



Arab Spring Education Resources

This collection of education resources provides background on recent unrest in the Middle East and information on the role of art, technology, and youth during the Arab Spring protests. It includes full lesson plans as well as individual resources.

Background

- [Why the Arab World is Seething](#)
 - Summary: This *New York Times* feature gives brief summaries on the roots of unrest in Middle Eastern countries, including issues of torture, women's rights, and poverty.
- [Interactive Timeline of Middle East Protests](#)
 - Summary: This interactive timeline from *The Guardian* traces protests, political moves, regime changes, and international responses during the Arab Spring. Each event links to an article with more information.
 - Common Core: Use the map to analyze a series of events and determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them. Let students use the map to choose events to research further as independent projects. Strengthens reading informational texts and writing explanatory texts. RH.3 and WHST.7.

International Commentary

- **Political Cartoons**
 - Common Core: Combine comics with other sources of information to address a question, challenging students to integrate knowledge and ideas from diverse formats. RH.7.
 - [Arab Leaders](#)
 - [Obama's Middle East Speech](#)
 - [Egypt's New Friends](#)
 - [Syria](#)
- [Obama on the Middle East and North Africa](#)
 - Summary: Text of President Obama's remarks on the Middle East and North Africa, May 19, 2011. Addresses the protests and America's response.

- Common Core: Have students analyze an excerpt of the speech, noting key sentences, purpose, audience, and use of rhetoric. Strengthens reading informational text for language arts and history/social studies. RI.4, 5, 6, 8. RH.5.

Art as Protest

- [Graffiti Images from Egypt, via *The Independent*](#)
 - Summary: A slideshow of popular graffiti in Egypt featuring hopeful scenes of the future, images of victims, and words of protest.
 - Common Core: A great way to discuss the demographic of the Arab Spring protesters and the significance of their choice of tactics. Uses diverse formats to address questions, strengthening integration of knowledge and ideas. RH. 7.
- [Bahia Shehab: A thousand times no](#)
 - Summary: A six-minute TED talk from an art historian turned graffiti artist in Egypt on her use of the medium during the revolution.
- [Hip Hop Rhythm of Arab Revolt, via *Wall Street Journal*](#)
 - Summary: This article discusses the role of underground hip-hop artists in the Arab Spring, especially a Tunisian rapper called El General. Includes links to music videos.
- [Rap Songs of the Arab Spring, via NPR](#)
 - Summary: NPR discusses the importance of the viral rap songs of the Arab Spring. Includes five additional music videos from Middle Eastern and American musicians.
 - Common Core: A great way to discuss the demographic of the Arab Spring protesters and the significance of their choice of tactics. Uses diverse formats to address questions, strengthening integration of knowledge and ideas. RH. 7.

Books

- ***Tweets from Tahrir: Egypt's Revolution as it Unfolded, in the Words of the People Who Made it***
 - Edited by Alex Nunns and Nadia Idle. Or Books, 2011.
 - Summary: Narrates the uprising in Egypt in 2011 through key 140-word tweets.
 - Common Core: A way to analyze how history is recorded—and how each method of recording historical events has its pros and cons.

Statistics

- [Survey, Arab Youth Survey 2013](#)
 - Summary: A survey of Arab youth from fifteen Middle East countries reveals optimism for the future. Graphs display findings on social values, perceptions of the Arab Spring, attitudes towards democracy, and more.
 - Common Core: A great way to add quantitative and technical analysis skills to understanding informational texts. Especially relevant to standards RH.7 and WHST.2.
- [Dalia Mogahed](#)

- Summary: In this TED talk, the director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies discusses data on Egyptian attitudes leading up to the Arab Spring, with special attention to the role of women.

The Future

- [Opinion Articles via New York Times](#)
 - Summary: This *Room for Debate* topic reflects on the recent violence in Egypt and asks “Is This the End of the Arab Spring?” Featuring eleven short articles, experts from varying backgrounds state their arguments.
 - Common Core: Have students choose two articles and determine the authors’ central ideas. Summarize arguments, contrast viewpoints, find strong points and weaknesses. Strengthens reading history standards relating to: key ideas and details, craft and structure. RH.2, RH.3, RH.6.

Lesson Plans

- [Single Lessons](#)
 - Summary: A compilation of videos and audio clips with discussion questions to give students a basic overview of the unrest in the Middle East.
- [Two-day Projects](#)
 - Summary: A group work project and presentation plan based on the various countries involved in the Arab Spring.
- [Unit Plans](#)
 - Summary: Five lessons plans dealing with the unrest in the Middle East. Topics include the history of protest, technology, women, and media.