

Arabic language, Arab culture and football

Activity 2

Arabic language Arab culture and football

www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/arabic_language_culture_football

Activity 2

The Arab World comprises 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. They are Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

In their letters, the girls nominate their favourite football players. Mo Salah is clearly very popular in Egypt as well as in the UK!

Divide your class into pairs or small groups and ask them to find out what they can about a male or female player who plays football for one of the countries in the Arab League. To avoid everyone choosing the same player, perhaps ask them to select a country first by picking a name out of a hat, and then choosing a well-known player from the national football teams. If you are working with a partner school from a country in the Arab League, they may also be able to make suggestions of popular players who are role models in their country.

Challenge your pupils to complete the following template with the information that they find during their research.

You can use the flags of the Arab world and Arabic number sheet in appendices 3 and 4 to assist with some of these headings.

When your pupils have completed their research, they could use the information in the template to make large posters for display. Ask them to include a flap which can be lifted with the phrase “Did you know?” to reveal their fun fact underneath. Their posters could be in the shape of the famous Jules Rimet trophy and the display edged with flags from the different countries represented.

Again, ensure support for this task is available for children with SEND.

Learning objectives:

To find out about footballers who are role models from countries in the Arab world.

Core and transferable skills:

Communication and collaboration

Curriculum links:

English, Geography

Sustainable Development Goals:

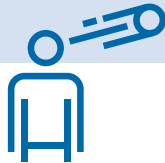
SDG 5 Gender equality, SDG 3 Good health and wellbeing

Preparation and resources:

Access to relevant safe sites on the internet, fact sheets in appendices.

Fantastic Footballers Template

Name



Country flag

Position – defender, mid field or striker



Nationality

Usual player number in English and Arabic*

A drawing of the national football strip



Picture

A fun fact



Club team and country

Additional activity

Some pupils could work in groups to complete further research to create a card game with the information they collect. Having decided on some bonus headings such as number of caps or goals scored for their country, one person could read out a category from their card and everyone will read out their football player's statistic. Whoever has the highest score for the category can keep everyone's cards from that round. The pupil who collects the most cards by the end of the game is the winner!



Find Out More – additional resources and links

To find out more about the Arabic language and Arab culture follow the links to these education packs and resources and remember after the excitement of the men's World cup in 2022, it will be the women's football world cup in 2023!

A British Council education pack with information and resources for primary children about Arabic language and Arab culture:
https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/arabic_language_and_culture_education_pack.pdf

Some Arabic words and phrases associated with football (soccer) for your pupils to learn:
<https://www.qfi.org/resources/gallery/infographic-arabic-in-the-soccer-stadium/>

Find out more about the British Library Step Inside Your Story project:
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/step-inside-your-story>

Discover other football themed projects:
<https://premierkills.britishcouncil.org/>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/competitions/world-cup/>

World cup reading challenge

<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/resources/character-and-leadership/girls-football-resources>

A newspaper article about the ban on women's football in the UK:
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/jun/13/how-the-fa-banned-womens-football-in-1921-and-tried-to-justify-it>

Premier League Reading Stars:

<https://plprimarystars.com/resources/reading-stars-pack>

Premier League Reading Stars is a programme developed by the National Literacy Trust and the Premier League. It harnesses the excitement around football to encourage greater engagement with reading amongst reluctant and less able readers.

British Council joined forces with The FA, Premier League + Football League to commemorate the 1914 Christmas Truce. The pack includes photos, eye-witness accounts + letters from soldiers. Perspectives from British, French, Belgian, German + Indian witnesses are included with activities for English, language, drama, art, sport, history + moral education.

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/football-remembers-education-pack-6427911>

Appendix 1

Arabic letters Information and activity sheet

Arabic alphabet 

For this chart, remember that the alphabet is read from right to left! You will find each of the 28 letters of the Arabic alphabet, with the English equivalent sound indicated directly below it. For some letters, there is no English equivalent, but you can try to make the sound described in the chart.

ر	ذ	د	خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	أ
r	th	d	(none)	(none)	j	th	t	b	a
rolled, like in Spanish	as in <u>the</u>		sounds like the German 'ch' as <u>Bach</u>	an aspirated h, like a big belly laugh <u>haha</u>		as in <u>bath</u>			
ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض	ص	ش	س	ز
f	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	(none)	sh	s	z
	gargling sound in the throat, like the French 'r'	a deep 'ah' sound in the throat	a hard 'th' sound as in <u>breathe</u>	a hard T as in <u>tall</u>	a hard d like in <u>thud</u>	a hard s as in <u>sorry</u>			
ي	و	هـ	ن	م	ل	ك	ق		
y	w	h	n	m	l	k	(none)		
(or 'ee' as in <u>feet</u>)	(or 'oo' as in <u>spoon</u>)						a 'k' sound deep in the throat		

Appendix 2

Historic article about the history of women's football in the UK

Women's Football and the First World War

In the early 20th century, women were thought too fragile to play football. It was considered inappropriate and degrading. Doctors declared that it was damaging to women's health.

The First World War changed that perception. 'All the men went off to war and the women took their places in the factories,' explained Sue Lopez, the former England international. 'The women working at the munitions manufacturers would kick around a ball, and [...] they would play matches to raise funds for the wounded soldiers.'

In the absence of the men's league, which had ceased at the end of the 1914-15 season, women's tournaments flourished. In the north-west of England, where heavy industries were at their most dense, inter-district matches were played, and a Munition Girls Challenge Cup was established. Dick, Kerr's Ladies from Preston were the most famous team and their match against St Helens in 1920, played at Everton's ground, Goodison Park, attracted a crowd of 53,000.

There was a suspicion that some teams were not giving the money they raised from women's football matches to charity and, in 1921, the FA banned women from playing at its affiliated grounds. 'Football is quite unsuitable for females,' said the FA. But those First World War factory workers, known as 'The Munitionettes', had kicked off a surge in women's football that rocked the men's game.



Photo of Dick, Kerr's Ladies' Football Team, initially made up of workers from Dick, Kerr & Co.

Appendix 3

Flags of the Arab World

Many flags within the Arab world share colours on the basis of Pan-Arabism. Denoted by red, black, green and white, Pan-Arab colours have historical and symbolic meanings. However, these are not the only colours within the Arab world as several other nations have a rich history tied to different colours. All of the flags within the Arab League are shown below with a brief synopsis explaining the significance of these colours.



In **Libya**, green highlights hope and prosperity

Red has historical significance in **Morocco**, used to represent descent from the xxx Dynasty and the Prophet Muhammed.

Tunisia's flag uses red to represent Otttman xxx of the country, and the resistance to Turkish supremacy.

In **Iraq**, black is used as inspiration from the arab liberation flag.

In **Oman**, green represents fertility, hope and prosperity.

Jordan's flag uses red to symbolize the xxxx ruling family, black to represent the Abxxx xxx, white to represent the xxx xxx, and green to represent the xxx xxx.

In **Yemen's** flag, black depicts the civil war between north and south, while white represents a bright future, and red stands for the struggle to achieve independence and unity.

Pan-Arab colours

Red emphasizes the struggle for independence and the sacrifices made for protecting one's country.

Black represents mourning those lost in battle and can also be used to reference overcoming colonial oppression.

Green commonly represents land and progress among the countries that use the Pan-Arab colours in their flags.

White symbolizing deeds, purity, peace and optimism, white is a common colour across a number of flags within the Arab world.

