

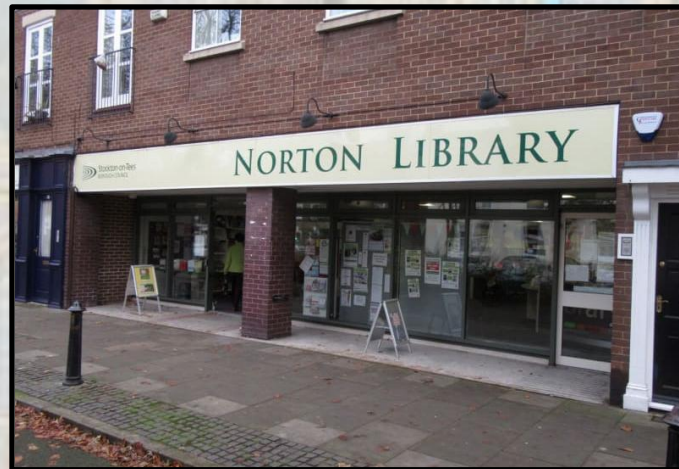
Year 3 - Islam

A photograph of a large, ornate mosque, likely the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad, Iran. The building features multiple large turquoise domes and intricate tilework in shades of blue, green, and gold. The architecture is highly detailed with arched windows and doorways. The sky is clear and blue. In the foreground, some people are visible, including a person in a white garment near a central entrance.

Places for Worship – The Mosque

Special Buildings

Look at special buildings in your area. How do you recognise them?



How can you tell if the building is a shop, a library, a school, a hospital?

What special features does each one have and why is it there?

Going to the mosque



Look at a picture of a mosque.
What do you notice?

A Muslim place of worship is called a *mosque*, which means a place to bow down. For Muslims their mosque is a very special place, they go there to pray, to meet people and to study.

Sometimes mosques in England and Wales are housed in rented halls or peoples' houses.

As the community grows they are able to build a purpose built mosque.



Allahu Akbar, come to
prayer, come to success.

Mosques usually have a tall tower called a *minaret*, from where the people are called to worship five times a day.

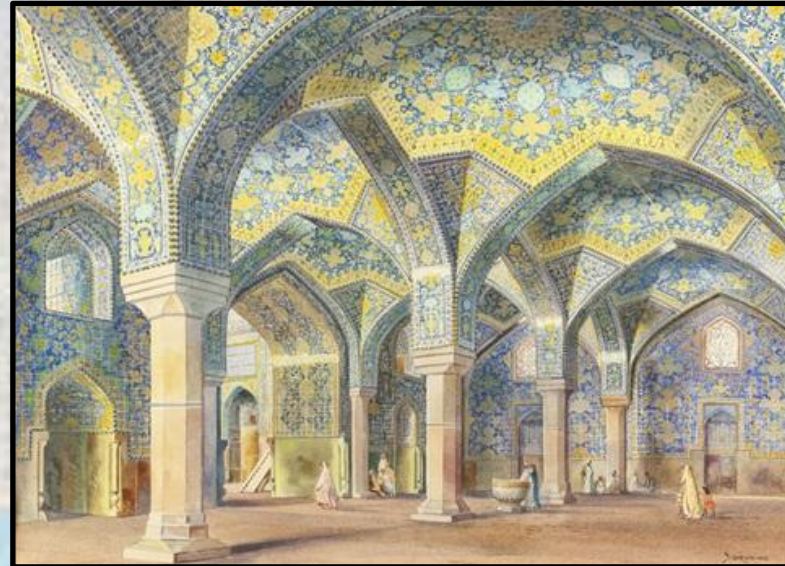
The man who makes the call is called the *mu'adhin* or *muezzin*. The call is usually recorded and comes from loudspeakers. The call starts with 'Allahu Akbar' which means Allah is the greatest, this is followed by the call to 'come to prayer, come to success'.



The larger mosques have a dome. This represents the arch of the heavens above the earth. It reminds believers of Allah's power when he created the universe.



Mosques are often beautifully decorated inside and outside with patterns made of mosaic.



The Muslim symbols of the crescent moon and star are often seen. This is a symbol of Allah's guidance.

Questions to discuss:

What do you think is the meaning of the words 'come to success' in the call to prayer?

How would you recognise a mosque?

Why do you think the moon and stars are a symbol of Allah's guidance?

Task:

