

Ottoman life

WORDS OF THE DAY: ENRICHMENT: the act of getting cultured—like learning more about the world, learning new skills, getting to be a more knowledgeable human being. STATUS: the position or rank of someone or something when compared to others in a society.

1. The students should be told right away that the Muslims under the Ottoman Empire were very, very unlike the Muslims Jihadists we hear about today in the news. While both groups claimed a lot of knowledge of and devotion to their religion, terrorism was literally unheard of in the Ottoman Empire.
2. Let the students know that Muslims are practitioners of Islam, the religion. So the words Islamic and Muslim are often used interchangeably.
3. Tell the students that Sultans are similar to kings.
4. In case the students ask--no, Yusuf and Nadeen were not real people and they didn't write travelogues. But travelogues were surely a topic of conversation in Ottoman coffee shops.
5. You might get the students into a discussion of how lenient the Muslims were when they ruled so much of the world for about 600 years, and how this compared to other ruling empires of the time.
6. Women did not have as much freedom as men back in 1690, and that was pretty much the case everywhere in more advanced societies at that time. Muslim women had to be very modest and cover themselves when they went out. However, they had their own women's culture with their own bath houses where they entertained other women.
7. You might get the students into a discussion about enrichment activities—fun stuff that also educates. By now they might realize that they are getting enrichment activities in the KaTS program.

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