

RE (Islam) for Schools

INFANTS



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INFANT SCHOOL RELIGIOUS SYLLABUS

Learn about religion by:

- Acquiring and developing knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism through:
 - a) encountering and learning the names of some of the important places and objects connected with the religions and becoming familiar with stories about the lives of the religious leaders and teachers
 - b) recognising that some ideas and practices, such as festivals, are shared by more than one religion but expressed differently between religions
 - c) talking about the meaning of stories and symbols
 - d) meeting people who belong to the religious communities.

Taken from The Harrow Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

By the end of Key Stage 1 pupils should:

- Know some of the stories, places and people associated with the world's great faiths
- Be aware of the festivals of Christmas & Easter, and at least two from Diwali, Baisakhi, Eid ul Fitr, Wesak and Pesach
- Be aware of special moments in life - such as birth, marriage, death and personal commitment to a religion - are often marked with special ceremonies
- Be aware that people worship and that worship can take a variety of forms
- Recognise that religious traditions have special writings which believers respect.

Taken from the Ealing Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education



ISLAMIC BELIEFS



ISLAM

"Obedience to the Creator and serving His creation" Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

What is Islam?

The word **Islam** simply means submission and is derived from the word meaning peace.

People who follow **Islam** are called **Muslims**.

In a religious context it means complete submission to the will of God.

One who proclaims that he/she believes in One God and accepts Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to be the last Messenger of God is legally accepted as a Muslim.

However, it is only when one commits oneself totally to the Islamic way of life does one become a Muslim in the real sense of the word. He/she is then able to say:

*"Indeed my prayers, my sacrifice, my life and my death are all for **Allah**, the Lord of the worlds..."*

Qur'an 6:162

Allah is an Arabic name for the only God and is used by Arabs - Muslims and Christians alike.

Islam is the same guidance that God revealed through all His Prophets to mankind. It is both a religion and a complete way of life for over a fifth of the world's population.

Muslims are not confined to a certain race, origin or nationality but span the entire globe from Makka to Moscow, and from America to Australia.

What do Muslims believe?

1. There is one unique incomparable God
2. God is just.
3. God sent Prophets through whom His revelations were brought to mankind. Muslims believe in a chain of Prophets starting with Adam including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and ending with the last one - Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon all of them).
4. The world is never devoid of divine guidance.
5. There will be a day of judgement when every individual will have to account for his/her actions.



BELIEF (IMAN)*

Belief in the One and only God Allah*

*(pronounced Imaan)

*(pronounced ullaah)

Allah is the Arabic name for the one and only God and unlike the word God which can be made into Gods and Goddess; there is no plural for the word Allah nor a feminine version.

Besides believing that there is only one God, Muslims believe that all other idols - physical or mental must be rejected. The following extract from a book of sermons by Ali Ibn Abi Talib (the son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) summarises the belief:

"...we must believe that Allah is one,....He knows everything, hears everything and sees everything. He has no physical form, and cannot be seen by one's eyes in the world and in the hereafter...He is not in a particular place but there is no place where Allah is not present...He is Just (Fair) but He is also Kind and Merciful..."

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was with his companions one day when they saw a woman working at her spinning wheel. The Prophet greeted her and asked her how she came to believe in God.

The woman replied:

"Do you see this small spinning wheel? It does not spin unless I move it. How could this whole universe spin on its own?"

Who changes the night and day?

Who changes the seasons?

There must be someone doing all these things. The one who looks after it has to be the one God who is All-Knowing and Almighty."

For Muslims, God is manifested through His attributes. The word Allah is the name of an essence of His 99 names and qualities like - The Merciful, The All-Knowing, The Creator....

These qualities and names form an infra-structure for human behaviour. This is why a Muslim will begin every act with the phrase - *I begin in the name of God, the Kind, the Merciful*. He/she will apply the appropriate name to the situation at hand.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) asked Muslims to adopt within them the characteristics of God. A person's soul responds to God and is drawn towards Him by the cultivation of these qualities. This therefore is the true meaning of 'submission to God'.

Muslims believe that God is just. In the Qur'an He says:

"...And Your Lord is not unjust to anyone..." Qur'an 18:49

To believe in the justice of God is to believe that:

1. He is fair to all and wrongs no-one.
2. He never forces anyone to do wrong and then punishes them.
3. He will always reward those who obey Him.



ANGELS

Muslims believe in the existence of angels. They are forces created by God to carry out His orders. They are a functional creation who have been assigned duties e.g. recording deeds of human beings, protecting him/her, conveying messages.....

They are not visible to the physical eye except when they assume a visible form.

Some of the angels mentioned by name are:

- Jibrael (Gabriel) is the angel who conveys God's messages to the Prophets. It was he who came to Lady Maryam (Mary) in the form of a man to announce the birth of a son. It was Jibrael who brought the revelations of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).
- The angel through whom God sends sustenance to His creatures is called Mikaa'il (Michael).
- Izraa'il is the angel of death. He removes the souls from the bodies of human beings.



AMBIYAA (SINGULAR NABI)

PROPHETS

According to Islamic terminology a **Nabi** is a human being who is appointed by God to guide mankind.

Muslims believe that God sent 124,000 Prophets to guide mankind. The first of them being Prophet Adam (pbuh) and the final one being Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Many of these Prophets were made responsible for only one or two villages, some even for only one family. Others were sent to a bigger area or to one tribe but none were sent for the whole of mankind as was Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

A Prophet according to Muslims must be the most perfect person of his time. He must be divinely sent and therefore cannot have been selected or elected by people. He must not do anything to displease God and therefore does not commit any sins. He also must be able to perform miracles. e.g. Prophet Musa (Moses) (p.b.u.h) could with the help of God change his staff into a serpent, Prophet Isa (Jesus) (pbuh) cured the sick and raised the dead to life, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) brought the Qur'an which remains an unanswered literary challenge to the world to this day and will remain so.

All the Prophets taught the same basic message. They preached the belief and worship of the one and only God, the accountability of life after death, and a common code of life. They all worked at preparing humanity for the final message which was to be brought by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) which could be only understood with reasoning and the intellect.

Thus with the arrival of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the manifestation of God's will to guide mankind had reached its culminating point. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is therefore known to Muslims as **The Prophet**.

Believing in the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), therefore means believing in him as the perfect man. He is the example on which Muslims base their lives, following his footsteps.

"...And for you (O people) in the Prophet of God (Muhammad) is the perfect example.." **Qur'an 33:21**



PROPHETS MENTIONED IN THE QUR'AN BY NAME

1. Adam (pbuh)
2. Idrees (pbuh) - Enoch
3. Nuh (pbuh) - Noah
4. Hud (pbuh)
5. Saalih (pbuh)
6. Ibraheem (pbuh) - Abraham
7. Lut (pbuh) - Lot
8. Ismaail (pbuh) - Ishma'il
9. Is-haaq (pbuh) - Isaac
10. Ya'qub (pbuh) - Jacob
11. Yusuf (pbuh) - Joseph
12. Ayyub (pbuh) - Job
13. Shuayb (pbuh) - Jethro
14. Musa (pbuh) - Moses
15. Harun (pbuh) - Aaron
16. Ilyas (pbuh) - Elijah
17. Ilyasa (pbuh) - Elisha
18. Dhul Kifl (pbuh) - Ezekiel
19. Dhul Qurnain (pbuh)
20. Uzayr (pbuh) - Ezra
21. Dawud (pbuh) - David
22. Sulayman (pbuh) - Solomon
23. Luqman (pbuh) - Eosop
24. Yunus (pbuh) - Jonah
25. Zakariyya (pbuh) - Zechariah
26. Yahya (pbuh) - John (the baptist)
27. Isa (pbuh) - Jesus
28. Muhammad (pbuh)



LIFE AFTER DEATH & THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

The imminence of death and life after it are a fundamental belief of Islam. The Qur'an repeatedly reminds mankind of a post death existence which will be shaped by one's actions in this world which is the place of action and interaction.

