

Hunt for the Noor Stone Game - Student Activity

(http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/content/wham-bam-islam_game-html/)

(short URL: <http://goo.gl/PwN2zQ>)

Introduction:

The Hunt for the Noor Stone is a standalone game, as well as a companion to the film Wham! Bam! Islam! This documentary focuses on The 99, a widely successful Middle Eastern comic book series where the heroes' powers are inspired by the 99 Attributes of Allah, a cornerstone of Islamic faith. In this role-playing game, players travel to the ancient cities of Baghdad and Cordoba to locate The Noor Stone, a mythical stone in Hindu and Arabic texts believed to contain infinite wisdom. They must do so before the evil villain, Rhugal, finds it first. It's a race against time as players gather important historical and cultural information about the Islamic world in order to solve puzzles and riddles that will lead them to the Noor Stone. Rich art and historical references aim to create an experience that caters to both fans of The 99 or anyone interested in learning more about Islamic culture in a new way (from the Games for Change website).



Pre-Game - Minds On:

What regions of the world do we learn about historically?

Why is it important to learn about foreign history and cultures?

During the Game:

Go to <http://goo.gl/PwN2zQ> and choose "Start Quest" (you can choose "How to Play" to see what your tools do). Throughout your travels, you will learn many things. People you meet on your travels will teach you pieces of the Arabic language. You will also meet historical figures. As you play through the game, try to fill in the blanks.

Hint Your "Notes" section keeps track of important information. Review them for information that might help you with the answers below. Keep track of each new person you meet, in the later activity you will be doing some acting!

Fill in the Blanks

Use the words in the boxes below to fill in the blanks as you progress through your journey. Not all words in the boxes are used, so think carefully!

Pray	Ziryab	Muslims
Eat	Algebra	Toothpaste
Qadi	Christians	Chess
Wa-Alaykum Salam	Broom	As-Salam Alaykum
Multiplication	Caliph	Shukran

1. When starting a conversation with someone in Ancient Baghdad you would typically say _____, which also means “peace be unto you”.
2. If someone were to do something kind for you, you may respond with _____, meaning “thank you” in Arabic.
3. In today’s time, a judge is responsible for keeping the law. However, in ancient Baghdad, people would speak to a _____ to solve legal problems.
4. We call Justin Trudeau, the leader of our country, the Prime Minister. In ancient Baghdad, the leader of the country was called a _____, or “King”.
5. What well-known form of math originated in ancient Baghdad? _____
6. Water clocks used the controlled flow of water to keep time. In ancient Baghdad they were used to let people know when to _____.
7. In Cordoba there was a building that used to be a Church, that became a Mosque. Now both _____ and _____ pray there.

8. What famous historical figure was first to use the table cloth, and also created the three-course meal? _____
9. What well-known tabletop game was brought to Cordoba from India?

10. Ziryab was an inventor of many things. One of his inventions is now seen in every home.

Post-Game - Extension Questions

The following questions can be used to further reflect on your experience.

1. Do you feel that by adding foreign language into the game, it made it easier to learn?
2. Do you think that videogames can be used in schools to learn new languages?
3. What were some of the things that were invented in ancient Middle-East that surprised you?
4. Are the facts in-game true? We sometimes believe the first piece of information we're given. Research anything you think is not real, let the class know if you find any false information.
5. Do you think it would be possible to have two religions worshipping in the same building today?
6. What other places of the world would you like to learn the history of?
7. Why is history an important subject to learn?
8. Role-playing game (optional): Join a group of 4-6 people. Your teacher will secretly assign one member from each group a role related to the game. They must act the part and the group members have to guess who they are. When the round is over, someone else will have a chance to act. If nobody would like to act, then instead the group members can ask questions about the chosen member's identity.