




# National Arab American Heritage Month



National Arab American Heritage Month was recognized in April 2021 by President Joe Biden, with the U.S. Department of State, some members of Congress, and 37 governors issuing proclamations supporting the month!





The story of Arab  
Americans is the  
story of America.

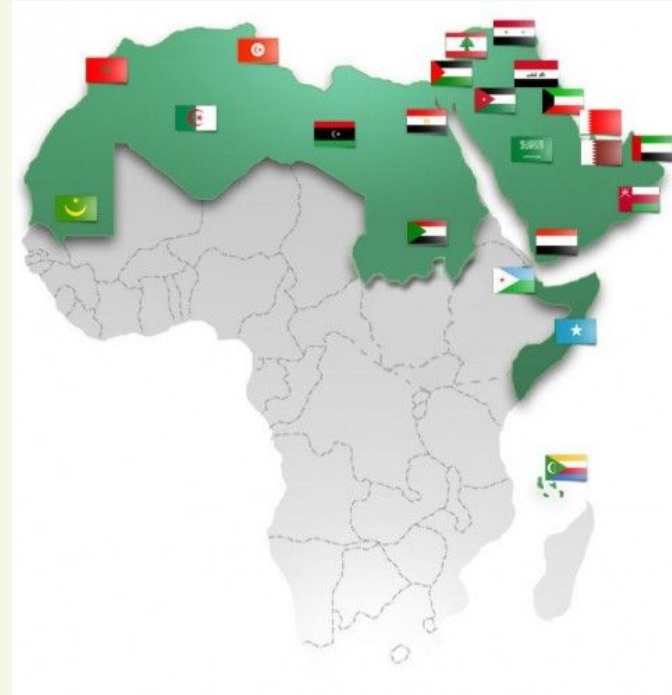


Arab Americans are a diverse community of immigrants and the descendants of immigrants 3.7 million strong, who have come from throughout the Arab world. The ethnic community is diverse in faith, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ability. –*Arab American Institute*



# League of Arab Countries

There are twenty-two Arab countries, including Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.





There are over 200 million  
Arabs worldwide!



To be an Arab is a cultural trait rather than  
racial. Just like being an American.

The Arab world includes Muslims, Christians  
and Jews.





Each arab country celebrates its own set of holidays, such as its independence day and other culturally significant holidays specific to that country!

Most Arab countries celebrate muslim holidays like Eid and the holy month of Ramadan. Arab Christians celebrate holidays like Christmas.







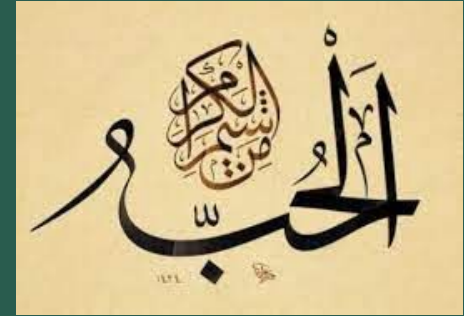
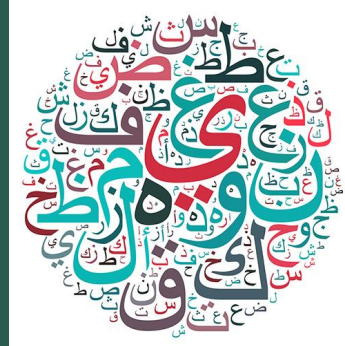
While Islam is the predominant religion in the Middle East, Arabs are religiously diverse group  
– significant numbers of Arab Christians in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, and Iraq. Arabs make up between 15–18% of the Muslim world.





