

Global Literacy Test

To be administered in conjunction with the Lesson Plan, "Why is the Middle East so Stereotyped in the West?", by Eric Davis and Michael Rossi, Department of Political Science, Rutgers University.

Part I: Initial Images

Please read the following list of countries to your students and ask them to write down at least three images of perceptions that come to their minds when hearing the following terms. (N.B. Students should not spend time thinking about these terms, as this is an orientation exercise designed to bring to the class' attention what images and perceptions they have of countries throughout the world.)

- United States
- Great Britain
- Saudi Arabia
- Egypt
- Germany
- Italy
- Greece
- Israel
- Mexico
- China
- Iraq
- Iran
- Japan
- Russia
- France
- Canada
- India
- Pakistan
- Libya
- Brazil

Part II: The Middle East

Please ask your students the following questions about the Middle East. This written assignment is designed to demonstrate to the student how much or how little they know about the region

1. Ancient Mesopotamia is primarily located in which present-day country?
 - a. Iran
 - b. Syria
 - c. Iraq
 - d. Saudi Arabia

2. The percentage of Middle Easterners whose livelihood is derived from nomadic life is estimated to be:
 - a. 50%
 - b. 2 - 3%
 - c. Over 75%
 - d. 30%

3. All of the following communities have deep historical roots in Jerusalem EXCEPT:
 - a. Israeli Jews
 - b. Palestinian Muslims
 - c. Turkish Muslims
 - d. Armenian Christians

4. The Kurds predominantly live in all of the following countries EXCEPT:
 - a. Turkey
 - b. Iraq
 - c. Syria
 - d. Egypt

5. The city of Damascus is the capital of what country?
 - a. Syria
 - b. Turkey
 - c. Israel
 - d. Tunisia

6. Christians make up what percentage of the Lebanese population?
 - a. Less than 5%
 - b. Around 40%
 - c. Between 10 and 15%
 - d. Over 75%

7. The largest ethnic community in Iraq is the
 - a. Kurds
 - b. Christian Arabs
 - c. Sunni Arabs
 - d. Shi'i Arabs

8. The largest oil-producing country in the Middle East is:
 - a. Iran
 - b. Iraq
 - c. Kuwait
 - d. Saudi Arabia

9. The major language spoken in Iran is:
 - a. Arabic

- b. Turkish
- c. Persian (Farsi)
- d. Armenian

10. The Turkish city of Istanbul was once historically known as

- a. Alexandria
- b. Babylon
- c. Ctesiphon
- d. Constantinople