

Islam

About the topic

In this topic pupils will learn about their Islamic sisters and brothers, how they live as a family and how they worship

Where this topic fits in

This topic will be taught discretely but will follow two of the *CHURCH* topics: domestic ↔ family, and either local ↔ community or universal ↔ world

Learning outcomes

Key words

special, Muhammad, Qur'an, Mecca, revelations, Prophet, Arabic, rules, Iman, respect, leader, adhan, fasting, Ramadan, self-discipline, Id-ul-Fitr, festival, Id-ul-Adha, sacrifice, Ibrahim, Isma'il

	Look	Learn	Understand & Respect
One	Prayer is important	Muslims pray five times a day, they call God Allah and respect his name	Prayer is important for Muslims
Two	(a) Some aspects of worship	Friday is a day of special prayer, call to prayer. Inside the mosque decorations with patterns and texts, no pictures. Men and women pray separately. The holy book is called the Qur'an, how it is treated	Worship in the mosque
Two	(b) We respect and value others	Muslims pray often, 99 beautiful names of God qualities and attributes. Values; good manners, kindness, honesty and respect for others is important	The values important, to Muslims
Three	(a) Special people	Who Muhammad was. Stories of Muhammad – born in Mecca, the final prophet, why he is an example. What he taught about God. Guidance given by the Imam	Muhammad is a special person
Three	(b) We remember important events	Fasting and Festivals: Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha	Muslims remember special events
Four	(a) Journeys we have made	Pilgrimage to Mecca. Life as a journey – renewal of devotion	A time of renewal
Four	(b) Belonging means commitment	Islamic commitment: Zakat – caring for the community, diet, Khalifa	What commitment means

Key words: Special, Muhammad, Qur'an, Mecca, Revelations

Learning intentions

Possible teaching activities

Look

Special people

Can you name some people who are special to you? What makes them special?

Name people who are special because they have done something important in their lives, which have made them famous.

Learn

Who Muhammad was, stories about him; what he taught about God; the importance of pilgrimage to Mecca; guidance given by the Qur'an for daily life by local leader

The special person for Muslims is Muhammad. He was born in Mecca (Mecca) in 570. His father died before he was born and his mother shortly afterwards. His uncle brought him up. He worked as a shepherd for his uncle.

As he grew up, he became known for his truthfulness, generosity and sincerity. He used to pray in a cave on Mount Hira. An angel spoke to him and told him about Allah. He began to preach. He was 40 when he received his first message from God. Muhammad and his many followers were called Muslims. They were forced to leave Mecca. The people of Madinah listened to Muhammad and he told them how Allah wanted them to live. Later this message was written down in the Muslims' holy book called the Qur'an. Later the Muslims peacefully reclaimed the city of Mecca and it became one of the very holy places for Muslims

- Dramatise the story of Muhammad
- Find out more about him from a CD Rom or the internet
- Research Mecca

Understand & Respect

Muhammad is a special person

Muslims respect Muhammad as a special person and the last prophet of Allah. Whenever Muhammad's name is mentioned Muslims say 'Peace and blessings be upon him.'

Key words: Prophet, Muhammad, Qur'an, Arabic

<i>Learning intentions</i>	<i>Possible teaching activities</i>
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Look

Special people

What do special people teach us? What message do they give us? Remember the people you thought of in the last lesson. Have you had an experience that changed you? Recall the previous lesson. e.g. Where was Muhammad born? Who brought him up? What kind of person was he? What is the Qur'an?

Learn

Who Muhammad was, stories about him – born in Mecca – the final prophet. Why he is an example. What he taught about God. Importance of pilgrimage to Mecca. Guidance given by the Qur'an for daily life by local leader

Muhammad taught that there is only one God. He showed people how to be kind and generous to the poor and weak, not to drink alcohol or to gamble. Muhammad's teachings upset many people who did not like to be criticised. Muhammad and his followers were forced to leave Mecca for several years. In the end, he returned and the teachings of Islam spread to other countries. Muslims believe that Allah sent many prophets to teach people how to live good lives. The Qur'an describes Muhammad as the "Seal of the Prophets" (the very last one), and sums up all the important teachings of the prophets before him. When Muhammad told people the message the angel Jibril gave him, he spoke in rhyming prose so that people could understand and remember. During his lifetime his teachings were collected together and made into the sacred book the Qur'an, which Muslims regard as the very words of their Creator. It is written in Arabic. Here is a part of it:

'I am sent as the Messenger of Allah, to whom belongs the whole of the heavens and the earth: there is no god but He' (7:158)

- Look at a copy of the Qur'an – handle it with respect.
- Look at a page written in Arabic –note that it goes from right to left and books begin at the opposite end from ours (at the back).
- What type of person would be critical of Muhammad's teachings?

Understand & Respect

Muhammad is a special person; he is the last prophet

The teachings of Muhammad.

Key words: Rules, Imam, respect, leader, adhan

<i>Learning intentions</i>	<i>Possible teaching activities</i>
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Look

Special people

Who are important leaders for us? In school, at home, in our church?
 How do they help us? What qualities do they have?
 Recall the last lesson on Muhammad

Learn

Who Muhammad was, stories about him – born in Mecca – the final prophet. Why he is an example. What he taught about God. Importance of pilgrimage to Mecca. Guidance given by the Qur’an for daily life by local leader

The Muslims’ religious leader is called the Imam. He has responsibility for leading worship and educating others about Islam. The muezzin is the person who gives the call for prayer. The call for prayer is called the adhan. This is made from the tower of the mosque, the minaret. Nowadays it is often recorded. This call is heard before Friday prayers and at special times of prayer during the day. Any man (not a woman) may become an Imam if he is a devout Muslim. He is not paid for his work, but may be paid as the caretaker of the mosque. The Imam performs marriages and burial services, he preaches at some services especially on Friday. He teaches children about the Muslim faith, and teaches them to read the holy Qur’an. They try to learn it by heart in Arabic. The Imam leads prayer and teaches the Islamic rules about prayer, belief, fasting, what to eat and drink, how to treat others and to care for the sick and elderly.

