

# MAHMOUD SAÏD

## MIDDLE EASTERN PAINTER

### ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

#### WHAT WE LEARNED:

- **Mahmoud Saïd** was the Father of Modern Egyptian Painting. We defined each of those terms.
- We were introduced to his family and modern Egyptian history.
- We identified places important to Mahmoud's life and work.
- We discussed the artist's oeuvre, style and reflection of Egyptian nationalism.

#### ART ACTIVITY: LOCAL-FLAIR PAINTING



It was important to Mahmoud Saïd to show everyday life in Egypt. He chose scenes that reflected the working-class people's view of their surroundings. The students chose a local place to illustrate by capturing what is important to them.

#### FOR PARENTS

Mahmoud Saïd lived at an important time spanning the bridge between the village life of Egypt ruled by a king and the modern Egyptian Republic. He is a particularly interesting figure connecting the two worlds. Growing up in Alexandria, becoming a judge, retiring to paint and reacting against the "Degenerate Art" label from Nazi Germany, Saïd's life was varied and pivotal. While much of Saïd's artwork is instructive for your children, there are many works that would not be appropriate for young people. Please take care to supervise their research about this artist.





## SOUND SYNC

Read the transliterated Arabic words out loud. Can you guess what English word came from the Arabic word? Write your answer in the blank. Answer Key is at the bottom of the page.

1. **Qutn:** a crop grown in American south for textile uses \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Zaraffa:** a very tall animal from Africa \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Jarra:** storage container \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Limun & Lima:** two citrus fruits \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Muskara:** a black makeup for eyelashes \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Matrah:** helps you get a good night's sleep (Hint: Serta, Purple, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Safariya:** an adventure trip often in a jungle \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Suffah:** a piece of living room furniture \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Keemiya:** a major branch of science using the periodic table \_\_\_\_\_

(Adapted from The Arab World Thought of It: Inventions, Innovations and Amazing Facts by Saima S. Hussain, pg. 42)

### Sound Sync Answer Key

1. Cotton
2. Giraffe
3. Jar
4. Lemon & Lime
5. Mascara
6. Mattress
7. Safari
8. Sofa
9. Chemistry

## FURTHER EXPLORATION (VIDEOS)

Explore these resources to increase your understanding:

- [Egypt for Kids](#)
- [Introducing the Middle East by Lonely Planet](#)
- [American Olympian who has inspired a new Barbie](#)

(Scroll down for an interesting video.)

*Due to the changing nature of web resources, M&G strongly urges you as the parent to preview these sites before your child accesses them. The fact that these sites are available on this handout does not imply that M&G endorses their content from the standpoint of morals, philosophy, theology, or scientific hypotheses.*

## FURTHER READING

*A Taste of the World: What People Eat and How They Celebrate Around the Globe* by Beth Walrond

*Aladdin: A Fairy Tale Adventure* by Giada Francia

*Arabic Phrases* by Jill Kalz (kids book of translated words and phrases)

*Brothers: A Hebrew Legend* retold by Florence B. Freedman

*Egypt: Enchantment of the World* by Ann Heinrichs

*The Enchanted Storks* by Aaron Shepard

*The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story* by Rebecca Hickox

*The Hungry Goat: A Tale from Turkey* by Demi

*Iraq: Country Profiles* by Emily Rose Oachs

*Lebanon A to Z: A Middle Eastern Mosaic* by Marijean Boueri, Jill Boutros, and Joanne Sayad

*The Legend of the Persian Carpet* by Tomie de Paola

*Let's Explore Egypt* by Elle Parkes

*The Librarian of Basra* by Jeanette Winter

*Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and Susan L Roth

*Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey* by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes

*Lubna and Pebble* by Wendy Meddour

*Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai

*Malala Yousafai: Champion for Education* by Jodie Shepherd

*My Beautiful Birds* by Suzanne Del Rizzo

*Nasreddine* by Odile Weulersse

*Now That's Big: The Suez Canal* by Kate Riggs

*One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale* by Demi

*The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibtihaj Muhammad

*Rimonah of the Flashing Sword: A North African Tale* adapted by Eric A. Kimmel

*Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad* by James Rumford

*The Three Princes: A Tale from the Middle East* retold by Eric Kimmel

*Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank* by Paula Yoo

*The Valiant Chattee-Maker: A Folk Tale of India* retold by Christine Price

*What about Me?* by Ed Young





## BEDOUIN WEAVING PATTERNS

Sadu refers to a heavily woven fabric with red or black background made by Bedouins in Saudi Arabia and the surrounding countries. Traditionally ladies weave these geometric patterns into cloth and use them for many different purposes. Sadu cloth adds an unmistakably Arab flavor to their home décor, whether it is used to cover a low cushion, separate a room like a curtain, or thrown on the camel's back like a blanket. Making Sadu cloth is a very complicated weaving process. Why not introduce it through making a paper version?

Adapted from [www.jeddahmom.com/bedouin-weaving-traditional-saudi-crafts-for-kids/?fb\\_ref=ISBPGknvOx-Pinterest](http://www.jeddahmom.com/bedouin-weaving-traditional-saudi-crafts-for-kids/?fb_ref=ISBPGknvOx-Pinterest)

### Materials:

- Red or Black Cardstock or Construction Paper
- Contrasting-Colored Construction Papers (White, Yellow, etc.)
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Markers

### Directions:

Using the contrasting-colored paper, cut long straight and zigzag strips lengthwise along the paper. Your child may need extra help. You can draw guidelines for the strips depending on your child's age.

Glue the strips lengthwise along the black or red paper. Consider making a symmetrical design where the widths match. Use markers to add smaller details that would be hard to cut out of paper. See the photos of Bedouin Sadu Weaving below for inspiration.



Images from "Weave Around the World" @ <https://weavearoundtheworld.blogspot.com/2015/01/sadu-and-why-i-am-in-kuwait-at-all.html>

## M&G EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Through tours, events, and publications, the Museum & Gallery seeks to partner with educators in fulfilling all of the National Visual Arts Content Standards. By integrating art into the core curriculum, M&G's goals are to teach children to value the arts, to communicate through the arts, to become creative problem solvers through the inclusion of STEAM-related concepts and fully-developed STEAM units, to understand history and culture in light of the arts, to improve literary interest and understanding through visual storytelling, to critique the arts, and to develop an aesthetic awareness of the arts. Through fulfilling the mission, M&G is able to help develop citizens who have the ability to think, feel, and understand the world in which they live.



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