

MUSLIMS IN AMERICA

RESOURCE TOOLKIT FOR AMERICAN SPACES

This Resource Toolkit is designed for programming at American Spaces to create a greater awareness of the life of Muslim Americans and the cultural diversity they bring to the United States.



RESOURCES

Muslims in America: Immigrants and those born in America see life in different ways

PEW Research study with graphs and video remarks from several scholars and American Muslims on the Muslim experience in the United States.

Being Muslim in America: Pew Research video - 18 minutes

This video offers a look inside the beliefs and attitudes of Muslims in America; it features data from Pew Research Center's 2017 survey, as well as the personal stories of Muslims from across the United States.

MUSLIM COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

The United States has one of the most diverse Muslim populations in the world. Although many are first generation immigrants, approximately half were born in the United States. One third of the American Muslim community is African American, one third is of South Asian descent, one quarter is of Arab descent, and the rest are from all over the world, including a growing Latino Muslim population. Roughly one out of 100 Americans is Muslim.*

Muslims who migrate to the United States are frequently seeking economic opportunities and democratic freedoms. They come from all walks of life; they are doctors, accountants, entrepreneurs, police officers, and members of the military.

*See [Pew Research Center Study](#) for more.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

MORE RESOURCES

[Religious Freedom Toolkit for American Spaces](#)

[Arab American Heritage Month Toolkit](#)

Share America Articles

- [Who are American Muslims?](#)
- [Are you a Muslim student curious about U.S. College life?](#)
- [Muslim American Women on living in the USA](#)
- [Muslim Americans observe Ramadan at home](#)
- [Muslim Americans becoming more involved in U.S. politics](#)

Lesson Plan: Islam in America

- In this Public Broadcasting Services lesson, students explore some of the religious and cultural variations and diversity within Islam, as well as the relation of Muslims to members of other religious groups.

Photos of Muslim Life in America ([GPA Photo Archive](#))

Black American Muslims

- Malcolm X - [PBS Lesson Plan](#) and [PowerPoint Slides](#)
- Muhammad Ali - [PBS Lesson Plan](#) and [Slides](#)



VIDEOS AND FILMS

[An American Mosque \(28 minutes, 2013\)](#)

An American Mosque is a film about Islam in America, religious intolerance, and the interfaith response to a horrible hate crime. The rebuilding of the mosque is a living testament of the core American value of religious liberty. This film is available in Kanopy and can be screened at American Spaces and in closed online platforms.

[TED Talk- Amer Zahr: I love America \(9 minutes, 2015\)](#)

Amer Zahr is an Arab American comedian, writer, and an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He shares his funny, heartfelt, and eye-opening perspective of home and growing up.

[My So-Called Enemy: Celebrating Diversity, Interfaith and Intercultural Understanding \(90 minutes, 2010\)](#)

This is a coming-of-age film on Kanopy about the vital role of listening and empathy in creating bridges across personal, cultural, religious, political, and gender divisions. It follows six courageous Palestinian and Israeli teenage girls who participated in a cross-cultural women's leadership program in the United States and documents how this transformative experience interacts with the realities of the situation in the Middle East when they return home (2010).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

After reading one of the above articles and/or watching one of the videos, consider asking the following questions:

- What surprised you about Muslims in America?
- Religious freedom is one of the most cherished rights among Americans. How do Muslim Americans exercise those rights?
- What are some differences between Muslim Americans and Muslims living in your country?