

DAUGHTERS OF THE DESERT TEACHER'S GUIDE

History/Social Studies/Current Events/Geography

- Using the time line at the beginning of the book, draw a pictorial time line, including literary, artistic, cultural and historical events that happened during the time of the stories.
- Write a report on the Holy Lands that details caravan trading, nomadic living, tribal cultures and/or the settled and agrarian lifestyles of that time.
- Draw a map of the Holy Lands that shows how it looked at the time of one of the stories. Then, draw another map that shows how the region is divided into countries today. Include landmarks such as bodies of water, mountains, cities and holy sites.
- On a map, trace pilgrimages made by the prophets, apostles or leaders of one or more of the three Abrahamic religions.
- Write a paper examining how the role of women in society has changed or not changed since the beginnings of Judaism, Islam and Christianity.
- Find an article on the Internet, or in a newspaper or a magazine that focuses on a current event concerning Christianity, Judaism or Islam. Then, present an oral report to the class on what you've read, including whether or not this event has connections to any of the stories in *Daughters of the Desert*.

Culture/Religion

- Make a calendar that indicates each of the Abrahamic religions' sacred holidays. Use different colors or symbols to distinguish the three religions.
- Write an essay that discusses the differences and similarities between a church, a mosque and a synagogue. (See the "Further Reading" list in the back of *Daughters* for books on this subject.)

- Write a paper about Eve and how she is portrayed in each of the three religions. How is she the same and how is she different?
- Prepare a traditional Middle Eastern dish to share with the class along with its recipe.
- Research the clothes women wore in biblical times and create a pictorial fashion show from pictures found in books and magazines and on the Internet. Perhaps you would like to draw your own.
- Each of the Abrahamic religions has its own holy book (the Christian Bible, the Hebrew Bible and the Qur'an). Write an essay discussing the differences and similarities between them.

Visual Art

- Choose one of the stories in the book and create a series of illustrations depicting what happens in the story or choose one scene and do an artistic rendering in any medium.
- Make a poster using the script of three different languages presented in the dedication of the book.
- Using the symbols of each of the Abrahamic religions – a star, cross and crescent moon--make a collage, poster or mobile.

English

- Write an essay about how one of the women in the stories has inspired you.
- Write a paragraph about something you've learned about one of the religions or women in these stories.
- Choose a book from the bibliography in the back of the book and present an oral report to the class. Discuss how this book added to your understanding of one or all of the stories.
- Using two of the stories, write an essay comparing the differences and similarities of the women.

Creative Writing

Pick one of the stories in the book and write a prequel or a sequel to it.

- Make up your own short story based on one of the scriptures or suras in the holy books.
- Using one of the stories, create a diary of the character's thoughts and feelings.
- Choose one of the women in Daughters of the desert and write a modern day story about her set in the county in which you live.

Drama

- Act out a scene from one of the stories.