

Comprehension Workbook 8

Eid ul-Fitr

(around the world)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

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Eid ul-Fitr

(around the world)



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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Eid ul-Fitr around the world

At the end of Ramadan there is a holiday called Eid ul-Fitr, which means "the festival of breaking the fast". This holiday usually lasts for three or four days and is sometimes called the sweet Eid, because people often give gifts of sweets during this holiday. The holiday begins with special prayers that are said in the mosque, and people spend most of the holiday visiting friends and family. This is also the time for giving zakat, or charity.

There are many different Eid traditions around the world. Here are a few:

Egypt

After Eid prayers, friends and family visit each other and wish each other "Eid Mubarak", or Blessed Eid. Families go to parks, go for cruises on the Nile and have picnics on beaches. Children are given new clothes and a small amount of money. During the holiday, there are amusement parks and neighbourhood carnivals. Houses are lit with colourful lamps. The most common Eid cookie in Egypt is called kahk, which is a butter cookie filled with nuts and covered in icing sugar.



Turkey

In Turkey, Eid al-Fitr is also called Seker Bayrami, which means "Holiday of the Sweets". Children go from door to door, wishing people a happy holiday, and are given traditional sweets such as baklava and Turkish Delight. Fundraising events are organized across the country to raise money for the poor. Rice and barley are traditional types of charity given in Turkey.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, Eid al-Fitr is also called Lebaran. By law, all employers must give their workers a bonus at this time of year, which is usually one month's salary. Grandparents and parents also give small amounts of money to their children. People who live in big cities travel home to visit their families who live in the country. This is called mudik, which means homecoming. Before Eid, the government works hard to repair rural roads and get them ready for all of the extra traffic. Families also visit parks and other holiday areas together.

On the night before the holiday, many people place lamps outside their houses, to welcome the Eid. Families cook special foods such as lemang, which is a sweet and sticky rice cake cooked in bamboo. Rendang (beef cooked with thick coconut milk and loads of spices and chilies) and opor ayam (chicken cooked with coconut milk and a lot of spices) are also popular Eid dishes. Many Indonesians also wear special clothing, such as a woven sarong and a shirt with embroidered designs. Eid is also a time for visiting the graves of loved ones. On the island of Java, one tradition is to wash the headstones with scented water.



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 'charity'.

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

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

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

e Give an example of something you might give as 'charity'.



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: special	remarkable

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.**

Sequencing

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

Families cook special foods such as lemang, which is a sweet and sticky rice cake cooked in bamboo.

By law, all employers must give their workers a bonus at this time of

On the island of Java, one tradition is to wash the headstones with scented water.

Families also visit parks and other holiday areas together.

People who live in big cities travel home to visit their families who live in the country.

Before Eid, the government works hard to repair rural roads and get them ready for all of the extra traffic.





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 do the words "Eid ul-Fitr" mean?
- (b) In Yemen, how do women decorate their hands for Eid?
- (c) In Indonesia, what is one special food that is made for Eid?
- (d) What is the most popular Eid treat in Egypt?
- (e) What are two things traditionally given as charity in Turkey?



Whys and wherefores

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

1 Why is the Eid ul-Fitr sometimes called the “sweet Eid”?

2 Why does the Indonesian government need to fix the roads before the Eid holiday?

3 In most countries, people spend the days before Eid begins in cleaning their houses. Why do people clean their houses before Eid starts?

4 What are some things that children do during Eid?



Opinions matter

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

- 1 What are some Eid traditions that are done in more than one country?
- 2 Why do you think employees in Indonesia are given a bonus payment at the start of Eid?
- 3 Why are lights placed outside or inside houses during Eid?
- 4 Is Eid a happy holiday or a thoughtful holiday?
- 5 Why do people often buy new clothes for Eid?





Talking it through

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



Eid celebrated at Agra, India.

Discussion topic: Eid around the world

What are some different ways that Eid is celebrated around the world? In what ways are the traditions similar in each country? In what ways are they different?



Make a story...

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



Celebrating

It is time for the Eid holiday. Your family is getting ready to celebrate. A few days before the holiday starts, you help your family clean the whole house.

(Now write a story telling how you get ready for Eid and some of the ways that you celebrate. Hint: Start by making a list of some of the traditions in one of the countries in the reading.)

Eid ul-Fitr around the world

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Yemen

A week before the Eid, people begin chanting “Farewell. Farewell O Ramadan.” Houses are cleaned and made ready for visitors. Women decorate their hands with henna. When the end of Ramadan is announced, boys light up fireworks. On the day of Eid, after going to the mosque for prayers, children go door to door to wish everyone a happy Eid and receive sweets.

Egypt

After Eid prayers, friends and family visit each other and wish each other “Eid Mubarak”, or Blessed Eid. Families go to parks, go for cruises on the Nile and have picnics on beaches. Children are given new clothes and a small amount of money. During the holiday, there are amusement parks and neighbourhood carnivals. Houses are lit with colourful lamps. The most common Eid cookie in Egypt is called kahk, which is a butter cookie filled with nuts and covered in icing sugar.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, preparations for Eid begin up to ten days before the holiday, as everyone cleans their homes and buys new clothes to get ready for visiting during the holiday. During Eid, men and boys gather to play a game like conkers, using hard-boiled eggs instead of conker nuts. Traditional Eid sweets in Afghanistan include a rich cake made with butter and eggs and biscuits called Shor-Nakhod, which are made from chickpeas.

Turkey

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Indonesia

In Indonesia, Eid al-Fitr is also called Lebaran. By law, all employers must give their workers a bonus at this time of year, which is usually one months' salary. People who live in big cities travel home to visit their families. Before Eid, the government works hard to repair rural roads and get them ready for all of the extra traffic. On the night before the holiday, many people place lamps outside their houses, to welcome the Eid, and cook special foods such as lemang, which is a sweet and sticky rice cake cooked in bamboo. Many Indonesians also wear special clothing, such as a woven sarong and a shirt with embroidered designs. Eid is also a time for visiting the graves of loved ones. On the island of Java, one tradition is to wash the headstones with scented water .