

If you only have 30 minutes ...

Look for evidence that demonstrates how local heritage can have universal significance.

Text Mining (12 minutes)

Task1: Cloze Reading—The History and Conservation of George Town

Complete the paragraph below using the **Cloze Word Bank**:

Golf first reached the Arab world during the late _____ century. It was introduced to _____ then spread to several _____ countries during the 1930s through oil exploration. At first, the sport was played mainly by foreigners and wealthy visitors rather than local _____. That began to change when Morocco's King _____ promoted golf by opening Royal Golf Dar Es Salam and establishing an international tournament. Today, the Arab Golf Federation provides youth programs and _____ that help talented players train abroad. _____ golfers are also expanding opportunities in the sport. Saudi Arabia's first _____ golfer, Othman Almulla, began playing on a _____ before competing in international _____, reflecting the remarkable growth of golf across the Arab world.¹

Cloze Word Bank

Arab	Citizens	Hassan II	19th
North Africa	Professional	Sand Course	Scholarships
Tournaments	Women		

Task 2: Finding Evidence

Find two details from the article that show golf has become an important sport in the Arab World.²

Text Analysis (12 minutes)

Fill in the table using complete sentences.

Article Themes	Guiding Questions	Answers
Perseverance and Growth³	How did Almulla's setbacks shape his success as a golfer?	
The Development of Golf⁴	Which historical developments transformed golf from an exclusive pastime into a regional sport?	
Sport and Community⁵	How does the article show that golf has become part of the community rather than a sport for outsiders?	

Synthesis (6 minutes)

Which development had the greatest impact on the growth of golf in the Arab world?

- The introduction of golf to the region,
- Investments in courses, tournaments and youth programs, or
- Othman Almulla's career and influence?

Support your answer with evidence from the article and explain why you think it was most significant.⁶

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 Golf first reached the Arab world during the late 19th century. It was introduced to North Africa then spread to several Arab countries during the 1930s through oil exploration. At first, the sport was played mainly by foreigners and wealthy visitors rather than local citizens. That began to change when Morocco's King Hassan II promoted golf by opening Royal Golf Dar Es Salam and establishing an international tournament. Today, the Arab Golf Federation provides youth programs and scholarships that help talented players train abroad. Women golfers are also expanding opportunities in the sport. Saudi Arabia's first professional golfer, Othman Almulla, began playing on a sand course before competing in international tournaments, reflecting the remarkable growth of golf across the Arab world.

2 Possible answers:

- "The Arabian Gulf hosts more than 10 internationally recognized tournaments."
- "The Arab Golf Federation, representing 17 countries, has set an ambitious goal: produce an Arab major champion by 2035."
- "Golf organizations are expanding youth programs, improving training facilities, and creating more opportunities for young athletes."
- "Golf participation in the Middle East increased by 238 percent between 2012 and 2024."
- "Watching children arrive at golf courses reminds him that golf has become part of the community rather than a sport reserved for outsiders."
- "What began as an imported sport for a small group of people is becoming a homegrown game that inspires a new generation of players—and perhaps, one day, an Arab major champion."

3 Possible answer: Almulla initially disliked golf and became frustrated when he lost to players he normally beat in football. After losing a tournament in Kuwait in 2014,

he realized how much golf meant to him and committed himself to pursuing the sport, eventually becoming Saudi Arabia's first professional golfer.

4 Possible answer: Golf first arrived through European diplomats and businesspeople before spreading through oil exploration in the Gulf. Later, King Hassan II promoted golf in Morocco, the Arab Golf Federation was established, countries invested in championship courses and tournaments, and youth programs expanded opportunities for local players.

5 Possible answer: The article explains that golf was once played mainly by foreigners and wealthy visitors. Today, scholarships, youth programs, and increased participation have made the sport more accessible. Almulla says that seeing children arrive at golf courses is especially meaningful because it shows the game now belongs to the community.

6 Possible answers:

Investment in courses and youth programs

- These investments created opportunities for local players, expanded participation, and built pathways for future champions.

Othman Almulla's career

- Almulla became Saudi Arabia's first professional golfer and demonstrated that Arab athletes could succeed at the highest level, inspiring future generations.

The introduction of golf to the region

- Without golf first arriving through North Africa and later the Gulf, the sport would not have developed into today's regional movement. However, later investments and local leadership transformed it into a community sport.