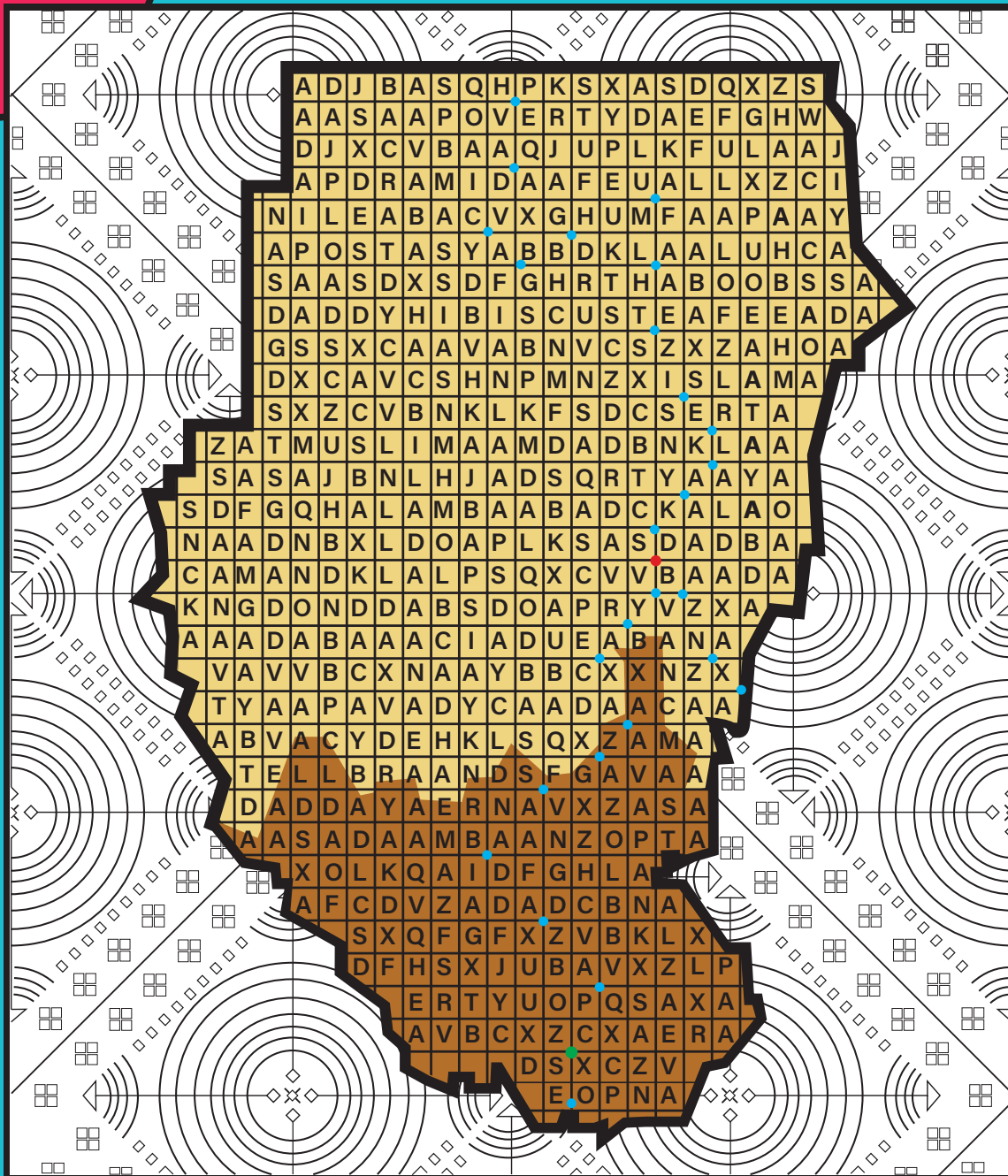


TABLE TALK SUDAN & SOUTH SUDAN

WORD SEARCH



Ful
Islam
Muslim
Apostasy
Poverty
Pyramid
Thobe
Nile
Slavery
Hibiscus tea
Khartoum
Juba
Haboobs
Jalabiya

ITEMS NEEDED: Crayons, pens and pencil crayons. Enjoy colouring the pattern based on a Sudanese fabric.

