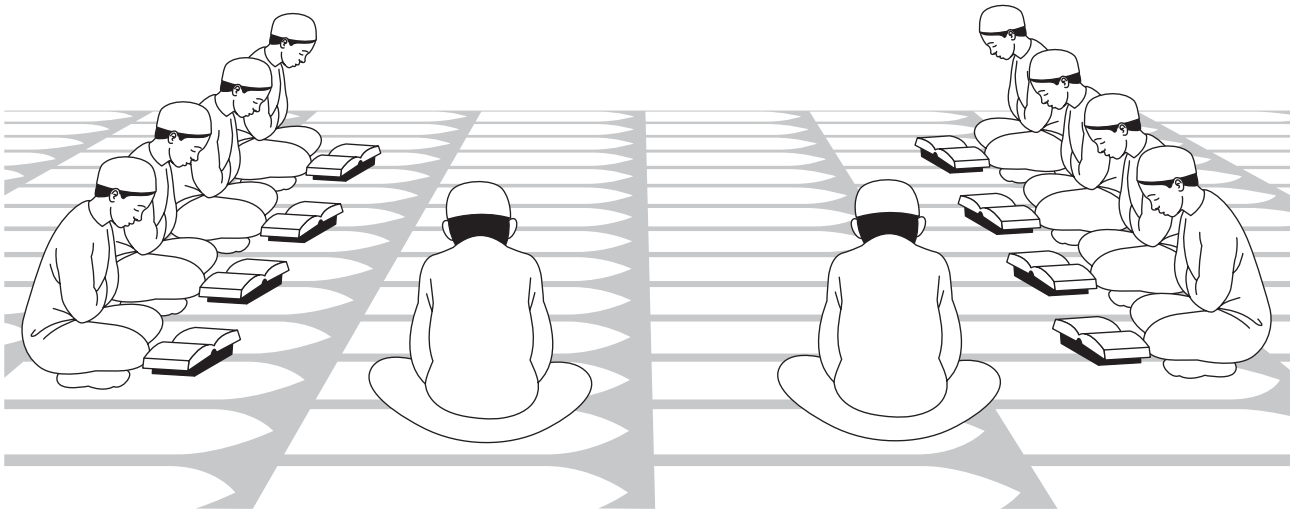


Learning and celebration

A mosque is a place to learn about Islam, to celebrate and to meet other Muslims.



Q1.What are the children in this picture doing?



.....



.....

Q2. Why is the Qur'an and books that discuss the Qur'an beautifully decorated?



.....

Q3.What is every Muslim asked to learn?



.....

Q4. Where can classes be held in a mosque?



.....

Q5.What do Muslims do at the mosque on Muslim holidays?



.....



.....

Q6. Who can you ask about Islam at a mosque?



.....

Answers

1. Studying in a special class at the mosque to memorise the Qur'an in Arabic.
2. To show how important they are.
3. As much about Islam as they can.
4. In the prayer hall or in a separate room or classroom.
5. Say special prayers then stay and talk or have a special meal.
6. The imam.

Lesson objectives

- To show that a mosque is a place for learning.
- To show that a mosque is a place where ceremonies and celebrations take place.
- To show that the mosque is a place where advice may be sought.

Lesson outcomes

- The children can explain that the mosque is a place of learning.
- The children can describe some of the ceremonies and celebrations that take place at a mosque.
- The children can explain that the imam gives advice about Islam to Muslims and non-Muslims.

Teaching notes

Learning

When Muslims have lessons about the Qur'an or simply read it they may sit on the floor. They may use a small support called a *kursi* to hold the Qur'an. It is often made of carved wood and stands about 30cm off the floor. In large mosques the children and adults may sit at desks in a classroom.

Celebrations

At the marriage ceremony the bride and groom sit in different parts of the mosque. The marriage ceremony may also take place in the home or at the office of a Muslim judge. During the marriage ceremony an agreement, called a contract, is made between the bride and groom and the groom gives the bride a sum of money called the dowry.

Holidays

The calendar that is most widely used is based on the Earth's passage round the Sun and begins in January and ends in December and is usually 365 days long. The Muslim calendar is based on the movement of the Moon around the Earth. Twelve passages of the Moon around the Earth only take 354 days so the Islamic year is eleven days shorter than the January to December year. This means that Muslim holidays occur at different times in each January to December year.

Complementary work

Let the children try and find out what is the next holiday to be celebrated at the mosque. Let the children use secondary sources to find out about the holiday.

Resources

Contacting the mosque. Secondary sources about Muslim holidays.