

the history of
the major
religions

Learning objectives

- : To be able to articulate an understanding of the basic history of Islam
- : To become familiar with the life history of Muhammad and the historical and social context of the time in which He appeared
- : To become familiar with the Qur'an

materials you will need

- :: Dictionary
- :: Copies of all the activity sheets for every child
- :: Copies of the Homework and Feedback sheets for each child
- :: Glue
- :: Scissors
- :: Pencils, pens, crayons, etc.
- :: Erasers

1. 6PRAYER (3 minutes)

Choose one prayer from the Prayers Page (section two). Recite it, and then have one of the children recite it. Alternatively, you can use any other prayer that corresponds with one of the stated learning objectives.

2. GO OVER HOMEWORK (5-10 minutes)

3. ACTIVITY & STORY (25-35 minutes)

The purpose of this activity is become familiar with the basics information relating the history of the Islam.

Instructions:

1. Give each child a copy of the activity sheet "Map" and the jigsaw puzzle sheet.
2. Ask them to write down their names on the back of the Map sheet.
3. Then ask them cut out the jigsaw puzzle pieces which contain: the name of the religion, the name of the "Prophet" (Mohammad), the place where it started, approximate date when Mohammad lived, and the name of the holy book of the Muslim religion.
4. Ask the children to place the pieces of the puzzle in the correct order and then glue them on the top of the Map page where the light colored lines are drawn up.
5. Ask the children to write down underneath each piece of the puzzle the category, such as: religion's name, the founder, place of birth, date of birth, and the holy book.
6. The ask the children to cut out the Star and Crescent from their puzzle sheets and glue them on the space shown on the Map sheet.
7. Ask them to color the symbol.
8. Now ask the children to draw a small point on the map of the world shown on the Map sheet, where they live. You may need to help them with this effort. It is okay to use an approximate location.
9. Then ask them to draw a straight line between this dot and the dot showing where Mohammad came from.
10. With the help of the scale shown on the map, help them figure out how far Saudi Arabia, where

Mohammad came from, is from their home. The scale is calibrated to show approximate “walking days”.

11. Ask them to write down the “walking days” distance on the line they have drawn from their home to Saudi Arabia.
12. Now ask them to write down the Golden Rule from “the sacred writing” sheet in the box under the puzzle pieces on the Map sheet.
13. The Map sheet is now complete. Ask the children to keep this map sheet in a safe place because it will be helpful to them in the future.

4. SACRED WRITING (5 minutes)

Read the passage below (also known as the “Golden Rule”) out loud and make sure that everyone understands all the words.

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

« Muhammad, Sunnah (Examples) »

5. ASSIGN HOMEWORK (1 minute)

- › Everyone is to read the Sacred Writing at least once every day with an adult in the following week and try to memorize it.

- In the following week, find at least one person who doesn't know the story of the Prophet Muhammad and share it with them.

6. PREPARE TO GIVE CLASS REPORT TO ENTIRE SCHOOL (5 minutes)

7. REFLECTION AND EVALUATION (3 minutes)

Your feedback and comments are very important because they will be used to improve this lesson. Please take a few moments after class to complete the "Reflection and Evaluation" sheet in section five of this lesson.

You may submit your feedback by e-mail to:

feedback@spiritual-education.org

Instead, you may wish to submit your feedback using the web-based form at:

www.spiritual-education.org/feedback

Thank you!

Choose one of the following prayers:

Thou didst reveal Him, decked forth by the name of Him Who was Thy Friend (Muhammad), and caused Him to shine brightly above the horizon of Hijaz, as a token of Thy power and an evidence of Thy might. Through Him Thou didst send unto Thy servants what enabled them to scale the heights of Thy unity, and to yearn over the wonders of Thy manifold knowledge and wisdom.

« Baha'i Faith (Baha'u'llah, Prayers & Meditations, p. 50) »

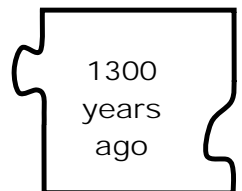
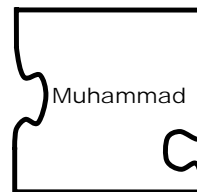
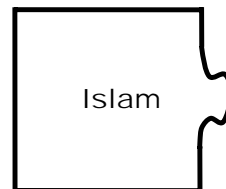
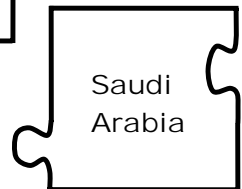
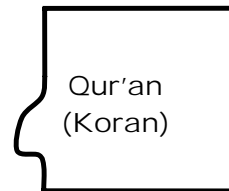
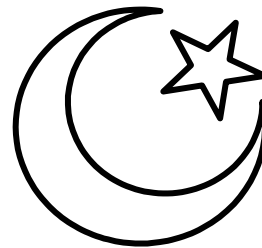
And give glad tidings (O Muhammad) unto those who believe and do good works; that theirs are Gardens underneath which rivers flow; as often as they are regaled with food of the fruit thereof, they say: this is what was given us aforetime; and it is given to them in resemblance. There for them are pure companions; there for ever they abide.

« Islam, (The Qur'an (Pickthall tr), Sura 2 - The Cow) »

Activity Map and Puzzle Pieces



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Islam Map Sheet

GLUE PUZZLE PIECES HERE					
NAME OF RELIGION	NAME OF FOUNDER	FOUNDER'S BIRTHPLACE	HOW LONG AGO?	NAME OF HOLY BOOK	SYMBOL

WRITE THE SACRED WRITING HERE

GLUE MAP HERE

PRAISE BE UNTO HIM



Islam is the second most popular religion in the world with over a billion followers. Those who follow Islam are called Muslims. They believe that there is only one God (that they call "Allah") Who created everything. Allah is an Arabic term that means "God".

