**Why does the Prophet matter to Muslims?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lesson Theme** | **Challenges** |
| 1. **Why is the prophet Mohammad (pbuh) so important to Muslims?** | **Think:**  **Who is the most important person to you?**  **How do you show respect to them?**  The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was a merchant born in the city of Mecca. Muhammad was respected as he was a wise and fair businessman. Tradition says Muhammad escaped the busy city during the month of Ramadan and went to the mountains by himself to think. Muslims believe Allah chose Muhammad to be his Prophet because he was a fair and wise man and because he was concerned for the people. They believe the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was chosen to tell the people there was only one God. This happened when Muhammad was 40 years old, when an angel appeared and revealed the first verses of the Qur’an to him.  If possible watch the film about the 'Prophet and the Ants' and the story of 'The Crying Camel', showing that no matter how small or large animals are they are all important to God and need to be cared for.  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z9tqb82>  Or read the story, perhaps someone can help you…  It was very hot day. The people who lived in the city of Medina were trying to find somewhere to keep cool. There were many beautiful gardens in the city with tall, shady trees where people came to sit and find shade. They talked. They sipped refreshing drinks. They told stories and they laughed.  The Prophet Muhammad was walking in one of the gardens. He loved to walk under the trees where it was green and cool. He liked to think quietly as he walked. He smiled at the people he knew as he walked along.  While he was walking, Prophet Muhammad heard a strange noise. It sounded like someone crying. It sounded like someone howling. It sounded like someone was very upset. As he came closer to the crying and howling, the Prophet could see it was not a sad person at all. It was a sad camel.  Muhammad felt very sorry for the camel. It was tied to a post, out in the sunshine. It was very hot, and looked very thirsty. Tears were running down the camel’s cheeks and its fur was very wet. No one seemed to notice the camel’s howls. Muhammad stroked the camel, and it became calmer. After a while the howls became grunts and the grunts became snorts of pleasure. The tears stopped running down the camel’s cheeks. He knew Muhammad was his friend.  Muhammad became angry. He strode along the pathways calling, “Who owns this camel?” At last a voice said, “I do,” and a man stepped out from under the shade of the biggest tree in the garden.  Muhammad looked at the man. He was not hot. He was not thirsty. He was not thinking about his camel. Muhammad spoke quietly. As Muhammad spoke, the camel owner’s head began to droop. He realised what he had done. Muhammad reminded him that the camel was one of Allah’s creatures. The animal worked hard for the man, carrying heavy loads and travelling to places far away. Muhammad reminded the man that he should take great care of the camel in return for its hard work. The camel owner felt very bad. He had been cool, comfortable and happy while the camel was hot, bothered and upset. His behaviour had even upset the Prophet Muhammad. He was so ashamed. From that day on he looked after his animals with great care, and always made sure they had enough to eat and drink the camel never cried again.  **Key Challenge:**  The Prophet was kind to animals.  Make a list of different animals, and different ways to be kind to them?  Muslims believe Allah made the whole world and all the creatures in the world, so caring for animals pleases God.  Draw your favourite animal and colour it beautifully. Write an instruction card for looking after the animal. |
| 1. **How was Muhammed given the Qur’an?**   **If possible watch this clip about the Qur’an** [**https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z4fgkqt**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z4fgkqt) | The Qur’an is the holy book of Islam. The Qur’an is a book in the Arabic language that Muslims believe to be the actual words of Allah. In the Qur’an Allah tells Muslims how they should worship him and also how they should behave towards each other. The words that angel Jibrael gave Muhammed were written down and these make the book the Qur’an.  Muslims take great care when handling the Qur’an as they treat it with respect. It should be covered, kept on a high shelf and put on a stand when read. Hands should be washed before touching it.  **What does this show about its importance for a Muslim?**  **Key Challenge:**   * Design an instruction sheet to explain how a Qur’an should be treated |
