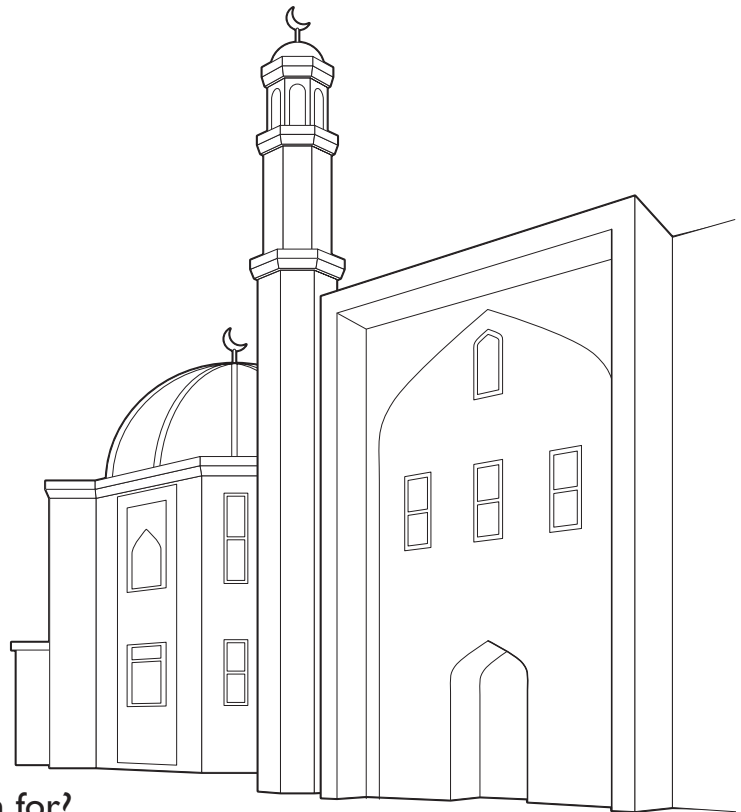


Local mosques

A mosque is a building where Muslims go to pray, to learn and to be part of a community.



Q1.The picture shows a mosque.
Shade in the Crescent Moons.

Q2.What do Muslims use the Moon for?

.....

Q3.Which language did the first Muslims speak?

Q4.What is the holy book of Islam called?

Q5.Why do some mosques look like ordinary buildings?

.....

.....

Q6.Name five reasons why Muslims may go to a mosque.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Answers

1. The Crescent Moons on the dome and minaret should be shaded in.
2. To find the times of important religious events and holidays.
3. Arabic.
4. The Qur'an.
5. Because they were once ordinary buildings that have been converted into mosques.
6. To pray, to learn about Islam, to learn about the Arabic language, to gather for holiday celebrations, weddings, to meet other Muslims, to take part in voluntary work.

Lesson objectives

- To help the children recognise a mosque.
- To introduce the main activities which take place in a mosque.

Lesson objectives

- The children can recognise a mosque made from an ordinary building or built in the traditional style.
- The children can describe the activities which take place in a mosque.

Teaching notes

Crescent Moon

The Crescent Moon is the symbol of Islam. It is found on the flags of some countries which have Islam as their major religion. During the course of a month the Moon appears to change shape. These 'changing' shapes are called the phases of the Moon. The crescent shape is one such phase of the Moon. In Islam these stages of change in the Moon can be compared to the stages of change in a person's life from birth to death. These changes

in a person's life can be compared with the state of being of the soul which does not change with time.

The Moon is important in measuring not just months but also years as the Islam calendar is based on the cycles of the Moon and not like the cycles of the Sun which are used in ordinary everyday life.

The Crescent Moon on a mosque is set to point towards the direction of Mecca. In Arabic the Crescent Moon is *al-hilal*.

Arabic

This is the language which was used by the first Muslims. Mohammed (pbuh) spoke the words he received from God in Arabic. Muslims recited the words in Arabic. Eventually the words were written down in Arabic in a book called the Qur'an. Translations of the Qur'an have been made. These books are known as translations of the Qur'an and not the Qur'an.

The Qur'an

The Qur'an is the sacred book of Islam. Muslims believe it to contain the words of God. The Arabic word for God is Allah. They were revealed to Mohammed (pbuh) from 610 to 632 CE.

Complementary work

The children can look at flags of the countries of the world and identify those which have a Crescent Moon.

Resources

Flags of countries of the world.