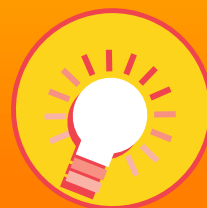


Comprehension Workbook 2

Prayer



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 2

Prayer



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Muslim faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Muslim Faith, Mosque, Muslim art and writing and Muslim holy days books.)

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Prayer

Muslims can pray to God at any time, but many Muslims pray at five set times each day. Each of these set prayers follows the same pattern. The set prayers are always recited in Arabic and each part of the prayer has a separate name. One set of prayers is called a rak'ah. Worshippers perform a different number of rak'ah at each prayer time. The shortest prayer has two rak'ah.

Takbir

Before beginning to pray, worshippers spend a few minutes shutting out everyday thoughts so they can concentrate on God. To begin the act of prayer, the worshipper raises their hands to the ears or shoulder and says "Allahu Akbar" meaning God is great.

Qiyaam 1

The worshipper places their right hand over their left hand, on their chest or navel and asks for the protection of God by saying: "Glory and praise to you, O God; blessed is your name and exalted is your majesty. There is no God other than you. I come seeking shelter from Satan, the condemned one." After this, worshippers recite the first chapter of the Qur'an. This chapter is called "The Opening" and is a prayer asking for God's guidance and mercy.

Ruku

The word ruku means "to bow". During this part of the prayer, worshippers bow by bending forwards with their hands on their knees while keeping the back straight. While doing this, they say "Glory be to God the great, and praise to him." This is repeated three times.

Qiyaam 2

Worshippers now stand straight up while keeping their hands loosely by their side and say, "God hears those who praise him. Oh God, all praise be to you, O God greater than everything else."

Sujud 1

Sujud means "to kneel". Worshippers kneel, with only their forehead, nose, hands, knees and toes touching the ground and say, "Glory be to God, the Most High. God is greater than everything else." This is repeated three times.

Julus

Worshippers recite the words, "God is great" while rising to a kneeling position with their hands on their knees. They then say a short, silent prayer. Worshippers then say, "God is great," while returning to the sujud position.

Sujud 2

Worshippers now repeat sujud 1. Two sujud make up one rak'ah. To begin another rak'ah, the worshipper says, "God is great," and then stands up and starts with Qiyaam 1 again.

Tashahhud

After the correct number of rak'ah are completed, worshippers return to the sitting position and recite short prayers that praise God and ask God to give blessings and peace to the prophet Abraham and his family, and to the Prophet Mohammed and his family. While raising the right forefinger, worshippers then recite, "There is no God but God, and Mohammed is his Prophet." Finally, worshippers ask for forgiveness and mercy, and ask God to bless them and their children.

Salam

The word salam means "peace". The last step in worship is for the person to look to the right and say, "Peace be with you and the blessings and mercy of Allah," then look to the left and say, "Peace be with you and the blessings and mercy of Allah,"

According to Islamic teachings, the Prophet Mohammed once said, "The worst thief is he who steals from his prayer." His companions then asked, "O Messenger of God, how does a thief steal from a prayer?" The Prophet answered, "Because he does not make a perfect ruku and sujud."



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'mercy'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'mercy' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'mercy'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'mercy'.

e Draw a small picture to illustrate someone showing 'mercy'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: correct	right

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

123
4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



Worshippers kneel, with only their forehead, nose, hands, knees and toes touching the ground.

During this part of the prayer, worshippers bow by bending forwards with their hands on their knees while keeping the back straight.

The last step in worship is for the person to look to the right and say, "Peace be with you and the blessings and mercy of Allah,"...

While raising the right forefinger, worshippers then recite, "There is no God but God, and Mohammed is his Prophet."