Our intentions and the accompanying actions will be relived in the next life which will be subject to neither time nor space. Thus we participate in scheduling our future life after death by our actions in this world. Any excuses given later on for wrong doing will be of no avail when confronted with absolute reality.

Muslims believe in physical resurrection, in judgement and heaven and hell. Islam teaches that on the Last Day - the day of judgement, the world will come to an end. The scale of destruction on the day of judgement is beyond imagination. The entire cosmos will be destroyed. All mankind will be raised and asked to account for their lives.

*When the heavens are split open,
When the planets are dispersed,
When the seas are poured forth,
When the graves are laid open,
Then each soul shall know it's works, what it had sent before (it) and what it had left behind.....Qur'an
82:1-5*

Heaven and hell in the Qur'an are described as physical states - Heaven as a garden of tranquillity and peace and hell as a scorching fire that is never put out.



PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PEACE BE UPON HIM)



PROPHET MUHAMMAD (pbuh)

He was born in Makka, Arabia over 1400 years ago (in the year 570 CE). Makka was the economic and religious centre, for it was on the junction of the main trade routes between Yemen in the Southern tip of Arabia, and Syria and Iraq in the North.

Childhood

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was born into the Hashimite family which was part of the tribe of Quraysh who lived in Makka. His father Abdullah died whilst away on a trading trip shortly before he was born. He was only six years old when his mother Amina died.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was then raised by his grandfather Abdul Muttalib who was also the chief of Makka.

When Abdul Muttalib too died, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was taken into the care of his uncle Abu Talib. Abu Talib loved and protected his nephew.

Man of Character

As a young man, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) showed his concern for justice by becoming one of the founder members of a league to protect the safety and rights of strangers in Makka. He earned the reputation of being honest and trustworthy, thus the titles **As-Sadiq (The truthful one) & Al-Amin (The trustworthy one)** were bestowed on him by the Makkans. It was this reputation of exemplary character that led a wealthy and noble woman merchant of Makka called Khadija to invite him to take charge of her commercial affairs. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) accepted the offer and at the age of twenty five took charge of her trading caravans.

His character and honest dealings so impressed her that she proposed marriage to him. He accepted and Abu Talib arranged a big feast for the people of Makka in celebration.

Announcing Islam

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) always detested the moral decline of the society he lived in. It was his habit to meditate from time to time in the Cave of Hira near the summit of Jabal un Nur (Mountain of Light) near Makka.

One night when he was forty years old, he was visited in the cave by the angel Gabriel who brought to him the first revelation of the **Qur'an**.

*"In the name of God, the Kind, the Merciful.
Recite, in the name of your Lord who created,
Created the human being from a clot of blood,
Recite, and your Lord is the Most Generous,
Who taught by the pen,
Taught the human being that which he knew not."*

Qur'an 96:1-5

This was the first of many revelations which continued for twenty three years, and is known as the **Qur'an**.

On returning home on the day of the first revelation, he confided in his wife Khadija, who immediately accepted him as the divine messenger of the one God - Allah. So did his young cousin Ali, the son of Abu Talib.



Persecution

In the first few years, he had about fifty converts amongst friends and family. Then as commanded by God he announced his Prophet hood to the general public.

This led to severe persecution and in the year 615 CE Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) sent some of the Muslims to Christian Abyssinnia (Ethiopia) where he assured them they would find a just leader in King Negus. The Makkans tried to persuade King Negus to return the Muslims, bribing him with riches but the king on hearing the verses of the **Qur'an** about Jesus refused saying that the difference between him (a Christian) and the Muslims was no thicker than a line that he drew with his staff on the ground. He granted them protection and peace in Ethiopia.

Me'raj

In the year 622 CE, at the age of 52 years and 12 years after having started to preach Islam, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was honoured by God by a visit to the heavens. He was first taken from Makka to Jerusalem. Then from the famous rock on which today stands Al-Aqsa mosque (Dome of the rock) he was taken to the heavens on a mode of transport that travelled faster than the speed of light. On his return he brought back the command for the five prayers (Salaa). The journey is known as **Me'raj** (the ascension).

Hijra

By the year 622 CE his influence had spread to the city of Yathrib (260 miles North of Makka). A number of its citizens invited Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to Yathrib. The persecution in Makka was very fierce and there was a serious plot to assassinate the Prophet.

As commanded by God he left Makka to emigrate to Yathrib. This event, is known as the **Hijra** (the Arabic word for migration). Before the migration Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had sent over a hundred families ahead to Yathrib and more joined from Ethiopia.

So important was the **Hijra** as it was the start of a community in Yathrib run on the laws of Islam that it marked the beginning of the Muslim calendar. So 622 CE became 1 AH (after Hijra) for the Muslims.

Madina

Yathrib came to be known as **Madinatun Nabi** (the city of the Prophet) & **Madinatul Munawwara** (the shining city) in Prophet Muhammad's honour. It is more commonly known as **Madina** (The City) today.

In Makka, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) had preached the basic message of belief in the one God - Allah, his prophet hood, the justice of God and the day of judgement.

In Madina with the establishment of the first Islamic state, the Islamic laws on prayers (**Salaa**), fasting (**Sawm**), charity (**Zakaa**), pilgrimage (**Hajj**)... were gradually introduced. He also preached on behaviour in all spheres of life thus making Islam a religion that is a way of life. All he said and did was directly as a command of God. He never spoke or acted on his own accord.

Battles against Muslims

The equality of all mankind in the eyes of God including slaves, the rights of women and other such issues which had aroused hostility against Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) from the Makkans grew. The establishment of the Muslim state in Madina infuriated them for it not only opposed their beliefs but also affected them socially and economically. Some significant battles were fought. In 624 CE although outnumbered heavily by the Makkans, the Muslims won a resounding victory in the battle of Badr, not far from Madina.



In the following year, the Muslims sustained losses in the battle of Uhud against a massive army from Makka who came to revenge their dead of Badr.

In 627 CE, the Makkans besieged Madina in coalition with the Jewish tribes outside Madina but the city survived, and the Muslims won due largely by the digging of a trench around Madina. The battle came to be known as the battle of the trench.

Finally, a truce was agreed, the Hudaibiya peace treaty which allowed the Muslims to visit Makka for Pilgrimage.

The Makkans persisted in breaking the agreement of the treaty, and in 630 CE, the Muslims were strong enough to advance on Makka with a huge army of 20,000 men. There was no resistance. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) spared all his enemies, cleansed the Ka'ba of all the idols and established it as the centre of Islam for eternity.

Completion of revelations

In the year 632 CE, Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) accompanied by thousands of Muslims went on a pilgrimage to Makka for the last time.

On his return journey to Madina in a place called Ghadeer, the angel Gabriel brought the last revealed verse of the **Qur'an**.

"...This day I (Allah) have perfected your religion for you, completed My favours upon you, and have chosen for your Islam as a religion"

Qur'an 5:4

A few months later at the age of 63 years Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) died in Madina. He is buried under the green dome of the mosque he had built when he first entered the city during Hijra.



WORSHIP



WORSHIP

One of the distinctions of Islam is the importance which is attached to ritual purity - *tahara*. In the Qur'an, God says:

.. "Indeed He (God) loves those who ritually purify themselves."

Qur'an 2:222

Ritual purity is a pre-requisite for the prayers -*Salaa* and other forms of worship. The washing before *salaa* is called *wudhoo*. In the Qur'an, God says:

"O you who believe; when you stand up for salaa (prayer), wash your faces and your hands as far as the elbows, and wipe your head and feet as far as the two mounds."

Qur'an 5:7

Wudhoo is an act of worship in itself. For every act of worship, a Muslim begins with an intention called *niyya*. This is a conscious effort to focus the mind on God and do the prayer for Him. The obligatory washing is as the Qur'an states: the washing of the face and two arms as far as the elbows, and the wiping of the head and the feet upto the mounds.

