

**5 A**

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

See **pages 12 and 13** of Muslim mosque

Arabic letters and words

Here are some Arabic letters.

أ A

ج J

غ R

ل L

ب B

س S

ك K

ي Y

They do not look like the letters we use. There are also three different ways of writing them so it is more useful to look at the way they are joined together to make words.

In Islamic calligraphy there are many ways to write the word Allah (God).

Here are some examples.

① الله

② الله

③ الله

④ الله

1. On a sheet of paper try and write some Arabic letters.
2. Try and write one or more words for Allah that are shown on this sheet.

Activity objectives

- ▶ To show that Arabic letters are very different from those used to write English.
- ▶ To show that Arabic words look very different from English words.
- ▶ To let the children experience the writing of Arabic words.

Preparation and resources

A copy of the Qur'an, sheets of paper, felt-tip pens or paints and paint brushes. A person who can read and speak Arabic.

Introducing the activity

This activity may be done before or after a visit to a mosque.

You may like to begin by showing the children a copy of the Qur'an and pointing out that it is written in Arabic. Ask the person who can read and speak Arabic to read a suitable passage from the Qur'an and say what it means in English.

When you turn to the worksheet you could let the children write down the letters in English and Arabic so that they get a feel for the difference in the way of writing. This could prepare them for the writing of the Arabic words later on the worksheet.

Teaching notes

The purpose of this activity is to let the children experience in a very small way the learning of Arabic by Muslims.

The structure of the written Arabic language is very different from English. For example, vowels are not usually written out. They are, however, written out in a newspaper or a textbook. When they are written out they occur as dashes on the top of consonants. Arabic words are written from right to left and not left to right as words in many other languages are.

As statues of people and animals are forbidden in the mosque, Arabic words and sentences

are used as a decoration. The parts of the words may be embellished in an art form called calligraphy. The purpose of calligraphy is to show the Muslims' love of the words of Allah and Mohammed.

You could link this activity to Unit 9.

Concluding the activity

The children could display their work on the wall.

Activity outcomes

- ▶ The children can recognise some Arabic words.
- ▶ The children can write some Arabic words and say what they mean.

Complementary work

The children are shown some examples of calligraphy. They then write the words on the sheet again but this time embellish them in some way to make them decorative.

Resources

Photographs of examples of Arabic calligraphy in a mosque. These could be photographs from a book or photographs taken on a visit to a mosque.