

Year 3

Islam

Places for worship.

OVERVIEW FOR ISLAM – YEAR 3

PLACES FOR WORSHIP

Judaism is studied by everyone and Islam one of the options of choice from the three other religions. It is taught for one week every year. The themes are the same for all religions.

BACKGROUND NOTES

Muslims are followers of the religion of Islam, which began in Saudi Arabia around the seventh century. They believe in one God, Allah. There are two main groups of Muslims, Shi'ah and Sunni. The Sunnis are the larger group. Their beliefs are similar but they differ on the forms of leadership. What the children learn in this programme of study is a *middle way*, offering what is most general in Islam. The spelling used is *Makkah* rather than the common version *Mecca* to avoid confusion.

AGE GROUP	THEME	TOPIC	LEARNING OUTCOMES		
			LOOK	DISCOVER	RESPECT
Early years N/R	Special days/ ritual objects	Prayer mats	Special objects	Prayer mats and the Qur'an	What is special for Muslims
Year 1 FS 1	Stories	Muhammad	Special stories	Muhammad	Muhammad is important for Muslim people
Year 2 FS 2	Prayer/home	Prayer at home	Quiet times	Prayer five times a day	Prayer is important for Muslims
Year 3	Places for worship	The mosque	Special buildings	Friday is a day of special prayer. Call to prayer	How Muslim people worship
Year 4	Holy Books	The Qur'an	Important books	The Qur'an. 99 beautiful names of God	The importance of the Qur'an for Muslims
year 5	Beliefs and festivals	Ramadan and Pilgrimage	special times	Shahadah Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha, Hajj	Respect for the special occasions for Muslims
year 6	Belonging and values	Guidance for Muslims	Guidance in life	the 5 pillars Zakat	What is important for Muslims

There are **six** major religions in our world.

RE = SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Christianity



Judaism



Islam



Buddhism



Hinduism



Sikhism





I am a Muslim

Islam is the religion of Muslims. Muslims believe in Allah and his prophet Muhammad.

God

I believe that there is only one God, Allah, and that Muhammad was the last prophet sent by Allah.



Holy Book

The imam instructs me from the Qur'an in Arabic. The Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad by God. It teaches me how to worship Allah and how to behave towards others.



Muslim Festivals

Ramadan: The holy month during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

Eid-ul-Fitr: A celebration to mark the end of Ramadan.

Eid-ul-Adha: A celebration of Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son to God.

Worship

I pray five times a day, facing Makkah (Mecca), at home or in the mosque. I wash before praying and use a prayer mat. When entering the mosque I take off my shoes. Women and men do not pray in the same area of the mosque.



Dietary Customs

I am allowed to eat halal food. Some foods, such as pork, are forbidden, and all food must be prepared in a certain way.



Jihad

As well as following the Five Pillars of Islam, I must understand Jihad and strive to be a good Muslim. Greater jihad is the personal struggle to live a life of obedience to God and to not give into temptation. Lesser jihad is the physical struggle to protect the Islamic faith in the world.

Five Pillars of Islam

Every Muslim must follow the Five Pillars of Islam.

Shahada: declaration of faith

Salat: praying five times a day

Zakat: giving money to charity

Sawm: fasting during Ramadan

Hajj: pilgrimage to Makkah

TEACHING POINTS

Whenever Muhammad's name is mentioned Muslims say 'Peace and blessing be upon him' (pbuh)

Look: Special buildings

Look at special buildings you know in your area, how would you recognise them?



How can you tell if the building is a shop, a library, a school, a hospital?
What special features does each one have and why is it there?

Discover: Going to the mosque.



What do you see?

What does it make you think about?

How is it different to a church?

A Muslim place of worship is called a *mosque*, which means a place to bow down.

For Muslims their mosque is a very special place, they go there to pray, to meet people and to study. Sometimes mosques in England and Wales are housed in rented halls or peoples' houses. Gradually as the community grows they are able to build a purpose built mosque.



Watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg_CbiGE9kk

Mosques usually have a tall tower called a **minaret**, from where the people are called to worship five times a day. The man who makes the call is called the mu'adhin or muezzin. The call is usually recorded and comes from loudspeakers. The call start with 'Allahu Akbar' which mean Allah is the greatest, this is followed by the call to 'come to prayer, come to success'

The larger mosques have a dome. This represents the arch of the heavens above the earth. It reminds believers of Allah's power when he created the universe. Mosques are often beautifully decorated inside and outside with patterns made of mosaic. The Muslim symbols of the crescent moon and star are often seen. This is a symbol of Allah's guidance.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zjr87ty>



This is a photograph of the Dome of the Rock in Israel.

Discover: Inside the mosque.

What do
you
notice?



Mosques are open every day of the week. The most important day of the week is Friday. Muslim men are expected to go to the mosque on Fridays for midday prayers. Women do not have to go to the mosque because they are busy at home looking after the children, but they often choose to go.

Usually mosques have separate entrances for men and women, as they pray in different parts of the mosque. Inside there is a special rack where Muslims leave their shoes. Both men and women cover their heads. This is a mark of respect to Allah and because the mosque is a holy place.



There is an area for washing in preparation for prayer. This is called *wudu*. This is not the washing away of dirt but making the person ready to talk to Allah. It also gives the person time to think about what they are going to do.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV_nZJMLhmo



The walls of the prayer hall are often covered in beautiful decorations which are patterns or writings from the Qur'an, the holy book of the Muslims. There are never any representations of people or animals. In the prayer hall there are no seats. The floor is covered with carpet with patterns like a prayer mat all facing Makkah. It is usually green as that was Muhammad's favourite colour. At the end of the prayer hall is an **arch called a *mihrab*** which indicates the direction of Makkah. Also, at the end of the hall is a ***minbar*, a short set of stairs** or step where the imam sits to lead the prayers and give a sermon. The imam is the leader of the mosque.



The Shah Jahan Mosque in Woking is the oldest mosque in the UK.

Take a virtual tour by clicking the link!

<https://www.shahjahanmosque.org.uk>



Think about and discuss...

Q Why do Muslims wash when at the mosque? What kind of washing is this and what is it called?

Q What do you think the symbolism of washing, the mouth, face, ears, feet and arms might be?

Q Why do Muslims pray facing Makkah?

Q What question would you like to ask a Muslim?

Discover and Respect: Activities at the mosque.

During the week, there are plenty of activities at the mosque. It is the heart of the Muslim community where people meet not only to pray, but to study and to socialise. There may be a mother and toddlers group. Muslim mothers can meet other women, exchange stories and receive support.



Some mosques have schools attached to them where children learn about the Qur'an and what it is to live a Muslim life as well as all the other subjects of the school curriculum. There will be an after-school children's group for those who do not go to a Muslim school so they can learn the Qur'an.



Retired people might meet for lunch together. There may be after school sports, drama activities and charitable work. There is often an advice centre where people can get help. There is usually someone who looks after school visits to the mosque, who can explain to non-Muslims what the mosque is and how Muslims worship.



The mosque may have a hall where weddings or the birth of a baby are celebrated. When someone dies, their coffin is taken to the mosque and prayers are said.

So, for Muslims, the mosque is an important part of their lives. It is the place which marks special events in their lives, where they meet others, receive support and enjoy activities.



Think about and discuss...

Q Why do you think it is important that Muslims meet together?

Q What sort of charitable activities do you think go on at the mosque?

Q Why is it necessary for children to learn the Qu'ran?

Show your learning...

Imagine a Muslim friend has taken you to visit their local Mosque.

Write a letter thanking them and explain what you discovered from your visit.

Include:

- What it looked like outside.
- What you saw inside.
- What people were doing inside.