

WOMEN IN ISLAM



U UNDERSTANDING ISLAM



THINK



PAIR



SHARE

Think of 3 words to describe Muslim women.

AIMS

- ❖ To understand the rights given to women in Islam
- ❖ To learn about some renowned Muslim women
- ❖ To understand the role of the Holy Qur'an in outlining women's rights



Bronze: Know what the Holy Qur'an says about women's rights



Silver: Explain some examples of Muslim women and what they achieved



Gold: To evaluate the role of a woman in Islam

KEY VOCABULARY

- ❑ **Inheritance** **Money or objects that someone gives you when they die.**
- ❑ **Scholar** **A specialist in a particular branch of study**
- ❑ **Astronomy** **A branch of science that deals with celestial bodies, space and the physical universe**
- ❑ **Manuscript** **A handwritten book or document**

IN WHAT YEAR DID THESE RIGHTS BECOME LAW IN BRITAIN FOR WOMEN?

The right to vote



1928 Equal Franchise Act

The right to seek divorce



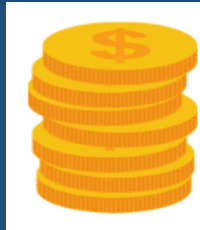
1937 Matrimonial Causes Act

The right to inherit from a husband



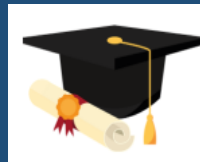
1926 Law of Property Act

The right to keep own earnings



1870 Married Women's Property Act

The right to attend university



1878 First degree awarded to women by the University of London

RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

Right to Inheritance

-The Holy Qur'an
Chapter 4 verse 12

Right to seek a Divorce

-The Holy Qur'an
Chapter 2 verse 228

Right to Dowry

-The Holy Qur'an
Chapter 5 verse 6

Right to Economic Freedom

-The Holy Qur'an
Chapter 2 verses 235 – 238 and
Chapter 4 verse 20

Right to Education

-The Holy Qur'an
Chapter 20 verse 115

PRE-ISLAMIC ARABIA

Before the advent of Islam, women did not have legal rights. In pre-Islamic Arabia, and in the rest of the world, their condition was equal to that of slaves and chattels. Islam gave women legal protection, newfound independence, marital and property rights along with spiritual and religious equality with men.

In Islam all rights of men and women are found in the Holy Qur'an which was revealed by Allah to the Holy Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} over 1400 years ago.

The Holy Qur'an ensures the equality of women on the spiritual, intellectual, social and economic level.

In addition, women's rights were safeguarded by the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} as he himself carried out the commands of Allah and treated women with great honour, kindness and dignity.



TASK

Choose one of the Rights listed on slide 6 and, using the reference on the slide, find the Verse that addresses this right in the Holy Qur'an.



DISCUSS

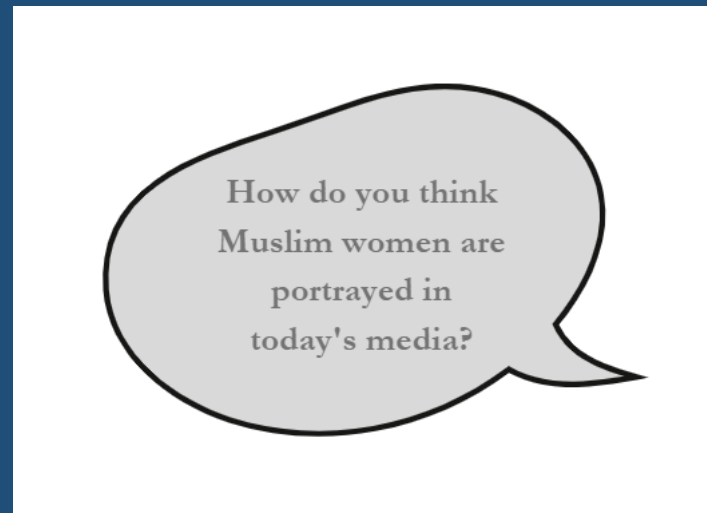
What was the treatment of women before the advent of Islam?

PORTRAYAL OF MUSLIM WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

The Muslim council of Britain researched the portrayal of Muslims in the UK media. The study analysed over ten thousand news articles and identified 'serious problems' in the way that the British Media reports about Islam.

78 % of the stories in the Mail on Sunday newspaper featuring Islam or Muslims living in the UK had a negative coverage of the community.

The study said Muslim women were either "othered" through misrepresentative choices of images or silenced through a general lack of due prominence.



EXAMPLES OF WELL-KNOWN MUSLIM WOMEN



Baroness Sayeeda Warsi: Member of the House of Lords, has been named as Britain's most powerful Muslim woman



Nadiya Hussain: Winner of 'Great British Bake Off', baked for Queen Elizabeth II



Malala Yousafzai: Campaigner who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for her fight for the right of every child to receive an education

MUSLIM WOMEN: SERVING THEIR FAITH AND SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES



Muslim women are active in all spheres of life and practice in a variety of professions including:

Medicine, Science, Media, Engineering, Teaching and Law.



TASK

Using the fact files:

- ❖ Fill out the table with the name of a Muslim woman, reason for being inspirational, positive qualities and an interesting fact.
- ❖ How do these women compare to the 3 words you thought of at the start of the lesson?

Name of a Muslim Woman	Reason for being inspirational	Positive Qualities	Interesting Fact

MUSLIM WOMEN: KHADIJAH BINT KHUWAYLID

“Men shall have a share of that which they have earned, and women a share of that which they have earned”

- The Holy Qur'an Chapter 4 Verse 33

Khadijah was born in 556 AD in Mecca to a noble family. Her father was a prominent merchant who taught her how to run and administer her trade. She was a businesswoman of great honour and fortune. She employed men to work for her and was known for her determination and intelligence.

