can be used alone or as part of the entire curriculum.

Lesson One: World Civilizations

- Muslim Contributions to Civilization
- Flow of Civilization
- The Missing Link
- Elements of Culture

Lesson Two: Home and Daily Life

- Drinks
- Cuisine and Spices
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Sweets
- Clothing and Fabrics
- Hygiene and Lifestyle
- Furniture and Carpets

Lesson Three: Architecture, the Arts, and Recreation

- Architecture and Architectural Masterpieces
- City Planning
- Gardens
- Tiles
- Art and Arabesque

- Calligraphy
- Glassmaking
- Trade and Commerce
- Music and Musical Instruments
- Musical Influences
- Polo
- The Arabian Horse
- Chess

Lesson Four: Libraries, Colleges, and Mathematics

- Paper and Books
- Libraries
- Colleges and Universities
- Mathematics
- Arabic Numerals
- Geometry

Lesson Five: Medicine, Hospitals, and Pharmacies

- Medicine
- Physicians
- Anatomy
- Surgery
- Hospitals
- Pharmacies
- Zoology

Lesson Six: Science and Humanities

- Astronomy
- Astronomers
- Constellations and Stars
- Observatories
- Optics
- Timekeeping
- Mechanical Inventions
- Aviation
- Cartography and Navigation
- Geography and History
- Philosophy
- Literature
- Poetry
- Language
- Tolerance
- Famous American Muslims
- Conclusion