

# I-SEARCH INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

## Islam

- PARADOXES:**  
Many people believe that the Middle East is nothing but desert with only a few oases here and there. Create a model of Baghdad from the height of Islamic expansion (A.D. 820).
- ATTRIBUTES:**  
Christianity, Islam, and Judaism all have similar teachings (e.g., The Golden Rule). Create an illustrated fairy tale that uses some of these teachings as a moral.
- ANALOGIES:**  
It is often assumed that Christianity, Judaism, and Islam have very little in common with each other. Talk to a number of people that subscribe to each faith and create a video comparing and contrasting the religions.
- DISCREPANCIES:**  
Today, there are major problems in Israel between Islam and Judaism. These problems stem from a desire of the Palestinians (Muslims) and Israelis (Jews) to occupy the same holy lands. Create a map showing how you would divide Israel in an equitable way.
- PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS:**  
Islam's Umayyad Dynasty conquered Spain in 711 and the Moors (Muslims) remained until 1492. Shortly afterward, Christopher Columbus sailed to the New World bearing the Christian flag. Suppose he sailed on behalf of the Muslims. Create a poster showing how South and Central America would be different.
- EXAMPLES OF CHANGE:**  
The death of Muhammad created sudden change within the Empire of Islam. Create a collage that shows some of the problems and changes encountered by the Muslims on the death of Muhammad.
- EXAMPLES OF HABIT:**  
Women do not enjoy the same rights as men in Islamic countries. Create a pop-up book showing the role of women in Islamic societies. Include the past, present and future view of women and their roles.
- ORGANIZED RANDOM SEARCH:**  
As a general rule, Muslims do not include pictures of animals and people in their art. They feel that this should be left to Allah. The result is beautiful works of art that include many colors, geometric designs, and Arabic writing. Create an original mosaic in the style of the Muslims.
- SKILLS OF SEARCH:**  
Research the foods eaten in Arabia. Prepare a meal for the class based on these foods. Set up a food guide pyramid comparing today's food pyramid to theirs.
- TOLERANCE FOR AMBIGUITY:**  
President Bush's *War on Terrorism* has led to the collapse of the governments in Afghanistan and Iraq. Create a chart showing the cost (money, lives lost, lives saved, etc.) of having the military set up new governments in these countries.

## PRODUCTS

A Dance/A Letter/ A Lesson	Oral Defense
Advertisement	Oral Report
Animated Movie	Painting Pamphlet
Annotated Bibliography	Pantomime
Art Gallery	Papier Mache
Block Picture Story	Petition
Bulletin Board	Photo Essay
Bumper Sticker	Pictures
Chart	Picture Story for Children
Choral Reading	Plaster of Paris Model
Clay Sculpture	Play
Code	Poetry
Collage	Political Cartoon
Collection	Pop-Up Book
Comic Strip	Postage Stamp, Commemoratives
Computer Program	Press Conference
Costumes	Project Cube
Crossword Puzzle	Prototype
Database	Puppet
Debate	Puppet Show
Demonstration	Puzzle
Detailed Illustration	Rap
Diorama	Radio Program
Diary	Rebus Story
Display	Recipe
Edibles	Riddle
Editorial Essay	Role Play
Etching	Science Fiction Story
Experiment	Sculpture
Fact Tile	Skit
Fairy Tale	Slide Show
Family Tree	Slogan
Fiction Story	Soliloquy
Film	Song
Filmstrip	Sound
Flip Book	Story Telling-Tall Tales
Game	Tales
Graph	Survey
Hidden Picture	Tapes-Audio-Video
Illustrated Story	Television Program
Interview	Timeline
Jingle	Transparencies
Joke Book	Travel Brochure
Journal	Venn Diagram
Labeled Diagram	Web Home Page
Large Scale Drawing	Working Hypothesis
Learning Center	Write a new law
Letter to the Editor	Video Film
Map with Legend	
Mazes	
Mural	
Museum Exhibit	
Musical Instruments	
Needlework	
Newspaper Story	
Non-Fiction	

11. **INTUITIVE EXPRESSION:**

Imagine you were a Christian that lived in Mecca in 610 when Muhammad began preaching about his new religion. Write a song of how you felt, what your life was like, and the challenges you faced.

12. **ADJUSTMENT TO DEVELOPMENT:**

From the fall of the Roman Empire, to about the 1300s, Europe was in the Middle Ages (also know as the Dark Ages). It was only with the Crusades and the help of the Muslims that the Europeans were dragged out of the Middle Ages. Create a newcast showing the changes that were brought to Europe during the Crusades.

13. **STUDY CREATIVE PEOPLE AND PROCESS:**

Choose a character that can be found in Christianity, Islam, and Judaism (e.g., Abraham, Moses, Gabriel, etc.) Create a newspaper story on his/her accomplishments and failures.

14. **EVALUATE SITUATIONS:**

The Muslims made advances in science, medicine, art, and architecture. Create a crossword puzzle that demonstrates some of these accomplishments..

15. **CREATIVE READING SKILL:**

Read *1001 Arabian Nights*. Write a play that shows one or more of these stories.

16. **CREATIVE LISTENING SKILL:**

Listen to various forms of Islamic or Arabic music. Create a mural showing what you think the music represents.

17. **CREATIVE WRITING SKILL:**

Research a particular event from the history of Islam that interests you. Use your research to write a "Choose Your Way Through History" story that you can read to the class. Include several places in the story where the class must choose what happens next. Create several endings for their choices.

18. **VISUALIZATION SKILL:**

Islam expanded very quickly in a very short amount of time. Create a flip book that shows the expansion through the use of maps.

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