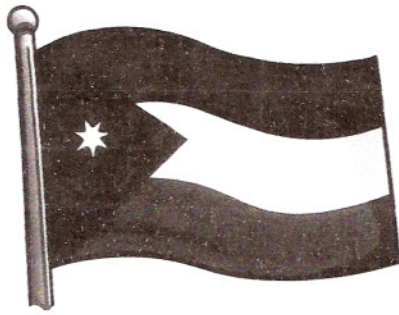


Jordan



Like other countries of the Middle East, Jordan was previously ruled by many different peoples. Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans once conquered the land, and it was part of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) until after World War I. From 1919 to 1946, it was governed as a mandate by Great Britain. This meant that the British occupied the country until it was ready for independence. At that time, it was known as Transjordan. Transjordan meant "land across the Jordan River." When independence came in 1946, the name was changed to simply Jordan.

Jordan joined its Arab neighbors in the wars fought to drive the Israelis out of the Middle East. In 1994, however, it signed a peace treaty with Israel, and the two nations have maintained friendly relations since.

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy. That means it has a king whose powers are limited by a written constitution. Therefore, in some ways, Jordan has a government similar to that of Great Britain.

With regard to lifestyles, attitudes, and culture, Jordan is not unlike that of other Arab countries. One important part of its cultural heritage is its history of fine mosaics. Mosaics are pictures made by pressing pieces of glass, ceramics, or stone onto wet plaster. One city, Madaba, contains so many examples of this beautiful artwork that it is referred to as the "City of Mosaics."



Project #1

Make a simple mosaic.

Materials

- paper
- cardboard
- brush
- buttons, small pieces of tile or plastic, or any small, thin objects suitable for making a mosaic
- pencil
- tempera paint
- glue

Directions

1. Draw a pattern or picture of your proposed mosaic on a piece of paper. Use any subject you like—an animal, a face, a boat, etc.
2. Cut a piece of cardboard to approximately 9 x 12 inches (23 x 30.5 cm).
3. Paint the front side of your piece of cardboard a color that will make a suitable background for your mosaic. Let dry.

4. Using your pattern as a guide, draw the picture that will become your mosaic on the cardboard.
5. Glue pieces of the objects you have chosen to the picture, using different colors and patterns to enhance it.

