

# Islamic Artefact Collection (IS-PACK)

This collection contains a variety of artefacts for teaching and learning about religious festivals, worship, art and faith. Using the artefacts can help bring religion to life and promote discussions.



## Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

### **Initial Discussion**

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item is used for and by whom?
- Which religious belief is it used by?
- Does anyone know what it is called? Learn how to pronounce the name.
- What does it represent?
- How might it be used?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

- **What do the objects tell us about the faith?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

# All About the Muslim Artefacts

Contents: -

1. Prayer Mat and Compass
2. Eid Cards
3. Miniature Qur'an Rack
4. Stories from the life of Muhammad

*Please note contents may vary.*



## 1. Prayer Mat and Compass

Muslims pray five times a day - dawn, midday, afternoon, after sunset and at night, so it is not always possible to do so in a mosque. Prayers are said facing towards Mecca, and if in a new or different location, the direction may be found using a compass (nowadays there are online apps too).

According to Islamic tradition, no people or animals are depicted on prayer mats. They will often have geometric patterns, flowers, pictures of a mosque or Arabic writing as part of the design.

## 2. Eid Cards

There are two Eid celebrations in the Muslim faith, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Fitr is a joyful celebration that marks the end of Ramadan. People wish each other happy Eid saying either, "Eid Mubarak" or "Eid Said". Eid al-Adha is the festival of the sacrifice and is considered the holier of the two. It is celebrated at the end of the Hajj period. Both festivals are celebrated by prayer, changing gifts and cards and sharing meals with family and friends.

### 3. Qur'an Rack

The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam. The Qur'an is a sacred text and should be handled with care and respect. When not in use it should be closed. It should not be placed on a floor or have anything placed on top of it. Muslims believe that people reading the Qur'an must make sure they have washed, as one of the verses says:

**'...none shall touch but those who are clean...'**

The book stand is known as a Rehal and is used to hold the holy book whilst reading or reciting from it. A Rehal is usually foldable and made of wood.

### 4. Muhammad

Explore the values of Islam and the teachings of compassion, kindness and the importance of respecting all living things. Muslims believe God sent Muhammad to teach people how to live. God revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel. Two popular stories are 'The Prophet and the Ants' and 'The Crying Camel'. These stories highlight Muhammad's compassion and teachings about caring for animals and all of creation.

### 5. Subha Beads

Subha beads (also known as Tasbeeh) are usually made from wood, glass, plastic or gemstones. There are 99 beads in total, often with a larger bead at one end and a tassel. The subha is used in prayer to count recitations and to help concentration. Recitations are words or phrases repeated from memory. Muslims often recite the **'99 names of Allah'** touching each bead as they do so. Some examples are:

- Al-Khaaliq – The Creator
- Al-'Aleem – The All-Knowing
- Al-Baseer – The All-Seeing
- Al-Wadood – The Loving

Prayer beads are often given as gifts. They may also be carried as a comforter or to relieve stress.

*Thread beads or make own beads and decorate them and then use them in mindfulness activities.*

#### Useful Tips

- Be sensitive using religious and cultural artefacts and understand any special requirements in handling them.
- Avoid creating stereotypes and understand that not all people from the same culture may use the artefact in the same way.
- Use the appropriate language to talk about the artefacts.
- Teach the children to handle and store the artefacts with respect and sensitivity.