Islam in France

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French instruction at Eastwood Middle School consists of a six-week exploratory rotation in grade 6, followed by 7th and 8th grade French, with together constitute level one French, the equivalent of two semesters at the high school level. Students at this level are not capable of discussing issues in the French level for an extended period of time or at a complex level of thought. I did not want to break away from French language instruction for an extended period of time, but instead want to weave the discussion of Islam in France into the whole three year curriculum, returning to the topic each semester, but at a deeper level.

In grade 7, I chose to introduce the topic of the diversity in ethnicity and religion of the French people through the language.

In grade 8, we return to the topic of diversity and ethnicity in the chapter of ‘the city’, adding places of worship to the discussion of “Who are the French”. Later in the year, in the clothing chapter, we explore the subject of ‘le hijab’ in the English language, encouraging the students to step out of their comfort zone and espouse a point of view other than their own.