Muslims follow the teachings of the Prophet¹ Muhammad lived about 1300 years ago in what we now call Saudi Arabia. He was a very spiritual man, and often spent time in meditation on Mount Hira. One night while he was meditating², Muhammad was visited in a cave by the angel Gabriel. Gabriel began to speak to Muhammad, Muhammad repeated the words of the angel to others who

¹ A prophet is a messenger from God.

² Meditation is when a person spends time alone in a quiet place thinking and praying.

learned them by heart. God was speaking to Muhammad with the help of the Angel Gabriel – this is how God “revealed” himself to Muhammad. When Muhammad repeated the words that Gabriel told him, we call it “revelation”. This is how Muhammad realized that God had chosen him to be His messenger.



During the rest of his life, when Muhammad received these revelations and teachings from God, he would tell them to people around him. So, over time, more and more people began

to follow Muhammad. Eventually, Muhammad's followers collected these messages and gathered them into a book known as the Quran. The Quran is the holy book of Islam.

Muhammad became so popular that the rulers in Mecca became jealous. So they began to make trouble for Muhammad and his followers. Muhammad left Mecca, and

took his followers to another city called Medina. This journey is called the Hijrah³.

Muhammad returned to Mecca ten years after he left. By this time, he had so many followers, that he became the ruler of Mecca. Mecca is the most holy place for Muslims. It is the site of the Kaaba, a small shrine that Muslims believe to be the most sacred spot on earth. Muslims face toward the Kaaba when they say their daily prayers.



To commemorate⁴ Muhammad's journey, Muslims make a pilgrimage⁵ to Mecca and they walk around the Kaaba praying, and kissing and touching the stone. They believe that this will cleanse them of their sins.

Islamic tradition states that the stone was originally white, but it had become black by absorbing the sins of the millions of pilgrims who have kissed and touched it.

³ Hejira is Arabic for "migration". Migration means to go from one place to another.

⁴ Commemorate means to do something that helps us remember or think about an important historical event.

⁵ A pilgrimage is a very special trip to a holy place.



The most important part of Muhammad's life and Islam is that they teach his followers that they should obey God's teachings and should try everyday to do things that make God happy. He gave them laws that showed them how to lead happy lives, in peace with one another, so they can get closer to God. Muhammad's teachings were so powerful that Muslims all over the world today still steadfastly⁶ obey these teachings.

⁶ To be steadfast means to be very strong and firm in your belief.

Suggested questions for story:

- › Which religion did Muhammad start? (Islam)
- › What does “Islam” mean? (submission to the will of God)
- › What does “Allah” mean? (“God” in Arabic)
- › Do Muslims believe a different God than people who practice other religions? (no, some just use a different name – Allah – to refer to him sometimes)
- › Who was the Angel Gabriel and where did Muhammad meet him? (God sent the angel Gabriel to help bring His teachings to Muhammad. Gabriel came to Muhammad when he was meditating in Mount Hira).
- › What is the Qur’an? Where did it come from? (The Qur’an are the teachings of Muhammad that his followers wrote down when he was giving them)
- › What is the most holy city for Muslims? Why? (Mecca, because it’s where Muhammad was from)
- › Why did the rulers of Mecca chase Muhammad out? (Because they were jealous of Muhammad’s popularity with their people)
- › Did Muhammad ever go back to Mecca? (Yes, and he even ruled it).
- › What is the Kabaa and why is it so important? (It is a rock in Mecca that Muslim pilgrims circle around. It is important because Muslims believe that it helps cleanse them of their sins.)

1. What did you like about this lesson? _____

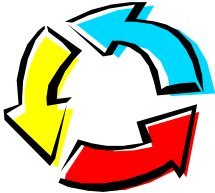
2. Which parts of the lesson did the students like? _____

3. Were the students able to answer the questions asked throughout the lesson? _____

4. Did the lesson's level match the students' capabilities? _

5. What would you change or add to the lesson? _____

You can submit your feedback by e-mail to feedback@spiritual-education.org
or by using the web-based form at www.spiritual-education.org/feedback.



TO THE PARENTS OF: _____

FROM: _____

DATE: _____

WHAT DID WE DO?



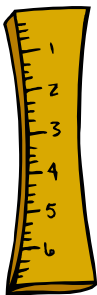
The topic for this session was:

The History of the Major Religions: Islam

The learning objective was:

- : To be able to articulate an understanding of the basic history of Islam
- : To become familiar with the life history of Muhammad and the historical and social context of the time in which He appeared
- : To become familiar with the Qur'an

HOW DID YOUR CHILD DO?



- Preparation: [] **Great!** Homework was completed.
[] **Fair.** Homework only partially completed.
[] **Poor.** Homework was not attempted.
- Participation: [] **Great!** Active participation
[] **Fair.** Passive participation
[] **Poor.** Not active (needs to improve)
- Interaction: [] **Great!** Very understanding and cooperative
[] **Fair.** Occasionally helpful, occasionally disruptive
[] **Poor.** Distractive to others (Needs to improve)

Comments: _____



WHAT'S THE HOMEWORK?

- Read the Sacred Writing below (also known as the "Golden Rule") at least once every day with an adult in the following week and try to memorize it.

No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

« Muhammad, Sunnah (Examples) »

- Between now and the next class, find at least one person who doesn't know the story of Islam and share it with them.

WHAT WILL WE DO AT THE NEXT SESSION?

We will continue with:

The History of the Major Religions – the Babi Faith

We will cover the following learning objectives:

- :: To be able to articulate an understanding of the basic history of the Babi Faith
- :: To become familiar with the life history of the Bab and the historical and social context of the time in which He appeared
- :: To become familiar with the Bayan

