

NEWS BREAK

Article: **Taliban decree full covering for women**

Section: **MAIN, A3**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, May 8, 2022** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will discuss whether a government should control what women wear, and why a government would want to control every aspect of a woman's life. They will learn the historical background of the burqa and hijab. Are students able to make any comparisons to what's happening in America's political system, in terms of gender equality and women's rights?

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

The Taliban government decreed Saturday that Afghan women must cover themselves from head to toe, expanding a series of **onerous** restrictions on women that dictate nearly every aspect of public life.

Onerous Guess:

Onerous Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. The Taliban government decreed Saturday that Afghan women must cover themselves from _____ to _____, expanding a series of onerous restrictions on women that dictate nearly every aspect of public life.
2. The decree, by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, drew condemnation from whom?
3. The United Nations described it as what?
4. The ministry suggested the _____ as the preferred garment for covering a woman's face, hair and body.
5. But it did not mandate wearing the garment as long as women otherwise cover themselves with a _____.
6. The full-body burqa, long emblematic of _____ of women's public attire in Afghanistan.

7. Since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in August, Afghan women have been subjected to a cascade of announcements restricting what aspects of their lives?
8. The burqa, which leaves only a woman's _____ and _____ visible and includes a stitched facial netting for vision, was required by the Taliban when it ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.
9. What is the intent of the garment?
10. At a three-hour news conference dominated by pronouncements promoting the religious virtues of the burqa, ministry officials and Islamic religious figures dictated a series of escalating _____— including jail time for male family heads who repeatedly disregard warnings from government officials regarding women's attire.

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- ***What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?***
- ***At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?***
- ***What things did you already know from prior experience?***
- ***Did you know about the history of the burqa and hijab (and the difference between the two) prior to reading this article?***
- ***What do you think about government controlling what women wear?***
- ***Why do you think the Taliban wants to control all aspects of women's lives?***
- ***Do you think escalating punishments will work? Why or why not?***
- ***Why do you think the Taliban will also punish the men that are connected with the women who are protesting the law, and not wanting to wear the hijab?***
- ***Are you able to make any comparisons to what's happening in America's political system right now, in regards to women's rights and gender equality?***

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.
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