

# SUSAN FLETCHER

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## SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY, RESPONSES FOR

# Alphabet of Dreams

by Susan Fletcher

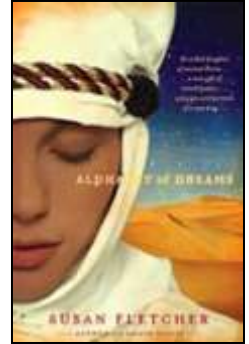
### MAPPING

At the beginning of the novel there is a map for the area covered by the characters in *The Alphabet of Dreams*.

#### Mapping Activity #1 – Group Activity

Encourage your students to work together in groups to answer the following questions:

- ▶ Through what modern countries do Mitra and her companions travel?
- ▶ Which cities have the same names today as during the time of the novel? Which cities have different names?
- ▶ On a modern map, can you find the places that Mitra and her companions traveled?



#### Mapping Activity #2 ~ Mapping Mitra and Babak's journeys:

- ▶ Ask students to make their own sketch of the map at the introduction of the novel. Encourage them to record the travels of Mitra and Babak on this map while reading the novel.

#### Mapping Activity #3 ~ Mapping today's Middle East

Students might plot the journey on a map of today's Middle East. They can use some of the ancient maps at the following websites for assistance:

- ▶ There is a fun, interactive map of ancient Parthia at the following website:  
[http://ancienthistory.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ&sdn=ancienthistory&cdn=education&tm=1524&gps=136\\_136\\_1024\\_573&f=21&tt=13&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A//www.parthia.com/map\\_mea.htm](http://ancienthistory.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?zi=1/XJ&sdn=ancienthistory&cdn=education&tm=1524&gps=136_136_1024_573&f=21&tt=13&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A//www.parthia.com/map_mea.htm)
- ▶ Another map depicting ancient times is found here: <http://www.oznet.net/iran/oldmap.htm>

### FAMOUS ANCIENT GATES

Mitra and her companions go through the Ishtar Gate in Babylon. You will find various photos of this gate at: <http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&q=Ishtar+Gate+Jerusalem+photo&um=1&ie=UTF-8>

#### Ancient Gate Activity #1:

Encourage students to research and discover:

- ▶ When was the Ishtar Gate built?

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- ▶ The gate has been reconstructed out of ancient, glazed bricks; where can this reconstruction be found now?

For help answering these questions, students can go to:

<http://www.bible-history.com/archaeology/babylon/ishtar-gate.html>

## **Ancient Gate Activity #2:**

We are not told which gate Mitra goes through to Jerusalem.

Encourage students to find out:

- ▶ What are some of the famous gates of Jerusalem today?

Photos of the gates of Jerusalem and their history can be found at:

<http://www.bibleplaces.com/oldcitygates.htm>

## **Ancient Gate Activity #3:**

- ▶ Can you draw the walls of Jerusalem and put in the various gates?
- ▶ You will find photos of some of the gates of Jerusalem in Biblical times at:  
<http://www.bibleplaces.com/oldcitygates.htm>
- ▶ Why were ancient cities surrounded by walls?
- ▶ Why don't modern cities have them?(it has to do with the invention of gunpowder)