

## Class Two

R.E

### Important information

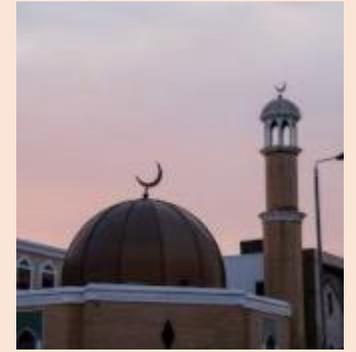
- Question to ask the children
- ❖ Answer that could be given

## Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?

This term we will be investigating Islam, finding out about Muslims way of life and beliefs.

## Week Six

Lesson Objective: To be able to understand how and why Muslims pray and worship at the mosque



A special place for a Muslim



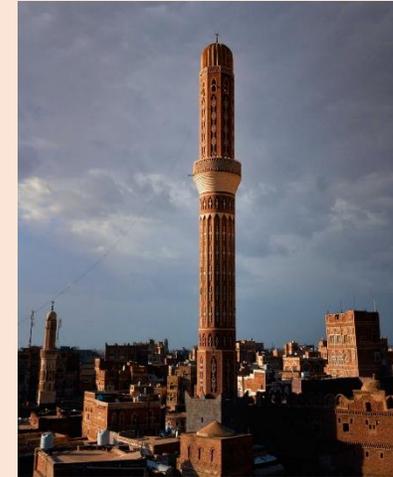
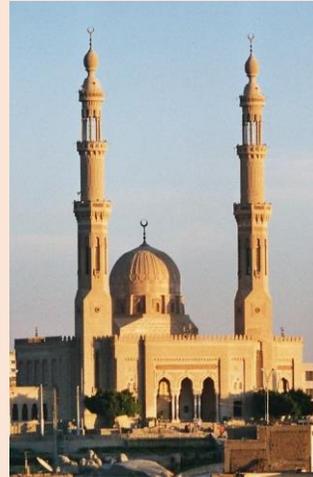
# The Mosque

- The mosque is usually thought of as a building where Muslims can come together to pray. Anywhere a Muslim chooses for prayer is believed to become a mosque for that particular time.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mwjhx>
- A mosque is a special place for Muslims.
- Can you guess how many mosques there are in the UK?:
  - ❖ About 1750. There are about 50,000 church congregations (although they don't all have churches).

# The outside & inside of a Mosque

## The Minaret

- The minaret is a tall thin tower above the mosque.
- It can be seen from far away
- The a tower is always connected with a mosque and has one or more balconies or open galleries.



## The Hall

- This is simply a large hall that the men use for worship.
- It is a very important part of the mosque.
- There are no seats as Muslims worship and pray on the floor.
- Women will often worship on a balcony at the back of the prayer hall.

# The outside & inside of a Mosque

## The Dome

- Qubba (dome) Most mosques also feature one or more domes, called qubba in Arabic.
- While not a ritual requirement like the mihrab, a dome does possess significance within the mosque—as a symbolic representation of the vault of heaven.



## The minbar

- Is a pulpit in the form of a staircase on which the prayer leader (imam) stands when delivering a sermon after Friday prayer.
- The pulpit is usually situated to the right of the mihrab and is often made of elaborately carved wood or stone (fig. 3).
- A minaret is a tall tower attached or adjacent to a mosque.

# Questions

Look carefully at the lack of furniture.

- Why is this?
- Where do worshippers sit?
- Notice the prayer mats and the way a worshipper must face.

The minbar shows the direction for prayer.

Look at the clock:

- What times are daily prayers and how many prayer times in one day?
- How might Muslims pray if they cannot get to the mosque at that time?

A separate prayer hall for women

- Why is this?

# Discussion

- Did you notice how the mosque looks rather empty because there are no pictures or statues.
- Does the mosque have stained glass?
- Notice the Islamic patterns, carpets, clocks, washrooms and other features.
- How do these patterns show the idea that God is perfect?

