Muslim Death

- Although death is sad some Muslims may feel a kind of happiness as they know their loved ones will experience LIFE AFTER DEATH and on the DAY OF JUDGEMENT they will see their loved ones again.

- A Muslim who knows they are about to die will repeat the Shahadah.

- After death the body will be WASHED and wrapped in WHITE CLOTHS. If the dead person completed the HAJJ they will be wrapped in their white pilgrim’s clothes.

- Muslims are BURIED not cremated and the burial takes place as soon as possible. Muslims bury their dead with the head facing the KA’BA.

- 7 days after burial relatives go back to visit the grave as a mark of respect. They remember that Muhammad taught them that a good Muslim will leave behind 3 gifts. The first is POSSESSIONS the second is KNOWLEDGE and the third is EXAMPLE SET TO HIS/HER CHILDREN.
The QU’RAN

Origins of Qur’an

- There have been several written books of the word of Allah i) Musa (Moses) was given the Tawrut (Torah – first 5 books of Bible) ii) Dawud (David) was given the Zabur (Psalms) iii) Isa (Jesus) was given the Injil (Gospels)
- None were given in a way that they could not be distorted.
- When Allah saw that the Injil were distorted, especially in saying Jesus was God’s son, he decided to send his words in such a form that it could never be distorted. To do this, he chose Muhammad who had all the characteristics Allah wanted in his final messenger.
- Although Muhammad was highly intelligent, he could not read or write. This meant that Allah could give him the word as a dictation which Muhammad could learn by heart and so could not distort it.
- Revealed to Muhammad bit by bit over 23 years.
- As each revelation was given, the verses were learnt by heart and jotted down on whatever materials came to hand – dried out palm leaves, pieces of broken pottery, ribs & shoulder bones of sheep, bits of leather & white stones.

Contents of the Qur’an

- All the fundamental beliefs about Allah.
- Stories from the lives of the prophets.
- Teaches about prayer and fasting.
- Explains nature of morality.

Hadith

- There are some items which are not covered by the Qur’an and there can be different ideas about what passages mean.
- To help them with these difficulties, Muslims refer to Muhammad.
- What Muhammad said the Qur’an meant, or what Muhammad said or did, must be the next best guide to the Qur’an.
- Salah – Qur’an tells you when to pray, face Makkah & to wash first but doesn’t say what to do or say. The sunna (example of Muhammad) and hadith (what he said) can be used for this.
- Sunna and hadith are second source of behaviour for Muslims.
Written in Arabic

Means ‘recitation’

Muslims read it every day

Kept wrapped and on shelf for safety

Treated with great respect

Muslims wash before reading it

Actual words of Allah
# The Mosque

Match the following features to the appropriate description, and try to fill in the missing words (answers on next page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dome</th>
<th>Minaret</th>
<th>Qiblah wall</th>
<th>Mihrab</th>
<th>Minbar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No statues</td>
<td>Carpeted area</td>
<td>Separate prayer area</td>
<td>Washing facilities</td>
<td>Shoe rack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A platform from where the _______ leads the worship. It is from here that he will deliver the khutbar (Friday sermon).

- The wall that marks the direction of _______, in Saudi Arabia. Muslims face this direction as the city is the home of the **Ka’ba** shrine.

- The place where Muslims will perform _______ (ritual washing).

- The alcove in the Qiblah wall which marks the direction of Makkah. It is often shaped like a shell and regarded as the sacred ear that hears Muslims’ prayers.

- The tower on purpose-built mosques. In Islamic countries, this is where the **muezzin** will make the _______ (call to prayer). The first muezzin was **Bilal**, a black slave and one of the first converts to Islam in the 7th century.

- This is due to the fact that idol worship is not permitted in Islam as it would break tawhid (belief in the oneness of Allah) and would commit the sin of shirk (comparing anything to Allah).

- Represents the universe and the oneness of Allah. It allows air to circulate, which is important in hot countries, and amplifies the imam’s voice.

- Shoes are removed before entering a mosque out of respect for Allah.

