

If you have 30 minutes

Investigate oud's uses in history and compare them with its uses today to identify continuities across cultures and time.

Text Mining (8 minutes)

Read “Oud Throughout History.” Fill in the table with key phrases that describe how oud was used in each period.

Historic Period	Historical Use (from text)
India, 2000 BCE ¹	
Ancient Egypt ²	
Japan ³	
Wu Dynasty, China ⁴	
Ancient Greece ⁵	
West Asia, seventh century CE ⁶	

Critical Thinking (18 minutes)

Read “Oud in West Asia and Globally.” Compare historical uses with today's uses. Fill in the third column.

Historic Period	Guiding Question	Today's Use (from text)
India, 2000 BCE ⁷	How is oud used in many of today's cultures?	
Japan ⁸	How is oud's use reflected in Western culture?	
Wu Dynasty, China ⁹	How is oud still used in custom rituals today?	
West Asia, seventh century CE ¹⁰	How is oud used in daily life today?	

Synthesis (4 minutes)

Write a short paragraph summarizing the similarities between oud's historical uses and its uses today.¹¹

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.1: Read closely, infer, and cite textual evidence.

CCRA.R.2: Determine central ideas and analyze their development.

1 Mentioned in Sanskrit texts as *prâna* (“life” or “spirit of life”); burned as aromatic smoke in rituals.

2 Used in embalming mummies of nobility.

3 Recorded in historical texts for cultural practices.

4 Used in funerary practices and as perfume.

5 Dioscorides described oud as a plant-derived medicine in *Materia Medica*.

6 Imported on a large scale by Arab traders via India.

7 Still central to Emirati and Gulf culture; used in religious rituals and as bakhoor incense.

8 Incorporated into luxury perfumes by brands like Dior, YSL, Chanel, Tom Ford.

9 Still used in incense, traditional perfumes and spiritual rituals across cultures.

10 Common in weddings, celebrations, body oils, and home fragrances in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf

11 Oud has been used throughout history for spiritual, medicinal and cultural purposes.

Today, it continues to serve similar roles, especially in rituals and celebrations but has also gained prominence as a luxury perfume ingredient. This continuity shows how oud’s value as both fragrance and symbol has endured through centuries.