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Introduction

The United States is a country where people of diverse cultures and ethnicities from all around the world come together to create a unique way of life. Immigrants arrive in America to pursue the “American Dream” – improve their quality of life and provide opportunities for their children to succeed and prosper.

Chicago Public Schools play an important part in realizing this dream. The Arab Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide will help students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members learn about the valuable contributions of Arabs to society. The Office of Language, Cultural and Early Childhood Education has published teacher resource guides on China, Mexico and Poland. This guide on Arab heritage strengthens the commitment of Chicago Public Schools to multicultural education, and serves as an excellent reference tool to enhance the daily instruction of Chicago Public Schools’ students.

The Arab Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide presents Arab history – from ancient to present times – and its important effects on Western civilization. Present-day Arab accomplishments are highlighted in Section 2: Arab Americans: Making a Difference. The guide includes two sections of student activities aimed at teaching about art, music, dance, history, folk tales, nursery rhymes, food, clothing calligraphy, songs and games. Material is adaptable for use by teachers in elementary and middle school classrooms.