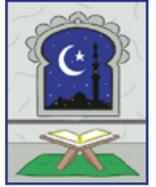


Ramadan Lesson Plan





RAMADAN

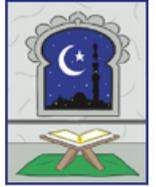
Ramadan is a very special time of year for the more than one billion Muslims around the world. It is a time of fasting, prayer, devotion to Allah (God), and self-sacrifice.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. Muslim holidays follow the lunar calendar. In the lunar calendar, each month begins with the sighting of the new moon. There are twelve months in the lunar calendar and each month is either 29 or 30 days. The lunar calendar is eleven days shorter than the solar calendar, so Ramadan does not always occur at the same time each year.

The Fast of Ramadan lasts the entire month. During this time, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset everyday. They eat small meals in the early morning before the sun comes up and do not eat again until evening after the sun has gone down. Fasting is a way of experiencing hunger and developing an understanding for those poor people in the world who do not have much food to eat. It is also a way to learn to be very thankful for everything God provides. The daily evening meal to break the fast is known as *Iftar*. *Iftar* usually begins with dates and sweet drinks which provide quick energy after a long day of fasting. Following the *Iftar*, Muslims often go out visiting family and friends.

During Ramadan, Muslims go to the mosque and spend hours praying and studying the Koran. On the 27th of the month, Muslims celebrate the *Laylat-al-Quadr* or the Night of Power. This celebration commemorates the night when Muhammad the Prophet first received the Holy Koran from God.

The month of Ramadan ends with a festival called the *Eid-al-Fitr* or the Feast of Breaking the Fast. It is one of the most important celebrations in the Muslim faith. People dress in their finest clothes and decorate their homes with lights and ornaments. Family and friends gather together to pray, exchange gifts, and eat large meals. A sense of charity and doing good deeds is also a very important part of these celebrations. Muslims are expected to share their blessings and good fortunes by feeding the poor and making donations to their mosques.



Reading Comprehension

Directions: Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in the spaces below.

1. How many Muslims are there around the world?

2. Which month of the Muslim calendar is Ramadan?

3. Why does Ramadan not always occur at the same time each year?

4. Why do Muslims fast during Ramadan?

5. How long do Muslims fast each day during Ramadan?

6. How many days is Ramadan?

7. What is the name of the evening meal eaten during Ramadan?

8. Why do Muslims often eat dates at the beginning of the evening meal?

9. What is the significance of the 27th night of Ramadan?

10. How does the month of Ramadan end?



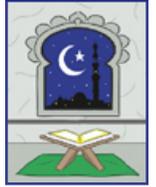
Vocabulary Review

A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. fast | a. relating to the sun |
| _____ 2. prophet | b. power, strength |
| _____ 3. faith | c. building where Muslims pray |
| _____ 4. self-sacrifice | d. person who teaches religion directly from God |
| _____ 5. lunar | e. give |
| _____ 6. solar | f. holy book of the Muslim religion |
| _____ 7. entire | g. go without food, not eat |
| _____ 8. provide | h. relating to the moon |
| _____ 9. energy | i. remember, honor the memory of someone or something |
| _____ 10. mosque | j. giving up of something that one values |
| _____ 11. Koran | k. whole |
| _____ 12. commemorate | l. religion |

B. Choose the correct word from the left column above to complete the following sentences.

1. If you don't eat a good breakfast, you won't have enough _____ to work hard all day.
2. The doctor told him to _____ for 12 hours before his blood test. He was not allowed to eat or drink anything.
3. We are going to have a barbeque for all our neighbors. We will _____ the meat and others will bring the drinks, salad, and dessert.
4. That book was so interesting! I couldn't put it down. I read the _____ book in one evening.
5. The holy book of the Christian faith is called the Bible. The holy book of the Jewish faith is called the Torah. The holy book of the Muslim faith is called the _____.



C. Underline the words that are closest in meaning to the words in italics.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>devotion</i> | a. vote | b. strong love or religious belief | c. dancing |
| 2. <i>festival</i> | a. celebration | b. teaching | c. prayer |
| 3. <i>decorate</i> | a. paint | b. make beautiful | c. clean |
| 4. <i>ornaments</i> | a. presents | b. decorations | c. flowers |
| 5. <i>charity</i> | a. church | b. helping others | c. partying |
| 6. <i>blessings</i> | a. good fortunes | b. buildings | c. books |
| 7. <i>making donations</i> | a. speaking | b. giving money or help | c. cooking |





Pair Work – Sharing Information – Student A

Directions: You and your partner each have a short reading passage about the Muslim faith or Islam. Read your passage and share your information with your partner. Then complete the following questions together.

The Prophet Muhammad

In the year 570 A.D., the Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca, which is today in Saudi Arabia. Muhammad was a trader and liked to wander through the desert thinking about his faith. One night Muhammad was sitting alone when the Angel Gabriel appeared and told Muhammad that he had been chosen to receive the word of Allah. Gabriel taught Muhammad verses from the Holy Koran which had been sent down from heaven. Muhammad memorized these verses and began to teach the word of God to others. The most important message of the Holy Book of Islam is that God is the creator of the world and controls everything in it. Muslims must live their lives according to the rules of the Holy Koran and must perform the five main duties of Islam.

1. When and where was the Prophet Muhammad born?

2. Where is Mecca located?

3. What did the Angel Gabriel tell Muhammad one night?

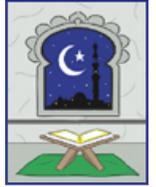
4. What did Gabriel teach Muhammad?