- **Men and women pray separately in order to maintain a sense of modesty and so not to be distracted during prayer. Muslims should be focused on god alone and maintain the correct intention (**niyyah**).**

- The prayer hall will be carpeted. Thus, there is no need for individuals to bring their prayer mats. Often the carpet will have prayer mats designed on it. No seats are needed due to the prayer actions (**rak’ahs**).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ANSWERS...How did you do?</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MINBAR</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SHOE RACK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEPARATE PRAYER AREAS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CARPETED PRAYER AREA &amp; NO SEATS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wordsearch

Can you find eleven words associated with mosques?
The words could be horizontal, vertical, diagonal and/or backwards.
Using the words at the bottom of the page, write the answer next to each clue then find the word in the grid.

Clues:  The call to prayer
        The tower from which the call to prayer is made
        The shape of the roof
        The alcove in the prayer room
        The platform the imam speaks from
        Prayer five times daily
        The Islamic place of worship
        The person who leads the prayers
        The direction of prayer
        Expression of devotion to God
        Ritual washing

A E H A L B I Q B N E
D F S H D A C T Z M D
H B A F H R Q V O S W
A S A L A H C D Y W E
N E G I W I K A O U L
P R U M A M I R M D U
U A I Q F Y S D F U B
A B M K S H C Z D F D
U N L Y I O J O Q T O
H I E P R F M G Q X Z
X M S E M I N A R E T

WUDU  MOSQUE  ADHAN  MINARET  QIBLAH  MIHRAB
IMAM  SALAH  DOME  WORSHIP  MINBAR
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISLAM – VOCABULARY LIST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adhan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Allah</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eid-ul-adha</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eid-ul-Fitr</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hajj</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Hira</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hijrah</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Imam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Islam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ka’ba</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Khadijah</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jibril</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Makkah</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Madinah</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Minbar</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mosque</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muezzin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Muhammad</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Salah</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sawm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shahadah</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qiblah (wall)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qur’an</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wudu</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zakah</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FACT FILE

RELIGION: Islam

SYMBOL: The crescent moon & star

GOD: Allah

IMPORTANT PERSON: Muhammad

HOLY BOOK: Qur’an

HOLY PLACE: Makkah

PLACE OF WORSHIP: Mosque

MAIN FESTIVALS: Eid-ul-adha & Eid-ul-fitr

FOLLOWERS: Muslims
THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD (pbuh)

570
Muhammad’s birth and infancy.

575
Muhammad becomes an orphan.

578
Muhammad is cared for by his uncle and aunt in Medina.

580 – 594
Muhammad works as a shepherd to pay for his keep. He is being cared for by his uncle and aunt.

594
Muhammad acts as a trader for wealthy widow, Khadija.

595 – 609
Muhammad marries Khadija. They have 6 children together.
610
Muhammad receives his first revelation from Allah in a cave at Mount Nur.

613
Muhammad starts to tell the public about his revelations.

622
Muhammad and the early Muslims leave for Medina (The Hijrah). The first mosque is built.

625 – 628
The Muslims enter into 3 wars with the local people. In the end they sign a truce and allow the Muslims freedom.

630
The Muslims marched peacefully on Makkah, and seeing their lack of violence people converted to Islam.

630 – 632
Muhammad spread Islam through the Arab world. 100 years after his death Islam had spread globally.
THE 5 PILLARS OF ISLAM

1. SHAHADAH

There is no God but ALLAH and Muhammed is his prophet

2. SALAT

Muslims must pray 5 times a day: in the early morning, at midday, mid-afternoon, at dusk and before going to bed

3. ZAKAH

Each year Muslims must give away at least 2½ % of the value of their property and possessions to the poor.

4. SAWM

Muslims must fast each year during the month of Ramadan. They may not eat or drink between dawn and sunset.

5. HAJJ

During their lifetime all Muslims should try to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy city.
Salah

Muslims should pray 5 times a day, this is the second pillar of Islam. The **muezzin** goes to the top of the **minaret** in the mosque and gives the call to prayer (**adhan**).

