Family Geography Night Activity ~ Turkey~

Interesting Facts and Geography

Objectives: Participants pair-up to read interesting facts about Turkey and then mark locations on the map. (variations to this activity are included in the description below)

(a) **Students will find the person with the matching piece of an interesting fact about Turkey, and then read the information to the whole group.

(b) Students will then locate the place mentioned in the fact and place a dot on the (floor map, individual outline maps or outline map of turkey on the smart board)

Supplies needed:
~Individual maps of Turkey printed (see internet resources below)
~One extra-large map of Turkey. Either on the wall, smart board or floor
~Markers, stickers or cut out circles with tape:
  (for marking different locations on the map of turkey)
~Interesting Facts Puzzle pieces: (**Make puzzle pieces by printing out interesting facts about Turkey’s history, physical geography, and/or culture. (see examples attached below from the site:  http://gototurkey.co.uk/Did-You-Know.html)
  Glue statements on strips of construction paper, cutting them down the middle (zig zag or curved cuts) in order to make puzzle pieces that fit together)

Process:
Hand out puzzle pieces to everyone and ask them to “Find your match”. Once everyone has found a match, gather around the large floor map, or a proflected map on a wall or smart board. Ask each pair to read their fact to the whole group.

Using a marker, dots with tape, or smart board tool, place a dot on the map in the location mentioned in each interesting fact statement. (If using a blank map – participants will need to refer to their map print-outs and place the dot in the estimated locations.)

After everyone has finished and all locations have been marked on the large map, hand out small maps, give out the printed list of interesting facts for families to read and mark their own maps. (These can also go home with them to do at a later time and made into a card game ~ cut strips up, each person takes a turn drawing, reading and then marking the map)

**Variation: Each family can be given one or two interesting facts. (They do not have to be made into puzzles.)

Internet resources:
http://gototurkey.co.uk/Did-You-Know.html (great list of interesting facts)
http://geography.about.com/library/blank/blxturkey.htm (free blank outline maps of Turkey)
http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/testmaps/maps.htm (free world maps to print and online map tests)
http://www.ezmapfinder.com/en/map-74240.html (map finder - maps and more)
http://www.goldenhorn-rotary.com/ercu/ERCU_FLASH_eng.html (pictures and interesting facts)
Interesting facts for making the matching puzzle pieces: *Enlarge, print & glue to strips of construction paper, cut strips in half to hand out for the “Find Your Match” activity.* Participants match-up, read the interesting fact aloud to the group, then find the location on the map.

*Important: Make sure the maps you hand-out have the locations needed for each fact that you use. Ages and grade-levels of students should be considered when choosing which facts to include in this activity.

Istanbul is the only city in the world located on two continents -- Europe and Asia. In its thousands of years of history, it has been the capital of three great empires -- Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. *(Place your dot on Istanbul)*

The world’s oldest known settlement is in Catalhoyuk in central Anatolia, Turkey, and dates back to 6,500 BC. *(Place your dot on central Anatolia)*

St Nicolas – the original Santa Claus – was born in Patara in Turkey and has a church dedicated to him in Demre. *(Place your dot on Demre, which is now called Myra)*

The Virgin Mary spent her last days in Selcuk near the ancient city of Ephesus. *(Place your dot in Ephesus)*

Leonardo da Vinci drew designs for a bridge over the Bosphorus, the strait that flows through Europe and Asia. It was never built. *(Place your dot on the Bosphorus Strait)*

Julius Caesar proclaimed his celebrated words “Veni. Vedi, Veci” (I came, I saw, I conquered) in Turkey when he defeated Pontus, a formidable Kingdom in the Black Sea Region of Turkey. *(Place your dot on the coast of the Black Sea)*

Aesop – famous for his fables and parables – was born in Anatolia. *(Place your dot in Anatolia)*

The Turks introduced coffee to Europe when the retreating Ottoman army abandoned sacks of it at the gates of Vienna. *(Place your dot on Vienna)*

Homer was born in Izmir on the west coast of Turkey. He depicted Troy, which is north of Izmir, in his epic, The Iliad. *(Place your dot near Izmir)*

Part of Turkey’s southwestern shore was a wedding gift from Mark Antony to Cleopatra. *(Place your dot on the south-western shore)*

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Karen Adams
The famous Trojan Wars took place in western Turkey, around the site where a wooden statue of the Trojan horse has been erected. *(Place your dot near Izmir)*

Florence Nightingale practiced her nursing skills in a hospital in what was then Scutari, and now known as Uskudar, a suburb of Istanbul. *(Place your dot near Istanbul)*

The Temple of Artemis is one of the world's seven wonders, and is located in Turkey. *(Place your dot in Ephesus)*

The word "turquoise" comes from "Turk" meaning Turkish, and was derived from the beautiful color of the Mediterranean Sea on the southern Turkish coast. *(Place your dot on the Mediterranean Sea)*

The first coins ever minted were done so at Sardis, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lycia, at the end of the seventh century B.C. *(Place your dot on Lycia, in Anatolia)*

According to the Legend of Great Flood, after the withdrawal of the waters, Noah's Ark landed on Mount Ararat in eastern Anatolia. *(Place your dot on Mt. Ararat – eastern Anatolia)*

Anatolia is the birthplace of many historical figures such as the Phrygian King Midas, the father of history Herodotus and St Paul. *(Place your dot in Anatolia)*

The most valuable silk carpet in the world is in the Mevlana Museum in Konya, Turkey. Marco Polo's journeys in the thirteenth centuries took him here, and he remarked that the "best and handsomest of rugs" were to be found in Turkey. *(Place your dot on Konya)*

The first man ever to fly was Turkish. Using two wings, Hezarfen Ahmet Celebi flew from the Galata Tower over the Bosphorus to land in Uskudar in the 17th century. *(Place your dot on the Bosphorus Strait)*

The first Neolithic paintings found on man-made walls are in Catalhoyuk, Turkey. *(Place your dot on Catalhoyuk, near Konya)*