5. What is the name of the five duties of Islam?

6. What does the word Muslim mean?

7. What does the word Islam mean?

8. What are the Five Pillars of Faith? Explain these five duties.



Pair Work – Sharing Information – Student B

Directions: You and your partner each have a short reading passage about the Muslim faith or Islam. Share your information with your partner and then complete the questions that follow.

The Five Pillars of Faith

The word Muslim means “one who gives himself to God” in the Arabic language. Islam means “obedience to God”. According to the rules of the Holy Koran, all Muslims must perform five main duties called the Five Pillars of Faith.

1. Shahada (affirmation or positive declaration) – Muslims must worship only Allah.
2. Salat (prayer) – Muslims must pray to Allah five times each day.
3. Zakat (charity) – Muslims must help people who are in need.
4. Siyam (fasting) – Muslims must fast during the month of Ramadan.
5. Hajj (pilgrimage) – Muslims must make the religious trip to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

1. When and where was the Prophet Muhammad born?

2. Where is Mecca located?

3. What did the Angel Gabriel tell Muhammad one night?

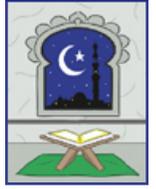
4. What did Gabriel teach Muhammad?

5. What is the name of the five duties of Islam?

6. What does the word *Muslim* mean?

7. What does the word *Islam* mean?

8. What are the Five Pillars of Faith? Explain these five duties.



Vocabulary, Idioms, and Expressions

1. **fast (adjective)** – quick, rapid
ex. He is a very fast runner.
2. **fast (adjective)** – showing time later than the true time.
ex. I have to get my watch fixed. It is five minutes fast.
3. **fast (verb)** - to go without food, to not eat
ex. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan.
4. **fast (noun)** – a period of not eating
ex. She went on a three day fast and lost ten pounds.
5. **pull a fast one on someone (idiom)** – trick or deceive
ex. He tried to pull a fast one on me when he gave me the phony ten dollar bill.
6. **fast track (idiom)** – a quick way to get something or somewhere; a short cut
ex. There is no fast track to success. There is only hard work.
7. **life in the fast lane (idiom)** – a fast paced life in a big city
ex. We lived in New York for a year but we didn't like life in the fast lane, so we moved back to a small town.
8. **charity begins at home (expression)** – first help the people closest to you before you begin to help others
ex. John is very generous with his friends but not very good to his own family. I always have to remind him that charity begins at home.
9. **count your blessings (expression)** – be thankful for all the good things you have in your life
ex. Why do you complain so often? You are a very fortunate person. You really should count your blessings.



Find Someone Who.....

Directions: Walk around the classroom and ask your classmates questions. Find someone

1. who has been on a fast. _____

2. who can find Mecca on a world map. _____

3. who has given money to charity recently. _____

4. who likes life in the fast lane. _____

5. who likes to decorate his/her house for the holidays. _____

6. who can name the Five Pillars of the Muslim faith. _____

7. who has tried to pull a fast one on someone recently. _____

8. whose watch is a few minutes fast. _____

9. who knows the meaning of *Islam*. _____

10. who knows when the Prophet Muhammad was born. _____

**TEACHER'S NOTES / ANSWER KEY**

Holidays - Ramadan (Intermediate-level)

These activities are designed for intermediate level adult ESL learners, but they may also be suitable for junior and senior high school ESL students.

Reading and Comprehension Questions

Begin by introducing any difficult vocabulary you feel the students may encounter. You may choose to have the students read the passage silently, or have the students take turns reading aloud in order to monitor pronunciation. After reading the passage, break the students into pairs and have them practice asking and answering the comprehension questions. At the end of the oral practice, have the students write the answers. Review again orally with the whole class.

1. There are more than one billion Muslims around the world.
2. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar.
3. Muslim holidays follow the lunar calendar and since the lunar calendar is eleven days shorter than the solar calendar, Ramadan does not always occur at the same time each year.
4. Muslims fast as a way of experiencing hunger and developing an understanding for those poor people in the world who do not have much food to eat. They also fast in order to learn to be very thankful for everything God provides.
5. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.
6. Ramadan lasts an entire month which is either 29 or 30 days long.
7. The daily evening meal is known as *Iftar*.
8. They eat dates as they provide a quick source of energy.
9. On the 27th of the month, Muslims celebrate the *Laylat-al-Quadr* or the Night of Power. This celebration commemorates the night when Muhammad the Prophet first received the Holy Koran from God.
10. The month of Ramadan ends with a festival called the *Eid-al-Fitr* or the Feast of Breaking the Fast.

Vocabulary Review**A. Matching**

1. g 2. d 3. l 4. j 5. h 6. a 7. k 8. e 9. b 10. c 11. f 12. i

B. Choose the correct word

1. energy 2. fast 3. provide 4. entire 5. Koran

C. Underline the word

1. b 2. a 3. b 4. b 5. b 6. a 7. b

Pair Work - Sharing Information

Break the class into pairs. Each student has a different reading about the Muslim faith or Islam. Have the students read their articles silently and then share the information with their partner by completing the comprehension questions together. Review together with the whole class.

1. The Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca in the year 570 A.D.
2. Today, Mecca is located in Saudi Arabia.
3. The Angel Gabriel appeared and told Muhammad that he had been chosen to receive the word of Allah.
4. Gabriel taught Muhammad verses from the Holy Koran which had been sent down from heaven.
5. It is called the Five Pillars of Faith.
6. The word Muslim means "one who gives himself to God".
7. Islam means "obedience to God".
8. (see answer on following page)



1. Shahada (affirmation or positive declaration) – Muslims must worship only Allah.
2. Salat (prayer) – Muslims must pray to Allah five times each day.
3. Zakat (charity) – Muslims must help people who are in need.
4. Siyam (fasting) – Muslims must fast during the month of Ramadan.
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