



Third Rock from the Sun

What are the important customs and practices in Islam?

1. What are the main features of a mosque and what are their functions?

Dome: Placed above the main prayer hall as a symbol of both the vaults of heaven and the sky.

Mihrab: shows the direction of Mecca.

Prayer hall: a large open space for prayer

Minaret: a place to call the worshippers to prayer.

Ablutions area: an area for washing before prayer

2. What is the role of the Imam in Islam?

The role of the **Imam** is like a community leader and teacher in a mosque or Islamic community. They would lead prayers, teach about Islam, give advice and organise community events

4. What are the significant features of Muslim birth and marriage customs?

Birth

- A prayer is whispered into the baby's right ear.
- A special meal is shared with family and friends.
- After seven days the baby's head is shaved.

Marriage

- The bride and groom sign the nikah
- The Imam reads from the Qur'an
- A presentation of a Mahr (a gift, usually money, that the groom gives to the bride)

3. How do the 'Five Pillars' affect the daily life of a Muslim?

1. **Shahada:** Helps to remember their faith every day and to live with kindness.

2. **Salah:** It keeps them connected to their faith, even during a busy day.

3. **Zakat:** To be grateful for what they have and encourages them to be kind and helpful to others.

4. **Sawm:** This teaches patience, self-control, and a feeling of empathy for people who might not have enough to eat.

5. **Hajj:** This pilgrimage connects them with other Muslims from around the world.

5. How important are greetings and respect and kindness for others in Islam?

Kindness is a core value that encourages us to treat everyone - people and animals - with love and respect, even when it's difficult. Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) life is filled with stories of patience, forgiveness, and compassion, even toward those who were unkind or hurtful to him.

Key Vocabulary

Eid - special celebration

Wudu - is a special washing Muslims do before praying to make sure they are clean and ready to focus on Allah.

Khums-an important form of charity in Islam that involves giving one-fifth of certain types of income or wealth.

Id-ul-Fitr -a joyful holiday at the end of Ramadan,

Id-ul-Adha - very special holiday in Islam