Each act of *wudhoo* is accompanied by a prayer which signifies its spirituality. e.g. When washing the face, one asks God to remove the darkness of sins and illuminate the face with His light on the day of judgement. Whilst wiping the feet, the prayer is for keeping steadfast on the right path ...and asking God to accept one's efforts in pleasing Him.



SALAA

(THE RITUAL PRAYER)

Salaa (prayer) is a pillar of religion and connects the human soul to God. From a social point of view, the requirements of cleanliness, prohibition of usurped clothes and place of prayer for prayer ensures righteousness in society. It keeps away corruption and evil from a society.

One of the distinctions Islamic communities enjoy over others is the prayer. Each and every day at the appointed time, Muslims gather together for the congregational prayer ensuring unity and co-operation.

Likewise on Friday, whole populations of villages, towns and cities gather together to form a massive congregation. In the Friday sermon, current issues are raised to increase awareness.

Muslims pray five prayers in a day:

1. Fajr - The morning prayer prayed between dawn and sunrise.
2. Dhuhr - The noon prayer prayed just after midday.
3. 'Asr - The after noon prayer
4. Maghrib - The evening prayer prayed after sunset.
5. 'Eisha - The night prayer.

Muslims are called to prayer with the adhan. The adhan is called out by a muaddhin. It is in Arabic but the translation is as follows:

God is Great (x4),

I bear witness that there is no God but Allah (x2)

I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God, (x2)

Hurry to prayer (x2)

Hurry to success (x2)

Hurry to the best of deeds (x2)

God is Great (x2)

There is no God but Allah (x2)

A second call to prayer called the *iqama* is given just as prayers are about to begin.

Salaa consists of a set of phrases and verses of the Qur'an which are recited from memory. The words are accompanied by set actions. A cycle of postures and recitations forming a unit is called a *raka'a*.

Each of the five prayers requires a particular number of these units.

- ☉ Morning (Fajr) salaa has 2 units
- ☉ Noon (Dhuhr) salaa has 4 units
- ☉ Afternoon ('Asr) salaa has 4 units
- ☉ Evening (Maghrib) salaa has 3 units
- ☉ Night (Eisha) salaa has 4 units

There are three basic postures -

qiyam - standing

rukoo - bowing

sajda - prostration

Each of these postures goes down further than the previous one showing an increase in submission to God.

For prayers, Muslims face in the direction of the *Ka'ba* in the grand mosque in Makka. This direction is called the *qibla*. It can be found using a compass. At a mosque, the direction is signified by the *mihrab* (the alcove in the wall built for this purpose).



As in wudhoo, the prayer begins with an intention - *niyya* which concentrates the mind on God for whom the prayer is performed.

Salaa is prayers whose words and form are set. There is also *DUA* (*pronounced du'aa*) which literally means 'asking'.

Dua can take various forms.

It can be in Arabic as taught by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) or in one's own language.

It can be the repetition of God's praise, asking for forgiveness etc. or on prayer-beads - called *tasbeeh*, or *subha*, or *misbaha*.

Dua is often accompanied with the hands raised as in the position shown below

The Friday congregational prayer

On a Friday, Muslims are required to leave all worldly activities for an hour or so from the time the believers are called for the special Friday noon prayers to its completion, as ordained in the verse of the Qur'an below:

" O you who believe, when the call is made for prayers on Friday, then hasten to the remembrance of God and leave your trading; that is better for you, if (only) you knew. And when the prayer has ended then disperse on the earth and seek the grace of God...." Qur'an 62:9,10

A sermon precedes the prayer. The Imam normally talks on the state of the Muslim Umma in the sermon.

The Friday prayer develops a condition through which the local community meets weekly creating unity and togetherness.

The larger community meets twice a year at the congregational prayers of Eid, and an international meeting is assured annually at Hajj.



FASTING

Sawm

Ramadhan is the ninth month of the Lunar calendar. It is the month in which the Qur'an was revealed. For this reason, it is a special month. As ordered by God in the Qur'an, it is obligatory for Muslims to fast (called sawm) for the whole of the Lunar month of Ramadhan.

"O you who believe, Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may achieve taqwa - self restraint" **Qur'an 2:183**

All Muslims who are capable of fasting must do so; but no one should endanger ones life or health because of fasting.

Fasting is exempt for those who are ill, those who travelling, and for those women who are pregnant, are breast feeding, or having their period.

Those who miss fasting on any days try to make up for the fasts they have missed at another time.

Except for those who due to illness or disability cannot fast at all.

Elderly people are not expected to fast if they cannot, but they are asked to feed the poor in lieu of each fast if they can afford it.

Young children are gradually introduced to fasting for it becomes obligatory on reaching puberty - girls at the age of nine lunar years and boys at the outset of the signs of puberty.

Fasting is both external and internal. During a fast, a Muslim must not eat, drink, smoke, or have sexual intercourse between dawn and sunset. Normality is permitted between sunset and dawn. Thus, it cultivates the ability to control hunger, thirst, and the sexual desire. One gradually gains control over these rather than the desires controlling the self.

The spiritual fast means also to refrain from lying, quarrelling, jealousy, back biting, swearing.... Those who do not refrain from these are the people for whom Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said:

"There are many whose fasting is nothing beyond being hungry and thirsty."



CHARITY

Zakaa

The word zakaa means 'to purify' and to increase.

It the Islamic way of redistributing wealth to make a fairer society. It is a relatively small tax of about 2.5% on certain commodities. It is obligatory on all Muslims.

Additional obligatory taxes are also set like **khums** which is income related and **Zakatul Fitr** payable on Eid ul Fitr, the Eid following the month of Ramadhan).

Optional charity is called **sadaqa** and is encouraged in the Qur'an and by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

The recipients of charity are the poor, the needy, the travellers in the way of God, and whatever may enhance the religion. Most Muslims have central organisations headed by religious scholars who will distribute it in the best way possible.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has said:

"He/she is not a Muslim who sleeps contented whilst his/her neighbour sleeps hungry"

In today's world where communication and mobility has created a global village, each being a 'neighbour'; it is the duty of every Muslim to share and care for all humanity.

Giving **loans** (without interest of course) in the way of God is another aspect of charity in Islam which is highly recommended.



PILGRIMAGE

Hajj

"..And the hajj to the house (Ka'ba) is obligatory on all for the sake of God, upon all who are able to undertake the journey to it..." **Qur'an 3:97**

Every year, in the Lunar month of Dhul hijja, Muslims from all over the world go for the pilgrimage if they are able to.

Hajj is in two parts:

One can be performed at any time of the year and is called **the Umra**.

The other can only be done on specific days once a year. This is called **the Hajj**.

At a certain distance before entering Makka, the pilgrims wear the *ihraam* which is two pieces of seamless white cloth for men. It is a sign that all which connects them to their daily lives is put off, in order to concentrate totally on God.

On entering Makka, the first act is to circle the Ka'ba anti clockwise seven times. The circling demonstrates the unity of believers in worship of God, all moving in harmony together reciting verses of the Qur'an.

Next comes the walking between the hills called Safa and Marwa which today is a covered way which extends out from the sacred mosque. On performing this act, the pilgrims re-enact Hajra's (Hagar) search for water for her young son Ismaeel (Ishma'il). They were saved from dying by thirst when a spring of water gushed forth near Ismaeel where Hajar had left him. This spring is known as the well of *Zam Zam*. It is within the precinct of the great Mosque and pilgrims drink the water from the spring till today.

On the eighth day of the month of Dhulhijja, in performing **the Hajj**, pilgrims must be on the plains of Arafat (24 kms East of Makka) from noon to sunset. To gather here together asking for salvation and enlightenment is the highest form of worship. It is an amazing sight to see several million people out in the heat of the desert engrossed in their devotion to God.

