Cultural Diversity in Middle East
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What Comes to Your Mind when I Say
The Middle East
Introduction
An Ambiguous Term

- Derived from a European perspective
- For some it refers to the area bounded by the Mediterranean sea, the Arabian Peninsula and the Taurus and Zagros Mountains.
- For others, it refers to Egypt, Arabia and the Gulf States.
- Others use the term as a synonym for the Arab world, sometimes including Turkey and Iran.
The Islamic World

- All the Arabic countries,
- Nations with predominantly Muslim majority like Iran, Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Malaysia, and some sub-Saharan countries (Mali, Shad, Senegal, Sierra Leon, Nigeria)
- Muslims as minorities (India, Russia, China)
The Arab Word

- A region that stretches over 5 million square miles
- 22 Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
• Arabic is the official and the original language of the Qur’an.

• Arabs are the dominant ethnic group but there are other groups like: Berbers (North Africa), Kurds (Iraq & Syria), Nubians (Egypt & Sudan), Armenians
Is Our Cultural Identity “the Same or Different?”
• Geography
• Ancient civilizations
• Religion
• Language
• Food
• Singing, dancing
• Architecture
• Cultural practices
Ancient Civilizations

The cradle of ancient civilizations:

- The Pharoanic Civilization (3150 BC)
- The Phoenician Civilization (3200 BC)
- The Sumerian civilization (4th century BC)
The Middle East is the Birth Place of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam
Islam
Women’s Dress Code
Women in Egypt
Spoken Arabic can be broadly categorized into the following, main dialect groups:

1. Egyptian Arabic
2. North African Arabic (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya),
3. Hassaniya Arabic (Mauritania),
4. Levantine Arabic (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine),
5. Iraqi Arabic,
6. Gulf Arabic (Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the U.A.E. and Oman).
7. Hejazi Arabic (Western Saudi Arabia)
8. Najdi Arabic (Central Saudi Arabia).
9. Yemeni Arabic (Yemen & southwestern Saudi Arabia)
Egyptian Architecture
Egyptian Architecture
More Architectural Designs
Moroccan Architecture
Shem el-Neseim: Ancient Egyptian Spring Festival Still Celebrated
Conclusion

According to Stuart Hall:

- “Difference persists – in and alongside continuity.”
- “The difference matters.”
Thank You