

# Arab Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide



Chicago Public Schools



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# Acknowledgements

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The Arab Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide is a product of the Chicago Public Schools' Office of Language, Cultural and Early Childhood Education.

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**Mr. Arthur Kim**, Graphic Artist

**Ms. Jane Lee**, Editor of the Office of Language, Cultural and Early Childhood Education

**Mr. Tom Schrey**, Graphic Artist



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY  
MAYOR

Dear Friends:

The rich fabric of life in Chicago is the result of a blending of many cultures and traditions from around the world. We are proud of this exciting diversity. It strengthens us as a city and as individuals.

Arab Americans have added much to this tradition, offering a strong commitment to family, work and neighborhood. Their efforts in both the arts, science, and commerce enrich society and our daily lives. Through the Arab Heritage Resource Guide, you will have the opportunity to learn more about these important contributions.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Daley".

Mayor



# Board of Education

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To the Reader:

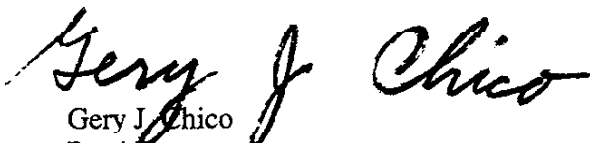
The United States of America is an amazing place. It is the home to people from virtually every corner of the globe. It is a land where virtually everyone can trace ancestors back to another country, or even to several countries. Out of this mixture is emerging a culture unique in the world, reflecting the world.

In recent years, the countries of the Middle East and North Africa have become a growing source of new residents in the United States. Chicago is now home to a large and growing Arab population, people who — though they may come from different countries — are bound by a common cultural heritage.

It is a rich heritage, which has contributed in innumerable ways to the world. When Europe was wrapped in the Dark Ages, the Arab people created a brilliant civilization. Their discoveries in medicine, mathematics, astronomy, physics and chemistry became the foundation for later discoveries. Their art, their music and their literature are still celebrated today.

Our students need to know about this cultural heritage, so they can learn to appreciate it. This guide is an excellent way for teachers to share this heritage with their students, regardless of the students' own cultural background.

I commend the writers of this publication, and the Office of Language and Cultural Education for launching the series of resource guides on cultures.

  
Gery J. Chico  
President



CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Paul G. Vallas**  
Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Armando Almendarez  
Chief of the Office of Language and Culture

I want to commend you and your staff on the latest publication in your Heritage Resource Guide series. The guide on Arab culture and history is a quality addition. It gives teachers and students a better understanding of the Arabic contributions to our society, both historical and contemporary. I am sure that teachers will find it useful both in teaching Arab-American children about their heritage and in introducing this growing cultural group to other children.

It is important that we do this. The United States continues to be an amalgam of people from all corners of the world. We are striving today to create a truly multicultural society, in which the contributions of each group are recognized and appreciated. This is a difficult task, but the Heritage Resource Guides are making it much easier.

Please give my congratulations and thanks to everyone who worked on this book.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul G. Vallas'.

Paul G. Vallas  
Chief Executive Officer



**Cozette Buckney, Ed.D.**  
Chief Education Officer  
773/553-1500  
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Dear Teachers:

The Arab Heritage Resource Curriculum Guide signifies the commitment of Chicago Public Schools to develop diverse, inclusive curriculum representative of our multicultural student population. The Office of Language, Cultural and Early Childhood Education developed this guide to assist you in introducing our students to the ancient history of Arab countries, as well as their rich contributions to contemporary Western culture.

One of a teacher's key responsibility is to help students understand and appreciate their multicultural environment. The many activities and information in this guide will enrich and broaden the lives of our students as they learn about a magnificent cultural heritage and traditions other than their own.

I am positive you will find ways to incorporate this rich compendium into your teaching material.

Sincerely,

Cozette Buckney, Ed.D.  
Chief Education Officer



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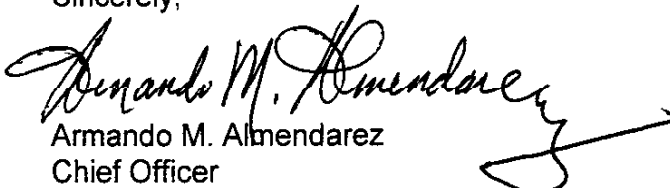
Dear Readers:

The Arab Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide is a welcome addition to the multicultural series initiated by the Office of Language, Cultural and Early Childhood Education. It offers materials covering the very beginnings of civilization to present-day Arab culture. I encourage you to make the most of this guide and celebrate the rich heritage and history of Arabs – especially with the Arab community in Chicago and those who attend Chicago Public Schools – during the month of November, Arab Heritage Month.

The guide, developed for elementary and middle school level students, covers Arab discoveries and contributions over the centuries. It is our hope that this guide will further encourage students, teachers, administrators and community members to discover and learn more about the fascinating Arab cultural legacy.

I wish to thank all the persons who worked to help make this guide a reality. One of the educational goals of Chicago Public Schools is to foster an appreciation of Chicago's magnificent cultural tapestry. The Arab Heritage Curriculum Resource Guide will serve to broaden our students' horizons and enhance multicultural education in Chicago Public Schools.

Sincerely,

  
Armando M. Almendarez  
Chief Officer

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