

Teacher Supplementary Notes
Slide 1 of 11 – The Mosque
Slide 2 of 11 - Lesson Outline <i>(outline learning objectives and activities from the slide).</i>
Slides 3 and 4 of 11– What is a Mosque?
<p>(A) Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mosque is a special building made for people to worship in.• The mosque plays an important role in the life of a Muslim. It is not only a building where Muslims gather to worship God (Allah) but also a centre for the community that attracts Muslims from all walks of life enabling them to bond together. <p>(B) Ideas and insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the link in slide 4 to play the video about mosques.• Ask the children if they have ever visited or seen a mosque. What other places of worship have they visited/do they know about?
Slide 5 of 11 – What does a Mosque look like?
<p>(A) Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at the images of the different mosques on slide 5.• A mosque can be big or small and has tall towers as part of the building. These are called minarets.• A mosque also has a dome.• There is no art or pictures on the walls of a mosque. Sometimes mosques are decorated with simple calligraphy with prayers, or the attributes of Allah in Arabic (see image on slide).• Small simple buildings are also used as mosques, if they fulfil the purpose of daily Prayers held in them (clean, quiet, no art or pictures on the walls). <p>(B) Ideas and Insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do you think there are no pictures on the walls in mosques? The primary purpose of a mosque is the worship of God. Muslims do not believe in using images to represent God, so no pictures or statues are allowed inside a mosque. Apart from causing a distraction, they may be mistaken for idols and hence give a false concept on the worship of God.
Slides 6 and 7 of 11 – Areas of a Mosque
<p>(A) Knowledge and understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go through the images of the mosque areas on the slides, together with their explanations (as set out on the slides).

- Many Mosques have other facilities too, for example a book shop where people can purchase books about Islam, a library of Islamic literature, community halls that are used for sports/weddings/other events, offices for workers and a kitchen/dining area for the preparation and service of food.

(B) Ideas and Insights

- Discuss the Ablution Area. Muslims perform ablution (known as 'wudhu') before each Prayer. Muslims believe that if the body is clean and pure then the mind will also be clean and pure. Washing oneself before offering Prayers shows respect to Allah. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that washing oneself, purity and keeping clean is also a part of faith. Ask the children to think of/write down 5 things they do to keep clean or keep their environment clean (eg, shower, brush teeth, keep their rooms tidy, not throw litter etc).

Slide 8 of 11 – Etiquettes of a Mosque

(A) Knowledge and understanding

- There are certain etiquettes that should be observed when entering a mosque.
- People should come to the mosque clean.
- Shoes should be removed to keep the mosque area clean.
- All those who come into the mosque should remain silent so as not to disturb others who are Praying and similarly, should not walk in front of those who are Praying.
- Men and women show respect by covering their heads when inside a mosque. Muslims must also cover their heads whilst Praying.

(B) Ideas and insights

- Discuss the etiquettes children follow at school. What are the class rules? Is it good to have a set of etiquettes/rules that everyone follows? Why?

Slide 9 of 11 – Congregation Prayers

(A) Knowledge and understanding

- Muslims can offer their five daily Prayers individually or in congregation.
- Muslims are encouraged to Pray in congregation in a mosque whenever they can. There are several reasons for this. The belief in the concept of the Unity of God is paramount in Islam. Therefore, Praying to one God, as one, reinforces this belief.
- Muslims also believe that there are greater blessings in Praying in congregation. There is a saying (known as 'Hadith') of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, (peace and blessings of Allah upon him) that Prayer with the congregation is 27 times more beneficent than Prayer performed by oneself (source: Bukhari & Muslim).

- Muslims believe that Praying together also makes Prayers more powerful, just as a group of people would have greater combined strength to move a heavy object, than an individual.
- There is one leader, called the Imam, who leads the congregational Prayers and everyone Prayers in unison. Following the Imam's movements, the whole congregation moves together.
- There are separate Prayer halls for men and women.
- The Imam is not chosen based on wealth, race or status, but rather based on religious piety.

(B) Ideas and insights

- Muslims believe that Praying together makes Prayers more powerful – working together means greater strength. Ask the children to think of situations where working together as a team produced better results.

Slide 10 of 11 – The Holy Ka’aba

(A) Knowledge and understanding

- The Holy Ka’aba in Makkah (also spelt as Mecca), Saudi Arabia, has a special significance to Muslims as it was the first house of worship to be built on Earth.
- The Holy Ka’aba was rebuilt by Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him) and his son Prophet Ishmael (peace be upon him) more than 4000 years ago.
- All mosques are built facing towards the direction of the Holy Ka’aba. Muslims face the Holy Ka’aba when they perform their Prayers.
- Facing the same way from wherever you are in the world creates unity amongst Muslims no matter which race or nationality they belong to.

(B) Ideas and Insights

- Use a map/google earth to find Makkah.
- What direction is Makkah from the UK? Using a compass can children work out which way the Qibla/direction for offering Prayer would be from their classroom?

Slide 11 of 11 - Quiz: Online; link on slide.

Activities - See Lesson Plan