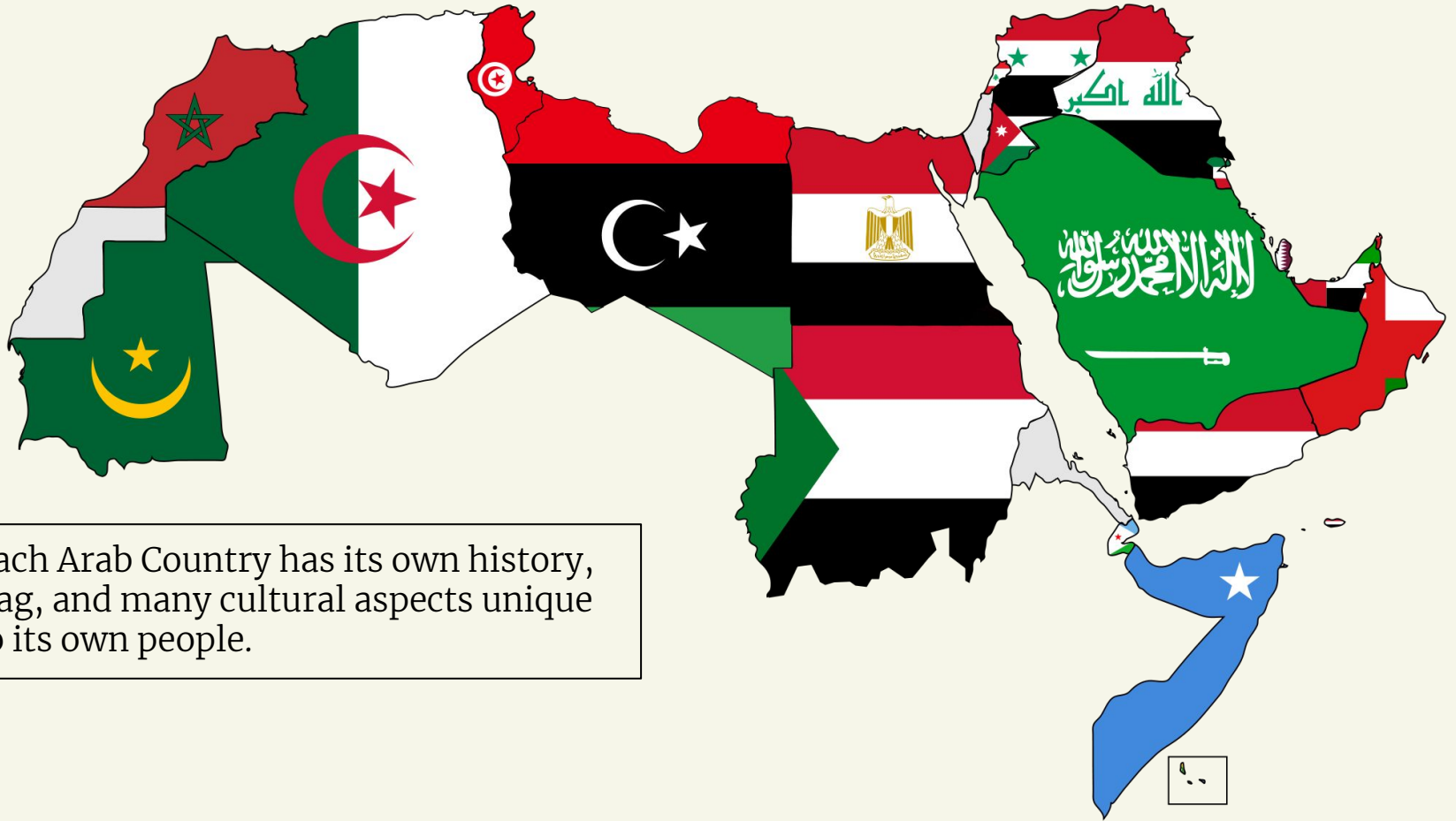
# Main Language: Arabic

- Quranic or classical Arabic
- Modern Standard Arabic
- Colloquial Arabic



Overall 25 different dialects! Varies based on country or region.

Arabs can often understand other arab dialects despite regional differences.



Each Arab Country has its own history, flag, and many cultural aspects unique to its own people.



## Popular Arab Foods

- Hummus
- Falafel
- Manakeesh
- Tabouleh
- Mansaf
- Mahshi



# Arab Spring

A series of uprisings, demonstrations, marches, occupations of plazas, non-violent civil resistance, acts of civil disobedience and strikes that spread across much of the arab world in the early 2010s.

The goal:

Democracy; Free elections; Economic freedom; Human rights; Employment; Regime change.



Over the past few decades, Arabs from all over the Middle East have shown increased solidarity with Palestinian people in their struggle to persevere their history, culture, and land.



# Prominent Arab Americans



Supermodels Gigi and Bella Hadid have a palestinian father and are prominent advocates for palestinian liberation.

# High School Appropriate Videos





## Influential Arabs: Rashida Tlaib, Member of U.S. Congress

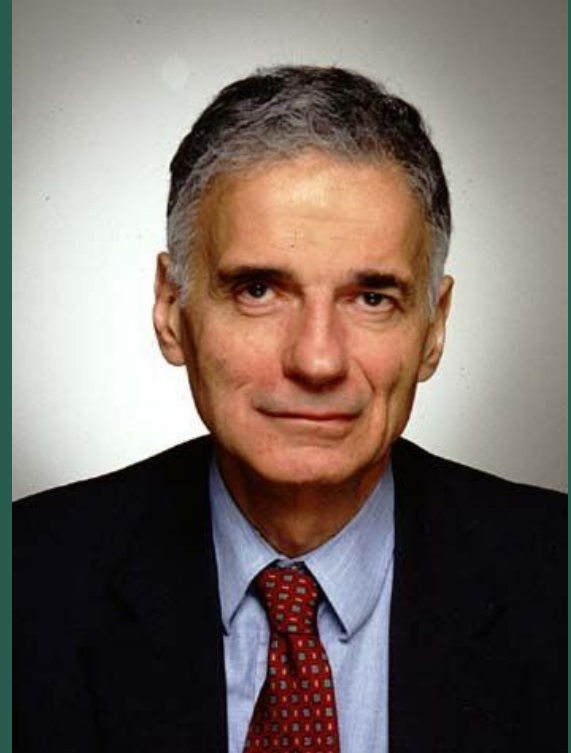
Rashida Tlaib is the daughter of Palestinian immigrants who in 2018 became one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress.