# Prayer and worship

For a Muslim to pray and worship

- They take off shoes
- Wudu (washing) before prayers as a way of showing respect for Allah.
- Why do you think they do this?

Please watch the short video - My identity - being a Muslim

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zvd4d2p>

# Your Activity

I would like you to answer **five** or more of these questions from memory of what we have learnt about Islam and the Muslim faith. You can do this through drawings, words or full sentences. Please label each answer with a number to correspond to the question.

1. Who is the founder of Islam?
2. What does Islam mean?
3. What is Islam based on?
4. What is a Muslim?
5. What do Muslims believe?
6. Who or what is Allah?
7. Who is Muhammad (PBUH)?
8. What is the holy book of Islam called?
9. Where do Muslims worship?
10. What are the Five Pillars of Islam?
11. What is so special about how Muslims pray?
12. Why do Muslims face Mecca when praying?
13. When do Muslims pray?
14. What are the different types of Muslims?
15. What are the main Muslim Festivals?

# Support Information

- Please only use this if you are finding the activity extremely hard. If you can only answer five questions from memory then that is absolutely fine. Please do not do anymore.

# Support Information

Place of Origin	Saudi Arabia
Founder	Muslims believe in a chain of prophets starting with Adam.
Sacred Text	The Qur'an
Sacred Building	Mosque
Holy Places	Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem
Major Festivals	Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha

- Islam is the second most popular religion in the world with over a thousand million followers. It is more often thought of as a complete way of life rather than a religion.
- Islam began in Arabia and was revealed to humanity by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Those who follow Islam are called Muslims. Muslims believe that there is only one God, called Allah.
- Islam is mainly followed in the Middle East, Asia, and the north of Africa.

## **Who is the founder of Islam?**

The prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him ), who was born in A.D. 570 at Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, is often regarded as the founder of Islam. He was the last prophet to be sent by Allah. However the first prophet was Adam.

There were many prophets before Muhammad (pbuh) including: Adam, Noah, Abraham (Ibrahim), Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses (Musa), Aaron, David, Solomon, Elias, Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus (Isa), peace be upon them.

(peace be upon him - Muhammad is so revered that it is usual to make this statement every time his name is mentioned)

## **What does Islam mean?**

The Arabic word 'Islam' means submission and obedience, and derives from a word meaning 'peace'.

## **What is Islam based on?**

Islam is based on the ministry of a man named Muhammad (peace be upon him), and on the words that Allah gave to the world through Muhammad.

(NB. Muhammad is so esteemed by Muslims that it is usual to utter the blessing "peace be upon him" after his name.)

## **What or who is a Muslim?**

A Muslim is a follower of the religion of Islam.

## **What do Muslims believe?**

The basic belief of Islam is that there is only one God, whose name in the Arabic language is Allah, and who is the sole and sovereign ruler of the universe.

### **Muslims have 6 main beliefs**

1. Belief in Allah as the one and only God.
  2. Belief in angels.
  3. Belief in the holy books.
  4. Belief in the Prophets (special messengers).
- Belief in the Day of Judgement...

The day when the life of every human being will be assessed to decide whether they go to heaven or hell.

5. Belief in Predestination...

That Allah has already decided what will happen.

6.

### **Who or what is Allah?**

Allah is the name Muslims use for the supreme and unique God, who created and rules everything. The heart of faith for all Muslims is obedience to Allah's will.

### **Who is Muhammad (peace be upon him)?**

Muhammad (pbuh) was born around 570 A.D. in the city of Mecca on the Arabian peninsula. Muslims believe that Muhammad (pbuh) is the last in a line of prophets that includes Moses, Abraham, and Isa (Jesus). Muhammad (pbuh) proclaimed that the Quran was the last Book of God, and that he himself was the last Prophet.

