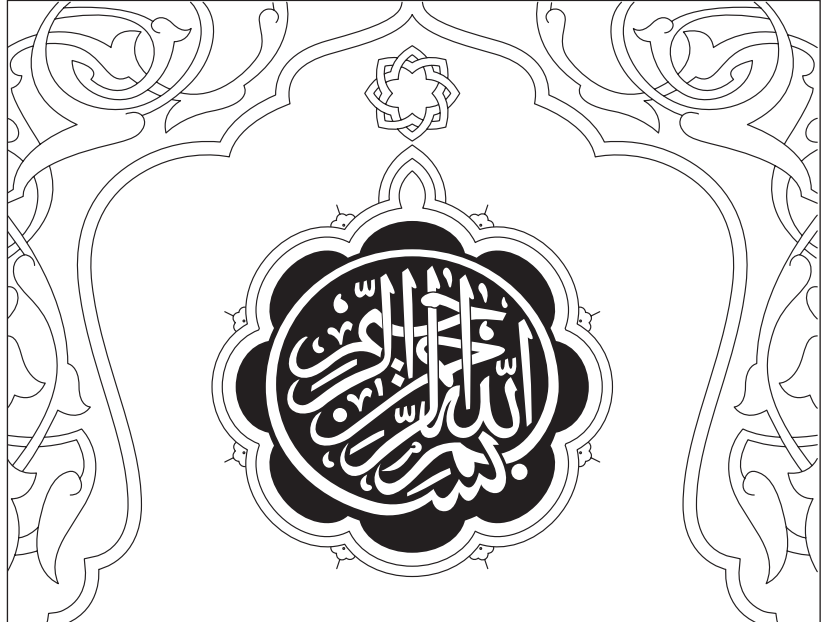


Art in the mosque

Mosques are often decorated with beautiful art. The way a mosque is decorated tells us a lot about Islamic beliefs.



Q1. What do the words in the picture mean?



.....

Q2. Why are there no pictures or statues inside a mosque?



.....

Q3. What is calligraphy?



.....

Q4. Why is calligraphy very important art in the Islam world?



.....

Q5. Why are designs with flowers and plants popular in calligraphy?



.....



.....

Q6. What are mashrabiyyas?



.....



.....

Answers

1. **"God is great".**
2. **Muslims believe it is wrong to worship pictures or statues.**
3. **A beautiful form of writing.**
4. **It is used to remind people of the beauty of the word of God.**
5. **They help to remind people of the garden of paradise they will find in heaven.**
6. **Carved wooden screens which allow you to see other people but the other people cannot see you.**

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To discover why paintings, statues and people and animals do not feature in Islamic art.
- ▶ To introduce the children to the different kinds of Islamic art used in the decoration of mosques.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can understand why paintings, statues and people and animals do not feature in Islamic art.
- ▶ The children can recognise the four kinds of art used in the decoration of mosques.

Teaching notes

If you have done the activity in Unit 5A you may like to follow it by studying this unit. You may also like to use this unit before you make a visit to a mosque so that the children can look out for the different kinds of art. A third option is to let the children record the kinds of decoration they see on their mosque visit and then use this unit to consolidate what they saw.

Complementary work

Remind the children that the letters in special Arabic words are written in a flowing style and may be decorated in some way. Ask the children to think of their name and to write it out using English letters in a flowing style that they can decorate. Let the children use their name on a book or on their drawer.

Resources

Paper, felt-tip pens or paint and brushes.