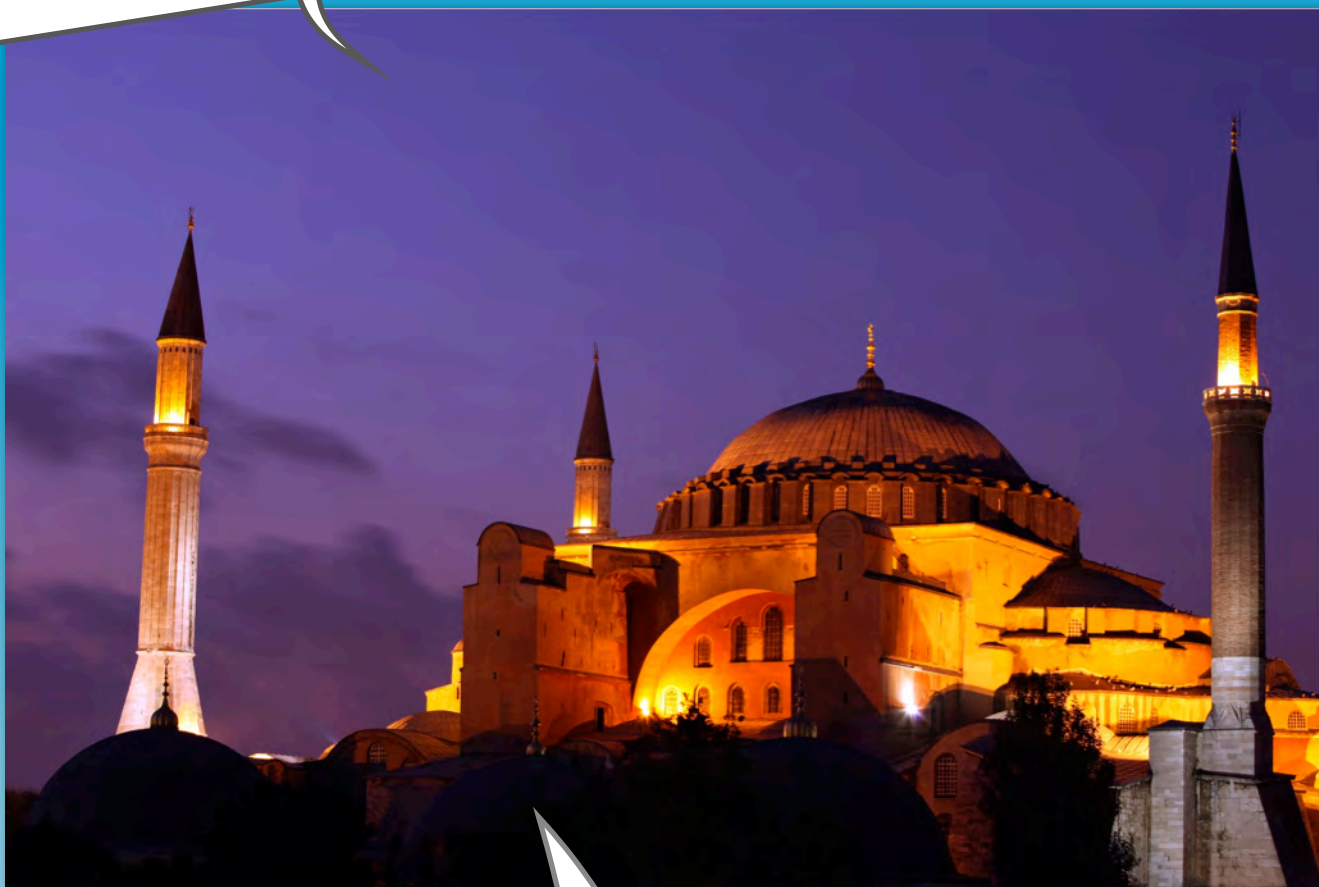
They then say a short, silent prayer.

The worshipper places their right hand over their left hand, on their chest or navel and asks for the protection of God ...



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) What words are spoken during Takbir?
- (b) What position are worshippers in during ruku?
- (c) What parts of the body are touching the ground during sujud?
- (d) What does "salam" mean?
- (e) During Tashahhud, what do worshippers say while their right finger is raised?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 Can Muslims pray at any time of day?

2 How many steps are there in one sujud?

3 How many sujud are in each rak'ah?

4 How does the prayer service end?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

- 1 Why do you think the five daily prayers always follow the same pattern of movements and words?
- 2 Why is it important to shut out everyday thoughts before beginning prayer?
- 3 What did Mohammed mean when he said that performing daily prayers badly is like stealing?
- 4 Muslims often pray while standing on a small rug that is used only for prayer so that it stays clean. Why is it important for prayers to be performed on a clean surface?
- 5 Before prayers are said, Muslims must wash in a certain way so they are clean. Why is it important to be clean before saying prayers?





Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.

Discussion topic: Prayer

Discuss how it would feel to pray five times each day and why this is an important part of the Muslim faith.



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Saying prayers

You are going to the mosque for daily prayers. You have already completed the ritual washing and have taken off your shoes and entered the prayer room. You are standing on your prayer rug shutting out everyday thoughts...

(Now complete the story by describing how you go through the prayer and what you say and do...)

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