Here is what might be a typical day for an Imam:

- 5.30-6.30 prayers (Fajr)
- 7.00-8.00 read the holy Qur’an
- 9.00-10.00 takes Islamic classes
- 11.00- 12.00 visit sick people
- 13.12-14.12 prayer (Zuhr)
- 15.30-17.00 teaching children about the holy Qur’an
- 17.30-17.45 prayers (Asr)
- 19.38-19.45 prayers (Maghrib)
- 20.56-21.30 prayers (Isha)

- Write an advertisement for the job of the Imam; say what sort of person you would think suitable.
- Why is an Imam important for Muslim people?

Understand & Respect

The Imam helps Muslims understand and live their faith.

The Imam helps Muslims understand and live their faith.

Key words: Fasting, Ramadan, self-discipline

Learning intentions	Possible teaching activities
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Look
We remember important events

Think of times in your life when you have done something, which is hard or difficult.
Have you given up something you like doing? Think how hard it is not to talk when you what to. Sometimes we have to use our self-discipline; it is good training for later on in life

Learn
Fasting and Festivals: Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha

The ninth month of the Muslim calendar is called *Ramadan*. This is when Muhammad first began to receive messages from Allah. Muslims remember this time by fasting during the daylight hours. This means not eating or drinking anything. This is a sign of their faith and desire to follow the will of Allah, rather than to punish themselves. Muslim children might find this hard when their non-Muslims friends at school are eating lunch and snacks. Muslims break their fast after sunset when the whole family gathers to eat. Muslims believe that fasting frees them from slavery and greed. This means they have to be self-disciplined.

The mosques have charts, which give the times of sunrise and sunset during Ramadan. The traditional way of checking was by using 2 pieces of thread, one white and one black. When they look the same colour what time of the day would it be? When you can tell black from white what time would it be then?
What is the problem of using that method today?

- Talk to a Muslim about Ramadan.
- Use a newspaper to check the times of sunrise and sunset.
- Look up the times of prayer and work out a daily routine. for Muslims during Ramadan.
- Explain why Muslims fast, how do you think it helps them?

Understand & Respect
Muslims remember special events

Ramadan is a special time to remember Allah

Key words: Id-ul-Fitr, festival

Learning intentions

Possible teaching activities

Look

We remember important events

Recall the last lesson about Ramadan. What do you do at breaktime or lunch time when you come out of class and can play? Do you run and shout and play games? How do you feel when the holidays start? How do you celebrate your birthday?

Learn

Fasting and Festivals:
Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr,
Id-ul-Adha

The festival of Id ul-Fitr, (Id is sometimes spelt Eid) means festival of fast breaking, Id means feast. This festival is celebrated at the end of the month of Ramadan. For Muslims this is a religious holiday, people have new clothes and go to the mosque to pray. They send cards and exchange gifts. It is time for special food and for visiting friends and family. It is a time to have fun with friends and have parties.

It is a day that is marked by an atmosphere of peace and forgiveness. It is a time to make a new beginning and to remember the poor.

- Design a greeting card for a Muslim friend for Id ul-Fitr; remember that Muslims do not depict people or animals. It could have picture of a Mosque, something from nature like flowers, Arabic writing
- Some Asian women decorate the palms of their hands with a henna mixture; you could use ordinary paints and paint each other's hands with flowers designs or geometric ones. Or cut out pictures of hands and decorate them.
- Find out what food a Muslim family might enjoy during the special day.

Understand & Respect

Muslims remember special events

Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan.

Key words: Id-ul-Adha, sacrifice, Ibrahim, Isma'il

Learning intentions	Possible teaching activities
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Look
We remember important events

Are all remembrances happy times? Birthdays are, but sometimes we remember a sad things e.g. Remembrance Sunday.
Think of all the special occasions you know and sort them into *happy* and *serious* (or sad).

Learn
Fasting and Festivals:
Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr,
Id-ul-Adha

Listen to this story: Ibrahim was in his tent in the desert when he heard Allah ask him to sacrifice what was most precious to him. Ibrahim realised that his son Isma'il was the precious most thing he could think of. He thought 'that is silly it must be the devil's idea not Allah's'.
'No,' said Allah, 'I want you to sacrifice Isma'il.' Isma'il told his Father he was ready to do the will of Allah no matter what he asked. They threw stones at the devil to send him away.
Ibrahim was just about to kill his son Isma'il, when Allah said 'STOP' and showed him a sheep caught in a thorn bush nearby and told him to sacrifice that.

- Why did Allah ask Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Isma'il?
- Why did Isma'il agree?
- What does it tell you about Allah, Ibrahim and Isma'il?

At the festival of Id-ul-Adha Muslims remember Ibrahim's faith and his self sacrifice. It a time when people who can afford it, go on pilgrimage to Mecca. At home Muslims remember those on pilgrimage. It is a time of giving presents and cards, wearing new clothes and celebrating with special food. The celebrations give Muslims a sense of belonging to the community. At this time a special Muslim butcher sacrifices a sheep. The family of the person who pays for the sacrifice eats a meal from the meat; some meat might go to relations, some to poor people.

- Have a discussion about the reasons why animals might be killed.
- Find out about the food which Muslims are or are not allow to eat.
- Act out the story of the sacrifice of Ibrahim.
- What does sacrifice mean to you?

Understand & Respect
Muslims remember special events

Id-ul-Adha is a festival about self sacrifice