

Communities in Tunisia

- How are leaders chosen in Tunisia?
- How are decisions made in the communities?

Did You Know?



In Canada, some Aboriginal people get advice from Elders. Elders are wise. They are respected in their communities.

The leader of Tunisia is the president. The president is elected. The main government is in the city of Tunis.

The president chooses **ministers** to do different jobs. These people help the president run the country.

Religious leaders are also important in Tunisia. They become leaders because people in the community respect them. Tunisians also respect older members of the family because they have experience. They often make decisions for the family.



These Tunisian women are at a celebration in Tunisia. Many women in Tunisia work in the government.

In a Village

Ahmed's uncle Habib lives in the village of Rajish. It is close to the big city of Mahdia. Habib is a fisher.

Habib and the other villagers meet and decide what the village needs. One time they decided to buy more fishing boats. They needed better boats so they could go farther out to sea.

To pay for the boats, the group collected some money from villagers. Then they went to a local bank to get a loan. With the loan, they bought several motorboats. Now they catch more fish. They also bought equipment to keep the fish fresh to sell in the market. Now life is easier for these fishers of Rajish.

This is a Tunisian fishing boat and net.



Here AND There

During every Islamic celebration, Tunisians give money to people who are poor. In Canada, many people give money to United Way, UNICEF, and other organizations.

Catching Tuna

The city of Mahdia is famous for its tuna fish. Each year, people in the city and surrounding villages have a festival. People celebrate and give thanks for the fish they catch.



People dive for sponges, like this one, off the coast of Tunisia.

Fact Flash

In Tunisia people say, "You cannot sleep well if your neighbour is sick or hungry." This means people always try to help their neighbours.

TRY THIS

Draw a cartoon strip that shows you helping one of your neighbours. Show a beginning, middle, and end.

In My Own Words

Helping neighbours is a strong tradition in my culture. When we moved to Tunis, our new neighbours helped our family move in. The family next door brought us our dinner, and we all shared the food together.

When I come home from school, I go to our neighbour's house until my father and mother come back from work. I play with my friend Amir. His mother prepares a snack for us.

Our neighbours are like family. They help us, and we help them. We share most of our celebrations with them. My parents say it is important to help each other in the community.

Ahmed, Tunisia



These neighbourhood children have fun together.