![Minaret with call to prayer]

- **Allah is great** (x4)
- **There is no God but Allah** (x2)
- **Muhammad is the prophet of Allah** (x2)
- **Come to prayer** (x2)
- **Come to success** (x2)
- **Allah is great** (x2)
- **There is no God but Allah** (x1)

*(At dawn only) Prayer is better than sleep!*

Before prayer, Muslims should wash (**wudu**) which is a mental and physical cleansing in preparation for prayer. When Muslims pray they try to attend the mosque. This is because they can stand shoulder to shoulder before Allah, united.

If they cannot get to a mosque they can pray where they are – in Muslim countries it is not uncommon to see people praying on the street. They will still know they are joining with Muslims all over their country in prayer to Allah.

Muslims will use a **prayer mat** and face **Makkah** to pray. They use a special compass to find out the direction of Makkah, wherever they are in the world. They perform special movements called **rak'ahs**.
The Aims of Salah

- To bring people closer to Allah
- To use the whole self (body, mind, soul) in worship
- To keep hearts and minds pure
- To feel peaceful and relaxed
- To show equality and unity of all Muslims before Allah
- To show obedience to the will of Allah
- To show self-discipline in being clean and punctual
- To block out life’s worries and stresses and focus only on Allah

Prayers other than Salah are called du’a. These are personal prayers. Some Muslims use prayer beads to help them focus.

Key Facts

Muslims use a prayer mat when they pray and face Makkah.

Muslims are called to prayer 5 times a day.

Prayer beads are used. There are 99 beads to represent the 99 names for Allah in the Qur’an.

Many Muslims carry a special compass to show the direction of Makkah.

Muslims must wash before they pray. This is called wudu.

Prayers follow a set pattern of movements (rak’ahs) and Muslims learn these by heart.
At least once in his or her lifetime, each Muslim is expected to undertake a **pilgrimage to Mecca**, the sacred city of Islam. This holy journey is called the **hajj** in Arabic. While a visit to Mecca is beneficial any time of the year, it must take place during the month of Dhu al-Hijja (the last month of the Islamic year) to fulfill the requirements of the hajj.

As with the **sawm** (fasting), exceptions are made for those who are physically or financially unable to fulfill this obligation, and one is actually commanded not to make the hajj if to do so would cause hardship for his or her family. However, those unable to go themselves may fulfill their obligation by sending someone in their stead.

The **hajj** is commanded in the Qur'an - "And pilgrimage to the House is a duty unto God for mankind, for him who can find the way thither" (3:97) - and its rites were established by Muhammad, but Muslim tradition dates it back to Adam and Abraham, who were instructed by angels in the performance of the rites. The hajj was one of the last public acts of worship performed by Muhammad before his death.

In part, the hajj commemorates the stories of Abraham, Hagar and Ishmael and it has been assigned various other meanings throughout the centuries. For many Muslims, one of the most meaningful aspects of the pilgrimage is the unifying effect of bringing together believers from all over the world to meet and worship together.
Upon arrival at the boundary of Mecca (about six miles from the Ka'ba), pilgrims enter the state of *ihram* (purity) in which they will remain throughout the *hajj*. Males entering this pure state don the *ihram* garments - two white, seamless sheets wrapped around the body - and sandals. This aspect of the rite not only signifies the state of holiness the pilgrims have entered, but it serves to contribute to a sense of equality and unity by removing visual indicators of class, wealth and culture. Requirements for women are less stringent, but they usually dress in white with only faces and hands uncovered. While in the state of *ihram*, pilgrims must not cut their nails or hair, engage in sexual relations, argue, fight or hunt.

**STAGE 1**

When he or she enters the city of Mecca, the pilgrim first walks around the Ka'ba seven times (the *tawaf*, or circumambulation) while reciting the *talbiya*, then kisses or touches the Black Stone in the Ka'ba, prays twice towards the Station of Abraham and the Ka'ba and runs seven times between the small mountains of Safa and Marwa.

**STAGE 2**

The second stage of the hajj takes place between the 8th and 12th days of Dhu al-Hijja, beginning with a sermon (*khutba*) at the mosque on the 7th day.

On the eighth day and night, the pilgrim stays at Mina or Arafat.