| 1. **Muhammad’s Night Journey and Ascension** | **The story**  Muhammad (pbuh) was sound asleep when a voice called him so insistently that he woke up. There before him stood the angel Jibril in full splendour. Jibril beckoned for him to follow, and when they reached the doorway Muhammad saw a most marvellous beast. This was Burraq – a dazzling white mare with a human face, wings like an eagle, hooves which reached as far as the eye could see, and the ability to travel faster than light. Jibril told Muhammad to mount the creature, and together they flew off into the night sky. All along the journey they saw many strange and terrible sights. Some were designed to tempt the Prophet and lead him from the true path, others were examples of the terrible punishments which people bring upon themselves as a result of the things they do on earth. At last they landed at the gates of the temple in Jerusalem. As they entered, they saw Jesus and Moses and many other prophets. After spending some time in prayer, they came out. Reaching all the way up into the heavens was a Ladder of Light. Jibril told Muhammad to mount the ladder, and he did so, as quickly and easily as if it had been made of air. Moses then led Muhammad through each of seven heavens. They met many prophets from the past, including Adam, Noah, Aaron, Moses, John the Baptist and Jesus. They also saw many great and powerful angels who existed to offer praise and worship to God, to punish those who disobeyed him and to encourage and reward those who were faithful. Finally, Muhammad was taken into the Heavenly Abode, into the presence of God. There was a sweet fragrance all around, and Muhammad felt the touch of an invisible hand on his shoulder and chest which produced a feeling of unspeakable happiness. Here he was given the laws that govern Islam. On his descent from the Heavenly Abode, the Prophet met again with Moses. 'How many prayers a day are prescribed for your religion?' asked Moses. 'Fifty prayers a day,' responded the  Prophet. Moses was troubled. 'Muhammad, how do you imagine that your people will pray fifty times a day? Believe me; people are quite incapable of carrying out such an instruction. Go back – and ask for a smaller number.' So  Muhammad returned and asked for fewer prayers. On his way back down, he met with Moses again, who asked him, 'How many prayers are prescribed to you now?' 'Forty,' replied Muhammad. 'Forty!!! Impossible! Go back and ask for fewer.'  And so the situation continued. Even when Muhammad reported that just five prayers a day were required, Moses said, 'That is still too much. Imagine an ordinary man praying five times a day! Return again!'  'No,' answered Muhammad. 'I have returned too many times and I am ashamed.'  He then said goodbye to Moses and began his descent. Down they went, by the Ladder of Light, back to the temple in Jerusalem. They found Burraq and flew back to the house where Jibril had found Muhammad sleeping.  Today the events of this remarkable night are celebrated at the festival of Lailat al Miraj on the 27th day of the month of Rajab.  **Key Challenge:**  Re-tell the story from the point of view of one of the following: (a) someone who doesn’t believe Muhammad is telling the truth (b) Prophet Muhammad (c) Angel Jibril. |
| 1. **Muhammad, Mecca and the Hajj**   **If possible watch this clip about Hajj:** [**https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-muslim-pilgrimage-hajj/zndfcqt**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks2-my-life-my-religion-muslim-pilgrimage-hajj/zndfcqt) | **Have you been on a special journey?**  **Where did you go and who did you go with?**  **Mecca**  Mecca is the holiest city in the Islamic world. Every year, millions of Muslims take a pilgrimage to Mecca. This is called the Hajj, where they follow in the footsteps of Muhammad. All Muslims who are able to perform the Hajj are expected to do so at least once in their life. The Kaaba and Masjid al-Haram, the holiest mosque in Islam is here. Mecca is closed to non-Muslims except for some journalists reporting on the Hajj.  The Kaaba, the small cubical building which Muslims pray towards is believed to have been built by Ibrahim and has been a religious center ever since. Muslims believed that God commanded Ibrahim to send his second wife Hajar and her son Ismail there. They found the Zamzam Well which led to people settling nearby, and thus Makkah was born. When Ismail was big enough, he helped his father to build the Kaaba. The Kaaba is the place towards which Muslims turn in prayer. This is known as the Qibla.  Hajj is a religious pilgrimage made by Muslims. During this pilgrimage, Muslims journey to the city of Mecca. Hajj takes place once a year, during the twelfth month in the Muslim calendar. Nowadays, well over two million Muslims make the trip each year.  Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, which means that it is one of the five basic duties for Muslims. Many Muslims will try to go on Hajj at least once in their lifetime if possible. Going on Hajj is an act of worship.  During Hajj, the pilgrims perform certain rituals because the prophet Muhammad taught them to do so. Lots of these rituals were actually also performed by Muhammad himself when he went on Hajj. Many of the rituals remind Muslims of stories about people who are honoured in Islam, such as Hajar and Ibrahim.  **Key Challenge:**  What place would you like most to visit? Imagine that you have visited that place. Design a postcard using either the template below or your own design. On one side have a picture of the place and on the other write about your trip. |