**Primary Sources A and B: Dress for Women**

**Document A: Qur’an**

*Following Muhammad’s death in 632, one of his companions collected oral and written sources of Muhammad’s words. Several decades later, Caliph Uthman declared an official collection of Muhammad’s words and ordered all other versions destroyed. The text is the basis of every Muslim’s education and because of its importance, Arabic literacy became very important for Muslims from sub-Saharan Africa to Southeast Asia. The following excerpts come from one of the Qur’an’s 114 surahs (chapters).*

**Qur’an XXIV: 31**

“And say to the believing women

That they should lower

Their gaze and guard

Their modesty; that they

Should not display

Beauty and ornaments except

What (must ordinarily) appear

Thereof; that they should

Draw their veils over

Their bosoms and not display

Their beauty except

To their husbands, their fathers,

Their husband’s fathers, their sons,

Their brothers or their brother’s sons,

Or their sister’s sons,

Or their womanfolk…”

**Qur’an XXIV: 60**

“Such elderly women as are

Past the prospect of marriage,

There is no blame on them

If they lay aside

Their (outer) garments, provided

They make not a wanton display

Of their beauty; but

It is best for them

To be modest: and God

Is One Who sees and knows

All things.”

**Document B: Hadith**

*Developed throughout the first few centuries of Islam, the Hadith is a narrative record of the sayings and customs of Muhammed and his companions. It is used as a major source of religious law and moral guidance and is second in authority (next to the Qur’an) in Islamic society.*

“A’isha (may God be pleased with her)

reported that Asma, daughter of Abu

Bakr, visited Allah’s Messenger, and she

had been

putting on thin clothes so Prophet

Muhammad (Peace be upon him) turned

away from her and said: ‘Asma, when the

woman attains the age of puberty, it does

not deem proper [it is not appropriate]

that her body may be seen except this and

this (part of her body) and he pointed to

his face and both palms.’”

Source:

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Social Studies Department. "The Rise of Islam Unit: Lessons/Activities." *World History: ASFMS Social Studies*. Coventry Public Schools, n.d. Web. 5 June 2014.