

Muslim Childs Religious Artefact Collection (ISCHILD)

The main purpose behind the faith child collection is to introduce a child from the faith to your pupils. This idea stems from sessions which the Suffolk County RE team have put into practice and found successful.

Each faith child has been given their own identity and bag full of artefacts that are important to their daily worship and religious way of life. The idea of having a bag is that these artefacts belong to a child who has brought them in to show the class. This provides an awareness that these are someone's possessions and are worthy of care and respect.

As the teacher delivers the artefacts from the bag in a show and tell session, they can describe them and their associated customs and beliefs. Children will have a greater understanding of what it is like to be a child from a different faith.

Say hello to Hanif and examine all the different artefacts that he has brought to show you.



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 Artefacts

Qur'an, Stand and Cover

The Qur'an is the sacred book of Islam. Muslims are guided to follow Allah's will by the holy book, the Qur'an. Muslims regard the Qur'an as the unaltered word of God. The Qur'an is the word of Allah (God) as told to the prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him.)

It is treated with great respect by Muslims. Many Muslims will wash their hands before touching it and many women will cover their heads before touching it as well. Even when not in use, the Qur'an will be treated with the greatest respect; it will be wrapped in a clean cloth and stored on a high shelf with nothing placed on top of it.

The Qur'an should not be placed on the floor and when it is being read it will often be placed upon a wooden stand like the one included. People who are present when the Qur'an is being read should behave in a respectful manner and should not eat, drink or talk.

Prayer Mat

Prayer mats are usually decorated with patterns reflecting that it is forbidden within Islam to make use of human and animal images. Illustrations may include images of the Ka'ba or of another important mosque. They may also be decorated with text from the Qur'an which also represents the importance of calligraphy within Islam. Prayer mats are normally decorated in the traditional colours of green, gold and yellow. When they pray, Muslims face in the direction of the Ka'ba in Makka. Some prayer mats will incorporate a compass so that they can find the right direction.

Prayer Beads

Prayer beads are often made from wood or plastic and consist of three sets of thirty-three beads and one large one. The beads are used to say the ninety-nine names for God during prayer. Muslims consider that by repeating his name over and over it brings them closer to God.

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

Embroidered Cap

Embroidered caps are often worn by Muslim men or boys. Wearing the cap shows devotion to God but there are no strict rules in the Qur'an that say Muslims are required to wear them every day. Many choose to wear them for praying, when visiting the mosque and during special festivals and celebrations. They are normally made from white cotton.

Eid Cards

These are cards sent in greeting to friends on the occasion of the festival Eid-ul-Fitr. Eid-ul-fitr is an Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but are also thanking Allah for the help and strength that he gave them throughout the previous month to help them practise self-control.

The Eid festivities start after prayers and Muslims will visit their family and friends. The celebratory atmosphere is increased as everyone wears their best or new clothes and also decorates their homes.

There are special services, processions in the streets and a special meal eaten during the daytime (The first daytime meal that Muslims will have had in a month). Eid is also a time of forgiveness and for making amends.

People wish each other happy Eid saying either, "Eid Mubarak" or "Eid Said".

Imran Learns About.... (3 Muslim Stories)

These story books are written about a young Muslim child and explore the basic teachings of Islam.

In the first story, Imran learns that Allah is one, that he knows everything and hears and sees everything, and that Allah loves the believers and is most forgiving and merciful.

In the second story, Imran can hardly wait to receive his first Qur'an and in his excitement, he asks his mother all sorts of questions about the Qur'an.

In the third story, Imran has his first experience of fasting during the month of Ramadan. He learns that Muslims all over the world fast from dawn until sunset in order to purify their hearts and draw closer to Allah. He also learns that this is a time for giving, especially to the poor.

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.*