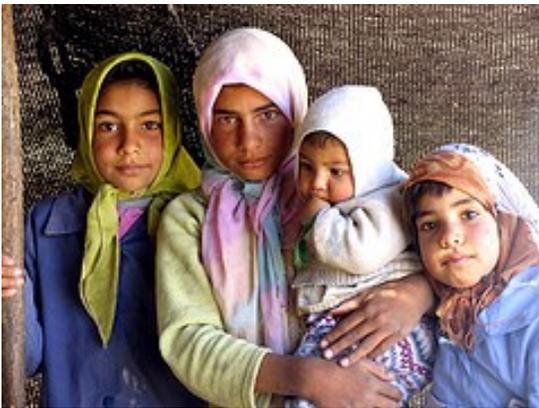


# Iran

- ◆ The capital city of Iran is Tehran.
- ◆ The official languages of Iran are Persian and Farsi.
- ◆ Islam is the main religion of Iran.
- ◆ Christians are severely persecuted. Sharing about Jesus Christ with non-Muslims is illegal and conversion from Islam to Christianity is punishable by death.
- ◆ Iran was known as Persia in the Bible.
- ◆ Iran is known for growing wonderful pistachio nuts and melons.
- ◆ In Iran, girls and boys are schooled separately until they are in college.
- ◆ Families eat meals together on the floor, gathered around dishes of food spread on a tablecloth called a sofreh.
- ◆ Iran is in the area of the world known as the Middle East. It has big deserts and many mountains.
- ◆ In Iran, women must wear long sleeves and scarves with only their hands and faces visible in public. Islam generally requires men to wear long sleeves, but a bare forearm is permitted.



## Story: The Saddest Girl

Zeeba felt like she was the saddest little girl in the whole world. Her mother cried constantly and it seemed she was always hurting herself. Her father said she was just clumsy. Zeeba's parents fought all the time and she wondered why they couldn't just get along. She wished her father wasn't home so much, but he wasn't able to find work and had nowhere else to go. Maybe that was why he was so angry.

Zeeba didn't know the answer to any of those problems; she just knew she was very, very sad. She often wondered if the problems were her fault and if there was anything she could do to make her family happy.

Zeeba's sister ran away from home after her parents disowned her for being taken by the morals police and whipped. She had been punished for letting her hair show from under her veil. "There is no fun in Islam," Zeeba thought.



## Story cont...

In Iran, many children suffer from depression. That means that they are very sad a lot of the time. The depression is caused by drug addictions in the home, worries about money since many people are unemployed, and unhappy marriages that create miserable homes for children. There is also a lot of talk about war, which frightens them.



### Recipe: Nan-e Keshmeshy



- 1 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 3/4 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups raisins
- 2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 350F. Spread wax paper on a cookie sheet. In a mixing bowl, combine melted butter, vanilla, and sugar; then add eggs one at a time. Mix well until creamy. Add raisins and mix well. Fold in flour until soft dough forms. Drop teaspoonfuls of batter on the wax paper, leaving about 2 inches between spoonfuls. Place the cookie sheet in the center of the oven and bake 10 to 15 minutes, or until slightly golden. Remove the cookies from the oven and allow them to cool. Gently lift the cookies off the wax paper.

### Activity: Hat in the Ring

To begin Hat in the Ring, the players make a circle on the ground two to three feet wide. One player is chosen to put his hat in the middle of the circle. The other players try to kick the hat out of the circle. Any player tagged by the hat owner before he kicks the hat out of the ring is out of the game. The hat owner must keep at least one foot on the edge of the circle while he is guarding his hat. If the players succeed in kicking the hat out of the ring, the owner recovers it by chasing and tagging the last player who kicked his hat.



Go to [www.frontlinekids.com/resources](http://www.frontlinekids.com/resources) to find lesson supplemental materials such as: prayer points, recipes, maps, videos, printable coloring sheets and more.