After Arafat, two more symbolic acts take place at Mina in the desert. The first is to stone the 'devil' (pillars built in representation) in a re-enactment of what Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) did when an inner voice whispered to him not to sacrifice his son as God had commanded. The other reason is a much more personal one. As the pilgrims stone the 'devils', it is an expression of one's rejection of evil and a resolve to withstand temptation and apply self restraint.

The other act is to sacrifice an animal as Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) did when having resolved to sacrifice his son in the way of God, a ram appeared. This is performed on Eid al Adha (the festival of sacrifice).

Apart from the social benefit of Hajj to the individual, it is a major social, cultural, and political market place of universal proportions. It is here that Muslims from all over the globe meet and interact. It links the whole of the Muslim world forming the hub of one of the greatest physical internets of the world all abandoning personal desires in pursuit of knowledge and closeness to God.

Any person who has been for Hajj is addressed as Haji.



MUSLIM FESTIVALS



Eid ul Fitr

When the new moon is sighted and the month of fasting (Ramadhan) comes to an end, the first of the new month (Shawwal) is the day of Eid ul Fitr. 'Fitr' means to break and it is called thus as God has permitted the breaking of the fast on this day.

It is also a 'festival of charity'. It is incumbent upon all Muslims to begin the day by paying Zakat ul Fitr - a special religious tax. This is paid before the prayers. It is an act of worship just as important as the prayers.

The special Eid congregational prayer consists of a brief two unit prayer followed by a sermon. After the prayers, it is the norm to visit relatives and friends, exchanging greetings. Culture dictates the food that is prepared for Eid. However, in many parts of the Muslim world a special kind of sweet is prepared with thin vermicelli. It is said (no religious reason) that it was to signify harmony and unity amongst Muslims. The strands of vermicelli despite the diversity of size, colour and thickness all intertwined.

Eid ul Fitr becomes a means of strengthening family and friendship ties as well as serving to be an occasion for a get together for the community at large.

Eid ul Adha

Eid ul Adha means the major festival. It is also called the Eid of sacrifice or the Eid of Hajj.

Eid ul Adha is a commemoration and a reminder to Muslims of several things:

- ☪ The story of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and Prophet Ismael (Ishmael) (pbuh) and their willingness to make great sacrifices for God.

- ☪ To be ready to make sacrifices for religion.

- ☪ For those who have not gone for Hajj, it is showing support for their fellow Muslims who are completing the Hajj on that day.

In remembrance of the aspect of sacrificing all for God as Prophet Ibraheem & Prophet Isma'il did, the Muslims who are in Hajj sacrifice an animal at a place called Mina, near Makka. Muslims around the world join them in making a sacrifice if possible on this day.

Like Eid ul Fitr, there is a special congregational prayer followed by visiting family and friends, exchanging greetings and sharing a meal together.



THE PROCESS OF LIFE



FAMILY LIFE

Islam is a way of life which governs every aspect of life. The family is an institution of primary importance, for it is the fabric of society.

Marriage

The foundation of a family is based on marriage. Marriage is highly recommended in Islam for it provides an arena for opposites to combine and contentment to be awakened within the individual.

There is a great deal in the Qur'an about the relationship between man and woman and about the practical details of marriage and divorce.

Islam teaches that the right place for sex is within a marriage. Sex is regarded as a natural part of life but in order to benefit from it; it must be used in the way God intended, and not abused. Muslims are encouraged to marry young. According to Islamic Law (Shari'a) both parties must give their free consent.

The duties and responsibilities of the husband and wife are complimentary in a Muslim society.

Divorce is permitted but is the last resort. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) warned:
"Among all the permissible things, divorce is the most hateful to God."

Children

Parental responsibility in Islam begins at the time a man and a woman decide to have a family. Great emphasis is laid on the diet - both physical and spiritual prior to conception. During pregnancy the responsibility of the mother to refrain from unhealthy food and unhealthy thoughts is stressed. The child is named as soon as his/her presence is known (in the womb). The right name is very important for Muslims. The final name is given on birth depending on the child being a boy or a girl.

Birth

As soon as a baby is born, the *adhan* (pronounced *adhaan*)- call to prayer is recited in the child's right ear and the *iqama* (pronounced *iqama*)-call indicating the beginning of prayer is recited in the left ear. The sound of Adhan and Iqama will dominate the whole life of the child for he/she will hear and/or recite it for five prayers in a day.

It is recommended that the baby's head be shaved when he/she is seven days old. Traditionally the shaved hair is weighed and the equivalent amount in gold or silver is given to the poor and needy to thank God for the gift of a new life. Today, a donation is given in lieu. A sacrifice of a sheep or a goat is done and distributed between the midwife, the poor and family and friends. This ceremony is known as *aqiqā*.

Only Boys are circumcised in Islam. This is done as soon as possible after the birth. Circumcision of girls is not part of Islam.

Education

Islam is a way of life and therefore a Muslim's whole life is governed by Sharia' - Islamic Law. From a young age children are taught everything according to Islamic Law.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) made it clear that seeking knowledge was obligatory for every Muslim man and woman. He also said:

"Seek knowledge even if it be in China"

This implied that a Muslim should go to great lengths to seek useful knowledge. Muslims, however did not have to go as far as that before they excelled in literary, scientific, artistic, philosophical and other



fields. The use of manufactured paper from the ninth century onwards made the copying of books easier. It was the spread of these Muslim books that led Europe out of the dark ages. Since gaining knowledge is compulsory, schooling is very important. Most children in the West go to local schools hoping that their beliefs will be respected. Some of the issues which raise concern with Muslims at local schools may be the wearing of Hijab (the modest dress with head covering for girls), separate PE & swimming lessons for boys and girls, fasting.

Food

Eating and drinking are the basic necessities for sustaining life. Islamic law does not prohibit the partaking of '**good**' food. In the Qur'an, God says:

*"O you who believe! Eat of the **good** things We have provided you with and thank God if it is He that you worship"*

Qur'an 2:172

The general criterion for food and drink being permissible is their being '**good**'.

What is 'good' food and drink?

1. The food must be obtained by lawful means. It is forbidden to eat any food which is obtained by stealing, and deceit.
2. It must be **halal** which means permitted and not **haram** which means *forbidden*. Most fish and all vegetables are permitted, alcohol is forbidden and there are restrictions on meat. The following are some of the meats that are forbidden.
 - All products from the pig
 - Animals that eat other animals or excrement for food
 - Animals and birds that died of themselves (not slaughtered)
 - Animals which are strangled or stunned to death
 - Animals which are killed for food without being slaughtered in the Islamic way.
3. Alcoholic drinks, wine, beer, and all drugs which affect the brain are forbidden as well.

Dress

The order for woman to dress modestly has become an issue that is focused on greatly. All Muslims, men and women alike must cover

themselves and avoid wearing revealing clothes which enhance physical beauty. For women, the details are more specific as their gender is allied with beauty.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) did not prescribe any particular style or type of dress but gave a description of what is acceptable and what is not allowed.

The word *hijab* in Arabic means a barrier, cover or veil. It provides the necessary dignity and self respect to be able to lead a balanced social life. It is to wear simple clothing to cover the body and hair. The face and hands upto the wrists may be left un-covered.

Death

Death for a Muslim is not annihilation but a transition from the physical world to the spiritual world.

The body is washed according to the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and then shrouded.

The burial takes place as soon as possible after death. Special prayers are said prior to burial.

Cremation is forbidden in Islam. The body is therefore buried. It is laid on its side in the grave with the face towards the *qibla* - direction towards Makka.



THE MOSQUE



THE MOSQUE

A mosque is called a *masjid* (pronounced *musjid*), in Arabic. It literally means a 'place of prostration'.

A mosque is not necessarily that which has a dome and a minaret and may therefore be difficult to recognise in non-Muslim countries.

