

Suggested School Activities: Turkish Month

Nursery & Early Years (EYFS)

- **The "Ali Baba" Song:** Teach the children the famous Turkish nursery rhyme *Ali Baba'nın Bir Çiftliği Var* (Ali Baba Has a Farm). It's the Turkish equivalent of *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*. Children love making the Turkish animal sounds (e.g., dogs say "hav hav" instead of "woof woof"). [Ali Baba's Farm \(Ali Babanın çiftliği\) Beth's Notes Songs + Resources](#)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Hz8BJ7PjCA>
- **Shadow Puppets (Karagöz):** Turkey has a rich history of traditional shadow puppet theater. Cut out simple paper silhouettes on lollipop sticks and let children put on a show behind a backlit white sheet. [Traditional Turkish Shadow Theatre: Karagöz](#)
- **Ebriz Painting Exploration:** Fill a tray with thick water/shaving foam and let children drop food coloring on top, swirling it with toothpicks to create patterns, mimicking traditional Turkish *Ebru* (marbling) art. [Master the Secrets of Turkish Ebru](#) [Make Marbled Paper with Foam | Tate Kids](#)

Primary School (KS1 & KS2)

- **The Nazar (Evil Eye) Art Project:** The blue-and-white *Nazar* amulet is a famous symbol of protection and good luck across Turkey. Have students design their own concentric circle "lucky eyes" using oil pastels or clay.
- **Register Challenge:** Throughout September, students must answer the morning register with "*Burada!*" (Here!) instead of "Present".
- **Counting with Turkish Tea:** Bring in a traditional curved Turkish tea glass (filled with water or apple tea). Use it as a visual prop to teach children to count to ten: *Bir* (1), *İki* (2), *Üç* (3), *Dört* (4), *Beş* (5), *Altı* (6), *Yedi* (7), *Sekiz* (8), *Dokuz* (9), *On* (10).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppaYRTLPIQA>

Secondary School (KS3 & KS4)

- **Linguistic Detective Work (Agglutination):** Teach students how Turkish works by "gluing" parts of words together. Give them a root word like *göz* (eye) and show them how it transforms:
 - *göz* = eye
 - *gözlük* = glasses (thing for the eye)
 - *gözlükçü* = optician (person who sells things for the eye)
 - *gözlükçülük* = the profession of being an optician!
- **Geography & Empires:** Explore Istanbul's unique geographical status as the only city in the world that spans two continents (Europe and Asia) and discuss how this blend of cultures shaped the language.
- **Hospitality idioms:** Turkish culture is famous for its hospitality. Have students research and discuss phrases that don't translate directly into English, such as "*Eline sağlık*" (Health to your hands—said to someone who has cooked a meal for you) or "*Kolay gelsin*" (May it come easy to you—said to anyone working hard).