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The Kite Runner Web Quest

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***The Kite Runner Web Quest***

# History/Geography: Group 1

1. Geographically, where is Afghanistan located?
2. What is the capital of Afghanistan?
3. What is the weather like in Afghanistan?
4. What is the most common occupation in Afghanistan?
5. What happened in 1921?
6. What happened in 1933?

[A Historical Timeline of Afghanistan | Updates | PBS NewsHour | PBS](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/asia-jan-june11-timeline-afghanistan/)

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# History/Geography: Group 2

1. 1973 was a pivotal point in Afghanistan’s history. Why?
2. Why does Osama shift his focus from the Soviet Union to the United States in 1988?
3. In 1992, Afghanistan endures yet another coup. Which group takes over this time? What are the problems with this group?
4. Why would the Afghans believe the Taliban takeover in 1993 is a good thing at first?
5. Why did more than a million Afghans flee to Pakistan between the years of 1995 – 1999?

Link:

[A Historical Timeline of Afghanistan | Updates | PBS NewsHour | PBS](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/asia-jan-june11-timeline-afghanistan/)

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# Religion and Faith: Group 3

1. What is Islam? What does it teach and expect from its followers?
2. Do Christianity and Islam share the same origin? How do they differ (1 main way)?
3. What is the Qu’ran?
4. What are the five main ‘pillars’ of Islam, and why are they important?

Links:

[Overview of Islam](http://www.themodernreligion.com/basic/basic_what.htm#believe)

[Thorough explanation of Islam with links to lots of helpful sites](http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/index.htm) [Sunni vs. Shiite Islam](http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/comparison_charts/islamic_sects.htm)

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# Religion and Faith: Group 4

1. What are 3 acceptable behaviors and 3 unacceptable behaviors in Islam?
2. What is the main difference between Sunni vs. Shiite Islam? What are three similarities?
3. What are three major differences in the beliefs of these factions of Islam?

Links:

[Overview of Islam](http://www.themodernreligion.com/basic/basic_what.htm#believe)

[Thorough explanation of Islam with links to lots of helpful sites](http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/index.htm) [Sunni vs. Shiite Islam](http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/comparison_charts/islamic_sects.htm)

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# Daily life (Dress/Food/Recreation/Economy): Group 5

1. What is a qmis, a pagray, and a burqa?
2. What does traditional Afghan clothing suggest about cultural values?
3. What is the most popular dish of Afghanistan? What meats are common? Drink?
4. What occupation has been most effected by warfare?

Links:

[Overview of Pashtun culture including clothing description](http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Afghanistan-to-Bosnia-Herzegovina/Pashtun.html) [Afghan food](http://afghanistan.saarctourism.org/food.html)

[Turban tying and Kite Running](http://abcnews.go.com/International/video?id=3026021) [Brief economic overview](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0856489.html) [Fighting the Opium Wars](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/02/opium-wars/draper-text)

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# Daily life (Dress/Food/Recreation/Economy): Group 6

1. What main livestock is tended in Afghanistan?
2. What are Afghanistan’s main exports?
3. Cultivation of what product supported the Taliban financially?
4. Describe the Afghan economy. What are its current challenges? Why?

Links:

[Overview of Pashtun culture including clothing description](http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Afghanistan-to-Bosnia-Herzegovina/Pashtun.html) [Afghan food](http://afghanistan.saarctourism.org/food.html)

[Turban tying and Kite Running](http://abcnews.go.com/International/video?id=3026021) [Brief economic overview](http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0856489.html) [Fighting the Opium Wars](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/02/opium-wars/draper-text)

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# Women in Society: Group 7

1. What privileges don’t women have in Afghanistan?
2. How are women treated differently than men in Afghanistan?
3. What are some ‘crimes’ in Afghanistan that women can be punished for, but not men?
4. How have things changed/stayed the same for women since the Taliban lost power?

Links:

[Women under Taliban Threat - TIME Photo Essay](http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0%2C29307%2C2007161%2C00.html) [Afghan Women and the Return of the Taliban Article](http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0%2C9171%2C2007407%2C00.html)

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# Tribal Relationships and Family: Group 8

1. What are the main ethnic groups in Afghanistan?
2. What are three main differences between the two groups of people?
3. What is Pashtunwali?
4. What does it mean to be an outsider in Afghan society? Why are people excluded? What does this exclusion look like?
5. How might modern Afghans try to use tribal structure to support a stable government?

Links:

[Relationship between Pashtun and Hazara in The Kite Runner](http://foryou1000timesover.blogspot.com/2008/04/pashtuns-and-hazaras.html)

[National Geographic photo gallery on "Afghanistan's Outsiders," the Hazara](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/02/afghanistan-hazara/mccurry-photography.html) [Pashtun tribal structure](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/31/weekinreview/13rohde.html?scp=1&amp;sq=tribes%20afghan&amp;st=cse)