DEFINITIONS

Ful – A popular food made of brown beans that is stewed for hours and served mainly with oil, spices and bread.

Islam – A religion that involves the worship of the god Allah of the Quran, which was written by a man named Muhammad, who is called a prophet.

Muslim – A person who follows Islam as their religion and worships Allah.

Apostasy – The conversion from Islam to Christianity is considered a capital offence in Sudan.

Poverty – South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Pyramid – Sudan has 255 pyramids, almost twice as many as Egypt.

Thobe – A Sudanese woman's dress.

Nile – The White and the Blue Niles are two tributaries that merge at Khartoum, becoming the Nile River.

Slavery – Approximately 35,000 Christian and non-Muslim people are still enslaved in Sudan.

Hibiscus tea – Known as Karkadeh, this tea basically consists of hibiscus juice which is found all over the region.

Khartoum – The capital city of Sudan.

Juba – The capital city of South Sudan.

Haboobs – A dust storm that can black out the sun and cut visibility to zero in the very dry Northern Sudan terrain.

Jalabiya – A traditional Sudanese robe for men.

It's estimated that more than half of the population in Sudan and South Sudan is under the age of 18. Many of those children have witnessed great tragedy and war and have not had access to education.

In Sudan, eight is often the last age a child is able to go to school. In Canada, that age is 16 or 17, depending on gender. By age 15, only a small percentage of South Sudanese males (40 percent) and females (28.9 percent) can read and write.

For many reasons, but mainly Sudan's civil war, inflation has increased 100 percent between 1990 and 1991. Inflation is the rate at which prices for goods and services increase. The inflation rate in South Sudan peaked at 550 percent in 2016.

Did you know that modern slavery is still rampant in all parts of Sudan, which is a predominantly Muslim nation? It is against Muslim law to indenture another Muslim.

Recommended Read:

For grade-school readers, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park is a tremendously written book. It is based on the true story of two Sudanese children – one in 2008 and one in 1985 – and how their lives intersect.

WEIGH IN

- With many adults killed or gone to war, what would you prioritize as a teen? Would you be able to continue studying, especially if you had younger siblings?
- Do you know of any eight-year-olds who aren't receiving an education? What do these statistics say about job security and wage earnings? What do they say about the value of women in Sudanese society?
- Looking at the inflation rates provided for Sudan and South Sudan, how much would a loaf of bread cost if the price *before* inflation was \$2.50? What would it mean to your family if everything you bought increased in price by 100 percent, or 550 percent? How could you change your spending habits to ensure you eat two meals a day? What might you have to stop doing to survive the financial hardships that would occur if life's necessities cost 100 percent more than last year?
- The population of South Sudan is predominantly Christian, although a minority of tribal religions are still practised there. If it is against Muslim law to indenture another Muslim, who do you think are being enslaved by Sudanese in the north?

ONE WAY

The Pillars of Islam, also known as the five duties of a Muslim, are:

- Say the *shahada*, the Muslim confession of faith.
- Pray five times per day facing Mecca.
- Give alms to the poor.
- Fast from sunrise to sunset during the month of Ramadan.
- Make a pilgrimage to Mecca, if able.

In Islam, there is no one to intercede on behalf of a Muslim. It is the individual's sole responsibility to follow these laws to earn their salvation. Allah is distant and impersonal. Salvation is never fully assured. Why must Muslims pray five times? Is five enough?

Christ gave Christians duties as well. What are they (read Luke 10:25-28)? What is the key difference between the duties of our faith and why we perform them? What does Ephesians 2:8-9 tell us about salvation through Christ?

WAY OUT

Would you say that you have much more, more, the same, less, or much less than a Sudanese or South Sudanese child?

Read Luke 12:48: "*When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required*" (NLT).

In what ways have you been given much? Think about this spiritually as well.

What impact would it have on these countries if more Muslims came to know the love and salvation of Jesus Christ?

Brainstorm ways that you, your family, your Sunday school or your church can make a difference for Christ and Christians in Sudan and South Sudan. Then pick one thing, and put it into action.