

Classroom Activities

COUNTRY FOCUS

• ■ ► The continents, though separated, have borders that seem to fit together like puzzle pieces. This was the first evidence for continental drift. Look at a world map with your class. Can you see possible fits?

• ■ ► The theory of mountain formation by continental joining is called nappe theory, from the French for tablecloth. Drape a cloth over a desk and push it together slowly from two sides. Can you explain why the theory has the name it does?

► Research the location of earthquakes and volcanoes. Tracing lines through these points on a world map will show the outline of the approximately twelve plates that make up the world's surface.

• ■ ► Underground, particularly near the edges of continental plates, is a layer of salty rock. Where rain is frequent, salt washes out of soil over millions of years, but when a normally dry area is irrigated, large amounts seep to the surface. White deposits appear on the soil and it gradually becomes infertile. Experiment by charting the growth of plants in three pots: well drained, inadequately drained, and inadequately drained with a layer of salt at the bottom.

► Write out arithmetic problems in our numeral system (Hindu-Arabic) and Roman numerals. Solve the problems in our system, then in the Roman. What makes them easier in our system? Devise rules to simplify Roman numeral arithmetic.

■ ► Try to understand relative sizes of numbers by concrete comparison. Take a fact from the article—like the number of Afghan refugees—and a number with which the class is familiar, like the number of people in your school. How many groups of that size would equal the number of refugees?

* English has many words from Urdu's parent languages. Use dictionary etymologies to trace how the words came to English and what they suggest about Hindu-Arabic life.

• orange, lilac (Persian); mattress, zero (Arabic); jungle, loot (Hindustani)

■ bazaar, azure (P); alcove, assassin, cipher, ghoul, myrrh, sherbet, syrup, zenith (A); bandanna, bungalow, cashmere (H)

► serendipity, mogul, sugar, taffeta, jasmine (P); admiral, alchemy, alcohol, algebra, algorithm (A); chintz, veranda (H)

• ■ Listeners keep time to Pakistan's rhythmically complex music with hand motions. This personal involvement makes listening an exciting, communal experience. Make up motions for beating time to three-four and four-four rhythms. (Pakistanis use a silent clap for a downbeat, hand wave for other accented beats, touching thumb to fingers for non-accented beats.) Listen to music with everyone counting along.

■ ► Look up the words "Moslem" and "Muslim." What is the connection?

LENT FOCUS

• ■ ► During the month of Ramadan, Moslems fast to learn the experience of poverty and hunger—abstention not for its

own sake, but for the sake of the generosity it promotes. As you plan your Lenten fasts, discuss reasons why we abstain—from sweets, angry words, etc. You might give up TV-watching time, for example, to spend time reading to a sibling.

• ■ ► At fast's end, Moslems give alms out of joy and gratitude for the feasts to come. For the same reason, a Moslem offers to the poor more of his income from rain-watered land than from irrigated land. Plan an almsgiving that shows gratitude for God's gifts.

• ■ ► The poet Jalaluddin Rumi wrote that Allah "turns the dried up seed of prayer into a marvelous date palm." Moslems sprout seeds to symbolize new life attained by sacrifice. During Lent, meditate on seeds sprouting in a glass or a tree budding outside the window. As the plant casts aside a safe husk to struggle in the cold, so do we give up comfort in our Lenten struggles to grow.

• ■ ► Pakistanis celebrate reconciliation by sharing a special sweet. You can make it by mixing nutmeg, cinnamon, coriander and cardamom; chopping dates, figs, almonds and peanuts; and kneading all these together with some butter and sugar. Include in your sweet-sharing ceremony readings of favorite quotations, poems and Scripture verses; Pakistanis love to gather to read aloud.

• ■ ► Use the story on the next page to identify attitudes which people might have toward refugees. During Lent, Christians strive to "change their hearts"—undergo conversion of attitudes that are not Christ-like. How does such a conversion happen? What changed the king's heart in the story?

• ■ ► The Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca celebrates a purification and a rededication of one's life to God, with these aims strengthened by taking part in a communal act of reverence. Construct a Stations of the Cross booklet by photocopying and assembling the illustrations on pages 22-25. Plan a service of the Stations of the Cross.



Grade level code: • K-2 ■ 3-5 ► 6-8