A mosque has three functions:

1. It is a place of prayer/worship.
2. A place of learning.
3. A community centre.

Its rooms and facilities must meet all these needs.

Some Features Of A Mosque

Dome

In hot countries it allows the air to circulate. It also allows a large area to be covered without the use of pillars.

Minaret

It is a tall tower used to deliver the 'Adhaan' (call to prayer). The minaret became an ideal astronomical observatory. By the 10th century Muslims had invented the 'astrolabe' by which the movement of the stars and planets was calculated. This enabled the Muslims to tell the time at night and thus was the fore runner of the clock we use today for time keeping.

The Prayer Hall

It is a large hall with no furniture but with a floor covering to sit on.

The Mihrab

It is an alcove in the wall showing the direction towards the Ka'ba in Makka (direction of prayer). This direction is called qibla.

It also amplifies the voice of the prayer leader (Imam).

The Mimbar

It is a set of at least three steps used to raise the Imam for delivering sermons.

Washing facilities

Before praying Salaa (the ritual prayer), Muslims must wash in a particular way as instructed in the Qur'an. The washing is called wudhoo and has a spiritual aspect to it. Each part of the wash is accompanied by a prayer. e.g. Whilst washing the face, a Muslim prays to God to remove the darkness of sins and illuminate it with His light especially on the day of Judgement.

Decorations

Some mosques are decorated with verses of the Qur'an whilst some have calligraphic patterns or are plain. In any case, there are no pictures or statues.



☾ THE STAR & THE CRESCENT

The minarets and domes of mosques sometimes have a crescent and a five pointed star on top of them. Many Muslim countries also use these symbols on their flags.

☾ Muslims follow the Lunar calendar, and the new moon marks the beginning of the new month. The Lunar calendar is approximately 11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar.

☾ A new day starts not at midnight but in the evening with the sunset.

☾ Stars were used to find the direction of Makka which houses the Ka'ba and towards which all Muslims turn to pray every day. Astronomy became an important science in Islam (see notes on minaret).



STORIES



I CANNOT SEE ALLAH WITH MY EYES.....

Once there was a farmer who was a very good man. He worked hard on his farm and prayed salaa on time every day.

One day he saw a sick man lying on the roadside. He helped him up and took him home to look after him.

The next morning when the farmer woke up to pray salaa he woke up his guest who said he did not want to pray.

The man said that he could not see Allah so how could he pray to One whom he could not see. The farmer did not say anything.

The next day the man was feeling better and wanted to go home. The farmer walked with him across the fields. Suddenly they saw footprints. The man told the farmer that they were the footprints of a tiger.

"I don't believe that ! " said the farmer . "I can't see a tiger here !"

The man looked surprised and said *"Are these footprints not enough to tell you that a tiger was here ?"*

The farmer said *"Dear brother! When you saw the footprints you believed that a tiger had passed here; so are not the moon, the sun, the flowers, and the trees signs enough to make you believe that there must be One who made them?"*

The man thought for a while and said *"You are right ! We cannot see Allah with our eyes but we can understand from the things he has made that He exists."*



“WHAT MADE YOU BELIEVE IN ALLAH?”

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was once walking with his companions when he saw an old lady working at a spinning wheel. Whilst she was working she was praising Allah for all that He had given her.

The Prophet (pbuh) greeted her and asked her:

“Your faith is admirable; will you tell me what made you believe in Allah?”

The woman answered:

“O Messenger of Allah! If I do not move my spinning wheel, it does not spin.

If a simple thing like my spinning wheel cannot turn without help how can it be possible that the whole universe can operate so efficiently without a driving force.

There must be a Great one running it.

Someone who controls every atom.

The Great One can only be Allah, who is the Creator and Master of everything.”

The Prophet (pbuh) was very pleased with the old woman’s reply. Turning to his companions he said:

“See how this old lady came to know about Allah through such a fine and simple way. Your faith in Allah should also be as firm as hers.”



WHO TAUGHT HER TO CRY?

Abbas watched his new baby sister. She had tiny little hands that gripped his finger tightly.

"She is so perfect, mum!" he said.

"Subhanallah! Allah makes everything perfect" mum replied.

Suddenly baby Sarah started to screw her face up and cry. Abbas got worried and looked up at his mother.

"Mum, why is she crying?" he said

"I think she is hungry" mum said and picked up Sarah to feed her.

"Who taught her to cry, mum?" Abbas asked.

"It is Allah who taught this little baby to cry, she cannot speak so she cries whenever she wants anything so that someone will come to help!" mum replied.

"Allahu Akber! Allah is so great and so kind" said Abbas. *"I Love Him very much!"*



ABU SINA - (AVICENNA)

Abu Sina was a very famous Muslim philosopher and scientist whose book were used in the Universities of Europe for many years.

He had many students who admired him greatly. He had one young student who was very attached to him. His name was Bahman Yar. He was also the most clever of Abu Sina's students. Bahman Yar was so amazed by the lectures of Abu Sina that he often wondered why Abu Sina did not claim to be a Prophet.

On one of the coldest nights of the year, when there was a heavy snowfall; both Abu Sina and his student were sleeping in one room under warm thick blankets.

In the dark the student was still asking questions and the teacher replied. Bahman Yar told Abu Sina: *"With all this knowledge you have and being a master of all the sciences why do you not declare yourself a Prophet?"*

Abu Sina smiled and did not say anything.

As the night progressed, the weather turned colder. Abu Sina got up feeling very thirsty. He called out to Bahman Yar to bring him some water.

Bahman Yar on seeing the snow outside made feeble excuses and went back to sleep.

A little while later the muadhin called out Adhan for Fajr salaa. Both Abu Sina and Bahman Yar heard the Adhan.

Abu Sina turned towards his young student and said:

"You have suggested to me several times to claim Prophethood and that people will put their full trust into me. You have been a close student to me and have benefited from my knowledge yet you could not leave your warm bed to bring me water.

Think of this man who is calling Adhan from the top of the minaret after coming out in the cold weather and doing wudhoo. It is for no other purpose than to obey the command of Allah as taught by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). That is the difference between me and a Prophet sent by Allah."



AAMUL FEEL - THE YEAR OF THE ELEPHANT

The king of Yemen built a beautiful place of worship. There were beautiful silk carpets hanging on the walls and it was decorated with the best of everything. He wanted people to come to pray in Yemen rather than go to visit the Ka'ba in Makka.

In spite of all his efforts people still went to Makka.

He decided that the only solution was to destroy the Ka'ba. He chose one of his strongest and bravest man called Abraha to take an army of elephants to destroy the Ka'ba.

On the way to Makka, the army of Abraha destroyed everything in their way and stole hundreds of camels. Amongst them were some camels that belonged to Abdul Muttalib who was Prophet Muhammad's (S.A.W.) grandfather.

Abdul Muttalib knew that Abraha was coming to destroy the Ka'ba. He ran to the Ka'ba and prayed to Allah.

"O Allah! Save Your house and do not let them destroy it!"

Then he went to Abraha.

"Why do you wish to see me?" said Abraha.

Abdul Muttalib said he wanted his camels returned.

Abraha was shocked!!

"I have come to destroy the Ka'ba. You are the chief of Makka and the guardian of the Ka'ba and all you are worried about is your camels!"

Abdul Muttalib replied :

"The camels belong to me, and so I ask for their return. The Ka'ba belongs to Allah and He will look after it Himself".

When Abraha heard this he returned the camels and marched forward to destroy the Ka'ba. Allah sent a flock of birds who flew over the army pelting them with small stones of baked clay which killed the elephants and the soldiers.

All except Abraha were destroyed and he rushed back to Yemen to tell the King what had happened.

He was followed by one of the birds.

"What sort of amazing birds were these!" asked the furious king.

Abraha looked up and showed him. The bird threw a stone and Abraha died on the spot in front of the King.

