



Name:..... Form:.....

See **pages 6 and 7** of Muslim mosque

The prayer hall

1. How is the floor of the prayer hall covered?



.....

2. Make a drawing of the mihrab in this space.

3. How is the mihrab decorated?



.....

4. Make a drawing of the minbah in this space.

5. How is the minbah decorated?



.....

Activity objectives

- ▶ To let the children look at the features of the prayer hall.
- ▶ To let the children record what they see in pictures and words.

Preparation and resources

- ▶ Organisation of a mosque visit or checking out a virtual tour of a mosque on a web site.
- ▶ Digital camera and obtaining permission to use it inside the mosque.
- ▶ Pictures of prayer halls in a number of mosques.

Introducing the activity

You may like to use this activity during part of the visit to a mosque or on a virtual tour of a mosque web site. Stand with the children at the entrance to the prayer hall and ask them to point out features that they can remember from studying the student book. Let the children try the activities.

Teaching notes

The purpose of this activity is to build on the work of the previous activity and let the children produce a report of their visit to a mosque. Alternatively you may wish to use this as a differentiated resource for the more able for the activity in Unit 8.

On the ceiling of the mihrab may be muqarnas vaulting. This is widely used in Arabic-Islam architecture. The vaulting has a similar appearance to a honeycomb. It is made up of wedges of material which have a curved outer surface. The purpose of the vaulting is to hide the edges where the walls meet the ceiling and make the object seem less solid and more pleasing on the eye.

You may ask the children to look at the decorations on the walls and on the dome and remind them of this work when they try Units 5 and 9.

Concluding the activity

The children could compare their drawings with pictures that you have taken. Point out any features that they have recorded in their drawings and any features that they may have missed. Let the children compare your photographs with photographs of features in other prayer halls.

Activity outcomes

- ▶ The children can recognise the major features of the prayer hall.
- ▶ The children can describe the appearance of the major features of the prayer hall.

Complementary work

When the children return to the classroom you could ask them how they could find the direction of Mecca using a compass. Let the children use the compass to find north and south then tell you the direction of Mecca (east in Europe and the USA).

Resources

Compass.