

Year 7 (Topic 3): Islam



Lesson 1: Islam & Britain

Islam has influenced Britain in many ways. Muslim communities have enriched British culture through food, music, fashion, and festivals. Mosques have become important places for worship and community activities. Muslims have also contributed to British society in fields like medicine, education, and business. Additionally, Islamic values of charity and family have positively impacted many local communities.

Lesson 2: Early Life of Muhammad

Muhammad, the founder of Islam, was born in Mecca around 570 AD. He was orphaned at a young age and raised by his uncle. As he grew up, Muhammad became known for his honesty and kindness. He worked as a trader and married a wealthy widow named Khadijah. Muhammad often meditated in a cave, seeking spiritual guidance.



Lesson 3: Night of Power

The Night of Power, or Laylat al-Qadr, is when Muslims believe the Quran was first revealed to Muhammad by the angel Jibreel. This event happened during the month of Ramadan. The Night of Power is considered the holiest night in Islam, and Muslims spend it praying and reading the Quran, seeking forgiveness and blessings from God.



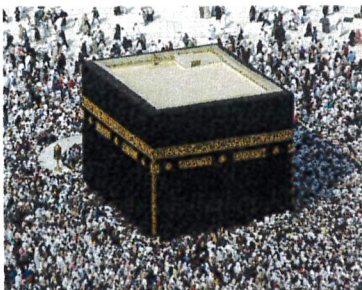
Lesson 4: Five Pillars of Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam are the main practices that all Muslims follow. They are:

1. **Shahada:** Declaring belief in one God and Muhammad as His prophet.
2. **Salah:** Praying five times a day facing Mecca.
3. **Zakat:** Giving to charity to help those in need.
4. **Sawm:** Fasting during the month of Ramadan from dawn to sunset.
5. **Hajj:** Making a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime, if able.

Lesson 5: Hajj

Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim must try to make at least once in their lifetime, if they are able. It takes place during the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah. During Hajj, pilgrims perform a series of rituals, including walking around the Kaaba seven times and standing in prayer on the plains of Arafat. Hajj is a time for Muslims to seek forgiveness, reflect on their faith, and show unity with fellow believers from around the world.



Lesson 6: Sufi Islam, Art, & Music

Sufi Islam is a mystical branch of Islam that focuses on personal connection with God through spiritual practices. Sufis often use poetry, music, and dance to express their devotion. Sufi art is known for its intricate designs and calligraphy, often inspired by spiritual themes. Music, especially in the form of devotional songs called qawwali, plays a significant role in Sufi worship, helping believers to feel closer to God. Sufi traditions have contributed richly to Islamic culture and have been a source of inspiration in art and music.



Key terms:

Allah: The Arabic word for God, used by Muslims to refer to the one and only deity.

Quran: The holy book of Islam, believed to be the word of God as revealed to Muhammad.

Muhammad: The final prophet of Islam, who received revelations from Allah that form the Quran.

Mecca: The holiest city in Islam, birthplace of Muhammad, and site of the Kaaba.

Mosque: A place of worship for Muslims.

Ramadan: The ninth month of the Islamic calendar, observed with fasting from dawn to sunset.

Sharia: Islamic law derived from the Quran and Hadith, covering all aspects of a Muslim's life.

Jihad: Literally means "struggle" or "striving"; can refer to the personal, spiritual effort to follow God's will or, in some contexts, to armed struggle.

Kaaba: The cube-shaped building in Mecca that Muslims face during prayer.

Hadith: Collections of sayings and actions of Muhammad, used as a guide for Islamic practice and law.

Sunni: The largest branch of Islam, which believes in following the traditions of Muhammad and the first four caliphs.

Shia: A branch of Islam that holds that Muhammad's family, especially his cousin Ali, were his rightful successors.

Imam: A leader of prayer in a mosque; in Shia Islam, a religious leader considered to be a direct descendant of Muhammad.

Halal: Permitted or lawful actions and foods according to Islamic law.

Haram: Forbidden or prohibited actions and foods according to Islamic law.

Hijab: A headscarf worn by many Muslim women.