Muslim Identity & Media

One World Student Ambassador: Laila Kunaish

Unit Resource #2: Understanding the Reflection

Directions: Preview the following questions before you read the Reflection. Identify key words in the questions (you can underline them for quick reference). As you read, pay attention for those key words so that you will know where to look for the answers when you are finished reading. Some of the answers are not in the Reflection, as they require you to connect your own personal experience to the text. It is important to know which kind of question you are answering.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Islam’s holy book is the:
   a. Bible
   b. Torah
   c. Quran
   d. Bhagavad Gita
   e. Gospels

2. Muslims pray _____ times a day.
   a. two
   b. three
   c. four
   d. five
   e. six

3. Muslims represent _____ percent of the population in the US.
   a. 2
   b. 12
   c. 18
   d. 20
   e. 25

4. There are approximately _____ Muslims in the world.
   a. 1.8 million
   b. 18 million
   c. 1.8 billion
   d. 2 billion
   e. 2.8 billion
5. _______ is a holy city in Islam because it is believed that the prophet Muhammad built a place called El-Kaaba there to pray and spread the message of Islam:
   a. Cairo
   b. Athens
   c. Istanbul
   d. Mecca
   e. Riyadh

6. A core practice of Islam is to:
   a. not eat any meat
   b. not eat the meat of a cow
   c. not eat the meat of a pig
   d. not eat the meat of a chicken
   e. not eat dairy products

7. A core understanding of Islam is:
   a. have a priest assist in prayer
   b. have a rabbi assist in prayer
   c. pray at least once a day
   d. pray in a temple
   e. believe in and pray to one god

8. One example of recent discrimination towards Muslims in countries other than the United States is in ___________ where it is illegal to wear the traditional Muslim headdress.
   a. Germany
   b. France
   c. Spain
   d. China
   e. Great Britain

9. A recent Pew research poll found that 1 in ____ Muslims say it has become more difficult to be a Muslim in America since 9/11:
   a. 2
   b. 3
   c. 4
   d. 5
   e. 6

10. A Gallup poll last year found that _____ % of Muslim youth consider themselves angry as compared to 14% of Protestant youth and 18% of the general American public:
    a. 16
    b. 26
    c. 32
    d. 48
    e. 52
**Constructed Response Questions**

1. What main ideas did Laila want to convey in her Reflection?

2. According to Laila’s Reflection, what are some reasons why she believes the world is anti-Muslim?

3. According to Laila’s Reflection, why is it challenging to be a Muslim American teenager now?
4. According to Laila’s Reflection, the media in Syria reports that people in the United States are not giving Muslims an equal opportunity to do certain things. Why do you think there is the perception that Muslim Americans are denied opportunities?

5. Laila states she has heard that “many non-Muslims regard Islam as a religion that promotes violence, terrorism, and war.” In complete sentences, do you agree or disagree that many non-Muslims associate Islam with violence and terrorism?
Essay Prompts

Directions: Choose one of the following prompts and write a well-developed response. Circle the prompt you are responding to. Please be sure to use specific details in your essay to develop and support your thinking.

1. In her Reflection, Laila writes, “some people think American people are being brainwashed by news and the media to make them think that all Muslims are terrorists.” In your essay, explain how you think Americans are influenced by the media to think about Muslims.

2. According to Laila, “discrimination against Islam, Muslims, and especially Muslim youth are real and especially present in the media of the United States.” In your essay, explain if you agree or disagree with Laila and provide 2-3 examples to support your statement.