When Khadijah was 40 years old she married the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}, who was then 25 years old. The couple lived blissfully and there was great love and affection between them. Khadijah and the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} had two sons and four daughters.

It is worth noting that a significant lady in the life of the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} was a professional woman. She exemplified the teachings of Islam as regards the rights of women to work and earn.

خديجة: Khadijah

Until her death at the age of 65, Khadijah was a source of immense love, comfort and support for the Holy Prophet^{pbuh}. Her passing affected him deeply and her memory stayed with him till the end of his days.

MUSLIM WOMEN: A'ISHAH SIDDIQA

“Half of the religion of Islam can be learned from A'ishah”

- Saying of the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} (Jami' at-Tirmidhi)

A'ishah was the wife of the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} and a woman of great intellect who played an important role in the early history of Islam.

Spiritually and intellectually brilliant from a young age, she was wise beyond her years. A'ishah became a renowned scholar, interpreter of the Qur'an and narrator of Hadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}).

A'ishah was an educator and her lectures were attended by both men and women. She was also a jurist and had expertise in medicine, poetry and history.



A'ishah served Islam for four decades after the demise of the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}.
One of her great legacies are the more than 2000 Hadith that she narrated.

MUSLIM WOMEN: NUSAYBAH BINT KA'AB

Nusaybah Bint Ka'ab, also known as Umme Ummaarah, was a distant relative of Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}. She accepted Islam as a mature woman and mother of four. She took part in the Battle of Uhud, an early battle against the Muslims, along with her husband and two sons. She fought fiercely in battle and accounts of her fighting have been recorded.

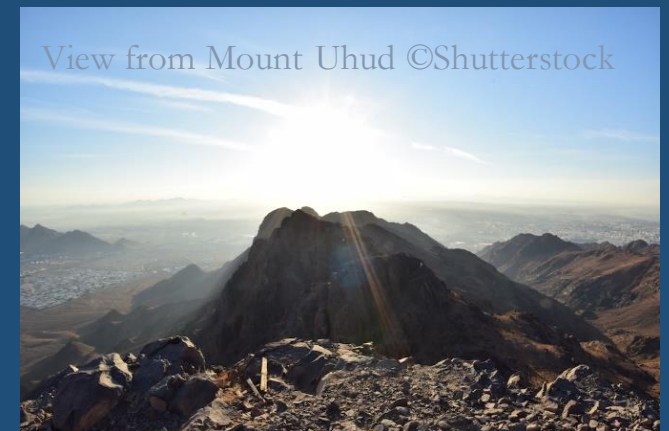
Initially, she kept running between the wounded to give them water. When she saw the Prophet^{pbuh} surrounded by danger, she threw down her water pot. After grabbing a sword, she ran towards him and stood in front to defend him against the enemy. When chaos broke at the battle of Uhud, there were less than ten men left to protect the Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh}. At that time, there were some men who panicked and ran away.

Prophet Muhammad^{pbuh} proclaiming the names of many brave Muslim men, said, “By God! Today Umme Ummaarah has preceded all those men in courage!”

In later years she also participated in battle, taking active part in the fighting alongside men.

The horse riders kept attacking the Prophet^{pbuh} and Umme Ummaarah and her sons kept defending him boldly and courageously. On this delicate occasion, many brave men wavered but this brave woman stood steadfast against the attacks of the enemy. When one non-believer attacked her suddenly with a sword, she defended the blow with her shield and he ran away.

When he attacked her again, she stopped him with her shield again and swung her sword with such force at the feet of his horse, that both the horse and the rider fell on the ground. Umme Ummaarah had wounds in twelve different places at the end of this battle.



MUSLIM WOMEN: FATIMA AL-FIHRI

Fatima al-Fihri was a female Muslim scholar who founded the University of Al-Qarawiyyin in Fes, Morocco. It is the oldest existing, continually operating and first degree-awarding educational institution in the world.



Al-Qarawiyyin Mosque was founded by Fatima in the year 859 AD. This housed the famous University, which became a major centre of advanced learning of its time.

Al-Qarawiyyin University is credited with producing many distinguished Muslim and Non-Muslim scholars and scientists. It continues till this day to produce graduates in theological and scientific disciplines.

By the 14th century, the University housed the Al-Qarawiyyin Library. It remains one of the oldest in the world, preserving some of the Islamic world's most valuable manuscripts. Fatima's life was devoted to the noblest of pursuits; faith, knowledge and learning.

MUSLIM WOMEN: MARIAM AL-ASTURLABI

Mariam was a brilliant scientist and astronomer born in Syria in the 10th-century.

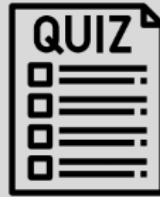


Mariam was a renowned maker of astrolabes, an instrument used to make astronomical measurements, an art she learned from her father, the well-known astrolabe maker, al- 'Ijli al-Asturlabi. She also helped to further navigation and timekeeping techniques.

Mariam was employed as an astronomer by the Emir of Aleppo, Sayf al-Dawla, who reigned from 944 to 967 AD.

In line with Islamic teachings, she is an early and inspiring example of a Muslim woman participating in the Islamic intellectual and scientific tradition, promoting education and scholarship for both genders.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmUfluGU0DpmHrKjkfXzwroLqmT9btnSJftD_fFV-Ntk-neA/viewform