It was in this year that Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was born on the 17th of Rabi ul Awwal.



WORKING TOGETHER

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was once on a journey with his companions.

On the way they stopped at a place to have some food and rest. They decided to roast some meat.

Each one volunteered to do some work.

One of the companions said *"I shall slaughter the sheep!"*

The other said *"I will remove the skin."*

Another said *"I will roast the meat!"*

The Prophet (pbuh) said: *"I will collect and bring the firewood from the forest."*

The companions said *"O Prophet! We will see to everything. Please do not trouble yourself."*

The Prophet (pbuh) replied *"I know you can do everything but I do not wish to be favoured over you."*

He said that Allah does not like people who think they are better than others.

The Prophet (pbuh) then went and fetched the firewood and did his share of the work.



AL-AMIN – (THE TRUSTWORTHY ONE)

Once, the Ka'ba was being rebuilt. The people of Makka were all working together to build it.

When the walls reached the level where they had to place the 'Hajar al-Aswad' (The black stone) the work stopped. Everyone wanted to place the black stone in it's position because it was so important.

There was a big argument and it seemed like there would be a civil war in Makka.

A wise man spoke out and said:

"Do not make war because it destroys homes and cities. It causes misery and hardship. Find a solution to your problem."

He suggested that they choose a person who would decide what to do from themselves.

The people asked who and how they should choose. The wise man suggested that they appoint the first person who enters Masjid al-Haram through a particular door which he pointed towards.

Everyone agreed and all eyes were fixed on the door.

A young man entered. Everyone was glad for it was Muhammad Al-Amin (pbuh) (The Trustworthy One). They crowded around him and told him what had happened.

He told them:

"All the leading men of Makka must share in this important work."

The people looked surprised:

"How is that possible?"

Muhammad (pbuh) gave instructions for all the leaders of the tribes to be present. When they had all assembled he took off his cloak and placed the Hajar al-Aswad in the middle. He asked all the leaders to pick the cloak and bring it to the side of the Ka'ba.

Muhammad (pbuh) gently guided the stone to it's special place.



THE NEIGHBOUR

There was once a scholar called Syed Jawad Ameli.

He was having his dinner one day when there was a knock on the door. It was a messenger from his teacher Syed Mahdi Bahrul Uloom.

"Your teacher has sent for you immediately. He refuses to eat his dinner until he sees you"

Syed Jawad left his dinner and quickly rushed to his teachers' house. When he entered the house he saw that his teacher was looking very upset. He told Syed Jawad:

"...Don't you feel ashamed of yourself....Do you not respect Allah...???"

Syed Ameli did not know what he had done wrong so he asked his teacher to tell him.

Syed Mahdi said:

"It is now a whole week that your neighbour and his family are without food. Your neighbour asked a grocer for some dates saying they would pay him when they had the money but the grocer would not agree. Your neighbour returned home empty handed without any food for his family"

Syed Jawad said he did not know about this.

"That is why I am upset with you. How can you not know (not care) about your neighbour? They have had seven days of difficulty and you do not know about it!!! Well! if you had known and not done anything then you would not even be a Muslim" Syed Mahdi said.

Then Syed Mahdi told him to take all the food that was before him to his neighbour. *"Sit with him to eat so he does not feel shy and take this money for him and put it under a cushion or rug so he does not feel embarrassed. When you have done this let me know for I will not eat until then."*



SHARING

A Muslim always shares whatever he/she has with everyone.

In the battle of Moota, there were a number of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) who lay mortally wounded on the ground. They were all thirsty and groaning for water.

A man seeing them took some water and offered it to the first companion who pointed to a second companion saying he needed the water more.

The man went to the second soldier who pointed to the third companion saying that he needed the water more than him.

When the man got to the third soldier he found that he had already died.

He returned to the second soldier but he too had died and so had the first companion.

All the soldiers wanted to share with the others so much so that they were prepared to give to the other before themselves.

One who does not share is selfish.



O OUR LORD! ACCEPT THIS FROM US.

They picked up the heavy stones one by one. The angel Jibrail showed them where to put each stone.

Soon the Ka'ba was nearly finished. Jibrail also showed them where to put the special black stone.

Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) and his son Prophet Ismail (pbuh) worked very hard. Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) used to stand on a stone. The stone moulded his footprints. Today it still stands near the Ka'ba and is known as Maqame Ibraheem.

When they finished building the Ka'ba, father and son raised their hands and prayed :
.."*O our Lord! Accept this from us. Indeed You are the All-hearing and the All-Knowing.*"

Qur'an - Suratul Baqara 2:127



THE BABY SPEAKS!

Imran was a good man. His wife was called Hanna.

Hanna made a promise to Allah that she would give her baby to serve Allah. She asked Allah to keep her baby safe from Shaitan. When her baby was born she called her Maryam.

Hanna kept her promise and took Baby Maryam to the temple in Jerusalem. Here Sayyida Maryam was looked after by Prophet Zakariyya (pbuh) who was her uncle.

One day when she was a young lady, an angel came to her room and told her that she was to have a baby whose name would be Isa - son of Maryam. He told her that he would be a Prophet of Allah and would speak even when an infant.

Sayyida Maryam asked the angel how she could have a baby without a husband. The angel told her that Allah could do anything He wished.

After Prophet Isa (A.S.) was born, Sayyida Maryam was worried as to how she would tell the people of the town about him. She was ordered by Allah to keep silent and let the baby talk.

When the people of the town asked her about the baby she pointed to him in her arms. Baby Isa (pbuh) said:

"I am a servant of Allah; He has given me the book (Injeel) and made me a Prophet"

Qur'an - Suratu Maryam 19:30

The book that Allah had given him is called the Injeel.

He grew up to teach the people about Allah telling them there was only one God.

He was given the miracle of curing the sick and making dead people come back to life.



ZAM ZAM

Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) was an old man when Allah granted him a son called Ismail (pbuh). He too was a prophet.

The mother of Prophet Ismail (pbuh) was Sayyida Hajra (pbuh.) She was a very good lady.

Prophet Ibraheem (pbuh) took Sayyida Hajra (pbuh) and his son Prophet Ismail (pbuh) to a place which is today called Makka. He left them there as Allah had ordered him to do and went away.

Soon Sayyida Hajra (pbuh) found that all their food and water had finished. She went to look for water. There were two mountains called Safa and Marwa in Makka. She climbed up on the mountain of Safa first and looked around. She saw water and ran towards it until she reached the mountain of Marwa. Then she looked back and saw water again. She ran towards it until she reached Safa. She was seeing a mirage. But she did not give up! She ran back and forth seven times.

As she ran backwards and forwards, she used to glance towards her baby son Ismail to keep an eye on him. Suddenly she saw her baby son Ismail (pbuh) with a spring of water near his feet. The spring is still there today and it is called Zam Zam which means - Stop! Stop! (As this is what Sayyida Hajra said when she saw the water for she feared that her baby would drown). It may also mean 'lots of water'.

Because of the spring of Zam Zam many people came to live there and soon Makka became the central town of Arabia.

