

Background on *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini**Book Website**

Essential Question: How can a flawed hero find redemption?

Afghan Online - <http://afghana.com/>

In order to better understand the context in which *The Kite Runner* is written, much background needs to be researched. Each of you will be responsible for researching a particular background piece. Your teaching should be about _____minutes long, but no more than __minutes. You may employ telling a story, acting out, role-playing, power point, artifact show-and-tell, or any other means to teach the information. Please include a visual and an activity for the class.

Topic	Website	Question	Presentation
Afghan humor/ jokes	Mullah Jokes	What are some Afghan jokes? What seems to be the heart of Afghan humor? What does this tell you about life in Afghanistan?	
Afghan immigration	Immigration Statistics Immigration to Fremont Bay Area Relief	When Afghans come to the US, where do they settle? Give us cities and approximate populations, if you can. What is their experience?	
Afghan emigration	Afghan Refugees	Under what conditions do Afghans leave their homeland? Do Afghans have to pass through other countries? Why? What is the leaving experience like?	
Architecture	Afghanistan Photo Gallery	What types of architecture come from the Afghan culture? What does it look like? How has it influenced the modern world?	
Art—afghans , rugs, carpets	Culture – Art and Stories	What types of art come from Afghanistan? What does the art tell us about the people, their lives, and their stories?	
Contributions from Arab world—math , science	Arabic Mathematics Muslim Scientists and Scholars	What are 5-10 examples of math contributions that have come from the Arab world? What are 5-10 examples of science contributions that have come from the Arab world? How did these contributions push the world forward into modern day?	
Contributions from Arab	Contributions in Medicine Islamic Medicine	What are 5-10 examples of word contributions that have come from the Arab world? What are 5-10	

world—words, ideas/concepts	Al-Azhar Oldest University Literature – Arabian Nights The Astrolabe House of Wisdom	examples of ideas/ concepts that have come from the Arab world? How did these contributions push the world forward into modern day?	
Courtship and Marriage Customs	Wedding Customs in the Muslim World	Is dating allowed? Why/ why not? What is allowed when a boy and girl are interested in each other? What are some customs and traditions when the boy and girl wish to marry? What is the responsibility of each party? Each family?	
Dress/ Clothing—gender, beards, etc.	Muslim Customs and Traditions Islamic Dress Code Afghan Women Dress Code	What kind of clothing is appropriate and accepted for a male? For a female? What kind of clothing is inappropriate for a male? For a female? What physical traits are advantageous for males and females?	
Folktales—Shanahmeh, Rostram and Sohrab	Sanahmeh Images of Shanahmeh The Story of Rostram and Sohrab	What are important folktales in Afghan culture? What is the Shanahmeh? What is the story of Rostram and Sohrab? How might this story influence	
Food—kabobs, naan, etc.	Afghan Restaurant Menu Staple foods	What are the staple foods (ie: potatoes for US, rice for Asia) of Afghanistan? What kinds of foods do Afghans eat? What do they look like? Taste like? What spices are used predominantly in cooking? Why?	
Games—origins of chess, panjpar	Afghan Games	What kinds of games are played by Afghan children? Why? What are the origins of chess? What is panjpar? How is it played?	
Greetings and Manners—	Languages	What are standard greetings in Afghan culture? What do you say to another in public? In the home? How do you treat a guest in your Afghan home? What titles or endearments are there for those older than you? Younger than you? Close to you?	
Holidays, Special Days	Important Holidays Essentials of Ramadan	What is Ramadan? Why celebrate Ramadan? When is it? What is Eid? Why celebrate Eid?	

		When is it? What is Afghan New Year's? Why celebrate it? When is it?	
Hunt for Osama bin Laden	CNN – Hunt for Osama	Why is Osama bin Laden being hunted? Where have people looked for him? How have their attempts been thwarted? Why is the search for Osama bin Laden so significant?	
Music	Radio Afghanistan	What kinds of music are native to Afghanistan? Give 5 examples of Afghan music artists. What does their music sound like? What kinds of things do they sing about? Who is Ahmad Zahir?	
Orphans and refugee camps	Refugee Camps	Where are orphan and refugee camps located in Pakistan and Afghanistan? How is one declared an orphan or a refugee? Under what conditions do orphans and refugees live? How do they get out of such camps?	
Physical Geography	Geography	What is the physical geography of Afghanistan? Is it a fertile land? How do the people support themselves from the land? Where do ethnic groups tend to settle? Is it a peaceful coexistence? Why or why not?	
Poetry	A Touch of Afghan Poetry	Who is Rumi? Who is Khayyam? Who is Hafez? What do they do? What do they write about? How has what they've written affected the rest of the world?	
Role of Women	Women in Afghanistan Women's Alliance for Peace	What are the roles of women in Afghan culture—in the home and in public? What rights do Afghan women have—before the Taliban and after the Taliban?	