

# Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate Sprouts Lesson

Protecting the Future of Faith®

## Teacher Guide: Middle School

### Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify the Ecumenical Patriarch.
2. Students will conduct a Web Quest and spend time reviewing the Archon Website.
3. Students will identify key components and historical and political events that impact the Patriarchate.

### Resources & Materials

- Web Quest Capture Sheet
- Pens/pencils
- <https://archons.org>
- Cell phones or laptops with internet access\*

#### Word Bank

Religious Freedom      Saint Andrew  
Archons  
Ecumenical Patriarch/Patriarchate

*\*Students can work in pairs if not everyone has a device*

### Lesson Plan

**5 minutes**      **Students enter the classroom**

Welcome & Opening Prayers

**2-3 minutes**      **Teacher will review the objectives of the lesson of the day.**

1. Students will be able to identify the Ecumenical Patriarch.
2. Students will conduct a Web Quest and spend time reviewing the Archon Website.
3. Students will identify key components and historical and political events that impact the Patriarchate.



**10 minutes Objective 1: Students will be able to identify the Ecumenical Patriarch.**

1. The teachers will disseminate the Archon Sprout cards with the images of HAH, the Hagia Sophia, and St. Andrew.
2. The teacher will ask the students to take some time to read the back of the cards for information.
3. The teacher will ask students to share interesting facts they have learned.

**10 minutes Objective 2: Students will conduct a Web Quest and spend time reviewing the Archon Website.**

1. The teacher will distribute WebQuest Capture sheet (below) to all students.
2. Have students work in pairs and divide up the research questions.
3. Teacher will ensure each students and/or teams have access to <https://archons.org>.

**5 minutes Objective 3: Students will identify key components and historical and political events that impact the Patriarchate**

1. Teacher will encourage students to share what they have learned. Have students volunteer to present information gathered on their WebQuest with the class.

**2 minutes Exit Ticket**

Students will complete their exit ticket identifying 2-3 fun facts learned about the EP.

**Student Challenge**

Encourage students to share what they have learned with their families.

# WebQuest

<http://archons.org>

## Who are the Archons?

1. Go to <http://archons.org>.
2. Click on the “About” tab.
3. Read this section and identify two facts you have learned.

## What is the mission of the Archons?

1. Click on the “Who We Are Tab” and read the text in the blue box.
2. What is the mission of the archons? Write it below.

## What does the Orthodox Church believe?

1. At the top of the website, click on the tab, “Ecumenical Patriarchate.”
2. On the drop-down menu, click on “The Orthodox Christian Church.”
3. On the left click on “Theology and Spirituality.”
4. Read this section and write down 2-3 facts.

## Current events in the Orthodox Church

1. At the top of the website, click on the tab, “News.”
2. On the drop-down menu, click on “News Archives.”
3. Scroll down and select an article to read.
4. Identify 3-5 facts that you have learned at the conclusion of reading this article.

## Baloukli Cemetery in Turkey

1. At the top of the website, click on the tab, “Issues.”
2. On the drop-down menu, click “Orthodoxy Under Attack” and select “90 Tombs Desecrated at Baloukli Cemetery.”
3. Identify 3 things you learned about Baloukli.

## What can YOU do?

1. At the top of the website, click on the tab, “Efforts.”
2. On the drop down, click on “What Can You Do?”
3. Read all the suggestions and identify something that YOU could do to support the efforts of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Write it below.

# WebQuest

## Answer Key

### Who are the Archons?

Archons' mission is about defending the Orthodox Faith.

Religious freedom is important so that all over the world we can honor the Patriarch and practice our Orthodox Faith without fear.

There are over 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world!

### What is the mission of the Archons?

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate are a dedicated group of passionate advocates for religious freedom. Rooted in history and tradition, we have made it our mission to protect the future of faith for all. Committed to the progress and freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we are not just defenders, but champions of hope, equity, and the positive potential of faith.

### What does the Orthodox Church believe?

The Orthodox Church is characterized by a profound sense of continuity with the early Christian church as entrusted to the Apostles by Jesus Christ, adhering to the faith and practices defined by the first seven ecumenical councils. The word "Orthodox" signifies both "right believing" and "right worshiping," and so the Orthodox Church is recognized as the bearer of an uninterrupted living tradition of true faith lived out in worship. The doctrine of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) underlies all Orthodox theology and spirituality. Salvation is never abstract but always personal.

### Current events in the Orthodox Church

Answers will vary depending on what articles and/or videos children watch.

### Baloukli Cemetery in Turkey

The vandals broke in pieces the tombstones that were bearing the cross, the names and dates of birth and death of those who died. The authorities are looking into the case. This incident, which has not yet been widely known, has created great concern among the Greek minority in Istanbul. It should be noted that on many other occasions in the past, the government has tracked down desecrations of smaller scale but this is the first time that so many burial plots have been vandalized. The destroyed tombstones will be restored when the work for building the outside fence is completed so that a new "invasion" of vandals will be prevented.

## What can YOU do?

Religious freedom is just the beginning. Religious tolerance and peace among the religions requires learning and working to develop good and peaceful relations with people of other faiths, even when we disagree with their beliefs.

Support the Ecumenical Patriarchate by working on behalf of religious freedom for all people throughout the world. Ask your elected government officials—city, state, and national—to pass resolutions supporting religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. See which states have already passed resolutions.

Get involved by caring for the environment and tell people you are doing this because the Orthodox Church, under the leadership of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, teaches us to care for the natural world.

You can even go to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. And, if he is there, you can visit the Ecumenical Patriarch and receive His blessing.

You can also see the many historic Orthodox Christian sites throughout Turkey. They are famous for their icons, their churches, and other buildings. More importantly, these are places where the great saints of our Church lived and taught, where Orthodox Christianity was established, and where Orthodox Christians lived for centuries.

### ***Note to Teachers:***

- Students can work on the Web Quest alone or in teams.
- Students should be encouraged to show their parents this site as well.
- As a family, they should explore the tabs, read, and watch videos for discussion
- Encourage students to use this resources in their regular schoolwork as well---if given the opportunity to present a speech or research a topic---they have rich content from which to pull.
- Ultimately, we want to build their fluency in matter of Orthodoxy and religious freedom around the world!