The Qur'an is a record of the exact words revealed by Allah through the Arch Angel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Muhammad (pbuh) memorized and wrote down the words.

Muhammad (pbuh) interpreted the words in his daily life. Therefore many of the things which Muhammad (pbuh) did and said were remembered and carefully recorded. The stories and sayings help Muslims to understand the Quran and put what it teaches into practice in their daily lives.

## **What is the holy book of Islam called?**

**The Muslim scripture is the Holy Qur'an.** Muslims believe it is 'the word of God'. Muslim beliefs and practices are rooted in the Qur'an.

Muslims treat the Qur'an with great respect because they believe that the Qur'an is from Allah, and every word and every letter is sacred. It is usually placed on a special wooden stand to be read.

Muslims regard the Qur'an as the unaltered word of God.

## **Where do Muslims worship?**

**The Muslim building for communal worship is called a mosque.** Muslims often refer to the mosque by its Arabic name, **masjid**. The word comes from the Arabic for "place of prostration".

Very often Mosques have a domed roof and a tall tower called a minaret. Muslims are called to prayer from the minaret. There is always a qibla wall in a Mosque which is the one facing Makkah (Mecca), it has an empty arch to signify the direction. It is important that Muslims always know the direction of Mecca. Women do not pray in the same place as men, there is usually a screened off area for them.

## **When are services held?**

Services are held every day at the Mosque.

## **When is the most important service at the Mosque held?**

On Friday at noon . All Muslims go to the mosque on Friday. Is a special day for prayer.

## What are the five Pillars of Islam?

These are five duties that every Muslim is obliged to perform. The *five pillars of Islam* help Muslims put their faith into action.

- Shahadah**: declaration of faith

"I bear witness that there is no god, but God; I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of God." By reciting this, one enters Islamic faith.

- Salah**: prayer

Muslims are required to pray five times a day, washing themselves before prayer and facing in the direction of Mecca while praying.

- Zakat**: giving a fixed proportion to charity

Muslims are required to give away a percentage of their earnings to those less fortunate, regardless of their religion.

- Saum**: fasting during the month of **Ramadan**

Muslims fast for one lunar month each year, a period called Ramadan. During this time, Muslims reflect on their behaviour and strive to purify their thoughts.

- Hajj**: pilgrimage to Mecca

If it is financially possible, Muslims are required to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime.

## What is so special about how Muslims pray?

Muslims are required to :

pray five times a day (prayer times are fixed by the sun and change daily),

wash themselves before prayer and

face in the direction of Mecca (Mekkah) while praying.

## Why do Muslims face Mecca when praying?

Mecca or Makkah is the birthplace of prophet Muhammad, peace is on him. In the center of the mosque in Mecca, is the cube-shaped building called a **Kaaba** (Ka'bah) is found. All Muslims face the direction of the Kaaba during ritual prayer (Salat).

## **When do Muslims pray?**

Each period for prayer has a special name and each time is separated by two hours.

These essential times are:

After first light and before sunrise ( Fajr )

Between the sun reaching its height and mid-afternoon ( Dhuhr )

Between mid-afternoon and sunset ( Asr )

After the sun has finished setting ( Maghrib )

In the dark of the night ( Isha )

## **What are the different types of Muslims?**

Almost 90% of Muslims are Sunnis. Shiites are the second-largest group. The Shiites split from the Sunnis in 632 when Muhammad died.

## **What are the main Muslim Festivals?**

The Muslim year is based on Lunar calendar.

**Ramadan** (Ramadhan)

**Eid-ul-Fitr** (Id-ul-Fitr)- The festival for the first day after Ramadan.

**Eid-ul-Adha** - The Festival of Sacrifice which occurs 70 days after Eid-al-Fitr.

**Dhu Al-Hijja:**

The month of pilgrimage during which all Muslims, at least once in their life, should try to make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

**Al Hijra:**

The Islamic New Year begins on the day Muhammad left Mecca to travel to Medina.

