

Jordan
Beyond Our Borders Series

Subject Areas: Geography, History, Social Studies, Religion

Synopsis: Visits sites in present-day Jordan, relating them to a rich tradition of Biblical and historical events that occurred on Jordanian soil. Includes a retelling of the successful campaigns of the Arabs against the Ottoman Empire, the contributions of Lawrence of Arabia, the establishment of the Arab League, and Britain's protectorship until Jordanian independence in 1946. Also locates events recorded in the Old and New Testaments such as the exodus of the Israelites under Moses, the death of this revered Patriarch, Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils and the beheading of John the Baptist. Saladin's successful invasion of 1188 is retold at the Castle of Renauld de Chatillon in Kerak. Closes with a glimpse of the desert Bedouin in the ancient city of Petra.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1) Students will be able to describe the geography of Jordan.
- Objective 2) Students will be able to describe British traditions still in evidence in Jordan.
- Objective 3) Students will be able to explain how Jordanians are incorporating aspects of European culture in their Muslim society.
- Objective 4) Students will be able to describe Jordanian handicrafts and cultural traditions.

Vocabulary:

mandate, Israelites, Patriarch, vassal, Greco-Roman, Decapolis, ascetic, decline of empires, metropolis, harried, mercilessly, embryonic, succeeded to the throne, fledgling army, cultural inroads, garb, horseflesh, revered, tributary, venerated, staff (walking stick), devastating, skirting, gorge, stupendous, dominated, notorious, impregnable, bastion, dwarfed, traditionalist, submission, artifice, sprawling, obscurity, facades, niche, cleft, defile (narrow ravine), surreal

Pre-Viewing Activities and Questions:

- 1) Where is the Jordan located? What other countries are its neighbors?
- 2) What twentieth century Jordanian leader was respected throughout the world? What do you know of his lifestyle and political accomplishments? Who has succeeded him?

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- 3) Who was Lawrence of Arabia?
- 4) What are Bedouins?
- 5) Why would a world-renowned castle be located in Jordan?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) What European traditions are in evidence in the capital city of Jordan?
- 2) Jordan is considered to be a young country. How can this be so when the history of Jordan can be traced to Biblical times?
- 3) Why was the discovery of Petra such a surprise to the rest of the world?
- 4) Who was Renauld de Chatillon? Why was he hated so much?
- 5) What historical and Biblical events took place in the Jordan Valley?

Additional Activities:

- 1) King Hussein's mother is an American. Investigate how she became Queen of Jordan and her accomplishments as Queen of Jordan.
- 2) Investigate the findings of Dr. Khairiya Amr, a leading Jordanian archaeologist.
- 3) Discover specific details of how General John Bagot Glubb trained the Arab Legion.
- 4) For many years, Princess Alia was in charge of the royal stables. Discover the princess' views of the Arab horse and its stamina.
- 5) Investigate common staples and special foods of the Jordanian diet.

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