

## **KITE RUNNER BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE WEBQUEST**

You will be divided up in groups and be responsible for finding the answers the questions. After you are done you will report back to the class your answers.

History/Geography: Group 1

1. What countries are near Afghanistan?

Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan

2. What is the capital of Afghanistan?

Kabul

3. What is the weather like in Afghanistan?

Hot and Dry in summers, Rainy and cold in Winter

4. What is the most common occupation in Afghanistan?

Farmers

5. What happened in 1921?

Afghanistan becomes an independent nation

6. What happened in 1933?

Zahir Shah becomes the new king and rules in peace for 40 years

7. What major event happened in 1973 in Afghanistan?

Peoples democratic party of Afghanistan overthrows the monarchy, form strong ties with USSR (Russia)

8. In 1992 who takes over Afghanistan

Civil War Broke out, Kabul was mostly destroyed in the bombing

9. Why did people welcome the Taliban?

They upheld the traditional Islamic Values

10. Why did people leave Afghanistan after the Taliban took over?

The Taliban would commit massacres against afghans and destroy their farmland if they did not follow their rules.

Religion and Faith: Group 2

1. What is Islam? What is one belief they have?

Religion founded on the teachings of Muhammed, they follow the five pillars of islam and surrender to the word of god

2. Do Christianity and Islam share the same origin? How do they differ (1 main way)?

Christianity and Islam both come from the middle east and have very similar beliefs, but they have different holy books...the bible and the Qu'ran

3. What is the Qu'ran?

Central religious text of islam (the bible)

4. What are the five main 'pillars' of Islam, and why are they important?

Shahadah- Declaration of faith

Salat- Daily prayer (5 times a day, pray to Mecca)

Zakat- giving to charity/ the community

Sawm- Fasting during Ramadan

Hajj- required travel to Mecca (Islamic holy city)

5. What are 3 acceptable behaviors and 3 unacceptable behaviors in Islam?

Acceptable

Unacceptable

1. Truthfulness

1. Lying

2. Give to those who need

2. Being Greedy

3. Moderation in all things

3. Doing/having excess

6. What is the main difference between Sunni vs. Shiite Islam? What is one similarity

One Similarity- Both are different sects of Muslim and follow the teachings of Muhammad.

One Difference- Both sides disagreed on who should take over after the death of Muhammad. Today, most Muslims are Sunni, and Shia Muslims have been victims of genocides

Daily life (Dress/Food/Recreation/Economy: Group 3

1. What is a qamis, a pagray, and a burqa?

Qamis- Traditional, loose fitting male Dress



Pagray- a head dress



Burqu- A full body cloak worn by women



2. What does the clothing show about the Afghani people?

They are more traditional and conservative

3. What is the most popular dish of Afghanistan? What meats are common? Drink?

National Dish-Kabuli palaw, a dish with rice, meat, raisins, carrots, and nuts

Doogh- most common drink made with cold water, yogurt, and mint

Meat- most common meat is lamb

4. What occupation has been most effected by warfare?

Farmers- many farms were destroyed by bombings/ political take overs

5. What is the main animal used for food in Afghanistan?

Lamb- all animals must be treated with respect

6. What are Afghanistan's main exports?

Fruits and medicinal herbs

7. Cultivation of what product supported the Taliban financially?

Opium- a painkiller like morphine that was obtained from poppies

8. How is Afghanistan today? Is it doing well financially?

Due to constant war, Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. It has a very high infant mortality rate.