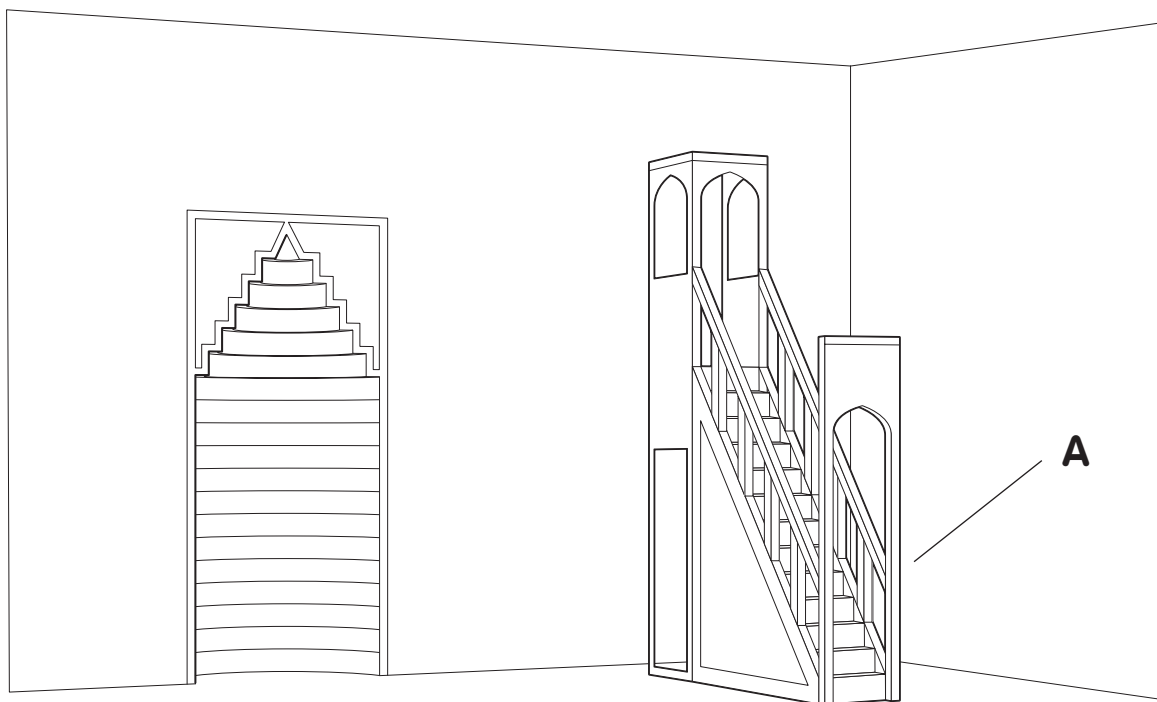


What is a mosque for?

A mosque is a religious building in which Muslims pray.



Q1.What room in the mosque is shown in the picture?



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Q2. Shade in the wall that faces the holy city of Mecca.

Q3.Why are there no chairs in this room?



.....



.....

Q4. What is the name of the object labelled A? 

Q5. On the diagram mark with an I where the imam stands to preach.

Q6.Why are there no statues or paintings of people in this room?



.....



.....

Answers

1. The prayer hall.
2. The wall behind the object marked **A** should be shaded in.
3. Muslim prayers involve standing, bowing and kneeling.
4. Minbar.
5. The **I** should be half-way up the minbar.
6. Islam teaches that people must never pray to a statue or image, only to God.

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To identify the primary function of the mosque as a place of prayer.
- ▶ To introduce some features of the prayer hall.
- ▶ To introduce some features of the way Muslims pray.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can identify the primary function of the mosque as a place of prayer.
- ▶ The children know that Muslims do not use chairs when they pray but pray on rugs or carpets and do so facing Mecca.

Teaching notes

This opening unit addresses the primary function of a mosque – as a place of prayer. There are many features of a prayer hall shown in the large picture and you may like to refer back to them when you have studied other units in the book. Here are some pages in the student book which further develop the features shown in the large photograph. On the left is a recess or niche called the mihrab (see

pages 6 and 7). It is covered in tiles (see page 21). Near the top of the wall is Arabic writing (page 20).

Prayer hall

The prayer hall may be rectangular or square. It may have a large single dome on the roof or one or more smaller domes. In countries with a warm dry climate there is a courtyard next to the prayer hall which may also be used for worship. One wall of the prayer hall must face Mecca. It is known as the qibla wall.

Minbar

The minbar, or mimbar, is a staircase which can be moved. On a Friday the imam delivers a sermon. He does this by standing on the steps of the minbar so that his voice can be heard clearly.

Arabic writing

Although pictures and statues are not allowed in the mosque, the written word of Allah is frequently used to decorate the walls. Arabic was the language of the early Muslims and is the language in which the Qur'an is written. The letters often have a modified shape to give them a pleasing appearance. This form of artwork is called calligraphy.

Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to find out about the names and times of the five prayer sessions which take place each day.

Resources

Secondary sources about Muslim prayers.