

Lebanon: My House in Lebanon **My Beautiful House Series**

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Seven-year-old Maher lives in one of the finest houses in Beirut which, luckily, was not destroyed during the war. Maher takes us to see how Manakishs (special cakes) and Kebbe (a national dish) are made, then back to his house to admire its typically Lebanese architecture.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, country and activities with Maher's culture, country and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Lebanon on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to identify the cultural traditions of Lebanon.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to compare how Maher's basic needs are met with the way their own needs for food, clothing and shelter are met.

Vocabulary:

Lebanon, Beirut, stories (building), palace, shutters, typical, Manakishs, thyme, renovating, reconstruct, original, architecture, Dar (the center of Lebanese houses), traditional, parlor, arched, specialty, Tabouli (a Lebanese dish), parsley, Kebbe (a Lebanese dish), jern (stone mortar), Catholic, meditate, Arak (alcoholic drink), historical periods, Mandarin, disguises

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate Lebanon on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Lebanon is located. Point out the Mediterranean Sea, Beirut, Syria and Israel on the map. Make sure viewers know where Lebanon is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Lebanon such as climate, geographic features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the children's maps.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Maher's family. How is his family like or unlike your own family? Who lives with Maher? Who lives at your house? What kind of food does Maher like? Who cooks his meals? Who cooks your meals? What do you like to eat? What do Maher's mother and grandmother like to do?

- 2) Describe Maher's house. How is it similar or different from your home? How big is Maher's house? How big is your house? What is a parlor? How many are in Maher's house? Why are there so many? How can you tell if a house is a traditional Lebanese house? What are some special features of your house? How many rooms are in your house?
- 3) Compare and contrast Maher's activities with your own. How are they alike or different? What does Maher like to do with his friends? What do you like to play with your friends? How is Maher's religious experience like or unlike your own?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Have students prepare a geographic profile of Lebanon noting its size, location, climate, natural resources and outstanding cultural traits. Have the students describe Lebanon's history, people, principal industries and major tourist attractions.

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