

<b>Teacher Supplementary Notes</b>
<b>Slide 1 of 8 - Muslim Festivals</b>
<b>Slide 2 of 8 - Lesson Outline</b> ( <i>outline learning objectives and activities from the slide</i> ).
<b>Slides 3 of 8 – Muslim Festivals</b>
<p>(A) Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many different religions have festivals or special days they celebrate. Children will be familiar with Christmas. Some may celebrate or have heard of Diwali which is the Hindu Festival of Light and Chinese New Year.</li><li>• There are two main festivals that are celebrated in Islam.</li><li>• Eid-ul-Fitr is ‘the feast of breaking the fast’. It is celebrated at the end of the Holy month of Ramadan.</li><li>• Eid-ul-Adha is the “festival of sacrifice”. It is celebrated at the end of the Holy pilgrimage to Makkah in Saudi Arabia called <i>Hajj</i>, approximately 2 months and 10 days after Eid ul Fitr.</li><li>• Both Eid celebrations are a joyous time for Muslims who celebrate the occasion with their friends and families.</li><li>• It is also a time for reflection. Muslims thank Allah for their blessings and remember and Pray for those who are less fortunate.</li></ul> <p>(B) Ideas and insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask the children if they celebrate any festivals or special days? What are they and how do they celebrate them?</li></ul>
<b>Slide 4 of 8 - What is Eid ul Fitr?</b>
<p>(A) Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• During the Holy month of Ramadan, grown up healthy Muslims fast (do not eat or drink) from sunrise to sunset.</li><li>• Eid ul Fitr is celebrated at the end of Ramadan.</li><li>• It is a joyous occasion when Muslims thank God (Allah) for the blessings of Ramadan.</li><li>• Fasting during Ramadan raises awareness of and sympathy towards those people in the world who struggle without food every day. It encourages Muslims to donate generously to those in need. As well as giving gifts to friends, family and neighbours, Muslims make special efforts to also give gifts to the poor and needy.</li><li>• Every Muslim is required to pay a fixed amount, known as ‘Fitrana’ before Eid so that the poor and needy can be provided with the means to celebrate Eid.</li></ul> <p>(B) Ideas and Insights</p>

- Ask the children whether they have ever donated to a charity/raised funds for a charity. How did this make them feel?
- What are other ways in which we can help/look after those in need? (eg, volunteer our time, support, offer kind words).

**Slide 5 of 8 – How do Muslims celebrate Eid ul Fitr?**

(A) Knowledge and understanding

- Muslims Pray 5 times a day. The Eid day begins with offering the morning Prayer, known as *Fajr*.
- Muslims then bathe and get ready in their best clothes to go to the Mosque to offer Eid Prayers. Eid Prayers are offered in congregation (together with others) and led by an *Imam*.
- After the Prayers, everyone wishes their friends and family a happy and blessed Eid by saying 'Eid Mubarak' and shares Eid cards and presents.
- Families and friends gather together to thank God (Allah) and enjoy a meal together.
- Children may have seen Muslim girls/women decorating hands with Henna on special occasions (eg, weddings). Known as 'mehndi', henna is also applied on Eid as a mark of celebration (see image on slide 5). *Additional Information about Henna:* Henna is a powder derived from crushing the leaves of the henna plant. Mixed with water, it makes a thick paste which, when applied to the hands and left for a time to dry, washes off to reveal a deep orange/red colour that can last for a couple of weeks! The earliest use of the Henna plant dates back to the Pharaohs in Egypt, some 9000 years ago. Cleopatra, the last reigning queen of the ancient Egyptian civilisation is said to have used henna to beautify herself.

(B) Ideas and Insights

- Eid ul Fitr marks the end of the Holy month of Ramadan. Use the link in slide 5 to remind children about Ramadan.
- What do the children think Muslims learn from Ramadan? How does this make Eid ul Fitr such an important and special event for Muslims?

**Slide 6 of 8 – What is Eid ul Adha?**

(A) Knowledge and understanding

- Eid ul Adha is celebrated at the end of the Islamic Pilgrimage to Makkah (also spelt as Mecca) in Saudi Arabia. This pilgrimage is called Hajj.
- Eid ul Adha is 'the Eid of Sacrifice' and reminds Muslims of the story of Prophet Abraham and his son Ismael (peace be upon them both). 4000 years ago Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) in compliance with a dream which he interpreted to be the Will of God, was ready to sacrifice his son Ismael (peace be upon him). Just as he was about to perform that act, God stopped him announcing that he had fulfilled the dream.

- The willingness of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) to sacrifice his son in compliance with what he believed to be the wish of God demonstrates the highest level of obedience and helps Muslims understand the true meaning of sacrifice.

(B) Ideas and insights

- Explore the meaning of sacrifice. Ask the children whether they have ever given up something very precious to them for someone else? How did this make them feel? Sacrifice can also be giving up precious time to help others.
- Can the children identify people in their life who make sacrifices for them?

**Slide 7 of 8 – How do Muslims celebrate Eid ul Adha?**

(A) Knowledge and understanding

- Like Eid ul Fitr, Muslims start the day by offering their Fajr Prayer. Muslims get ready in their best or new clothes and then go to the Mosque for Eid Prayers and thank Allah for the blessings they have received.
- They meet with friends and family to exchange gifts and share an Eid meal together.
- Muslims who can afford to do so sacrifice a sheep or a goat as a reminder of Prophet Abraham's (peace be upon him) obedience to God and share the meat equally between family, friends and the poor.

(B) Ideas and insights

- Play the short video (link in slide 7) to see how Aimen celebrates Eid.
- Ask children how they prepared for a festival/special day they have celebrated. What are the similarities with how Aimen tells us she celebrates Eid?

**Slide 8 of 8 - Quiz: Online; link on slide.**

**Activities - See Lesson Plan**