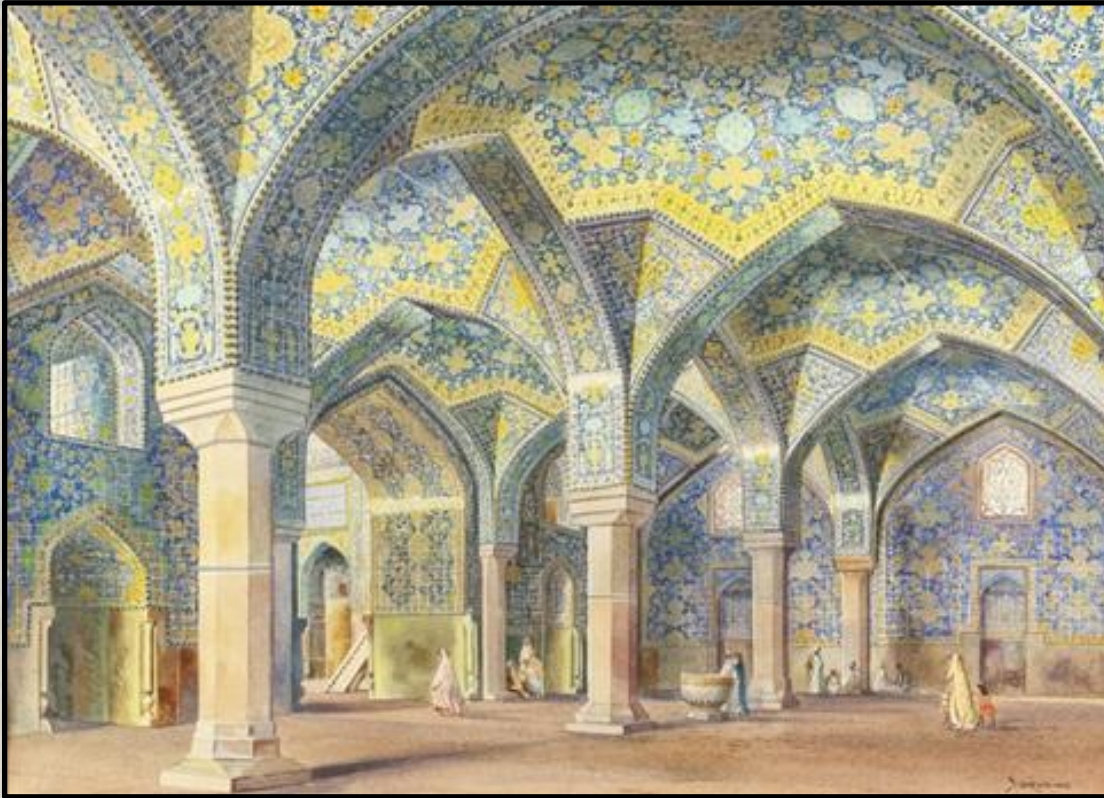
Draw and colour in a picture of a mosque, including lots of detail.

Use the new words you have learnt to label parts of the mosque, include the call to prayer.

OR

Write a fact file to describe the outside of a mosque.

Inside the mosque



Mosques are open every day of the week. The most important day of the week is Friday. Muslim men are expected to go to the mosque on Fridays for midday prayers. Women do not have to go to the mosque because they are busy at home looking after the children, but they often choose to go.



Usually mosques have separate entrances for men and women, as they pray in different parts of the mosque. Inside there is a special rack where Muslims leave their shoes. Both men and women cover their heads. This is a mark of respect to Allah and because the mosque is a holy place.

There is an area for washing in preparation for prayer. This is called *wudu*. This is not the washing away of dirt but making the person ready to talk to Allah. It also gives the person time to think about what they are going to do.

The walls of the prayer hall are often covered in beautiful decorations which are patterns or writings from the Qur'an, the holy book of the Muslims. There are never any representations of people or animals. In the prayer hall there are no seats. The floor is covered with carpet with patterns like a prayer mat all facing Makkah. It is usually green as that was Muhammad's favourite colour. At the end of the prayer hall is an arch called a *mihrab* which indicates the direction of Makkah. Also, at the end of the hall is a *minbar*, a short set of stairs or step where the imam sits to lead the prayers and give a sermon. The imam is the leader of the mosque.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/cips/zfhyr82>

Wudu is a small ablution before prayers. Ghushl is the full ritual ablution required in certain circumstances.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/cips/zjr87ty>

Questions to discuss:

Why do Muslims wash when at the mosque? What kind of washing is this and what is it called?

What do you think the symbolism of washing, the mouth, face, ears, feet and arms might be?

Why do Muslims pray facing Makkah?

What question would you like to ask a Muslim?

Task:

Write each of the above questions as a heading, and write a short paragraph underneath it to answer the questions using what you have learned.

Activities at the Mosque

During the week, there are plenty of activities at the mosque. It is the heart of the Muslim community where people meet not only to pray, but to study and to socialise. There may be a mother and toddlers group. Muslim mothers can meet other women, exchange stories and receive support.

The mosque may have a hall where weddings or the birth of a baby are celebrated. When someone dies, their coffin is taken to the mosque and prayers are said. So, for Muslims, the mosque is an important part of their lives. It is the place which marks special events in their lives, where they meet others, receive support and enjoy activities.





Some mosques have schools attached to them where children learn about the Qur'an and what it is to live a Muslim life as well as all the other subjects of the school curriculum. There will be an after-school children's group for those who do not go to a Muslim school so they can learn the Qur'an.

Retired people might meet for lunch together. There may be after school sports, drama activities and charitable work. There is often an advice centre where people can get help. There is usually someone who looks after school visits to the mosque, who can explain to non-Muslims what the mosque is and how Muslims worship.



Questions to discuss:

Why do you think its important that muslims meet together?

What sort of charitable activities do you think go on at the mosque?

Why is it necessary fir children to learn the Qu'ran?

Task:

Design a poster for a mosque giving details about the activities of the week. Don't forget to mention the times of prayer! Make sure you add images and lots of detail.

Be sure to share with us on Class Dojo.