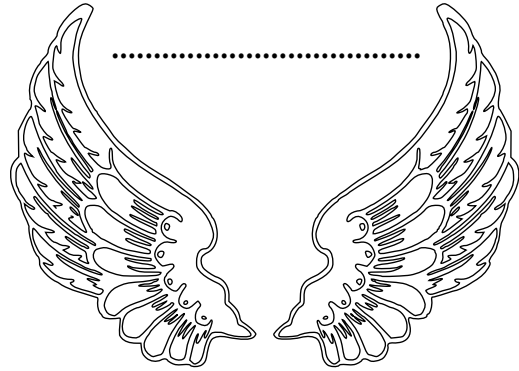
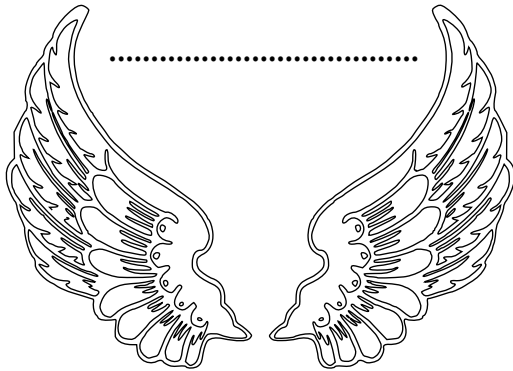


SAMPLE WORKSHEETS



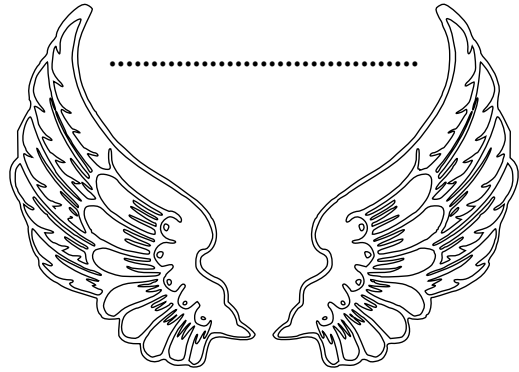
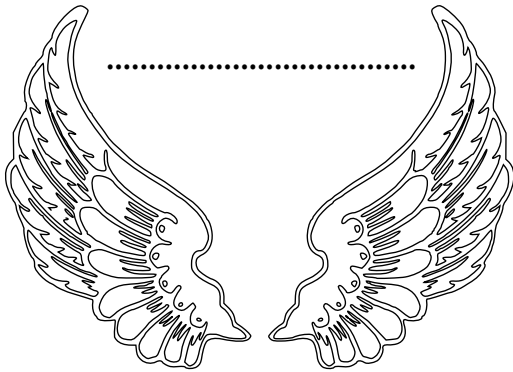
Angels

Colour and fill in the names of the four special angels and write below of what they do:



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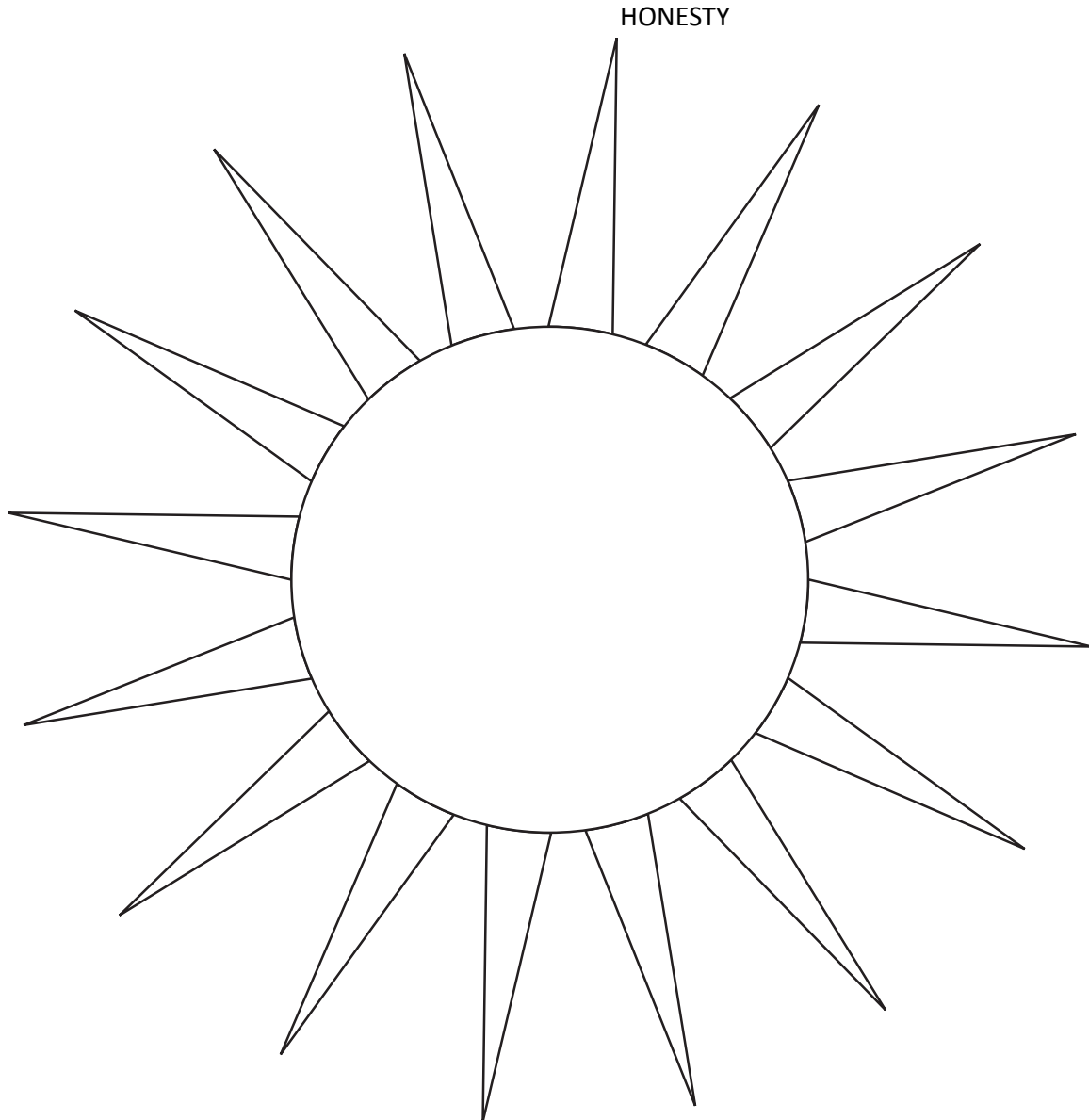
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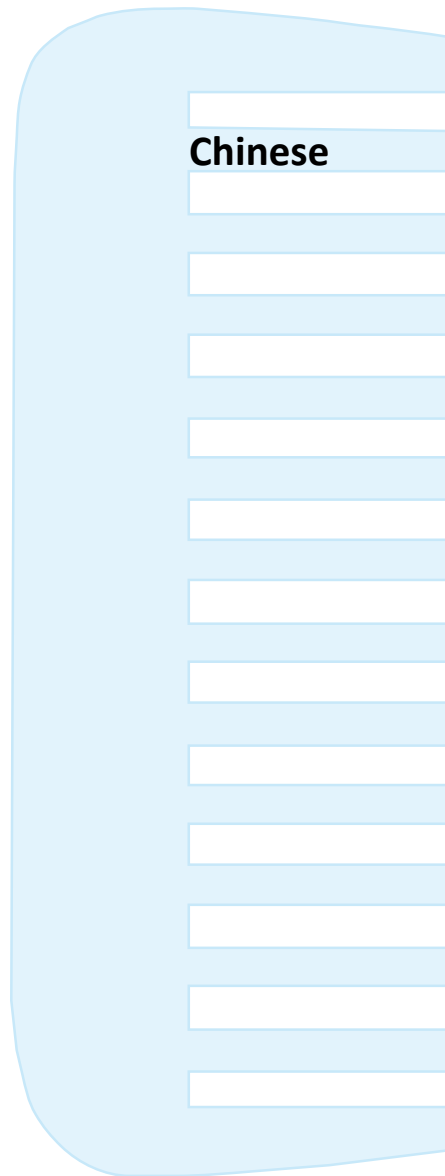
**PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)
THE SUN OF KNOWLEDGE TO OUR PATH**

Colour the sun below and for every ray that you see write down the different things that Rasulullah has taught us. One has been done for you.



ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL- THE PROPHET HATED NATIONALISM

“ Human beings from Adam to this day are like the teeth of a comb, there is no superiority for an Arab over a non Arab, nor for one colour over another except with God awareness “
On the teeth of the comb below write down all the different nationalities of people that you know. One has been done for you.



