



IDEA SPARK



"UNDERSTANDING THE DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS IN ONE CULTURE ENHANCES OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ALL CULTURES."

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED, WHAT DOES "JIHAD" EVEN REALLY MEAN?

"UNDERSTANDING HOW POLITICAL DECISIONS ARE MADE IS CRITICAL TO BEING AN INFORMED AND ENGAGED CITIZEN."

**"FOR CENTURIES, JIHAD HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED IN THE CHRISTIAN WEST WITH CONQUEST... AND TERRORISM. IT EVOKES THE SAME FEELING THAT MUSLIMS AND JEWS HAVE WHEN THEY HEAR THE WORD CRUSADE."
(ISLAMFYI, 2017, PARA. 1).**

"RELIGION CAN POWERFULLY SHAPE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, LEGAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES."

HOW DO WE COMBAT IGNORANCE, AND FOSTER INFORMED CITIZENSHIP?

"THE INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTION OF PEOPLES AND THEIR CULTURES IS NOT INEVITABLE, AND SUCH ATTEMPTS CAN BE DISRUPTED AND RESISTED."



INSPIRE

"*Jihad* is an Arabic word that simply means *struggle*. In a religious context, it means sacred struggle for God. In the Islamic tradition, there are over 70 types of jihad – the greatest one, according to a tradition from the Prophet Muhammad, being the struggle against one's own ego and vices.... Jihad also has a social application – the struggle to enjoin good and oppose wrong; the struggle for social and economic justice. So, the effort to fight poverty and its root causes, for example, is jihad" ([IslamFYI, 2017, para. 3](#)).



EXPLORE

For more information about Jihad, see:

- [What is Jihad?](#) (n.d.), lesson plan published by New Muslims.
- [So, What Really is Jihad?](#) (2019), news article published by The Conversation.
- [Misunderstood Terms and Practices](#) (2022), magazine article published by Learning for Justice.
- ['Jihad': is not a dirty word](#) (2017), news article published by The Washington Post.

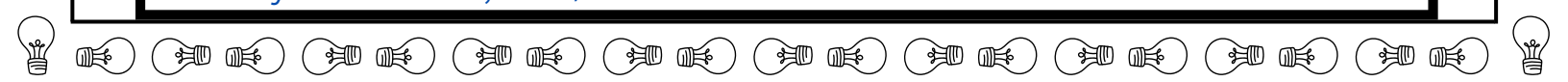
EXPAND

Language Arts Curricular Competencies

"Language shapes ideas and influences others" ([British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2018, p. 2](#)).

Use "jihad" as an example for developing student understanding of **discourse** (the academic word for *meaning in context*) ([British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2018](#)).

Developing our capacity to ask *informed* questions about what we hear, read, and view expands our ability to be educated and engaged citizens ([British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2018](#)).





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