

The Spanish/Arabic Connection



Sample items from the kit

This compact kit was created in response to teacher requests as the numbers of Spanish and Arabic speaking students increased in Linn/Benton Co. schools in recent years. Although these two populations might seem to have little in common culturally, this Culture Exploration Kit demonstrated that just the opposite is true: a shared history going back hundreds of years has greatly enriched both cultures and changed the course of history. The kit materials also trace how the Spanish/Arabic connection spread from Andalusian Spain into the New World to influence Native American cultures and life in America today.

These cultural ideas and practices are illuminated through examples of Arabic “Loan Words” found in the Spanish language, terms for such everyday items as meatballs, spices and fruits. Also included are examples of tile work highlighting the enormous influence Arabic design had on architecture in Spain, the southwestern United States, Mexico, Central and South America.

Highlights: Model Arabian horse in full traditional regalia, selection of spice packets especially significant to both Spanish and Arabic speaking cuisines, “You Already Speak Arabic” flash cards, activities for language exploration

Appropriate for ages: K-12

This Kit was made possible through the generous contributions of: Kimberly Bain , Karim Hamdy, Thomas Johnson, Sasha Maglio, Kathryn Stamps, The OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop, Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons, CMLC Volunteers & Donors