Rashida Tlaib represents Michigan's 13th district in Congress. At the start of her first term in 2019, she became the first Palestinian American woman and one of the first two Muslim women in the U.S. House.



## Influential Arabs: Ralph Nader

For the last 60 years, Arab American Ralph Nader has dedicated himself to public service. Nader was born in 1934 in Connecticut to Nathra and Rose Nader, both Lebanese immigrants.



## Influential Arabs: Laila Lalami, Award Winning Author



In the past 15 years, Laila Lalami has emerged as the voice of the Arab American immigrant experience. Herself an immigrant from Morocco, Laila is the best-selling and award-winning author of four novels which explore the themes of home and belonging, and in her words “of people that don’t quite fit anywhere.”

## Influential Arabs: Reem Kassis, writer, storyteller, preserver of culture and cuisine

“The food was a reminder, despite the weight of what we were witnessing, that we were still alive with plenty for which to be grateful,” wrote Reem Kassis at the beginning of the COVID-19 lock down in April 2020. In this column for the Los Angeles Times, she compared the experience of cooking during a global pandemic to her time growing up in Jerusalem in the 1990s – when shelter in place orders were given during the Gulf War, and daily life often revolved around culinary comforts.

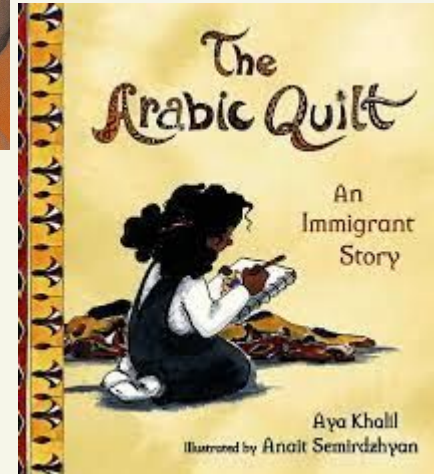
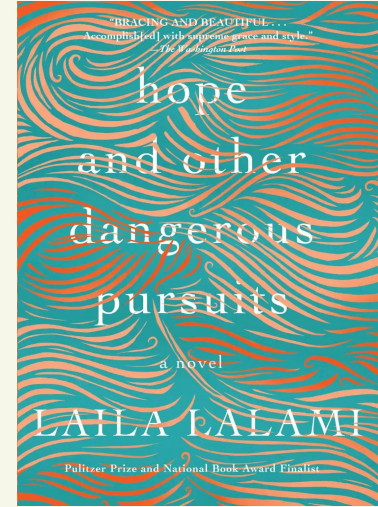
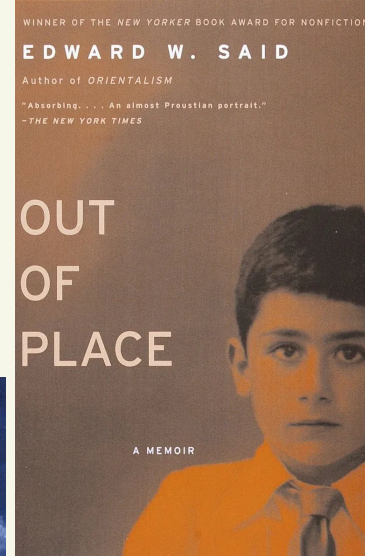
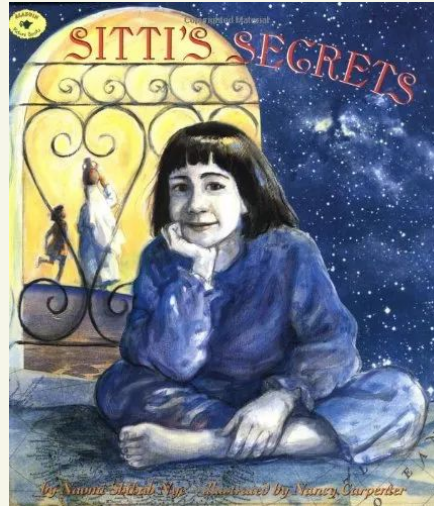




# Book Recommendations

## By Arab Authors

- Out of Place by Edward Said
- Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits by Laila Lalami
- Sitti's Secrets by Naomi Shihab Nye
- The Arabic Quilt by Aya Khalil



## Arab American Heritage Month Video- Including FCUSD Arab voices!

<https://www.facebook.com/FolsomCordova/videos/arab-american-heritage-month/128584625882356/>



# Resources:

- Fact sheet

<https://irp.fas.org/agency/army/arabculture.pdf>

- [Learning for Justice- Supporting Arab American Students in the Classroom](#)

- Resource to learn more about Islam

<https://www.whyislam.org/>

<https://www.aaiusa.org/library/arab-american-heritage-month>

Remember that the Arab world is racially, culturally, religiously, and ethnically diverse and can't be completely represented in a few slides :)

