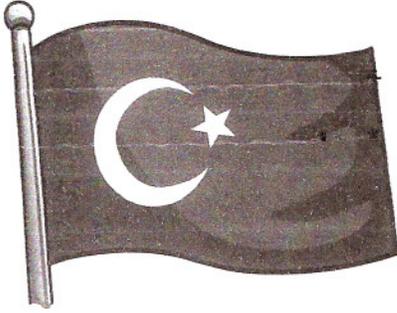


Turkey



Turkey is a Muslim nation that is quite different from its Middle Eastern neighbors. For starters, it is located on two continents: Asia and Europe. Most of the country is in Asia, but a small part lies across the Bosphorous Strait in Europe. This part is called Thrace. It borders Greece and Bulgaria. It makes up only about three percent of Turkey's land area.

Other ways in which Turkey is different have to do with appearance and dress. Turks resemble Europeans more than they do Arabs. And unlike people in most Middle Eastern countries, they wear western clothes.

As is true of other countries of the Middle East, Turkey in the past has been included in many empires. Hittites, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and others once ruled the land. It was also the site of the ancient city of Troy. For 600 years it was a part of the Ottoman Empire, a large Muslim empire that controlled most of the Middle East and parts of north Africa and southeast Europe. It did not become an independent country until 1923. Its first president, Mustafa Kemal, is often referred to as the "George Washington of Turkey."

Turkey is noted for many things, not the least of which are its beautiful, handmade rugs. Nearly all contain either floral or geometric designs, although geometric designs are more common.



Project #1

Design a Turkish rug on graph paper.

Materials

- Internet
- graph paper
- colored pencils
- ruler
- pencil

Directions

1. Use the Internet to search for pictures of Turkish rugs.
2. Choose one rug from the many that you find.
3. Use your pencil and ruler to make a design of the rug on your graph paper.
4. Color in your design. Make sure that each square is colored in properly.

For the Teacher

If students will not have access to a computer either at home or in the classroom, the library may have books containing pictures of Turkish rugs.