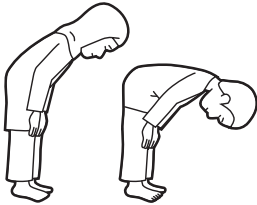
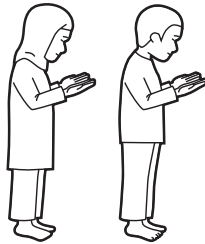
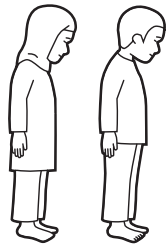
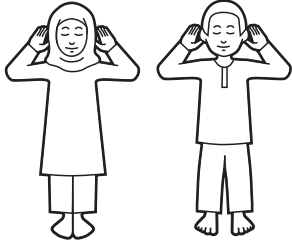
PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH)

Draw the web which the spider made to protect the Prophet (pbuh)



My actions of Salaa

Match the different salaa positions with the correct name.



Sajda

Qunoot

Rukoo

Qiyam

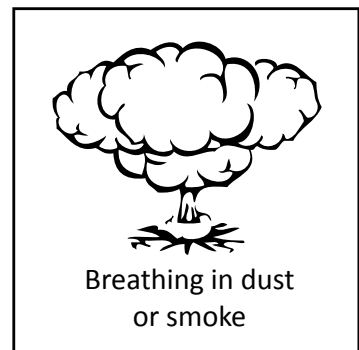
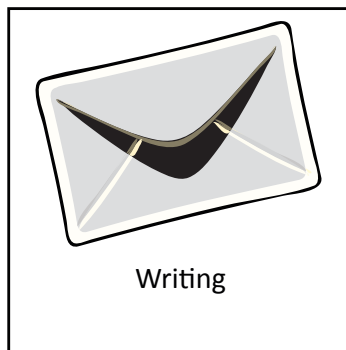
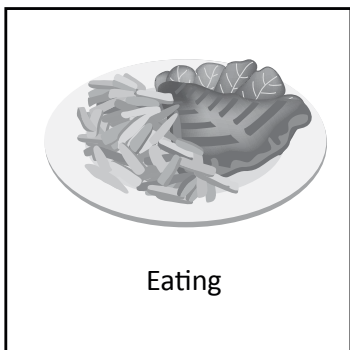
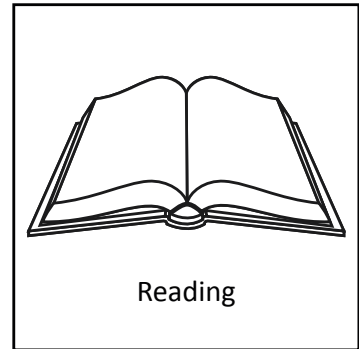
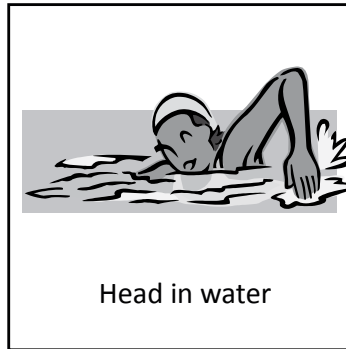
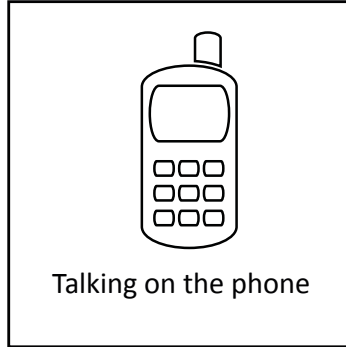
Takbeeratul
Ihram

Juloos



Sawm

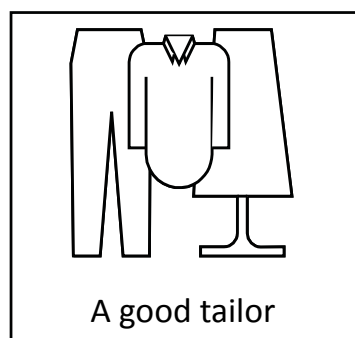
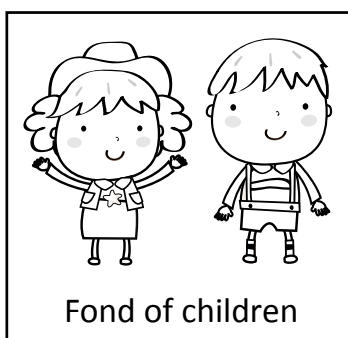
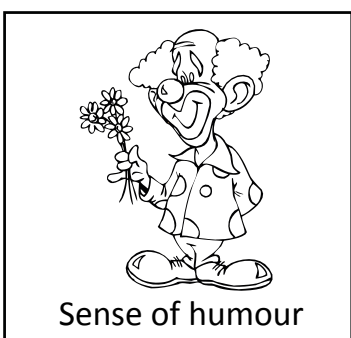
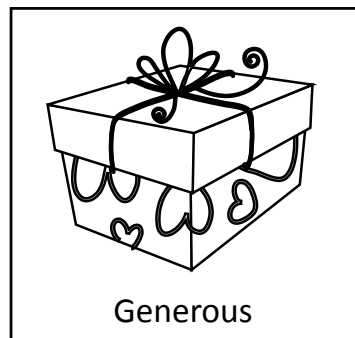
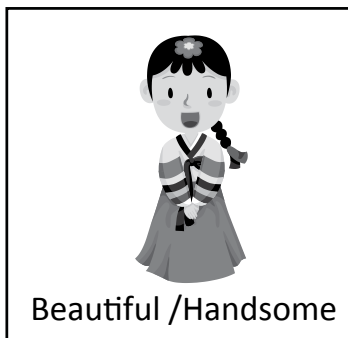
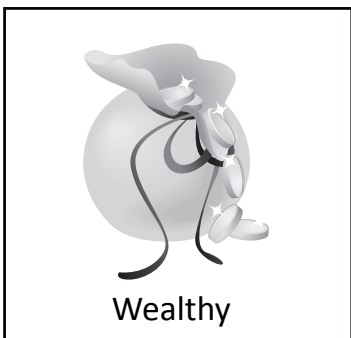
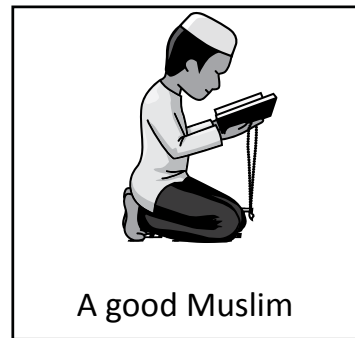
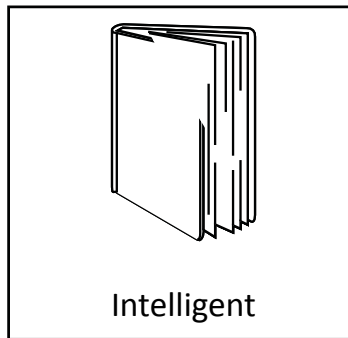
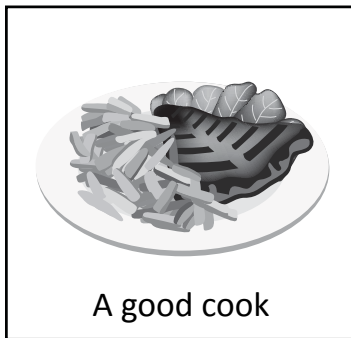
Circle all the things that would break sawm.



Parents Dua

“...Lord have mercy on them (parents) as they had mercy on me when I was little...”

When you become a parent (inshallah) what qualities do You think are the most important for a parent. Put the qualities below in order of importance.



Suratul Feel

The Year of the Elephant

Colour the picture below



