Makeda or Bilqis – Who Was the Queen of Sheba?

Subjects: English · Religious Studies · History | recommended from age 13 (B1) | Video: 8:21 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/1m42vQV39JY

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Do you know a story that is told differently in two countries or families? Why might that be?

B · While watching

1. What does the First Book of Kings say about the Queen of Sheba – and what is missing?

2. Why does Makeda travel to Jerusalem, and how does her faith change afterwards?

3. How does Sulayman learn about the queen in the Quran, and how does she react to his letter?

4. Which two tests does Sulayman use to test the queen?

5. According to the Kebra Nagast, what does Menelik take to Ethiopia, and where is it said to be today?

Useful words

queen	Königin	hoopoe	Wiedehopf
caravan	Karawane	throne	Thron
riddle	Rätsel	descendant	Nachkomme
oath	Schwur	claim	beanspruchen

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Menelik travels to Jerusalem with his mother's ring.
	Her throne appears in Sulayman's hall in an instant.
	The merchant Tamrin tells Makeda about Solomon's wisdom.
	The queen sends gifts instead of going to war.
	Makeda travels to Jerusalem with a huge caravan.
	She thinks a glass floor is water and lifts her robe.
	Solomon dreams of a sun moving away to the south.
	The hoopoe tells Sulayman about a land called Sheba.

D · Think and discuss

1. Two countries claim the same queen. Which reasons does the video give?

2. “A woman without a name became the mother of a nation and a symbol of wisdom.” Explain this sentence in your own words.

E · Makeda and Bilqis compared

Compare the Ethiopian and the Quranic version of the story.

	Makeda (Ethiopia)	Bilqis (Quran / Arab world)
Source		
How the journey begins		
How the meeting ends		
Importance today		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write a short dialogue between Makeda and Bilqis in which each explains why her version is the right one. (8–10 sentences)