On the ninth day, the ritual of *wuquf* ("standing") takes place at the small hill of Jabal al-Rahma in Arafat. The pilgrim then returns to Muzdalifa, a small town within the Meccan boundaries, to stay the night.

The tenth day is *Eid al-Adha* (The Feast of Sacrifice), a major holiday observed by all Muslims. For those participating in the hajj, the day is spent in Mina, where the pilgrim sacrifices an animal to commemorate Abraham's sacrifice and throws seven small stones at each of three pillars on three consecutive days (the pillars represent sins and devils). The pilgrim then returns to Mecca, where he or she once again performs the *tawaf* (circumambulation of the Ka'ba). The head is then shaved or the hair is trimmed, which marks the end of the state of *ihram*.

About 2 million Muslims complete the *hajj* each year. The government of Saudi Arabia has contributed significant resources to maintain the holy places and manage the crowd of pilgrims. Despite the large numbers seen in Mecca each year, only a small percentage of Muslims have fulfilled the duty. Those who have done so may add the title *hajj* or *hajji* to their names.
Muslim Birth

The first words a baby hears are the call to prayer (The Adhan), whispered into its right ear.

A small piece of softened date or honey is rubbed into the baby’s gums to pray it may have a sweet life.

The Aqiqah ceremony takes place 7 days after the birth. Here the baby’s head is shaved and gold or silver weighing the same as the hair is given to charity.

The baby is named, often one of the 99 names of Allah, a prophet’s name or the name of someone in Muhammad’s family.

Friends and neighbours come for a celebration meal.

Baby boys are circumcised soon after birth.
Muslim weddings

Muslim weddings vary enormously according to the culture of the people involved.

The state of marriage is regarded as the ideal way for Muslims to live. Celibacy is disapproved of, as it may lead to all sorts of tensions and problems. Sex outside marriage is forbidden to Muslims. In Islam, marriages are social contracts in which people agree to cherish and respect one another.

It is not assumed that a couple will remain together 'till death do us part'. Islam is realistic. If and when such contracts are broken, either party is entitled to seek divorce.

One difference between Islam and other faiths is that to this day a man may have more than one wife, up to the limit of four wives simultaneously — this is called polygamy. However, if a man feels unable to treat all parties with kindness, love and scrupulous fairness, he is ordered by God not to take more than one wife.

Muslim marriages are frequently arranged by the parents of the young people. This is not an Islamic necessity, but parents are encouraged to do their best to see their offspring settled with good life-partners. Because young Muslims are not encouraged to have many boyfriends or girlfriends before marriage, their parents’ role in helping to choose a future spouse can be important. It is illegal in the UK for people to be forced or tricked into marriage, as it has also been forbidden by Prophet Muhammad.

**Mahr (dowry)**

A Muslim husband has to agree a financial deal with the prospective wife before marriage. This money present is known as the *mahr*, and is a payment made to the bride which is hers to keep and use as she wishes. Normally, if a divorce takes place for the usual reasons, the bride would be entitled to keep the *mahr*. Prophet Mohammed set the example of modest sums.

**The wedding and agreement (Nikah)**

The actual Muslim wedding is known as a *nikah*. The *nikah* is also the agreement or contract drawn up and signed. It is a simple ceremony, at which the bride does not have to be present so long as she sends two witnesses to the drawn-up agreement. Normally, the ceremony consists of reading from the Qur'an, and the exchange of vows in front of witnesses for both partners. Often the Imam is present and performs the ceremony. He may give a short sermon.

There are certain things which are basic to all Muslim marriages. Marriages have to be declared publicly. They should never be undertaken in secret. Celebrations and other customs differ according to the country and culture where the wedding is taking place.

**The Walimah**

The publicity is usually achieved by having a large feast, or *walimah* - a party specifically for the purpose of announcing publicly that the couple are married and entitled to each other. It is an important teaching and practice of Prophet Muhammad.

In some cultures the *walimah* is a huge feast with hundreds of guests, usually with the males in a separate room from the females. Other Muslims have simple celebratory parties with only close friends and relatives.

In some cultures there may be dancing, firing of guns, lots of noise and hilarity. The whole process may last several days.
Write some facts about Muslim weddings on the banners underneath.