



THE ART OF ARMENIAN TARAZ

Duration: 60 minutes (or as appropriate for your curriculum)

Description:

This project-based session is designed for children aged 8-14, during which they will discover the colorful and beautiful universe of Armenian Taraz.

The Armenian national costume or taraz, which has a centuries-old history and is as rich and varied as our multi-dialectical language, is an important symbol of Armenian culture and identity. In this session, children will explore the diverse elements that give the Armenian taraz its uniqueness and beauty. They will learn about the symbolisms and different colors used for both men and women's costumes. The children will also design their own Armenian taraz, choosing from a variety of patterns, ornaments, and colors that will be provided during the session.

The plan and worksheets are downloadable in PDF format. If you have difficulty downloading the materials or are interested in a separate PowerPoint presentation, please reach out to us at armate@agbu.org and we will be happy to help.

AGBU Armat is designed to bring youth together for monthly virtual meetups to connect and socialize with other children around the world in a secure social network environment. Guided by educational instructors, participants follow the traces of our history and culture, discovering new facts and hidden treasures of Armenia. Through engaging activities, they meet famous and entertaining guest speakers, build social skills, and create lasting friendships.

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AGE

8-12

LANGUAGE

English

DURATION

60 minutes

WARM UP ACTIVITY: 5 MINUTES

Before playing the quick warmup game on costumes around the world, brainstorm with the children about when and where people wear costumes, what they show or symbolize.

Distribute the handout (refer to *Appendix 1*) for the children to guess the national costumes of three countries.

If you have a projector, screen the engaging PPT (refer to *Appendix 2*) for the children to guess the national costumes of each country.

MATERIALS

Pencils and erasers

Game Handout: See ***Appendix 1***

Projector/TV/Smart board

PPT: See ***Appendix 2***

ACTIVITY ONE: 20 MINUTES

Screen the Art of Armenian Taraz PowerPoint presentation (refer to *Appendix 3*) to explore some interesting and important facts about the Armenian Taraz.

OR

You can skip the PPT and share some fun facts about Armenian Taraz (refer to *Appendix 4*).

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY

Projector/TV/Smart board

PPT: See ***Appendix 3***

PPT Script: ***Upon request***

Fun Facts: ***Appendix 4***

ACTIVITY TWO: 30 MINUTES

Distribute the men's and women's drawings (refer to *Appendix 5*) and have the children choose one of the drawings they prefer to start designing their own Armenian taraz.

Distribute or share the Armenian Ornaments handout (refer to *Appendix 6*) so that children can refer to them while drawing. The handout includes different Armenian patterns and ornaments like linears, rosettes, crosses etc.

- Draw the edges of the clothes, sleeves, sides of the pants or the apron, using the linear patterns.
- Add rosettes, crosses and floral patterns to both men or women's tarazes.
- Design the headwears using any of the patterns.
- Color the tarazes.

* Remind the children about some fun facts while they are designing or coloring their Armenian tarazes.

MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY

Drawings: See ***Appendix 5***

Ornament Handout: ***Appendix 6***

Pencils, erasers, and coloring pencils

To Which Country Do These Costumes Belong?



- India
- Brazil
- China
- Japan



To Which Country Do These Costumes Belong?

- Brazil
- Mexico
- Africa
- Greece



To Which Country Do These Costumes Belong?

- Russia
- Spain
- Germany
- Scotland





ARMENIAN TARAZ





ARMENIAN NATIONAL COSTUME

Տարազ (DARAZ/TARAZ)





WESTERN ARMENIA

EASTERN ARMENIA



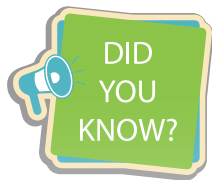


ARMENIAN MEN'S TARAZ

- ❖ a shirt
- ❖ wide trousers
- ❖ a waistcoat or kaftan
- ❖ a wide sash
- ❖ a headdress
- ❖ shoes



THE ART OF ARMENIAN TARAZ



The Armenian national costume is called **taraz** and has a history of many centuries.

By looking at the person's **taraz**, people could immediately realize where the person was from, to what social status the person belonged, and whether the person was married or single.

The traditional **men's** taraz included a shirt, wide trousers, a waistcoat, a wide sash (*a loose wide-sleeved robe fastened with sash at the waist*), a headdress, and shoes. In winter, they add a warm fur-coat or woolen coat made from sheepskin and goat fur.



Traditionally, upper-class men use outerwear of light color, while males of lower status prefer dark tones for their clothes.

The Armenian **women** taraz consisted of a long dress, an apron, a sash or belt, an outer garment, a headdress, jewelry (sometimes, plenty of it), and shoes. The apron was an important part of women's taraz and only married women could wear it.



Their aprons had many decorative elements representing the things women used in her daily life such as scissors, bowls, and pitchers. They would also have the tree of life decoration on it.



Wealthy upper-class women wore headdresses decorated with gems, gold, and silver.

The headwear traditionally was taken off by women only when there were no males in the house. And never in the street, or in public.



Leather shoes called *undiz* (bathi) were made from rough animal skin and worn with knitted wooden socks.

The world's oldest leather shoe was found in 2006 in Areni cave in Areni village in Yavakts Dzor, Armenia. It is 5,500 years old.



The Armenian costume is dominated by the colors of the four elements of the Earth: **earth**, **water**, **air** and **fire**.







APPENDIX 6

