



“Making Connections”

Teaching Guide

Whether you are teaching Social Studies, AP History, or an experiential biography project, here are select resources for your use.

1. Adapted from **One Islam, Many Muslim Worlds**, by Raymond William Baker (Oxford, 2015), an AEP friend and former U.S. State Department official Middle East/North Africa desk, Joseph Montville, sketches four contemporary profiles of people who exemplify the moral, religious, and intellectual spirit of Abdelkader:
 - a. Muhammad Abduh (1849-1905);
 - b. Bediuzzaman Said Nursi (1878-1960);
 - c. Muhammad al-Ghazzali (1917-1996); and
 - d. Ali Shariati (1933-1977).

Montville notes: “These men were like Abdelkader; that is, moderates who saw Islam as a system of values with universal appeal. One could trace their thinking to Hebrew prophets, Jesus, and the Prophet Muhammad, whose primary teaching focused on justice for the least among us and dignity for all. They were each very suspicious of Muslim extremists whom they saw a danger to the Muslim community. They were centrists in the best sense of the word.”

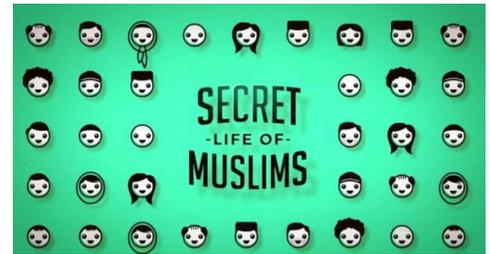
2. For exemplary **women role models**, conversations, and materials about violence, genital cutting and more day-to-day important topics, please visit the website of AEP board member, Daisy Khan and **WISE Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality**. WISE UP publication is a rich resource to help teachers and students answer the question: What is Islam? What do Muslims believe and do?

<http://www.wisemuslimwomen.org/>

3. Contemporary profiles include video clips from the award-winning “**Secret Life of Muslims**” series created by Seftel Productions: A New York Police Department story of Imam Khalid Latif or Marine Corps veteran Richard McKinney are powerful examples.



There are nearly 20 three to four minute provocative contemporary videos accessible to the public. Students (and their parents) will immediately grasp the messages and their meanings. Rich discussions surely will follow each clip.



4. **“I AM YOUR PROTECTOR”** (IYAP) is a worldwide campaign whose theory of change is that people shift perceptions once they are “protected” from harm by someone in a group that is hated or feared. For example, a Muslim Sudanese refugee in Holland recently saved a drowning boy, shifting perceptions of Muslims in that country. That is, once protected, the hated group can no longer be seen as a monolith. Abdelkader was a fierce protector of Christians in Damascus in 1860, propelling him to global fame. <https://iamyourprotector.org/protector/abdelkader-el-djezairi-saved-12000-Christians/>. There are over two-hundred other posters of protectors to view and/or display. Students and teachers are invited to submit protector stories, which may be chosen by IYAP for worldwide dissemination.

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