

## Jordan Instant Meeting - Guides

**Goal:** To learn about the country of Jordan and Girl Guides in Jordan.

**Program Connections:**

Cultural Awareness Badge (#1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6)

You in Guiding – Learn About WAGGGS #6

Discovering You -Discover Your Creativity #2

**Time:** One meeting (90 minutes).

**Arrival (20 minutes)**

- Shrinky Dink Jordan Flag
- Supplies needed: flag template (attached), shrink dinks, coloured pencils.

**Horseshoe (10 minutes)**

**Story Activity (20 minutes)**

- Read story (attached) and complete trivia questions (attached).

**Craft (20 minutes)**

- Felt Prayer Mat
- <http://www.karimascrafts.com/2013/01/felt-muslim-doll-and-prayer-mat-tutorial.html>
- Supplies: Felt, thread, needles.

**Game (20 minutes)**

- Five Stones
- <http://www.traditionalgames.in/home/property-games/five-stones-kuzhangal-anchankal-kallankal>
- Supplies: five small items (stones, buttons, etc).

**Snack (15 minutes)**

- Mezza Plate: hummus & pita, tabbouleh/fatoosh (vegetable salad) and baklava (usually contains nuts).

## **Other Activity for Guides**

### **Food Prep:**

Help prepare the snack by making tabbouleh/fatoosh.

### **Labneh Cheese:**

Good for a camp.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Labneh-Cheese>

Program Connection: Beyond You, Try New Things #1; Heritage Home Skills Badge #2

### **Dabke Dance:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhL3VMtD5pQ>

Program Connection: Beyond You, Try New Things #1; Dancing #1

## Letter from a Girl Guide in Jordan

Hi my name is Dema and I am a Brownie with the Jordanian Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. I am 11 years old and next year I will be a Girl Guide. Our motto is the same as yours Be Prepared but we say it in Arabic.

I have always lived in Jordan, which is small country in Southeast Asia. We have what is called a Mediterranean climate, with warm to hot, dry summers and mild to cool, wet winters. Our wildlife is not known for its variety, but we have desert foxes, porcupines, hedgehogs, and gazelles, to name a few. Our national flower is the black iris, and you can see cactus, eucalyptus, cedar, and olive trees.

Jordan borders on five countries—Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the West Bank. It is 89,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which is just a bit bigger than New Brunswick. The Jordan River lies to the east of our country and flows into the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth. Jordan is named after the river, and comes from the Hebrew language, meaning “descend” or “flow down”. I live in Amman, which is the capital of Jordan.

There are about 8.9 million people who live in Jordan, about 10 times the population of Nova Scotia. The official language is Arabic, though English is widely used in business and government.

We have many industries in Jordan, with our main ones being the banking industry and telcom and IT. My dad works in IT and I like using computers too!

The climate here is a relatively rainy season from November to April and very dry weather for the rest of the year. In summer it is often warmer than 36C, while in winter it averages around 13C. A strong wind, called khamsin, comes before the summer season, and usually brings large dust clouds. It's not fun to be outside on those days!

We welcome people by saying ahlan wa sahlan and we say thank you by saying shukran jazīlan.

Today is my Brownie meeting and we are learning about our Promise:

I promise to do my best:

To do my duty to God, my country and the King,

To obey the Brownie's Law, and

To carry out a good deed every day.

Our Girl Guides levels are:

Brownies - ages 7-11

Guides – ages 11-17

Rangers – ages 18-24

Guiding started in Jordan in 1938, but wasn't officially recognized until 1954. I love taking part in the service projects as we regularly visit hospitals, orphanages and homes for the disabled and the elderly, entertaining the residents and distributing gifts. The Association organizes lectures on hygiene and sanitation and responds to appeals for blood donors. Many Guides and leaders are trained in community service, life saving and fire fighting, by officers from the Jordanian Civil Defence Department.

Camping is a popular activity and we hold weekend camps a few times a year. National campsites, at Ajlun, Dbeen, Aqaba, Karama and North Shuna, are widely used by members.

Guides are involved in environmental initiatives, including tree planting to combat soil erosion and the tidying up of the countryside.

Music is a very important part of our culture, and the most popular folk dance is called dabke. Jordan is one of the largest producers of olives and we cook with mainly with olive oil. My favourite meal is when we have a mezza plate with hummus, baba ganoush, tabbouleh , olives, and pickles. Our national dish is called mansaf, which is made with lamb, bread, and yogurt.

I have never left Jordan but I understand that it is about 8900 km to Halifax. I hope one day to be able to visit your country.

Yours in Guiding,  
Dema

## Jordan: Quiz

1. What are the main industries in Jordan?

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2. What is the official language of Jordan?

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3. What does Jordan mean?

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4. How far is it to Halifax from Jordan?

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5. What is the national flower?

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6. What is a khamsin?

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7. When did Girl Guides start?

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8. What is the capital?

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9. How big is Jordan?

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10. What the national dish of Jordan?

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11. What is a folk dance in Jordan called?

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