

If you only have 15 minutes ...

Observe (3 minutes)

- Skim the article. Identify evidence showing how golf has changed over time in the Arab world. Record three details from the text that illustrate this growth.¹

Discuss (10 minutes)

How did golf become established in the Arab World?

- What events or developments helped transform golf from an imported sport into one played throughout the Gulf.²

Why was golf slow to gain local participation?

- Use two examples from the text to explain why golf was initially played by relatively few people in the region.³

How does Othman Almulla's story represent the growth of golf in the Arab world?

- Use evidence from the article to explain how his career reflects the region's changing goals for the sport.⁴

Reflect (2 minutes)

Which development do you think had the greatest impact on the growth of golf in the Arab world: the arrival of the sport, investment in courses and tournaments or Othman Almulla's success? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text and your own perspective.⁵

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

1 Possible responses:

- The Gulf now hosts more than 10 internationally recognized tournaments.
- The Arab Golf Federation represents 17 countries.
- Golf participation in the Middle East increased by 238 percent between 2012 and 2024.
- Leaders hope to produce an Arab major champion by 2035.
- Countries are expanding youth programs, scholarships, and training facilities.

2 Possible responses:

- Golf originated in Scotland during the 1400s.
- European diplomats, tourists, and businesspeople introduced it to North Africa in the late 1800s.
- Early courses were built in Morocco and Egypt.
- Oil exploration during the 1930s brought golf to Gulf countries, where sand courses were constructed.
- Governments and organizations later invested in championship courses, tournaments, and youth development.

3 Possible responses:

- Early golf courses mainly served foreigners, expatriates, and wealthy visitors.
- The sport was viewed as exclusive rather than open to local communities.
- Even after sand courses were built in Gulf countries, relatively few local citizens played golf.

4 Possible responses:

- Almul्ला began playing when opportunities for golfers in Saudi Arabia were limited.
- His determination led him to become Saudi Arabia's first professional golfer.
- His success coincided with Golf Saudi's investment in tournaments, facilities, scholarships, and youth programs.
- Almul्ला now serves as a symbol of the region's goal of developing future Arab champions.

5 Possible responses:

- Oil exploration helped establish golf in the Gulf by creating the region's first courses.
- Investment in facilities and youth programs transformed golf from a niche activity into a growing sport.
- Othman Almul्ला's career inspired young golfers by demonstrating that an Arab player could reach the professional level.
- All three developments built on one another, showing how history, investment, and individual achievement combined to grow the sport.